

Newsletter of
**TRINITY EVANGELICAL
COVENANT CHURCH**
9230 S. Pulaski Road
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
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The Messenger

January 2011

Over the Pastor's Shoulder

The enthroned continued, "Look! I am making everything new. Write it all down - each word dependable and accurate."
Revelation 21:5 (The Message)

"Everything new." This promise should not be misunderstood as meaning a total break with everything that experience in this world has involved. This promise does not involve a shift so total that every link with the past will be broken. The promise is rather about a change in the state of affairs. The promise is about a setting in which all creation will find itself fulfilled.

What we have before in this promise from God to make everything new is the establishment of the conditions for a glorified life, a life of uninhibited community with God, self and one another. The preceding verses in John's Revelation tell us as much: "Look! Look! God has moved into the neighborhood, making his home with men and women! They're his people, he's their God. He'll wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death is gone for good - tears gone, crying gone, pain gone - all this first order of things gone." (Revelation 21:3-4)

Indeed, God has promised to make this happen. It will happen in a world every bit as real as this world. It will happen for a resurrected people who will have been made qualitatively new to live in the ongoing presence of God. It will be a full life. It will be a life that is substantial and sacred. It will be a life in which pain and death have no place. It will be a life with an ethical perfection that rules out sin. It will be a fulfilled life that has no place in it for sorrow, tears, or a feeling of loss. Call the process that brings it what you will - renovation, renewal, transformation, the new creation - its presence will be more important than the process by which it comes.

Think of it! We are going to have a new world by the will of God. Here again is His word: "Everything new." This is an encouraging word in a world as broken, fragile and hurting as ours. "Everything new!"

Come what may in 2011 - I pray this promise will sustain you and give you every good reason to hope. May you have a happy and blessed new year.

Pastor Jim

Ushers

Sharon Parney – Captain
Phil Cavallone
John Weszely
Dawn Ferrell

Greeters

2 Dennis & Sharon Parney, and
Amy Schwellenbach
9 Rick & Dawn Ferrell
16 Rita Grijalva and Diana Eigenbauer
23 Bob and Joyce Karlson
30 Ruth Mitchell and Linnea Wimpenny

Nursery

2 Ginny Almer, Lorraine Weszely
9 Kristine Schroeder, Pat Klutrcharch
16 Pat Anderson
23 Nancy Mondry, Virginia Fulton
30 Diane Panush, Angela Panush

Counters

Brian Crotty
Robert Karlson
Kevin McGrath

Birthdays

3 Leona Young
3 Norma Forsgren
3 Deborah Snow
3 Carol Byland
4 Dorothy Eckberg
4 Sue Kapala
6 Jenna Przybylowski
8 Charles Havel
10 James Gaw
10 Gloria Vitro
14 Audrey Post
14 Emily Sullivan
17 Virginia Fulton
19 Kevin McGrath
22 Harry Nicholls
22 Dorothy Karner
22 John Weszely
23 Marlene Hardesty
24 Jeremy Schroeder
27 Priscilla Sarr
28 John Gorney
29 Britta Johnson

If we missed your birthday, please let the office know so that it will be listed in the future.

January 9 – Interactions – Ice Skating
January 19 – Family Night – Games
January 28-30 – Winter Weekend

Benediction

For several months now, we have given thought to what it is that we do in worship, why we do it, and how it forms us. We gather, we sing songs, we tell and hear and rehearse the story of our faith, we encounter God's presence and grace. And then, we are sent forth. We leave. We go home. We go back to work. We go into the world. But we go with a blessing, a benediction.

"Parting is such sweet sorrow," says Juliet to her Romeo. Indeed it is. In bidding farewell, how can we know that we will meet again, or what might happen to us in the meantime? Who knows what we will encounter at work the next day, what challenges and hurdles we will face? There is a certain threat in parting, the threat of the unknown. But we go with a blessing, a benediction, a promise. And that promise is this: God knows, and God goes with us.

We go forth with the message of Christ's coming kingdom, and with the blessing that God is with us. And we go forth *to bless*, to make visible, in word and in deed, that God is with us. We are sent forth to lay upon an unknowing world our knowledge that, "The Lord is with you."

Parting is such sweet sorrow, yes. As you and I prepare to part ways, along with my heartfelt thanks for your gracious support, encouragement and hospitality, I leave you with the uncertainty of the future, but also with the promise of God's faithful presence. We leave worship each week unsure of many things, but this much we can know for certain: "If God is for us, who is against us?" Remember that, and go forth. Go forth with this blessing, and go forth to bless:

May God bless you with a restless discomfort
about easy answers, half-truths,
and superficial relationships,
so that you may seek truth boldly and love deep within
your heart.

May God bless you with holy anger
at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,
so that you may tirelessly work for justice, freedom,
and peace among all people.

May God bless you with the gift of tears
to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection,
starvation, or the loss of all that they cherish,
so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them
and transform their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness
to believe that you really can make a difference in this
world, so that you are able, with God's grace,
to do what others claim cannot be done. AMEN.
(A Franciscan benediction)

Pastor Andrew



Women's Tuesday Bible Study

Our winter study this new year will take us where we have been before but with more in-depth enlightenment and a broader more knowledgeable background. Yes – we have grown in spiritual acuity since our 2002 study of the Gospel of Matthew.

Individually and collectively my group has given and continues to give generously of tangible, yes tangible, gifts – faithfulness, time, talent, interest, enthusiasm, energy, knowledge, and support.

So this January and ensuing months we will bridge the 400 year period of silence between Old and New Testaments by devoting hours to this Gospel, one of two key books of The Bible. We will be looking at selected chapters with specific teachings of Jesus beginning with The Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount – The Law of the Kingdom.

Matthew is the Gospel which presents the program of God. The Kingdom of Heaven is the theme and the one who is going to establish the kingdom on earth is the Lord Jesus. We will recognize how Jesus puts His plan into action by continuing to move with Him on His crusade noting methods of choice and attack, selection, instruction, teaching and final task.

Beginning with a brief character study of the author of Matthew and points of interest to "set the stage" we will study chapters 5, 6 and 7 inclusive of The Beatitudes and the lengthy Sermon on the Mount all concerning the Law of the Kingdom as they relate to us.

As always, we will be led as our interest peaks through questions and discussion. As in the year 2002 challenges will be recognized but now, as new paths open, due to God's guidance and grace we will hopefully find this Gospel truly a "find" in this new year.

Study, learn and fellowship with us every Tuesday – Fireside Room – 9:30-10:45 A.M. beginning on January 4.

Barbara Johnson

Church Keys

The Trustees are requesting that retiring board members who have a church key return their key to Lorraine Weszely or Charlene in the church office. These keys are needed by incoming 2011 board members. Thank you.



Altar Flowers

Sign-up sheets for Altar Flowers for 2011 can be found on the north wall of the narthex under the Missions bulletin board. If you would like to honor the memory of a loved one please sign up or contact the church office. The cost is \$40 and you are encouraged to take the flowers following the morning worship service.



Noah's Ark Preschool

We started preparing for our Christmas program as soon as Thanksgiving was over. The children came back to school after the Thanksgiving holiday and we starting practicing our songs right away. The children learned six new songs that are from different countries. Some of these songs were not that easy to learn. We just took them line by line and explained what each word meant. Even then, we still had a few troubles pronouncing the words! The key to learning a new song is to just have fun with it! The children did a wonderful job with these songs, I am so proud of them.

We introduced the letter C this month because it fit nicely into our curriculum for Christmas. We made Christmas cookies and decorated them with all sorts of different sprinkles. We made many different types of Christmas decorations. One of our favorites was the candy cane. The candy cane reminds us of the sheperd's staff. It is also said that the cane is shaped like a "J" for Jesus. The red and white stripes represented Christ's blood and purity. The hardness of the candy represented the Church's foundation on a solid rock.

This is the first year we had a Christmas tree for the preschool room. We went out and purchased a 3 ½-foot artificial tree. The tree sits on a table with multi-colored lights and is also trimmed with white and red ribbon along the branches. There is a star that the children have sprinkled with gold glitter that sits on top of our tree. The children helped to decorate the ornaments by writing their names on them. They will then take the ornaments home as a keepsake of being at the preschool this year.

Every year we have searched high and low for the Fisher Price Nativity set and this year we finally found one! The set has 11 little figures to move around the manger. There is Mary and Joseph, baby Jesus, the three wise men, the angel and several animals in the manger. The children just absolutely love moving the figures around and acting out the birth of Jesus. This was truly a wonderful find for the children.

We also had a visit from someone new this year. Kari Devine, Mikey's mom, told us about the old tradition of "elf on the shelf." We had a little elf named Jingle come visit us from the North Pole every day and he would sit on a different shelf in our room every morning. The children would have to find where he was hiding for that day. He would watch them and then report back to Santa whether they were naughty or nice. Now the children can talk to him but they cannot touch him, because he is magical. If they touch him, Jingle, our elf, loses all of his magic. The children were talking to Jingle and telling Jingle they were sorry for their actions and that they promised to be better. Sometimes they just stared at him for a very long time and took it all in! It is a shame Jingle did not have a camera in him! You would have heard some pretty good one-sided conversations!

We had our annual Christmas party. We had a birthday cake and sang happy birthday to Jesus, just like we do when it is a preschooler's birthday. There also was a visit from Santa. He has been coming to the preschool for several years now. The donation that he asks for, he gives right back to the Ronald McDonald house. We did not think he was going to make it this year because he had some health issues. However, he called a week before he was supposed to come and told me he would be on his way again this year. I asked if Santa needed some time off this year, he said, "Oh ho ho no, I am ready to go." How could I stop Santa? Well, that was our busy December. I don't know where the year has gone. Wishing you and your families a very merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year! See you in 2011.

Sue Kapala



Adult Sunday School

Dr. Troy Martin, St. Xavier University, will be leading the January Adult Sunday School class. His topic will be "The Biblical Concept of Sin". Please join us at 9:30 on Sunday mornings in the Fireside Room!



Interactions and Kids Event

On January 9, Interactions will be going to the Oak Lawn Ice Arena for an afternoon of skating from 1:00-2:30 P.M. We will have lunch at church immediately following the morning worship and then head over to the Arena to skate. \$6 admission and \$3 for skate rental. Contact the church office (708-422-5111) if you are attending so we can plan for the lunch.

Trinity Cookbook

BEST SELLER! That's how I would describe the sales of the new Trinity Cookbook! In less than three weeks, we have sold more than 250 copies and the income has paid for the entire remaining cache of books. That means that the sale of all books sold now is pure profit. As a reminder, the proceeds go to the Mission Fund.

As with any major undertaking of this nature, mistakes or omissions can and do occur, so we're asking you to review the recipes you have submitted carefully to see if any corrections need to be made. If you do find an error, please submit the correction to the church office and a correction page will be published in the next subsequent Messenger so that you can insert it or mark it in your book. Books not yet sold will include the correction page. Please note the following two changes:

- Page 92 – IMPERIALS -- Change 2 *Tbsp. vanilla* to 1 **teaspoon vanilla**. Also, change 80 to 90 *dozen* to 80 to 90 **cookies**.
- Page 52 – PORK TENDERLOIN STEW -- Add the following to the end of the directions: **“Combine flour and milk until smooth; gradually stir into vegetable mixture. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Add pork and heat through. Reduce heat; stir in sour cream just before serving (do not boil.)”**

Thank you to everyone who purchased the cookbooks and helped to make this project a very resounding success. They will continue to be a great gift for those special birthdays, weddings, thank-you or hostess gifts. The books can be purchased anytime through the church office or by seeing Denise Krueger.

Pryme Tymers

On Thursday, January 13, we begin 2011 with a “Travelogue of Hawaii”. No matter what the temperature is outside, we will be “sizzlin’ hot” inside as we travel to the

islands with members Mary Ann & Bill Leeder. Wear your mu-mu and lei under your parka! Our entrée will be roast pork prepared by Chef Pitluck and her staff. Reservations are required and need to be made no later than the Friday before we meet. The fee for the program and lunch is \$6.

On January 27 we will meet at 11 A.M. to hear ragtime pianist Sue Keller. You'll be toe-tapping in your spats and “flapping” your dresses when you hear Sue make her piano “talk”. Reminisce – when music was music! Entrée is meatloaf.

Again, remember to sign up. We have had sold out audiences for the past several months.

Church Chuckle

A Sunday school teacher asked her children, as they were on the way to church service, “Why is it necessary to be quiet in church?”

One bright little girl replied, “Because people are sleeping.”

Helping Together We Cope

On Sunday, January 2, we will be collecting items to help Together We Cope, a homeless prevention agency in Tinley Park. Please bring oatmeal, soups, pasta or sauces. Dog food and cat food are also needed so that families can keep their pets. The agency is in great need of your help.

A Stitch in Time

Trinity knitters just completed their ninth year of participation in the highly successful Christmas at Sea mission.

A box of 25 scarves and watch caps was sent to the Seamen's Church Institute in New York.

All items will be distributed aboard ships to deepsea and river mariners. Trinity's totals since 2001: 1,446 items, 114 this year.

Paige Sato of Glen Ridge, NJ, is the new director of the volunteer knitting program.

The new collecting point for knitting gifts moves to the SCI Center for Seafarers' Rights at the Port Newark Center, NJ.

Mariners will continue to receive knitted gifts like they have for 112 years.

Helpers from Trinity are Lois Carlson, Barb Dorl, Lois Flaws, Ruth Gustafson, Diane and Dave Manthey, Audrey Post, Charlene Sandberg and Lorraine Sorensen.

Thought to Ponder

The love of God enfolds you. The light of God surrounds you. The presence of God watches over you. The power of God protects you. Wherever you are, God is.



2nd Annual Rummage Sale

As you take down the decorations following the holidays and start with some serious sorting and cleaning, please consider saving your items for our next rummage sale in the spring of 2011.

Trustees Note

Just a few ways you can help lower gas and electricity costs at church:

- √ Check and turn off all bathroom lights.
- √ Make sure front and back doors are all locked.
- √ Close any opened windows.
- √ Turn off coffee pots, ovens and dishwasher. (Our new dishwasher has printed instructions on the wall.)

The trustees thank you for your cooperation. A penny saved is a penny earned.



Dear Rev. Sandberg and Trinity Members:

Thank you for your pledge of support for 24 months as I go to Cameroon following the Lord's call for me. Please continue to pray for me. You can follow my journey on my blog: <http://blogs.covchurch.org/sdavis>
My e-mail is: Sharon.davis@covchurch.org

Peace and Blessings,
Sharon Davis

Thank you all so much for the beautiful poinsettia plant – Dawn and Rick delivered it to me yesterday afternoon. I really don't deserve this, but it touches my heart that so many care, and I've experienced the power of prayer in my life. God is so good!

In His Name,
Joyce Olson

Thank you for the generous donation to our "Christmas Care" program. There are many families who come to us looking for assistance at this time of year and it is wonderful to be able to provide them with clothing items. Our residents are

very grateful to know that they can count on others in their time of need.

I know this is a tremendous endeavor to coordinate, and I thank you for your kindness in always remembering us.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness. May you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

Sue Sortino, Youth Commission Director, Worth Township

A sincere "thank you" to all the women and men who gave of their time and talents to make our Jul Fest a special gift to our friends and family.

Lorraine Weszely



Save the Date for Winter Weekend!

Have you ever wanted to spend more time with your church family in a beautiful lakefront surrounding? Does a retreat with your family at Covenant Harbor sound like what your family needs right now? Would you enjoy winter activities, shopping with friends, hearing His word and music in God's beautiful surroundings at Covenant Harbor?

Please join us the last weekend of January 28, 29, 30 for Trinity's Family Winter Weekend at Covenant Harbor.

Please reserve your spot with Julie and Thad Przybylowski at 708-352-2724 or tprzybylowski@yahoo.com

Cost includes room, meals and program for Friday evening through breakfast on Sunday. Our featured speaker will be announced soon.

Top Eight Reasons to Volunteer in Children's Ministry

8. It's an opportunity to review the Bible stories you learned as a child.
7. It's an opportunity to learn Bible stories that you didn't learn as a child.
6. You get to know the wonderful children at Trinity.
5. Hugs!
4. Someone will always be happy to see that you are at church!
3. Teacher appreciation gifts.
2. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

And the number 1 reason to volunteer for Children's ministry is: **You get a chance to have an eternal impact on the life of a child!**

2010 Christmas Greetings from Members and Friends of Trinity Evangelical Covenant Church



Svea Agner
Virginia & Bill Almer
Pat Anderson and family
Royden & Mary Jean Anderson
Roy and Joanne Anderson
Vernon & JoAnn Bergwall
Lois V. Carlson and family
Hazel Carlson
Marge & Paula Cassady
Brian Crotty
Jack & Karen Curry
Tom & Barbara Dorl and family
C. Lowell Edgren
Diana Eigenbauer
Dick & Joan Erickson
Tom & Barbara Eustace
Rick & Dawn Ferrell
Ellis & Lois Flaws
Kellie, Maddie & Ally Ford
Norma and Susan Forsgren
Virginia & Nancy Fulton
Edna Garcia
The Gaw family
Bill Gilkinson
Greg, Janice, Kendra & Cameron Goetz
John & Joyce Gorney
Rita, Art, Lisa, Pedro & Liliana Grijalva
Jay, Dawn, Cody & Rebecca Hanson
Marlene Hardesty
Havel & Polcar families
Barbara Hellermann
Tracy & Rich Hood
Alice F. Howell
Bud & Lois Jaderholm
Britta Johnson
Dr. Elsa Johnson
Barbara Johnson
Ilma Johnson
Kyle Johnson
Joyce Johnson
Kenneth & Patricia Johnson
Tim, Sue, Cody & Conner Kapala
Bob & Joyce Karlson
Roberta Karlson
Dorothy Karner
Karl, Nancy and Kurt Keller
Kent & Betsy Keller
Tom & Pat Klutcharch
Gary, Linda & Paul Kozak
Judy and Ariel Kurzweil
Dick Larson
The Lee Family
Chuck & Marcia Lellos
Ray Lewis
Dave & Diane Manthey
Matt & Barbara Mateer
Rhea Maurer, Curt, Sherri & Rheann Pinley,
Craig, Mary & Ellie Pinley
Kevin McGrath
The McShane family
Ruth Mitchell
Joel, Nancy, Kevin, Keith & Katie Mondry
Arline & Mel Mueller
Harry A. Nicholls
Norm & Diana Nilsson
Marge Oberg
Norman & Joyce Olson
Anna Osborne Family
Tom & Diane Panush
The Parney & Schwellenbach-Torres family
Grace & Harry Persson
Patricia Petersen
Julie, Thad, Jenna, Thaddeus & Joey Przybylowski
The Raines family
Arnold Rodstrom
Dolores & Clarence Rosengren
Jim, Charlene, Misty & Erik Sandberg
Priscilla B. Sarr
Jim, Kristine, Anakin and Jeremy Schroeder
Roger & Kay Shannon
Bruce & Char Sladek
Dave & Arlene Sladek and family
John & Debby Snow and family
The Sorensen family
Jim & Carol Strickland
Tom, Denise, Emily & Hannah Sullivan
Priscilla & Richard Swanson
Grace Viner
Gloria Vitro
Florence M. Voss
Doris Wallace
John & Lorraine Weszely
Linnea Wimpenny
Jane Young
Leona Young family
Marian Zeise

January 2011

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Notes:

Jan 01: New Year's Day

Jan 02: Communion/Worship

Jan 03: Preschool Resumes

Jan 09: Interactions – Ice Skating

Jan 11: **C.E., Trustees, Deacons (7 P.M.)**

Jan 13: Pryme Tymers (11 A.M.)

Jan 16: **Annual Reports and Messenger Articles are Due Today**

Jan 17: Martin Luther King Day
(No Preschool)

Jan 19: Family Night (games) (6 P.M.)

Jan 20: **Church Board (7 PM)**

Jan 27: Pryme Tymers (11 A.M.)

Jan 27-30: Vocational Excellence Class
(Pastor is away teaching)

Jan 28,29,30: Winter Weekend at Covenant Harbor

On-going Ministry

Sunday Mornings

9:30 A.M. Adult S.S.

9:30 A.M. Confirmation

10:30 A.M. Kingdom Kids

10:45 A.M. Worship

Noah's Ark Preschool – Mon-Fri 9-11:30 AM

Women's Bible Study – Tues 9:30 AM

Happy New Year!

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Reverend Dr. James R. Sandberg
Senior Pastor
Carol Raines
Director of Music
Betty Aardema
Organist
Sue Kapala
Director – Noah's Ark Preschool
Charlene Sandberg
Secretary
Phil Cavallone
Custodian
