

*****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!
 - All of the bags for the **Star Tree** (Sponsorship of a Youth Service Bureau young person) have been claimed! Thank you to all for your generous nature and for the community of care that Trinity reflects! Just a reminder to **return the gifts, UNWRAPPED, with the list attached, no later than today, Sunday, December 7th**. Thank you so much for spreading the love of the season.
 - We are decorating the Lounge (Community Room) Christmas tree with Christmas cards. **Please bring one of your Christmas cards or photo postcards to church next week**. You could also drop cards off at the office during regular business hours. We will announce when the tree has been decorated so that you can stop by to see it!
 - Come see **The Prairie Singers, 38th Annual Free Christmas Concert Series "Comfort and Joy"**
Dec 7, 2 pm St. Patrick Catholic Church, Seneca IL
Dec 14, 2 pm St. Columba Catholic Church, Ottawa IL
 - **On December 14th at Noon, Open Table is hosting a free meal**. 910 Columbus St, Ottawa IL. They will be serving Italian Sausage, lentils, fresh salad, homemade bread and dessert.
 - **Here's another opportunity to share!** - the tree in Java Junction will be the collection point for **hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, and socks to help out those in need**. All child/youth/adult sizes are accepted. Thank you for your continuing generosity. For more information, contact the Mission/Outreach Team.
 - The next **blood drive** at TLC will be on **December 17th, Noon - 5 pm**. Our parish nurse, Carol, needs help hosting the blood drive. Interested volunteers should connect with Carol for more information. Thank you!
 - Come join our inter-generational and choral **Christmas program on Sunday, December 21st, during worship, at 10 am**.
 - 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! They will be serving baked ham, rolls, potato casserole, cranberry apple sauce, cookies, cheesy corn and fruit.
 - **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 Service, **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.
- **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 immediate help by giving to Lutheran Disaster Response. At give.ELCA.org/hurricanes, just type in “Lutheran Disaster Response” and select Hurricane Helene and 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).

- . To submit a *private* prayer request, connect with Pastor Phil (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*

- Reminder to all committees that annual report information should be sent to the office. You can email it to diane@trinitylutheranottawa.com. Thank you.

- 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

- **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

Please pray for the Khudaverdieev family during these uncertain times.

● **THIS WEEK @ TRINITY:**

- **Monday (12/8):** 10a Staff meeting
 10a Drum Fit (Community Room)
 6p Christian Education (Board Room)
- **Tuesday (12/9):** 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
 7p Finance Committee (Board Room)
- **Wednesday (12/10)** 1p Bible Study (Community Room)
 6:30p Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- **Thursday (12/11):** 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
 1p Trinity Stitchers (Sewing Room)
- **Friday (12/12):** 7a Sunrise Rotary (Community Room)
- **Saturday (12/13):** *National Violin Day!* 
- **Sunday (12/14)** *Third Sunday of Advent*
 9a Affirmation Class
 9a Sunday Session
 10a Holy Communion

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE -

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

<p><u>Sunday, December 7, 2025</u> Crucifer/Acolyte: <i>Madi Perino</i> Ushers: Lector: <i>Shannon Matteson</i> Communion Assistants: <i>Shannon Matteson, Ann Enke, Anne Lauterjung</i> Altar Guild: <i>Ann Enke & Annette Bruce</i> Advent Wreath Lighters: <i>The Manning Family</i> Video Tech: Music Directors: <i>Matt Makeever & Mary Heider</i> Altar Flowers: <i>In honor of Barb Cunningham from the Heider & McGrath Families</i></p>	<p><u>Sunday, December 14, 2025</u> Crucifer/Acolyte: <i>Anna Reed</i> Ushers: Lector: <i>Anne Lauterjung</i> Communion Assistants: <i>Anne Lauterjung, Jane Goetz</i> Altar Guild: <i>Kari Castelli & Diane Wahl</i> Advent Wreath Lighters: <i>The McGrath Family</i> Video Tech: <i>Keith Goetz</i> Music Directors: <i>Matt Makeever & Mary Heider</i> Altar Flowers: <i>In memory of Georgette Wahl from Diane Wahl</i></p>
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