

Newsletter of
**TRINITY EVANGELICAL
COVENANT CHURCH**
9230 S. Pulaski Road
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
Phone 708-422-5111
E-mail: office@trinitycovoaklawn.org
Website: www.trinitycovoaklawn.org

The Messenger November 2011

November

Ushers

Bob Karlson – Captain
Tom Dorl
Roger Shannon
Kevin McGrath

Greeters

6 Norman & Diana Nilsson
13 Chuck and Marcia Lellos
20 Dave and Arlene Sladek
27 Michelle, Mary, Connor & Elizabeth West

Nursery

6 Carol Byland, Kelly Ford
13 Judy Kurzweil, Karen Curry
20 Phyllis Peterson, Rhea Maurer
27 Susie Raines, Heather Knade

Counters

John Snow
Lorraine Weszely
Bruce Sladek
Kristine Schroeder

Birthdays

1 Clarence Rosengren
7 Norman Nilsson
9 Steven McShane
9 Richard Swanson
12 Rich Hood
13 Cameron Goetz
15 Rhea Maurer
17 Norma Mitchell
18 Allison Cavallone
21 Grace Persson
22 Andrew Snow
23 Diane Panush
23 Kurt Keller
26 Laura Suddoth
28 Dennis Parney
29 Mildred Andreasen
29 Diane Manthey
30 Hazel Carlson

Over the Pastor's Shoulder

At the end of the day try answering this question: "God gave you a gift of 86,400 seconds today. Have you used one to say thank you?"

William A. Ward

A friend of mine said that he had given up on giving. I was a bit shocked to hear him say such a thing. He had always been so generous in his giving to the church. He would go on to explain why he had given up on giving. He said, "Everything I have – my life, my potential, my time – was given to me. I've decided to spend the rest of my life returning."

What a marvelous perspective on life and what a marvelous way to live. Whenever you and I give, we are simply returning a portion of what God has already given us. The fiscal viability of the church depends on mature followers of Christ who recognize that all of life is a gift from a gracious, loving God.

You'll be hearing more about stewardship in the weeks to come. Here, let me simply point out the obvious: The necessary giving that propels the church forward in mission and ministry flows out of gratitude. As stewards of God we must truly be appreciative of the things we receive. One has said that, "Ingratitude is a crime more despicable than revenge which is only returning evil for evil, while ingratitude returns evil for good."

You remember that of the 10 lepers healed by Christ only one returned to give thanks. Brennan Manning tells the story of two angels that were sent forth throughout the land, each given a basket, one to gather up requests and the other thanksgivings. The angel of requests came back with her basket running over. The angel of thanksgiving came back with her basket practically empty. Manning goes on to say, "So it is in life. It seems that all of us have requests to make, but few of us think to return and give thanks."

My prayer is that those of us in the church dare to be different.

***You have given us much, Holy Lord and
you expect much of us.***

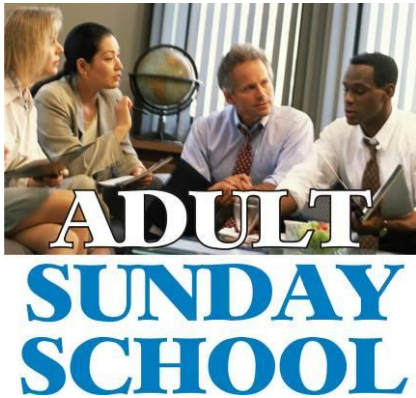
***Help us to accept your blessings and
your challenges with gratitude.***

***And may we find that through your grace,
blessings become challenges and
challenges become blessings.***

Amen.

*Grace and peace,
Pastor Jim*

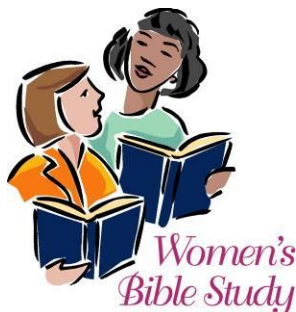
If we missed your birthday, please let the office know so that it will be listed in the future.



Our Adult Sunday School will be led by Dr. Paul Koptak during November. The course will be on the Old Testament Story: Genesis through 2 Kings. This course will present an overall view of the story of God's people, Israel, in Genesis to 2 Kings, and it will take time to look at selected texts in depth. Along the way, we'll learn some Bible study skills and discuss questions like, why would anyone want to read the book of Leviticus, and what do we learn about God in all those accounts of bloody warfare? Most importantly, we'll look at the ways the Old Testament leads us to Jesus.

Koptak is the Paul and Bernice Brandel Professor of Communication and Biblical Interpretation at North Park Theological Seminary, Chicago, and an ordained minister of the Evangelical Covenant Church. He is author of *Proverbs*, (New International Version Application Commentary), editor of *The Covenant Quarterly*, and a member of North Park's gospel bluegrass band, The Lonesome Theologians.

Please join us in the Fireside Room on Sundays at 9:30 A.M.



Women's Tuesday Bible Study

I am fortunate to have learned as you study the words of Father God, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit you recognize an unending thread and a constant push to know more.

This is a blessing and fortunate the person who has reached out and found this true.

This month's column is a continuation of three mid-section petitions in the familiar Lord's Prayer which Jesus requested of His Father's children and disciples.

"Thy Will Be Done"

1. The will of the Father and the doing of His will is the most significant activity we engage in 24/7.
2. Jesus came as man to do the will of His Father which He purposes and plans for us 24/7.

3. His will is laid out in His creation and Word which permeates and penetrates every part of our physical and spiritual world 24/7.
4. It is with understanding, delight and responsibility that we comply to what God wills for us 24/7.
5. Jesus Our Lord, in His prayer, is more concerned with our walk than our talk 24/7.

"In Earth as it is in Heaven"

6. We are the miry lump of clay (earth) placed in the center of the potter's wheel. God wills our lives to be centered in Christ 24/7.
7. The key to our fashioning under the Master's hands lies in how we respond to His touch 24/7.
8. To do His will is to have heaven on earth 24/7.
9. This requires a life-long process which flows to our place in Heaven where we are known and welcomed as a child of God. We are home!

"Give Us this Day Our Daily Bread"

10. An earthly petition set in the middle of a majestic prayer – why? All that is touched by Father God and Jesus holds sacred significance 24/7.
11. Our daily bread (food) concerns two meanings. Our physical need for nourishment and our spiritual need for nourishment 24/7.
12. Manna in the Old Testament was collected in the morning – Prayer in the morning nourishes and energizes us throughout the day 24/7
13. Manna was not to be held over to tomorrow. Our prayers are to be daily part of each day 24/7.
14. God never leaves us to cope on our own but has given us the Holy Spirit to reside in us (God's temple) to help do His will 24/7.
15. God's workable plan for His children:
 - Justification – a one-step experience
 - Sanctification – a life-long process
 - Glorification – a new beginning

Our remaining one-liners will be included in our Tuesday mornings. Join with us as we conclude with debts, debtors, temptation, sin, evil and lastly the powerful benediction knowing that all authority exists by virtue of His power.

In December we turn again to Jesus the Son and work with never-ending threads which enlighten our knowledge of The Trinity.

November Tuesdays – 1, 8, 15, 29
Fireside Room 9:30 A.M.

Barbara Johnson

Church Chuckle

A little boy's prayer:

"Dear God, please take care of Daddy and Mommy and my sister and brother and me. And please take care of yourself, God. If anything happens to you, we're gonna be in a big mess."



Crossroads Career® Network continues to be an outreach to those in our church and in the community who are searching for meaningful work. The group has become quite comfortable with one another and a lively discussion always ensues with the sharing of job leads, interview outcomes, questions on resume security as it relates to identity theft, etc.

Topics covered this past month have included "Personal Branding," "Writing Powerful Cover Letters" and "Networking for a Successful Job Search."

The truly exciting news is that two of our members have already found jobs!! Thanks to Tom Panush for providing a viable job lead that turned into a job offer for one of them! A reminder to everyone – please let us know if you become aware of any open jobs so that we can share them with the group.

Dennis Parney continues to provide valuable insight into the minds of employers and tips on how to make a good impression whether in person or on paper. Thanks Dennis!

Truly gratifying, however, are the notes and comments I have received thanking us for providing hope and encouragement. A note like that seems to make it all worth it.

Continue to pray for this ministry as we move forward. Equally important is to continue to tell people about Crossroads and invite anyone who is searching for a job. By simply telling her next-door neighbor about Crossroads, Edna Garcia's friend is the other person who found work! That's what you call networking! Way to go Edna!

Denise Krueger

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We have received several notes of thanks to Denise Krueger who has been facilitating our Crossroads Career Network. Please see below:

Good Morning, Denise. Thank you for sending the job leads. I want to tell you that coming to Trinity was a delightful experience. The staff was very kind and very informative and the people were very friendly. I look forward to seeing everyone on Monday. Have a blessed weekend.

Sincerely,
Pat Eggeston

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Thank you, Denise...very helpful. The job hunt is going well. I have an interview tomorrow for a temp-hire job. Thanks again for all your support.

Ron Evans

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I really appreciate the group. It has helped me be encouraged no matter the circumstances.

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Hi Denise!

Today I hit the floor running! I did not take the time to spend time in the Word or in prayer. I did call one place to follow up, and I called my science teacher friend about the letter of recommendation. Maybe just doing the letters will have me in line for the next opportunity, if I have missed this one.

I rushed into the meeting and I would like to apologize to you and Tom. I just barged in. Before I sat down to write, I thought about the song and refrain: "Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are truly blest, finding as He promised, perfect peace and rest." I need to talk these things over with the Lord and spend some time in the Word. I hope that I was not rude to you all and that you will forgive me for rushing in so. Every week, do you begin with a devotional like you did today with Psalms? That's nice and I am glad that I came in time for that.

I have so many ideas and I am praying that God will direct me and that I will find "the good way to walk in" and that I will be able to be the person that He wants me to be!

Thank you for taking on this ministry. Please thank Tom, too. See you next time!

Trinity Cookbooks

Remember to purchase your Trinity cookbooks as hostess gifts, shower/wedding gifts and Christmas gifts. Teachers would love one along with a batch of something made from one of the recipes inside. Be creative. Get your cookbooks from the church office. They are only \$10 each!



Please remember to turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday, November 5, before going to bed.



Change of Address

Hazel Carlson
2200 Mayapple Lane, #646
Northbrook, IL 60062

Thought to Ponder

The woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those who sang the best.



Thank You Notes

Thank you for the floral arrangement and the many cards received at the time of Mother's passing. Your presence at her memorial service meant a great deal to us as well.

Pastors Tim and Kari Johnson

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Please again forward my deepest thanks to all who are helping me with books. I have begun to test and move some of my students up in reading levels. Their progress is of course with your help.

Karen McShane

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One of the great blessings that God has given us in our sadness has been the presence and care of good friends. You may not realize how much you did for all of us at the time of Royden's death, but we will always remember that you took the time to be with us and let us know that you cared. May God bless you as richly as He has blessed us through you.

Mary Jean Anderson and family

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I wanted to thank you and the entire Trinity church family for the outpouring of support I received while I recovered from my surgeries. Pastor Jim, I enjoyed our conversations and prayers during my stays at the hospital and I thank you for those visits. To the Trinity family, I was amazed at how many cards and well-wishes I received from all of you – I can't begin to tell you how much they meant to me.

You are all truly wonderful people! Thank you so much!

Megan Schwellenbach

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On behalf of Dawes School, I would like to thank you and your congregation for their generous donation of school supplies and backpacks. Please know your compassion towards the Dawes children and their families is very much appreciated. Loving, sharing, giving and caring, this is what the Lord means Christians to be. Thank you for including us in your community.

Mary Dixon, Principal

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Please accept our sincere thank you for thinking of Together We Cope with your generous donations. With unemployment on the rise, we have seen a steep rise in people coming to us for assistance. Words cannot express our deep appreciation for keeping Together We Cope in your heart with your donations.

Catherine Dietz



Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 23

7:00 PM

A Service of Giving Thanks

Pie and coffee to follow in Peterson Hall.



Trinity Men's Christmas Card

The Christmas card project sponsored by Trinity men is approaching like snow and winter.

Donate to the 2011 fund and help both others and yourself. You'll be able to greet friends at church and save on buying more cards, stamps and the time to address and mail. The money then will be donated to a yet-to-be named cause.

Donation envelopes are enclosed with this Messenger. If you receive your Messenger via e-mail there will be envelopes available at church on the table in the narthex. Or just mail your donation to church noting that it is for the Christmas card project. The deadline is Sunday, December 11.

Collecting for Worth Township

Please help the "Christmas Care Program" by donating new and gently used coats, jackets, scarves and boots (see table in overflow room). We will decorate our "Mitten Tree" in the narthex with new hats and mittens. There will be a box for new, unwrapped toys only.

Gift certificates or monetary contributions to enable the Township to purchase new clothing and toys are also accepted. Please make your check out to "Town of Worth", with a note on the memo portion indicating "Christmas Care Program." We will collect items through Friday, December 23.



Pryme Tymers

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 10, at 11 A.M. Lt. Josh Polanco and the Salvation Army will present a program of music, testimonies and information about the Army's programs in the area. We also will have a tribute to our veterans. The entrée will be ...turkey! Please sign up early or risk being on the waiting list.



Family Night

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, November 16, for our next Family Night! Preparations for any holiday can be stressful. Join us as we get the whole family involved in our celebrations for Thanksgiving and Advent. Our guests offer great ideas to get the families focused on the real message of the holidays.

Ask one of the Lee family members about how it changed their season of Advent, and you will hear why you should be there!

- Family nights will be the third Wednesday of every month:

November 16 – Holiday Celebrations

December 21 – Here We Come A Caroling

- Dinner is served from 6-7 P.M. in Peterson Hall, offered at an affordable price (\$5/adult, \$1/child).
- A program suitable for the whole family runs from roughly 7-8 P.M.

RSVP by November 13 to Pastor Zach or the church office at 708-422-5111.

Missing DVD

Pat Anderson is looking for her DVD from Idlewild Baptist Church in Florida. This is a sports video featuring testimonies from Bobby Richardson and Andy Pettitt. If you have it, please contact Pat or the church office.



Interactions

Join us as we head to the Water Park in Schaumburg following worship on Sunday, November 6. Let Pastor Zach know if you plan to attend so that he can line up carpooling.



Decorate for Advent

The decorating committee invites everyone to join them on Saturday, November 26, at 9:30 A.M., as we prepare the church for Advent. We need several hands to make the task go quickly and smoothly. Kyle Johnson is always ready to train the next generation of decorators.

Miriam Circle/Covenant Women Ministries Presents



Jul Fest

Saturday, December 3, 2011

10:15 A.M. – Doors open for craft shopping

11:00 A.M. Program

12 noon – Swedish Smorgasbord

Women: \$15

Girls age 5-12: \$5

Girls under age 5 – free

Contact Rhea Maurer for information at 708-388-6457

The Tower Chorale Holiday Classics

Looking for something to do to get you in the holiday mood? Voices are accompanied by a brass quartet. Dennis Zimmer plays organ and piano. Specially featured is the Highlands Show Choir. Venue: St. Cletus Church, 600 W. 55th St, LaGrange.

If you are interested, see Barbara Meterer for tickets.

Adults - \$18, senior/students - \$15.

Saturday, December 3, at 8 P.M .

Sunday, December 4, at 4 P.M.

Helping Together We Cope

On Sunday, November 6, we will be collecting items to help Together We Cope, a homeless prevention agency in Tinley Park. For our December 4 collection you are encouraged to bring in a non-perishable food item of your choice.



Our Church Needs No Money!

We have discovered a way for a church to function without money. Will you cooperate?

- Each member will come to church during the week with a broom and mop to keep his part of the building presentable. Then a paid custodian will not be necessary.

- Each member will take his turn playing the organ and directing the choir. No organist or choir director will be needed.

- Each member will bring materials and tools to repair and remodel the building. Here we can really save money.

- Each member must agree to spend at least a year as a missionary at his own expense on some foreign field. This will dispense with missionary offerings.

- Each member will go to school for the required years and fulfill all the qualifications to become a pastor. Then he will have his turn preaching, leading the services, conducting the funerals, performing marriages, calling on members and prospects, visiting the sick, and guiding the administration of the church. This will save the expense of a pastor.

- Each member will spend some time working in the church office. And, of course, each member will bring his own hymn book and candle to light the building for evening services or meetings.

Isn't it a great idea? A new day is dawning for our church! Would you really want it this way?

If not, give God 10% of your income, and the church can operate in the scriptural manner.

But actually – your church needs no money!

- ▶ You are the one who uses the heat, light, water and music.

- ▶ You are the one who calls on the pastor when you are in need.

- ▶ You enjoy the services of the janitor and the office staff.

- ▶ You are the one commanded to go to the ends of the world to bring the gospel to every creature. Your missionaries go for you.

So, which will it be? The weekly candles and mops, or the weekly envelope containing your tithe?



I Finally Can Close the Drawers

I've cooked several big meals. I've cleaned up messes aplenty with the paper towels. I've eaten more peanut butter than a rational person should. After two months of eating and cleaning and hanging pictures on the walls of my office, I have finally gotten to the point where I can close my kitchen cabinets from the royal "pounding" I received last August, but I'm still not done yet.

So, thank you. Thank you to one and all for the many and varied ways that you have embraced me thus far. But this has meant more to me than just food-stuffs and other household items, and so I offer sincere gratitude. But this is more than gratitude, this event is a reminder. I cannot make it on my own. I can study for the rest of my life. I can work all hours of the day and night. I can amass huge wealth and meet my every creaturely need and want.

But this is not enough. None of this ever can satisfy me. While everyone that came to my aid and wanted to celebrate my birthday undoubtedly knew that they were being helpful (and they really were), there was something quite a bit deeper happening in that moment. The truth of the matter is that humans were created to need other humans. You bought me food items, paper towels and even some hand-crafted things came my way. We haven't even thought about all the gift cards yet; but what you gave me was yourselves.

That is the strength of our church and the shape of Christian mission: the people of God given to others. You have shown me some of your character and reminded me of our need for one another. May I be of like character with all of you.

Pastor Zach

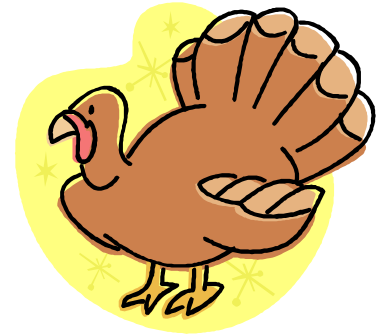


Noah's Ark Preschool

November Newsletter
2011



Turkeys, turkeys all around
On the fence, on the ground.
On the haystack, on the chair.
All around, everywhere.
Turkeys, turkeys all around.
Gobble, gobble what a sound!



Jean Warren

November is the month where families come together.

This month we will focus on the letters Ii for Indians, Pp for Pilgrims and Tt for Turkey and Thanksgiving. We will work on the colors brown, orange and yellow; the numbers 0-4 and the shapes rectangle and triangle. At the end of the month we will discuss our 5 senses and review shapes.



Thank you to all of our Grandparents and special friends!
You made the day so special and great for the children! We had so
much fun! You are all WONDERFUL!

Thank you to Pastor Zachary for teaching us about God's Love and the
four seasons in October!

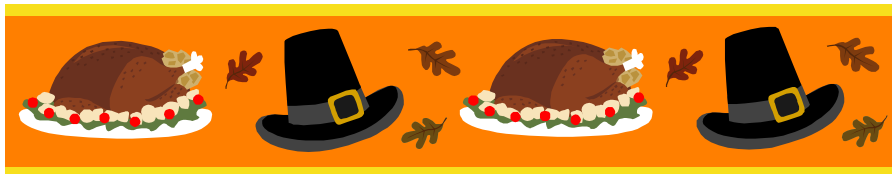


November 11th - No School
Veteran's Day

November 14th - No School
Parent Conferences

November 22nd
Thanksgiving Feast
Shorten day 9:30a.m. -11:00 a.m.

November 23rd - 25th - No School
Happy Thanksgiving!



Please join us and share a Special Thanksgiving Feast with your children on
Tuesday, November 22nd from
9:30-11:00 a.m.

Everyone please arrive by 9:20 a.m.

Brunch will be served!

Please look for sign-up sheet!

Everyone Welcome!

Invitations and more
information to come!



Please Join us for Noah's Ark Preschool's 1st Annual All You Can Eat Domino's Pizza Fundraiser



Where: Trinity Evangelical Covenant Church

9230 S. Pulaski, Oak Lawn 708.422.5111

When: Friday, November 4th

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$5.00 per person

Children under 3 Free



Tickets can be purchased through preschool or church office. Tickets will also be sold at the door.

Bring your Family!

Bring your Friends!

All are invited!!

Come and enjoy an evening of fun!

There will be movies, crafts and raffle prizes. Raffle tickets cost-

\$1.00 each or 6 tickets for \$5.00.

November 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			

Notes:

Nov 4: Preschool Fundraiser – Pizza Night (5:30-7:30 PM)

Nov 5: Men’s Prayer Breakfast at Jedi Garden (8 AM)

Nov 6: Interactions to Water Park in Schaumburg

Nov 8: Deacons (6:30 PM), Trustees & C.E. Bd. (7 PM)

Nov 10: Grief Support Group (10-10:45 AM)

Nov 10: Pryme Tymers (11 AM)

Nov 11: Veterans Day

Nov 13: December Messenger Articles Due

Nov 16: Family Night (6 PM)

Nov 17: Church Board (7 PM)

Nov 20: Congregational Business Meeting (12 noon)

Nov 20: SKF (3 PM)

Nov 23: Thanksgiving Eve Service (7 PM)

Nov 24: Thanksgiving Day (church office closed)

Nov 26: Decorate the Church for Advent (9:30 A.M.)

On-going Ministry

Sunday Mornings

9:30 Adult S.S.

9:30 Confirmation

10:30 Kingdom Kids

10:45 Worship

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

Crossroads Career Ministries – Mon 7 PM

Women’s Bible Study – Tues 9:30 AM

**Articles for the December
Messenger are due on
Sunday, November 13.**

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Reverend Dr. James R. Sandberg

Senior Pastor

Reverend Zachary Lovig

Assoc. Pastor: Minister to Youth and Families

Carol Raines

Director of Music

Betty Aardema

Organist

Christina Palazzolo

Interim Director – Noah's Ark Preschool

Charlene Sandberg

Secretary

Phil Cavallone

Custodian