

Christ Episcopal Church

113 E. Lafayette Street

Ottawa, IL 61350

815.434.0627

www.lcem.org/Ottawa.php



Are you looking for a parish to call your home?

We are seeking a priest who wants to join our family.

Are you a flexible down to earth person with a good sense of humor?

We are a spontaneous congregation that likes to laugh at ourselves.

Do you need proximity to a major metropolitan city?

We are only 89 miles from the Windy City.

Are you willing to be the spiritual leader of a small, competent, and enthusiastic parish?

We are looking for someone to lead us and help us to grow.

Are you looking for classic gothic Midwest church in the heart of central Illinois?

We are Christ Episcopal Church Ottawa, Illinois.



Christ Episcopal Church is a church rich with history – a shared history with each other. We are there for each other in celebration and in sorrow. Physically and emotionally we show up for each other in times of need. We respect and revel in the fact that we are all different members of the body of Christ with various skills, strengths and talents. We believe in using our gifts to step in and help. We can never be accused of taking ourselves too seriously, because we have suffered great adversity as a church – we’ve survived a fire not once -- but twice. We know what’s important and we know what to let go of. We’re on an upward trajectory as a community. We feel optimistic, energized and hopeful. We are more than a small midwestern church, we are a family.

Nothing is holding back from our search for the right priest to lead our community. However, in the spirit of keeping it real - these things are important for you to know: We're looking for a priest to work part-time hours, not with a part time passion for your ministry. Our church is navigating a move from a cluster ministry of four parishes to a stand-alone parish. In the absence of a priest we've managed our Eucharistic celebrations with supply priests lending us different styles of ministry. We have finite fiscal reserves but are willing to pour what we have into building a stable and thriving congregation. We have no debt. We need sacramental and spiritual help.

Moving forward:

We're growing a happy, inviting church and ideally would like to see more people join in our ministry. We realize we are not driving this mission. We respect and embrace change in God's time with an openness to where the Spirit will lead. With our building in the heart of downtown we are doing the research to discover a unique ministry that meet the needs of the community at large. On the same hand we realize we need to refresh ourselves as a congregation before we can help others. We are ready to move forward.



What are we looking for in our next Rector?

Ideally? We would like you to be your authentic self – to be comfortable with who you are. Are you open to joining our family? We need a sacramental leader. Are you comfortable with open dialog and communication? We are. We are seeking someone who can challenge us and help us to learn and grow. Are you secure with intimacy, humor and honesty? We are. We like homilies that connect scripture to what is real, the everyday – that motivates us to be more like Christ. We're hopeful that you're the able to mix it up in the local community. We need a presence and a willingness to participate in the community at large. We are looking for someone who enjoys pastoral care inclusive of the sick and homebound. It's important to us for you to be able to establish good boundaries. We need you rested and nourished as well. We need flexibility in our priest as much of what transpires in our parish comes about organically.

A little background on our Church:

Founded in April 1838, Christ Episcopal Church constructed in 1870 - is one of the oldest Episcopal Churches in the state of Illinois. The undercroft serves as the parish hall. The rectory was built in 1905. In May of 2017 the church sustained and recovered in 16 months from a fire. Subsequent to the fire, the part-time Rector serving four parishes in our cluster ministry departed on permanent disability leave. Since that time, we've maintained services with supply clergy, Eucharistic Ministers and active members. The church was rededicated on September 29, 2018. The average weekly attendance on Sunday was eleven and has been climbing to twenty-two with the addition of a Saturday evening service. We have fifty members.

Community Profile:

Ottawa is a community rich with history, a river community nestled in the beautiful valley at the union of the Fox and Illinois rivers. The first Lincoln-Douglas debate in 1858 was held in Ottawa; an event that has been memorialized with heroic-sized bronze sculptures of these men, directly across the street from the church in Washington Park. William Dickson Boyce, the founder of Boy Scouts, was a resident of Ottawa. In recent years the city has undertaken major public parks improvements, public works projects and recreational development of its riverfronts. There is an indoor roller-skating rink and an outdoor ice-skating rink. Quality public and parochial schools are a source of pride and a commitment. The city has recently added many upscale restaurants from burgers to tapas - from steaks to sushi. There is a brewery with a restaurant hosting weekly entertainment and a wine bar in the heart of downtown. There is a restaurant with a large aquarium bar and many boutique shops. The city has a locally run bookstore, a very active library and a community college satellite. There are two yoga studios, a salt cave and music store. The city is home to SkyDive Chicago which brings people in from all around the world for annual record-breaking jumps. Ottawa has two golf courses, a boating club and is the eastern gateway to Starved Rock State Park. The city has many clubs and organizations from bike clubs to knitting clubs. Ottawa has a medical center, a hospital, and three urgent care locations.

To learn more about the City of Ottawa please visit its web site: <http://www.cityofottawa.org/>

The Diocese of Chicago:

The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago is led by Bishop Jeffrey Lee and has 123 member congregations, spreading from Lake Michigan on the east, to the Wisconsin border on the north and the Iowa border on the west. The Diocese is known for its leadership initiatives designed to support congregational vitality. To this end, the Diocese focuses its energies on two key programs: The College for Congregational Development and Fierce Conversations. The Nicholas Center, located on the fifth floor of the Diocese's office building in downtown Chicago, provides classroom space and accommodations for these programs as well as other leadership events.

To apply for the rector position at Christ Ottawa, please submit a cover letter, OTM portfolio, and resume to Andrea Mysen, Director of Ministries, at amysen@episcopalchicago.org