

### **\*\*\*Trinity at a Glance\*\*\***

- As the holiday season approaches, we want to ensure that all families in our congregation have the support they need. **If you or your family are facing challenges this season**, please reach out to Pastor Phil Potaczek or our parish nurse, Carol Wahlstrom. Our Mission and Outreach committees have resources available and are ready to help where possible. You are not alone. Let's walk through this season together!
- **The tree in the Lounge has been decorated.** Please stop by to see it!
- On **Christmas Eve** we are gathering for "**Communion and Carols**" at **5 pm**. All are welcome!
- **Christmas Dinner will be served 11am-1pm at Open Table Ottawa.** Dinner is free and open to all!
- **Sunday January 11th immediately after Service**, we will hold the **Property Committee** Informational meeting.
- **Why the Christmas Trees Stay Up Through Epiphany**  
*In the Christian tradition, Christmas is not just a day, it is a season that lasts twelve days, from December 25 through January 5. We keep the Christmas trees up through Epiphany (January 6) to celebrate the full season and to mark the day when Christ is revealed as the Light for all nations. If Epiphany falls midweek, many churches will wait until the following Sunday (the Baptism of Our Lord). During this time immediately after Epiphany, the lights on the trees remind us of the star that led the Magi and of Jesus, the Light of the world. By leaving the trees up through Epiphany and the Baptism of Our Lord, we honor the whole story of Christmas: Christ is born, and Christ is revealed to all people as God's Son.*
- **On January 11, 2026**, after the Property Committee Informational meeting, **Trinity will be taking down the decorations and trees** in the Sanctuary. Please come and join us! Help is always appreciated! There is a sign up sheet in Java Junction.
- The tree in Java Junction will be the collection point for **hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, and socks to help out those in need. January 11th will be the last day for collection.** All child/youth/adult sizes are accepted. Thank you for your continuing generosity. For more information, contact the Mission/Outreach Team.
- **Sunday January 18th immediately after Service** we will hold the **Finance Committee** Informational meeting.
- **We have a couple of 2026 calendars left (\$20). Profits go to the Growing Project.** Please contact the office during regular business hours if you would like one. Marj Nelson 815-973-1286 and Kate Reed 815-830-2061 also have copies available.
- Many people in Jamaica and Haiti have been severely impacted by Hurricane Helene. You can give help by giving to Lutheran Disaster Response. At [give.ELCA.org/hurricanes](http://give.ELCA.org/hurricanes), just type in "Lutheran Disaster Response," select Hurricane Helene, make a contribution. Or send a check to: Lutheran Disaster Response, ELCA Gift Processing Center, PO Box 1809, Merrifield VA 22116-8009.
- **TLC Prayer Requests.**
  - . To submit a *public* prayer request to the congregation, please reach out to Diane ([diane@trinitylutheranottawa.com](mailto:diane@trinitylutheranottawa.com)).
  - . To submit a *private* prayer request, connect with Pastor Phil ([pastorphil@trinitylutheranottawa.com](mailto:pastorphil@trinitylutheranottawa.com)).
  - . When you submit a public prayer request, please include only the information you are comfortable having printed in the bulletin. We will publish the request as written, but may shorten it for clarity and privacy. If you wish to remain anonymous, please specify.
  - . Each request will appear in the bulletin once. We will publish updates as you provide them.
  - . Even when a request is no longer printed, our whole church family is encouraged to add these needs to their personal prayer lists.Thank you for holding these requests before God with such care. - *Pastor Phil*
- Have you seen the **ELCA Good Gifts Catalogue**? It's full of **ways to help people in developing countries**. You can: **Buy animals**: \$10 for chicks, \$50 for a goat, \$20 for honeybees, \$30 for a piglet. **Support health & nutrition**: \$30 for a water filter, \$30 for a child's vaccinations, \$10 for a mosquito net, \$25 for a hygiene kit. **Help in times of crisis**: \$10 for a blanket, \$50 to feed a refugee family for a week. **Agriculture**: \$50 for seeds and gardening tools, \$200 for a community vegetable garden, \$150 to start a fruit tree farm, \$10 for a fruit tree seedling. There's much more! The website is <https://goodgifts.elca.org>.

● **CURRENT FINANCIAL REPORT:**

- Nov Income = \$21,671.17 (Income YTD = \$215,068.81)
- Nov Expense = \$21,920.12 (Expense YTD = \$222,034.84)
- Income Less Expense = -\$248.95 (Income Less Expense YTD = -\$6,966.03)
- Loan Payment = \$2,943.30
- Principal Payment = \$1,000.00
- Left On Loan = \$3,341.24

● **THIS WEEK @ TRINITY:**

- **Monday (12/22):** 10a Staff meeting  
10a Drum Fit (Community Room)
- **Tuesday (12/23):** 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
- **Wednesday (12/24)** Christmas Eve ✨  
*Church Office Closed*  
*No Bible Study*  
*No Choir Rehearsal*  
5p Holy Communion & Carols
- **Thursday (12/25):** Christmas Day ✝️  
*Church Office Closed*  
*No Sit Fit*  
*No Trinity Stitchers*
- **Friday (12/26):** *No Sunrise Rotary*
- **Saturday (12/27):** *National Leftovers Day!* 🍴
- **Sunday (12/28)** First Sunday of Christmas  
*No Sunday Session*  
*No Affirmation Class*  
10a Holy Communion

**WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE -**

*Please sign up using the binder at the back of the aisle.*

**Sunday, December 21, 2025**

Crucifer/Acolyte: *Reagan Duffield*  
Ushers:  
Lector: *Christmas Program Participants*  
Communion Assistants: *Jane Goetz, Brad Gromm, Anne Lauterjung*  
Altar Guild: *Anne Lauterjung*  
Advent Wreath Lighters: *The Gross Family*  
Video Tech: *Anne Lauterjung*  
Music Directors: *Matt Makeever & Mary Heider*  
Altar Flowers: *In memory of Paul & Gert Barron from Anne, Brent & Family*

**Sunday, December 24, 2025**

Crucifer/Acolyte: *Pearl*  
Ushers:  
Lector: *Jane Goetz*  
Communion Assistants: *Kari Castelli*  
Altar Guild: *Anne Lauterjung & Linda Scott*  
Advent Wreath Lighters: *The Boyles Family*  
Video Tech: *Anne Lauterjung*  
Music Directors: *Matt Makeever & Mary Heider*  
Altar Flowers: *Poinsettias (Please take home after service)*  
*In honor of Harold & Joan Salzman, Darren Heldt, Jan Walker, Walter & Gloria Bromann.*  
*In memory of Walter & Kevin, Gordon & Carol Gross, Greg Matteson, Gary Grunstad, Mike Murphy, Bec & Jim Schnepple, Tom Frederick, Rev. Tom Siebert, Katie & Corey Woods*