



Trinity
Lutheran Church
LCMS

Our Mission

“To share the good news
of Jesus Christ”

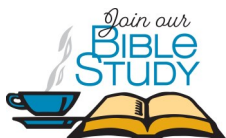


Our Vision STATEMENT

“To serve as God guides
us to bring people closer
to Jesus Christ through
worship, Bible
studies, prayer and
Fellowship”

WORSHIP
with us

Sundays @
8:00 am & 10:30 am



Sundays @

November



A CHRIST-CENTERED
CHRISTMAS

December

January



Inside This Issue:

Pastor Message	2
President's Message	3
Always Faithful Bible Study	4
Men's Club /Trivia Night	4
Prayer Shawl Ministry	5
Friendship Luncheon	5
Trinity Singles	5
Bookworms	5
Community of Gratitude	6
LWML News	7
CCCB Ministry	8
Music News	9-11
Sewing Angels	12-13
Deck the Halls	14
What's Love Got To Do With It?	14
"What is Advent"	15
Thank You's	16



**Thanksgiving Eve
Worship Service**
Thursday, November 26 @ 4pm

Mid-week Advent Services
Wednesday, December 3 & 10
@ 4pm
Fellowship Dinner @ 5pm

Christmas Cantata
Wednesday, December 17 @ 5pm
Dinner to follow in Fellowship
Hall @6:00pm

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service**
Wednesday, December 24 @ 4pm

Christmas Day Service
Thursday, December 25 @ 10am



THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

When you see a newborn baby, do you ever wonder what that child will be like when they grow up? Could they be the President of the United States?

A great athlete or doctor? Will they make some sort of life-changing discovery? Maybe, but for right now that baby is a promise. The baby is going to grow and become someone and something, and God's promise is that the baby is a child of God and adopted into God's family.

When Mary held baby Jesus, she was holding the promise of God. The great news of Christmas is the Incarnation: God becomes flesh and dwells among us in Jesus Christ. In our brokenness, God comes to us as the Light

of the world. Ever-increasing light is a metaphor for the season beginning with Advent through Epiphany. This ever-increasing light points us beyond Christmas to Easter morning, where we see that this baby Jesus is the resurrected Christ. By the shining of a star, eastern sages were led to a toddler who would be the Savior of the world, taming the tongues of Pharisees, healing, and resurrecting the dead. Jesus Himself by Word and deed illuminates the lives of Gentiles and Jews as the Son of God.

In our world today, neighborhoods, communities, cities, and entire cultures need to be illuminated with the mystery of the incarnate Christ. We, who by the Holy Spirit possess faith, need to proclaim with joy and confidence that Jesus Christ is God's gift to all humanity. Christ is light that dispels darkness, temporally and eternally! As the Son of God He is ever "God of God, Light of Light." He is the Light of the world who enlightens everyone. By faith in Him we also become Light. In Him we are called to arise and shine forth the light of God's salvation, "so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known." (Ephesians 3:10)

Peace,

Pastor Jack Mackowiak





Our Board of Directors continues to trust that God will guide us to the Pastor He has in mind for the future of Trinity.

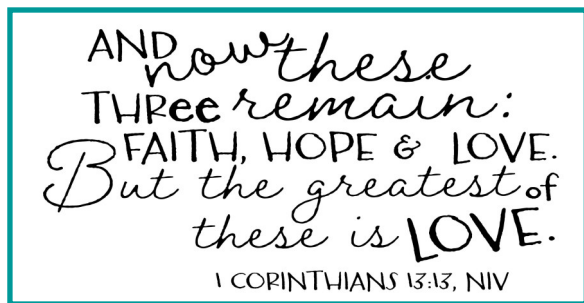
Meanwhile, in the area of Pastoral responsibilities, our Board of Directors has arranged for Pastor Mackowiak to serve in the administrative areas, such as working with the BOD, preparing worship services, looking at structure and other internal challenges, teaching Bible studies, and other Pastoral functions.

Pastor O'Connor has also agreed to serve in the area of visitation, working primarily with the Elders. Pastor Mackowiak and Pastor O'Connor have agreed to serve in these roles through May of 2026 or we have an accepted Call for a new Pastor.

Pastor Bock is also available to assist when needed.

The BOD feels this will be effective and helpful as we continue in this transitional period, during which there is a need for maintenance of a healthy congregational life, leadership, and the development of congregational goals.

Trinity Board of Directors



"We live by faith, not by sight" 2 Corinthians 5:7"

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

How much PATIENCE DO YOU HAVE LEFT?

The early Israelites were told about a coming Messiah and waited hundreds of years. We have waited 3 years for a new Pastor!!!! It may seem like hundreds of years though. God was in charge then and asked for faith just as He is **NOW!**

Let us look at some realities.

- Has the Lord God Almighty who made everything changed?
- Has God's Word [the Bible] changed?
- Has Jesus been willingly crucified for our sins?
- Has Jesus risen from the grave?
- Is Jesus seated in heaven at the right hand of God?
- Is everything we have a gift from God?
- Will we get to go to heaven if we believe in our heart that Jesus is the Son of God?
- Does God want us to TRUST Him with all our heart ALWAYS?
- Do we have Pastors that hold service and provide us with a message EVERY week?

We all need to prioritize what our short life on earth is all about, and exercise **PATIENCE ALL OUR LIVES!** We are Trinity Lutheran Church! God is ALWAYS in control, and we are asked to have FAITH that we will receive a permanent Pastor when the Lord is done preparing us as His children. In the meantime, as ALWAYS, hope, pray, read your Bible, and live as if today is your last day on this earth.

At the September luncheon, we celebrated with the many wonderful people who make things happen here at Trinity. With Thanksgiving and Christmas at our doorstep, the key word for us is **THANKFULLNESS!** Here are some things we should be Thankful for:

- Our Church continues to operate daily with our dedicated Staff, various volunteers, The Board of Directors (BOD), and visiting Pastors.
- In the absence of a Pastor, the (BOD) has put together a 2026 budget for you to approve in December.
- New video projectors, new computer control system, and new lighting control system, to be installed in the Sanctuary in the very near future.
- 14 palm trees have been removed around the Fellowship Hall providing for a maintenance cost savings to the Church.
- Finishing touches have been added to the announcement board at Church.
- Two Heat Pumps have been replaced with more efficient units.
- The Call Committee is at work seeking a Pastor.

WE ARE OPEN "TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST"!

Paul Stieber
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Board of Directors:

Chairman: Paul Stieber

Co-Chairman:
Wayne Greenwell

Treasurer: Wanda David

Secretary: Joan Egeland

Members at Large
Susan Bailey
Carl Kruger
Michael Vencion



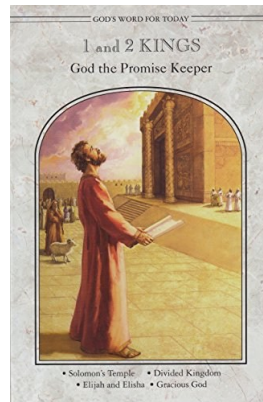
ALWAYS FAITHFUL BIBLE STUDY

The Always Faithful Bible Study small group will begin a new series of lessons from God's Word for Today. We meet on the first and third Tuesday morning from 10:00 am. to 11:30 am. in room 3. Our next study will begin on September 2, 2025. If you are interested in joining us, please contact me so that I can have materials prepared. There is no cost to you. Thank you, Jan Garner.

God's Word for Today: 1st & 2nd Kings

A wise and powerful king. A magnificent temple and palace. Moral weakness and spiritual corruption. The splitting of a dynasty. Weak and ineffective rulers. Attempts at reform. National ruin and regret. Foreign invasion. And then?

This story is not the creation of a brilliant writer of contemporary fiction, it is the true record of God's Old Testament people, a record inspired by the Holy Spirit. In 1 and 2 Kings you will learn:



- how the world can allure us away from heavenly blessings;
- how God goes to great lengths to redeem His people;
- that in spite of their disobedience, God keeps His promises through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Schedule and Lesson Outline:

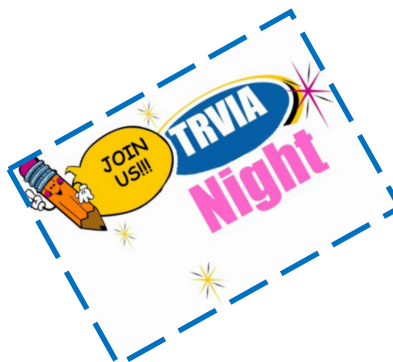
Nov. 4	Lesson 5 - Ahab and Elijah
Jan. 6	Lesson 6 - Elisha
Jan. 20	Lesson 7 - Reforms in Israel & Judah
Feb. 3	Lesson 8 - A Parade of Weak Kings
Feb. 17	Lesson 9 - Israel Falls
Mar. 3	Lesson 10 - God Rejects Judah
Mar. 17	Lesson 11 - Judah Falls



The Men's Ministry meets the first Monday of each month in the Fellowship Hall.

Stop by for fellowship,
Bible study with Pastor O'Connor and
a delicious breakfast!!!

We hope to see YOU there!
Look for the Men's Club sign-up form in
our new "*Get Connected*" area across
from the water fountains!!!



Do you enjoy Trivia?

The Men's Club would like to offer a night of fellowship and fun. Mark your calendars for Nov. 18 at 4:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Tables will be for teams of four to

eight people. Make up your own team or we will add you to an existing one. Cost is only \$1.00 per person and you are asked to bring your own drink and perhaps refreshments to share with your team. Questions will be a variety of questions about America. Example: Who was the first American president to sleep in the White House? No registration necessary. Questions? Call Jim Keenan

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Knit together
IN LOVE.
COLOSSIANS 2:2, ESV



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Group WILL NOT meet in November and December due to the holidays. Please pencil us in on your calendar on the 4th Thursday of every month beginning in January 2026. Our meetings will resume in the conference room located in the Fellowship Hall on January 22nd, February 26th, March 26th, starting at 9:00 am.

Call Wanda David with questions!

Join this group of friends for fun and fellowship at the Oakwood Restaurant at 10:50am on the fourth Saturday of each month!

Friendship

See the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Reach out to Joan Herro if you have questions.
The next luncheon date is November 22



LUNCHEON

We are taking December off! See you in January!!

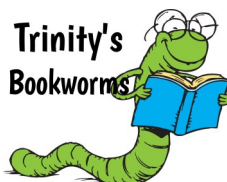
**Trinity
Singles**

Trinity Singles meet on the 3rd Friday of every month @ 5:00pm at various local restaurants.

Look for details in weekly Announcements!

Sign-up sheets are located in the Narthex.

We have a great time...Come join us!



**Trinity's
Bookworms**

Welcome to Trinity's Bookworm Club. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month in Classroom One! You are welcomed to join us!!!

Busy times are ahead and we need to plan ahead. Following is a head's up for the next three books we will be discussing in our book club so you can order them now. It's always good to put books on hold NOW so they are ready when you need them.

November 5

"Appalachian Song" by Michelle Shocklee is a sweet historical fiction loaded with scripture.

December 3

"When We Had Wings" by Ariel Lawhon, Kristina McMorris, and Susan Meissner is probably more historical than fiction. If you enjoyed "The Women" by Kristin Hannah, then you will also like this novel about nurses who were deserted by Gen. MacArthur and left to be captured. They not only survived three years in POW camps but tended to the injured with little to no supplies or food. Their story is one of many that seemed to get "swept under the rug." by military officials after the Pacific Campaign.

January 7

"The Frozen River" by Courtney Hunt is about a midwife in 1789 who must prove that a body found in the river was not an accident, but murder. She fights the town doctor and the entire community's prejudices.

Questions: Call Carol Keenan



Community of Gratitude

Sharon Brewer, Director of Community of Gratitude's Food Emergency Foodbank, sends this special thank you, applauding the members of Trinity Lutheran Church for the constant flow of food and other product contributions over the past year.

In September the food bank supported 1182 individuals, and the numbers continue to grow. She states, "there will be a little help from the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)" but the amount has not yet been determined. Sharon says, "every little bit helps" and she added that, "without food donations we would not be able to open the doors 3 days a week, and Trinity is our largest donor."

On November 15th, 2-5pm, there will be a fundraiser at the Ocklawaha Moose Lodge, 6485 S. HWY 314A, to help raise awareness of the plight of food needs in the local area. There will be raffles, food, and music. You may even meet someone new!! Sharon says, "any and all help will be greatly appreciated." No donation is too small!!!

The Community of Gratitude staffing is currently stable, but an overwhelming number of volunteers are ageing and the **need for replacements is growing**. Couples are welcome and anyone can handle the work as the "heavy lifting" is left to the strong, the young, and the "slightly older men." Work will increase as the holidays approach and even one shift of 2 hours per week would greatly help. The facility is open each Tuesday 10:00am-12:00pm; Thursday 1:00pm-3:00pm and Saturdays 10:00am-12:00pm.

We thank all those who supported "Bring a can of food with you to church" program. We are now in the beginning stages of the "Holiday Walmart Gift Card" campaign. We did a great job last year and I challenge you all to contribute even more, so we may surpass last year's contributions.

Please pass by the area in the Narthex and get on the 2026 sign up list for a one-month obligation of 1 delivery per week during the selected period. Each week the volunteer(s) staffing this weekly position will deliver our food contributions directly to their door.

We would like to thank the church leadership, the volunteers, and the congregation, as after five years of leading the church's C o G food assistance program, it's now time to pass the torch to another dedicated volunteer. We will retire at the end of December.

*Blessings ,
Jim and Nancy Steinmark*

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



The Lutheran Women's Missionary League is the official women's auxiliary of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS). All women of Trinity Lutheran Church are members and are encouraged to serve others through mission, education, inspiration, and service. We invite you to attend our meetings and learn what we are all about as we "Serve the Lord with Gladness"

Psalm 100:2 our motto.



Taste of Thanksgiving
Tuesday, November 18 @ 12:00pm
Fellowship Hall

We will provide the turkey and ask those attending to provide sides. Watch for the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Our speaker will be a representative of Villagers for Veterans speaking about women veterans.

Be sure to sign up for this day of fellowship and information.



The annual Red Boot Tea will be a brunch on Saturday, December 6 at 10am. We will provide delicious warm brunch items for your enjoyment. The donations received will be for SOZO Kids, to help them replace a van that was recently damaged beyond repair. Join us for a great time of fellowship and Christmas celebration. David Houck will join us in January to receive our gift and bring us up to date on events in the forest.

LWML Mite Box Collection — 1st Sunday of each month!



If a contribution cannot be made at the beginning of the month, it can be made at any time. The Mite Box is always available in the Narthex.



The *Christian Cancer Care Blessings (CCCB)* project is a ministry of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) of Trinity Lutheran Church (TLC) striving to make living with cancer more comfortable through God's love and blessings.

CHRISTIAN CANCER CARE BLESSINGS (CCCB)

A cancer care bag, also known as a chemo care package, can provide comfort, entertainment, and practical items for someone undergoing cancer treatment. Key items to include are those that address common side effects like nausea, dry mouth, and fatigue, as well as those that offer comfort and a sense of normalcy during a challenging time.

If you are interested in sending a Cancer Care bag to a friend or relative out of town, please complete the form below and drop it off at the Welcome Center desk, church office or give it to Jan Garner. If you would like to send a card or note, you can attach it to this form and it will be included in the bag. There is no charge for this ministry.

Thank you.

Tear Here

Trinity Lutheran Church CCCB Ministry Request Form for Shipping Cancer Care Bags

Date _____

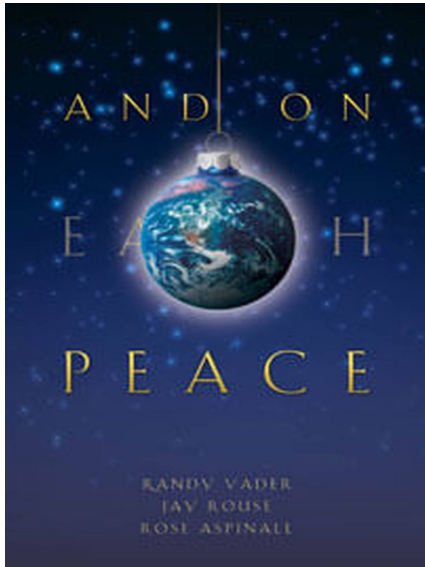
Your Name _____

Your Phone Number _____

Recipient's Name _____

Recipient's Address _____

Brief Message (Optional) _____



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH CHRISTMAS CANTATA 2025

And on Earth... Peace Randy Vader & Jay Rouse

In the beginning was the Word. The Word - Holy, Sacred. Just. Eternal. God in Christ. Christ in God. In the beginning. And suddenly the Word was flesh.

Incarnate. Human. Breakable. Common. Morning light into darkness. And that life -light blazed out of the darkness and the darkness could not put it out. Redeemer, Savior! Messiah, Lord! His name, Jesus. This is the story of the birth of the Prince of Peace.

This wonderful work by Randy Vader, Jay Rouse, and Rose Aspinall brings to life those amazing moments when our Savior took on flesh to be born in a manger. He is called the Prince of Peace and His coming brought the fulfillment of scripture to pass. The songs included in this work are: *The Coming of the King Processional*; *A Merry Carol of the Bells*; *And on Earth, Peace*; *The Newborn Ancient of Days*; *Do You Hear What I Hear?*; *Rejoice with Exceeding Great Joy!*; *Meant for Holy Scars*; *Peace, Peace*; *Let There Be Peace on Earth*; and *The Coming of the King Reprise*.

Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY



(Place your name here)

WHAT: Trinity's Christmas Cantata 2025 & Dinner
TITLE: "AND ON EARTH, PEACE"
WHEN: December 17, 2025
TIME: 5:00 PM
PLACE: Trinity Lutheran Church Sanctuary
TIME: 6:00 PM Fellowship Dinner
PLACE: TLC Fellowship Hall
OPTIONAL: Bring Friends, Family Members, etc.

All Guests Welcome!



Music Rehearsal
SCHEDULE

Wednesday Rehearsal Groups & Times

November 5, 12 & 19

12:00 Sisters In Christ (Nov. 12 & 19 only)

1:30pm Bell Rehearsal

4:00pm Choir Rehearsal

4:30pm Cantata Rehearsal

November 26 (Thanksgiving Eve)

12:00pm Sisters In Christ

5:15pm-Cantata Rehearsal (after 4pm service)

Saturday, December 13

9:00am Cantata Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 17

5:00pm Christmas Cantata Program

w/Dinner to follow





Trinity's Sewing Angels

Over the summer our Sewing Angels outreach has been as active as ever. We are so thankful for all those who have shared their time and talents to bless those in need. Below is a summary;

G.G.'s House	385 soapy washcloths
SOZO	42 camp blankets & 42 foster care bags
Memorial quilts	3
Honor Flight Quilts	32
Dog beds	4

Our current focus is blankets for the approaching colder weather. We piece tops from heavier weighted fabrics, and sandwich them with a heavier middle layer and then we add a warm fabric for the backing. Many of these are distributed to the homeless and those who live in unheated homes. Heavy fabrics include fleece, corduroy, flannel, polyester double knit, wool / acrylic blends, drapery and upholstery fabrics.

If you have anything that could help with the making of these blankets, you can drop it off in the Sewing Angels Donation Box in Meeting Room 4 at the back of the church, or bring it to the church office.

We meet every Thursday from 9-noon. If you have any time you can spare to help us, we will welcome you to our fellowship with open arms!

Thank you for your continued support. We love what we do! It is a great time with friends and warms our heart knowing that our talents are benefiting others in so many ways. There are no words!

Thank you again,

Sue Lehota & the Sewing Angels



Sewing Angels
at Honor Flight



To the wonderful person who made this quilt: My wife and I are thrilled receiving this beautiful quilt at the American Legion Post 347 Veteran's Honor Flight to Washington DC on October 1st. Looking at it brings back fond memories not only of the flight to see the veteran's memorials but also the enormous amount of generosity and honor that we were given as veterans. Thank you so much! Skip Dlugos





Come
Decorate for
Christmas

**Join us for this wonderful
“Get into the Spirit” event!
The more, the merrier!**

A CHRIST-CENTERED
CHRISTMAS

**Time to Deck the Halls!!!
Black Friday — November 28
8:30am — Sanctuary**

Volunteers needed to:

1. Fluff bows & hang wreaths on the doors and walls in the church and Fellowship hall.
2. Hang and drape garlands near Communion rails, and at the Welcome center and snack area; add holly berry sprigs
3. Decorate the tree in the Narthex, decorate tables in the narthex.
4. Assemble, fluff and decorate 2 trees behind the altar & Fellowship Hall.
5. Set up the manger scene inside in the chancel area
6. Put up stars and apply decals on windows between the narthex and church areas.
8. Set up the outdoor nativity scene near the front doors.
9. Clean up and put unused items and tools away.
10. Know that your help is well appreciated and enjoy the rest of your day!



**What's Love
Got to do
With It??**

1 CORINTHIANS 13:8

Garrison Keillor, in *News from Lake Wobegon*, tells of a young boy, on a late summer day, headed off to college in the next town. The boy is suffering from acute embarrassment because his mother, grandmother, aunt and an elderly lady cousin have all piled in the car with him to go to register for his first semester's classes. Here is an 18-year-old being followed by an un-cool collection of relatives into his first college experience.

Speaking of relatives, Keillor asks, “What is it in the human soul that causes a person to embarrass someone else so thoroughly?” His answer: “Only love could do that.”

That may strike a responsive chord, especially this time of year. God has been making loving gestures towards humanity since the beginning of time. And since Adam and Eve, we have been responding as embarrassed teenagers.

Take the opportunity in this Thanksgiving/Christmas season to think back on how you have responded to God's love in your past. We all have much for which we can be thankful – not only the many blessings in our earthly lives, but also for the wonderful gift of God's only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

May we continue to offer thanks and praise to our great God and King in response to His powerful, unconditional love for us.



What Is Advent?

Advent is a period of time beginning with the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ending with Christmas Eve. It is a time to prepare ourselves to celebrate that great event – the coming of Christ. It is a time to get ready to celebrate in a way that will be spiritually renewing to ourselves. In Galatians 4:4 we read that God had prepared the world for the coming of Christ. In the same way, Advent is not just a time of waiting expectantly but a time of preparing for the Christmas celebration.

Advent comes at a time when we have our shortest days with long nights of darkness, but we look forward to a gradual lengthening of the days with its accompanying light. Likewise, Advent speaks of the darkness of sin, which prompted God's sending Jesus into the world. It also speaks of hope because God did come in the form of Jesus, the Light of the world. John's Gospel says, "In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.

The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it."

Therefore, Advent is a time of soul-searching – of repentance and contrition – but it is also a time of thanksgiving and joy. Thanksgiving for what God has done for us and joyful anticipation of that great day on which we celebrate it.

Advent is a time to ask yourself questions like these: How can we share what God's love means to us? How can we share our Christian Christmas with others? What kind of decorations can we use that will show how we feel?

What kind of cards can we send that will tell the story?

How can we participate in our church's plans for Advent?

Advent is a time for worship, a time for giving thanks, a time for seeking to understand our part in God's larger plan for the world. All our members are encouraged to use the many resources available, including worship opportunities such as our evening Advent services, the other special services of the season, the Advent devotionals, etc. These are all helps to growing in our understanding of the season and our role in God's plan.



Trinity's prayer groups are busy praying for our church families and friends. This page is dedicated to those who wish to send a thank-you to everyone who takes the time to pray for them! This is a new addition to our Tidings beginning with this issue. Please continue to send your appreciation message and they will be printed in the next Tidings!!

Warm Message from Joan Egeland

Thank you to my wonderful church family for your prayers, cards, and support through my cancer journey. God's grace has brought me through 4 surgeries, 8 chemo and 25 radiation sessions to completion and the ringing of the bell.

God has been my rock and he also brought me to TLC for your love and support.

May God bless you all.



A heartfelt thanks to all from Doug and Patsy Bock for the wonderful cards and acknowledgements in honor of Pastor Appreciation Month! What a true blessing to be part of this Trinity Family!

Members of Trinity Altar Guild,

Thank you for the surprise friendship luncheon and the beautiful flowers and the plaque. I will remember and treasure it always.

*Your sister in Christ,
Dorothy*

