

Trinity United Church



Advent 2014 Newsletter

UPCOMING EVENTS

For Your Fridge

Communion Service at Nipissing Manor

come on out!

Tues, November 25th - 2 pm

Advent and "What If It's True" begins!

Communion service

Sun., November 30th

"A Christmas Carol"

(Sing-a-long begins at 6:30pm!)

Wed., December 3rd

White Gift Sunday

(proceeds to the Trinity Food Shelf and Christmas Bag Outreach)

Sun., December 7th

Sunday School Christmas Pageant

Sun., December 15th

Choir Cantata Service

Sun., December 21st

Our "Longest Night" evening service

Mon., December 22nd 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve

Family Service, 7:00 pm

Communion, 8:15 pm

Tues., December 24th

A Note from Rev. Ted's Desk:

"What If It's True?"

Too often our holiday season can take on a frenetic momentum of its own, and ironically in our efforts to "get it right," we miss it altogether! As a way of focusing our faith this Advent and Christmas, I'll be regularly asking you a single simple question: "What if it's true?"

"What if it's true?" is the question that we'll be asking ourselves throughout this upcoming Advent and Christmas season. As we examine the scriptures, the stories and the traditions of the season, we owe it to ourselves to ask, "What if it's true?" Do we believe it? How do we believe it? How does it impact our living? If we truly believe some of these doctrines and stories, they might radically impact both how we think about our faith, and how we live out that faith. Each week we'll sing

this simple refrain:

What if it's true, what if it's so,

The story to us confided?

We find true love, forgiveness too,

And through it our lives are guided.

(Tune: "Greensleeves" VU 74)

In the weeks ahead, as you encounter the phrases, the images, and even the Christmas clichés of the season—pause. Pause and think. Pause and wonder. Pause and ask yourself: "What if it's true? What does it change? Who do I feel called to be if I actually believe these things?"

Wishing you wonder,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ted' with a stylized flourish.

111 McIntyre St. E., North Bay, ON P1B 1C5

Office: 474-3310 • Fax: 474-3311

Email: trinityunited@cogeco.net

www.trinitynorthbay.ca

Remember to take time for quiet reflection

With the recent falling of fresh snow (perhaps a little earlier than some of you were hoping) we are reminded that the Advent season is upon us. It seems that at this time of the year our response to the question “how are you” will almost certainly contain the word “busy.” It can be good to be busy with suppers, craft shows, concerts and all the many exciting events that come with the season, but it can also be a little overwhelming.

In the midst of the busiest times of the year, the Church reminds us to slow down and spend some time in hopeful anticipation. Each Sunday in Advent, as we light candles, we are provided with a visual way for us to count off the four Sundays in Advent, but also a reminder of how we can prepare our hearts for the arrival of Christ in our midst.

On the first Sunday in Advent we

light the candle of hope. What do we hope and long for deep in our hearts? What does God hope for us? How can we offer hope to those for whom Christmas is a stressful time?

On the second Sunday in Advent we light the candle of peace. In the busyness of the season, find time to reflect on the peacemakers in our world and in our lives. Imagine what a world fully at peace might look like. Allow yourself to dream radically and boldly – Isaiah reminds us that this is what dreams of peace look like.

On the third Sunday in Advent we celebrate and light the candle of joy. What ways are you nurturing joy in your life? In the midst of festivities, Christmas concerts, dinners and pageants, find the joy of Christmas – allow that joy to linger in your heart and carry you beyond the Advent season.

On the fourth Sunday in Advent we light the candle of love. We are reminded that there is no greater power than love. Nelson Mandela says in his autobiography, “No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.” Jesus’ birth reminds us to not only love one another, but to love radically – reaching out to those who are sometimes difficult to love.

As you journey through Advent remember to take time for quiet reflection— look for signs of God’s abundant love - for the light of God’s love is everywhere.

Wishing you each a season filled with hope, peace, joy and love!

Lisa

Message from the Chair

It has been another great year at Trinity.

Well here we are, drawing close to welcoming a new year. As the excitement of the Christmas season surrounds us, in the quiet times we wonder where 2014 went. There was so much that was to be accomplished and changed this year; but, as life got in the way, dreams become hopes for the new year coming, and try harder this time. It has been another great year at Trinity. We have said goodbye to some dear friends, and welcomed newcomers to our midst. New endeavors are started while some of the groups

where we met and shared, are in the throws of being memories. Such is the life of a healthy and vibrant church. We can be thankful for the Trinity staff and the great things that start as an idea and become a huge successful event. Trinity Arts continue to supply a variety of events that feed and showcase the talents that exist in many. Our church groups offer many different ways for a person to find their own source of strength or encouragement, and reach their own inner peace.

Future plans in the works will offer

new ways of bringing us closer. The line-up of Christmas events and 2015’s Year of Lear will showcase many talents, and leave a footprint that will shape the future.

We thank God for the gifts and strengths with which God has blessed us with in 2014. As we move into a new year may our momentum be deepened as our hope for a strong community is shared.

Wishing all a wonderful Christmas season.

*John Sheridan.
Board Chair.*

Some musical notes...from Betty Farris, Minister of Music.

We are preparing an exciting concert, “Sweet Sounds of Christmas”

What an exciting fall at Trinity Church! It has been a pleasure to be part of Trinity’s Team – Ted, Lisa, Wanda, Michelina, Ryan, Moe, and Shirley.

We are grateful to the J.O.Y. Band, the Senior Choir, Junior Choir, Marcel MacDonald, Matt Whitehead, and Bob Cook, for their special parts in our November 9 Remembrance Day service.

Our Junior Choir is blossoming under the capable leadership of Peggy Millar. Junior Choir rehearsals are Sunday mornings from 9:20 – 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. New members (J.K. and up) are always welcome. We look forward to enjoying their singing several times during the Advent/Christmas season.

Sunday afternoon, November 9, we welcomed the J.O.Y. Band, as they presented “Musical Memories of the War” years. What a fabulous afternoon it was, with a full house in attendance! Thank you to all the UCW members who helped in the

kitchen, the stage builders, the elevator operator and those who moved extra chairs upstairs.

Thank you especially to all of you who attended our concert, and warmly welcomed visitors with wonderful Trinity spirit. We hope to repeat this enthusiasm on December 14!

We are still working towards purchasing an electronic piano. This piano would be used to accompany the Junior Choir, soloists (it changes keys to adjust to high and low voices, or instruments), Mustard Seed, the Coffee House and any musical activities taking place in and around Trinity. We are almost half way to our goal of \$1700.

As we move into the Advent Season, our Senior Choir, Junior Choir and the J.O.Y. Band are preparing an exciting Christmas concert, “Sweet Sounds of Christmas”, to be presented at Trinity on Sunday, December 14 at 2:00 p.m. This is an afternoon that the whole family will enjoy. A carol sing-a-long will start by 1:40 p.m. A goodwill offer-

ing will be taken, with the proceeds donated to the North Bay Santa Fund. Complimentary refreshments will follow the concert. Please spread the word about this exciting afternoon!

On Christmas Sunday, December 21, the Senior Choir will present a Christmas cantata “Images of Adoration” at our morning worship service. This beautiful music draws us into the Christmas story through symbols such as candles, crimson flowers, angels, the manger, and the star.

Our Senior Choir continues to welcome new members. A love of music is all that is needed. Please see me if you would like to be part of the choir. Rehearsals take place each Thursday from 7:15 – 9:00 p.m. Music is fun and is food for the soul!

May you and your family experience the peace and joy of this blessed season now, and all year long.

Betty Farris, Minister of Music

Pastoral Care and Visiting

Rev. Ted and some members of the choir along with our Committee have shared in Communion at Barclay House and the Empire Living Centre. We are going to Nipissing Manor on Tuesday, November 25th at 2:15 pm.

We continue to visit the Hospital, Retirement and Nursing homes. If you are admitted to the hospital please be sure to tell them you are a member of Trinity United Church.

If you know of anyone who would appreciate a visit by a member of our Committee or by the Minister, please contact one of the undersigned.

*Submitted by:
Claudette dePencier & Noreen Brewer*

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee is always looking for people who would be interested in either USHERING or being a READER on Sunday mornings.

If either of these are of interest to you and you would like to volunteer or just get more information about what is involved please contact: Gladys Banks-Bryer 705-474-1908 or Lynne Vokes-Leduc 705-495-0762

*Thank you for your support
Gladys Banks-Bryer and Lynne
Vokes-Leduc (co-chairs)*

Ministry and Personal Committee

They make Trinity a welcoming place

As the snow begins to fall, we are reminded of the hustle and bustle of the upcoming Christmas season that seems to start earlier and earlier each year. It is a wonderful time of year to count our Blessings and take a moment to thank the people in our church who give so much of their time and talents to our Trinity family. We are truly blessed with a talented team of staff who keep the momentum going often with little thanks for all they do. We wonder if you would join us during this season and take a few minutes the next time you see Ted, Lisa, Wanda, Betty, Ryan, Maurice or our newest member Michelina to tell each of them how much we appreciate all the work they do on our behalf to make Trinity a vibrant welcoming place for all. A simple handshake or hug to say thanks for all you do would help give them some of the affirmation they truly deserve.

On behalf of Brad and I, we would also like to say thank you to our dedicated committee who volunteer their time to do the work behind the scenes to keep Trinity a well oiled machine.

May the message of Christmas ring in your hearts throughout the festive Season and may the wonderful feelings stay with you long after the gifts are unwrapped, the tree taken down, and the ornaments stored away. We wish you the best for the New Year.

Co chairs

Linda Sheridan and Brad Stenning

White Gift Sunday

White Gift Sunday dates back to 1904 in Ohio. The wife of a Methodist minister and her two children came up with the idea of giving gifts wrapped in white paper at Christmas time to people in need. You are invited to bring gifts, money and non-perishable food items wrapped in white paper or cloth on Sunday December 8th for Trinity's special White Gift presentation. These gifts will be brought forward during worship and will be donated to Trinity's Food Shelf or Trinity's Christmas Bag Outreach Project. Thank you for reaching out and sharing God's love with others this Christmas season!

Christmas Bag Outreach

Each year Trinity's youth group collects items for Trinity's Christmas Bag Outreach Project. We provided over 150 Christmas gifts to children, youth and adults in our community! These bags are packed according to the age of the receiver and delivered the week prior to Christmas. We provide gifts bags to women and children at the Transition House, and Ojibway Family Resource Centre, to adults and youth at the Crisis Centre and Four Elm's Residence, Futures Youth Crisis Centre, etc. and to patients at the North Bay Regional Health Centre – Mental Health Forensics Unit.

Items that would bring comfort and joy to folks who need it would be appreciated. Some suggestions are: mitts, socks, slippers, treats (regular and diabetic ones), playing cards, games, toiletries (no hotel soaps please), colouring and activity books, journals, crafts, word search and other puzzle books, etc. Christmas gift bags or money to purchase gifts are also appreciated. Thank-you for supporting this important outreach project!

THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE of the Board has now begun its work to recruit new elders. Trinity is organized under a Board and Committee structure. All persons who are members of Trinity United Church may serve as elders. Elders are assigned to a Standing Committee. The committees include Building & Grounds, Christian Education & Outreach, Communications, Finance & Stewardship, Ministry & Personnel, Pastoral Care & Visiting, Worship. Assignment to a committee considers the expertise and interest of the individual. Please consider serving as an elder. Volunteers are always welcome or you may be approached by a member of the Nomination Committee. We also need volunteers to serve on the Trustees. Information about the committees and the roles and responsibilities of elders is available from the church office or by contacting Janice Brownlee: 705-472-6653.

PLEASE STEP FORWARD AND VOLUNTEER DON'T WAIT TO BE ASKED.

From the Finance/Stewardship Committee

God knows our weaknesses and blesses us with love just the same. Can we, as stewards, do any less for others?

VIEW from the VAULT

31 October 2014

RECEIPTS		EXPENSES	
Offering	\$204,648.00	Personnel	\$186,038.00
Fundraisers	\$29,131.00	Property	\$43,892.00
Outreach	\$11,925.00	Operations	\$17,884.00
CE	\$5,779.00	Worship	\$2,353.00
Other	\$8,595.00	CE	\$4,541.00
Estate	\$10,000.00	Fundraising	\$5,690.00
		Outreach	\$24,859.00
Totals	\$ 270,078.00		\$285,257.00
Receipts - Expenses			(\$15,179)
Bank Balance Jan 1			\$12,208
Bank Balance Oct 31			(\$2,971)

To Oct 31, 2013

Income	\$ 255,173.00	Expenses	\$ 273,098.00
Receipts - Expenses			\$ (17,925.00)

Budget 2014

Receipts		Expenses	
Offerings	\$275,677.00	Personnel	\$221,400.00
Group donations	\$6,000.00	Property	\$43,600.00
Fundraising General	\$31,000.00	Operations	\$29,073.00
Other Income	\$10,521.00	Worship	\$4,475.00
Fundraising		CE	\$1,850.00
Outreach	\$24,000.00	Outreach	\$26,800.00
	\$ 347,198.00		\$ 327,198.00

We are about \$10,000 behind our projections for Offering at the end of October but still our total income is running ahead of last year.

To meet our budget for the Offering line we need \$71,000. We are confident we can do it. If you are behind please work hard to catch up.

Please consider a special Christmas Gift for Trinity.

Remember to save your table receipts when you dine at Swiss Chalet. They are still happy to give us 10%. So far we have received \$315 this way. Do not turn in your credit or debit card receipts - just the slip that comes to your table when it is time to pay. Bar and take out receipts are not included in this offer. We are thankful for Swiss Chalet's generosity in this program.

We can be generous not only when we feel joyful and blessed, but also when we feel neglected and deprived.

UCW REPORT

Fall finds the UCW ladies busy with a lot of various activities, from monthly meetings & luncheons to planning & organizing the yearly Christmas Tea & Bazaar. The festive season brings many opportunities for sharing & fellowship with family, friends & visitors, such as Trinity Arts evening, preparing Cheer plates, & helping out the J.O.Y band.

Our bazaar was a huge success this year thanks to all the hard work of the ladies. There was lots of smiles, laughter, enjoyment & of course good food. The tea room was beautifully decorated & upstairs there were a lot of good deals & the talents of everyone were displayed. Thank you for your contribution, from baking, to sewing, knitting, serving in the tea room, kitchen duty, fireside room duty, & to all the workers behind the scenes.

Thank you to the A.O.T.S. for helping with all the various functions. It is greatly appreciated. Some ladies took part in the Fall Presbyterial at Knox United in Nipissing. The guest speaker was from the Alzheimer Society, & was very informative.

If you are interested in finding out what we are all about, we meet on the 2nd Monday of every month at 1 p.m. in the fireside room.

As Christmas approaches, on behalf of the UCW ladies, may I wish each & everyone one of you a safe & happy holiday season.

*Peace & Blessings,
Roxanne Chartrand,
UCW President*



❖CARITOU❖ Country Dinner

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Cost \$15.00 adults and \$10.00 Children 12 and under

The North Bay Community J.O.Y. Band
and The Trinity United Church Senior and Junior Choirs Present

"Sweet Sounds of Christmas"

Sunday, December 14th, 2:00 p.m.

(Carol Sing-a-Long at 1:40 p.m.)

Goodwill Offering - Complimentary Refreshments
Proceeds to North Bay Santa Fund

Trinity Families

invites you to celebrate the season with us!

Christmas Parade Event

Join us after worship for a hotdog lunch followed by special VIP seating in front of the church during the parade.

Sunday November 23rd

Downtown Christmas Walk

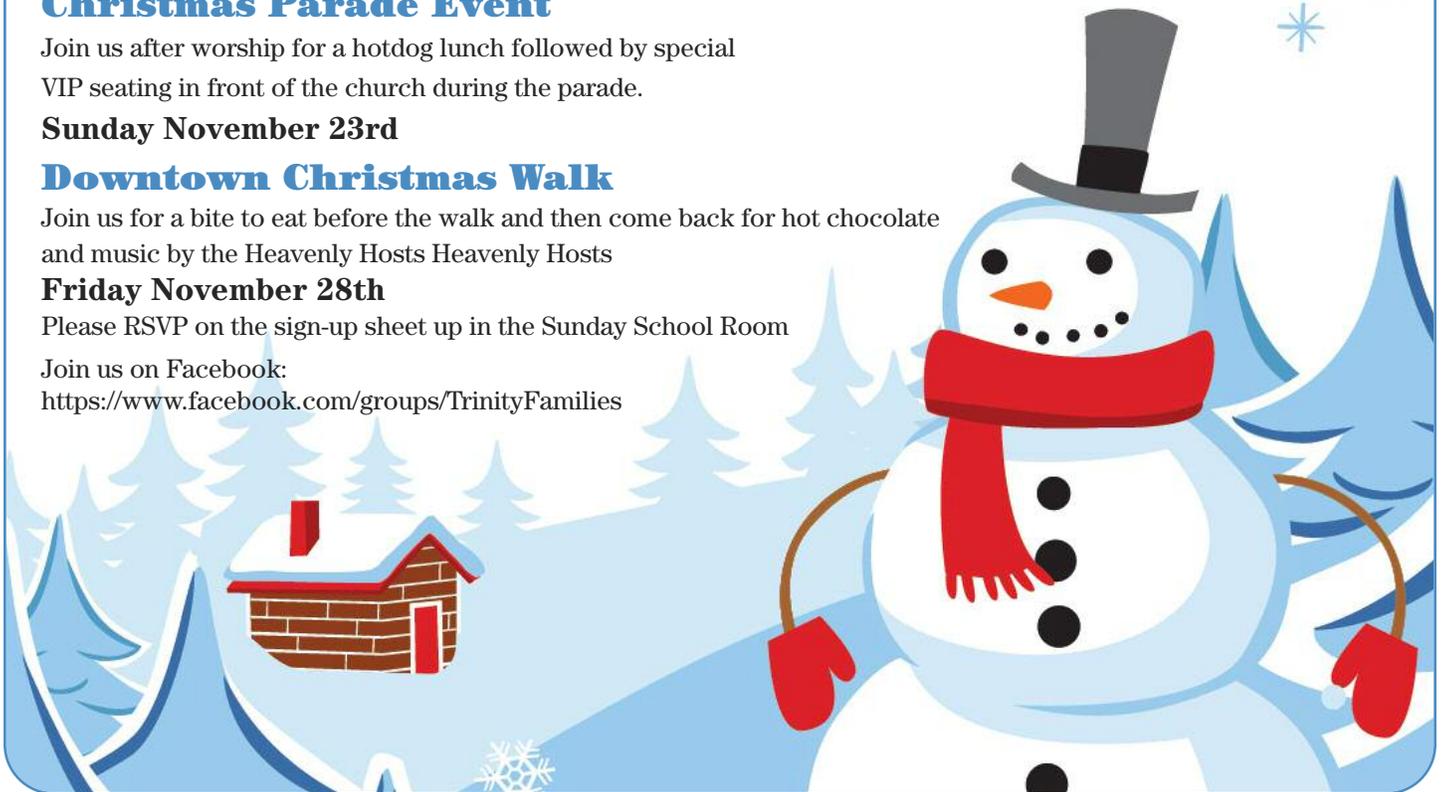
Join us for a bite to eat before the walk and then come back for hot chocolate and music by the Heavenly Hosts Heavenly Hosts

Friday November 28th

Please RSVP on the sign-up sheet up in the Sunday School Room

Join us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TrinityFamilies>



Trinity United Church Sunday School Presents:

Michael Mouse: A Christmas Story

Directed by Darlene Laferriere

Sunday December 14th 10:30 am



Come hear the Christmas story as told and sung by the Trinity United Church Sunday School and plan to stay for a potluck lunch afterwards. Please bring your cold potluck items to the Sunday School Room before the service. Thank-you!

Rehearsals begin Sunday November 23rd during Sunday School. A full dress rehearsal is scheduled for Saturday December 13th at 9:30 am

LOOKING AHEAD WITH TED:

LENT 2015

During Lent in 2015 (February through March), we're exploring the theme of religious doubt, of stripping away illusions, and overturning some of faith's falsehoods. If you have a secular song to share on this theme, please share it with me in the next few weeks. I hope to have some local "musical guests" booked for Lent before January is through!

ADVENT 2015 ART SHOW

For Advent of 2015, we're going to explore the season through the eyes of our local artists—and this means YOU! If you or someone you know is willing to share or develop some art around Advent or Christmas themes, pick up an "Advent Artists Primer" from the table at the McIntyre Street door. The art might be painting, drawing, sculpture, photograph, or something else!—Next year, let's see how the season expresses itself through our own local artists!

"A Christmas Carol"

Wed. December 3rd at 7pm!

Your friends from "Trinity Arts" are picking up where they left off with Charles Dickens! The classic tale of Scrooge's rottenness and redemption propels us into the Christmas Spirit with style, humour, and timeless insight. A talented group of North Bay's best readers and musical performers will prepare you to encounter "the reason for the season." You ticket price supports "the Gathering Place." The story begins at 7pm on December 3rd but the sing-a-long carols begins at 6:30. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students, children (12 and under) are free!

The LONGEST NIGHT Service

On Monday Dec. 22nd at 7pm, members of Trinity United, along with friends from St. Andrew's United, will gather for a service of heartfelt music and candlelit prayer

in the Trinity sanctuary. It's an opportunity for a spacious pause, to contemplate the hopes, fears, and prayers that gravitate to the longest night of the year.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT TRINITY

Come early for a good seat at our family service, 7pm on December 24th. That Service will include the scripture story and lively singing of your Christmas favourites. After the raucous 7pm family service, there will be a brief quieter service of communion at about 8:15pm.

The Trinity Coffeehouse

On Friday January 17th at 7pm in Trinity's fellowship hall, join folks from all over North Bay for a night packed with music and laughter. The Trinity Coffeehouse has become a beloved new tradition of winter warmth that brings more and more remarkable local talent into the Trinity spotlight! Sign up and share your act!

Trinity hosts WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



Between April 16th and 26th of 2015, Trinity United Church will be hosting 14 performances of William Shakespeare's celebrated "King Lear," featuring renowned Canadian actors David Fox and Jeff Miller. Preparing North Bay to understand and appreciate the play, you're also invited to the "Happy New Lear" Lectures at 7pm on each of January 14th, Feb 11th, March 4th, and March 25th.

As Lear closes in, Trinity's sanc-

tuary and worship will be enriched with Shakespearean surprises! If you're willing to donate some time or money to "Lear," please speak to a member of the Trinity Arts committee. We also have a "Patronage Package" available for arts lovers or corporate sponsors who can help us make "King Lear" a smashing success!

Also, consider a "Lear Package Deal" as a Christmas gift for yourself—it entitles you to attend the

lecture series, the Valentine's Evening, and the Lear performance of your choice for only \$75 total! (a 25% discount!).

~ Trinity Arts (talk to Nancy or Brad Stenning, Darlene Laferriere, Rod Carley, Michelina Beam, Lisa Blais, or Rev. Ted). "Using the many blessings of the Trinity Church family to enrich life and faith through the arts."

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

For Your Fridge Too

Baptism Sunday

(contact the office ASAP with your interest)

Sun., January 11th

First "Happy New Lear Lecture"

Wed., January 14th, 7:00 pm

Communion Sunday

Sun., January 18th

Trinity Soup Tasting Night!

Fri., January 23rd

Robbie Burns Sunday

Sun., January 25th

Prayer for Christian Unity service

Sun., January 25th, 2:00 pm

The Trinity Coffeehouse

sign up your act!
Fri., February 6th

Second "Happy New Lear Lecture"

Wed., February 11th, 7:00 pm

Shakespearean Valentine

A classy Shakespearean evening of Valentine music and poetry
Sat., February 14th, 7:00 pm

Thinking Day

celebrate Guides and Scouts with us

Sun., February 16th

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tues., February 17th

The Season of Lent begins

Sun., February 22nd

Annual General Meeting

after church
Sun., March 1st

Third "Happy New Lear Lecture"

Wed., March 4th, 7:00 pm

"Red Hot Chili Cook-Off"

Fri., March 6th

Celebrating Saint Patrick

Sun., March 15th

Fourth and final "Happy New Lear Lecture"

Wed., March 25th, 7:00 pm

Palm Sunday

Sun., March 29th

Maundy Thursday

service begins our all-night Youth Vigil

Thurs., April 2nd, 7:00 pm

Good Friday

AOTS Breakfast at Trinity
Fri., April 3rd

Easter Sunday

Sunrise and Communion services

Sun., April 5th

"King Lear"

Trinity hosts matinee and evening performances of "King Lear"

April 16-26th