



## *Epiphany of our Lord*

JANUARY 3 - 4, 2026

*Global Church Together Sunday*



**TRINITY**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

213 N PENNSYLVANIA AVE, MASON CITY, IA | 641-423-0536 | [TRINITY-MC.ORG](http://TRINITY-MC.ORG)

SERVING IN WORSHIP THIS WEEKEND

***Pastors***

Daniel Hanson, Beverly Butler

***Preacher***

Pastor Daniel Hanson

***Organist***

Jodi Korth

***Cantor***

Julia Hines

***Special Music***

Trinity Choir

Dennis Lee, Director and Camille Lee, Accompanist

***Acolytes***

Adilynn Page, Piper Hesley

***Ushers***

Saturday: Liz Fitzgerald, Donna Henaman

Sunday: Mike Brown, Arlyn Butler, Tim Latham, Joe Sanchez, Gary Wattnem

***Scripture Readers***

Saturday: Liz Fitzgerald      Sunday: Kirk Hardcastle

***Communion Assistants***

Saturday: Jim and Nancy Fingalsen      Sunday: David and Linda Stine

***Technical Support***

Carter Rockwell, Evelyn Hunt, , Lillian Holmes

***Greeters***

Saturday: Dan and Millie Godfrey, Roger Rossum      Sunday: Mike and Heather Englin

***Coffee Fellowship***

Ronda Smith, Neysna Culley

***Worship Transportation***

Travis Hesley, Kay Larson

***Custodian***

Dave Smith

# *The Epiphany of our Lord*

## *Holy Communion*

Saturday, January 3, 2026 at 5:00 PM

Sunday, January 4, 2026 at 9:00 AM with Livestream / KCMR 97.9 FM

## **The Epiphany of our Lord**

The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people. Today we celebrate and hold in prayer our companion synods in Hungary and Namibia, remembering how we are connected as one in Christ

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

are given by The Elsbernd Family  
*in Celebration of the Marriage of Marcus and Eliana Elsbernd*

### **COLOR BULLETINS**

are given *for a Happy and Blessed New Year*  
by Harlan and Marge Baack

***Welcome to Trinity- We are glad you are here!***

***If you are new to Trinity*** please complete the Welcome Card located in the pews so we can follow-up with you.

***Large print bulletins and listening devices*** are available from the ushers.

***Seating for People with Limited Mobility*** is reserved throughout the Sanctuary.  
Just look for the blue accessibility signs or ask your Usher.

***We love having small children in worship!***

- 1) ***Activity Bags*** are available for children during worship. They are located in the narthex and at the front of the church. Please return them at the end of services.
- 2) Those needing a space to change or feed little ones are welcome to use the **Child Care Room** located next to the nursery. Nursery space is available but won’t be staffed. The nursery is located on the 2nd floor of the education wing and just outside the north sanctuary door. Ushers are available to direct you if needed.



# GATHERING

## Prelude

## Welcome

## Opening Litany

P In this glorious world you have created,

**C God, we gather as your people.**

P From the wind-swept prairies to the scorching deserts,

**C God, we gather as your people.**

P From the Winnegago River and Clear Lake to the Danube River and Lake Balaton in Hungary.

**C God, we gather as your people.**

P From the Lime Creek Nature Center to the Namib-Laukluft National Park in Namibia.

**C God, we gather as your people.**

P With all creatures, great and small, young and old, delighted or grieving,

**C God, we gather as your people.**

P From all the corners of this earth,

**C God, we gather as your people.**

**\*Gathering Hymn**

***Of the Father's Love Begotten***

ELW 295

## Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty Savior,  
Prince of Peace.  
Amen.  
Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness,  
let us confess our sin.

*(silence is kept for reflection.)*

**C Reconciling God,**  
we yearn for your presence to transform  
our grief, pain, and despair.  
We confess that we have not always prepared  
room in our hearts for your love;  
we have not always recognized  
your presence among us;  
we have not always embraced your message of peace.  
We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,  
oppression, and fear.  
We confess our failure to make room  
for those seeking refuge;  
our participation in violent systems  
that harm your innocent ones;  
our reluctance to embody your good news.  
Be born in us today  
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.  
Amen.

P God's grace upon grace flows over you.  
✠ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.  
Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

**C Amen.**

## **\*Greeting**

P Grace and peace be with you in the name of the Triune God,  
who was, who is, and who is to come.

C **And also with you.**

## **\*Prayer of the Day**

P O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star.  
Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full  
vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

**Children's Sermon** (Sunday)

**Pastor Daniel Hanson**

## **First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6**

<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup> For darkness shall cover the earth  
and thick darkness the peoples,  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together; they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense  
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

## Second Reading: Ephesian 3:1-12

<sup>1</sup> This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, <sup>2</sup> for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you <sup>3</sup> and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup> a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup> In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup> that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ <sup>9</sup> and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## \*Gospel Acclamation

ELW pg. 142



## **\*Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12**

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the second chapter.

**C Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**



Sermon

Pastor Daniel Hanson

Hymn of the Day     *Signs and Wonders*

ELW 672

**\*Apostles' Creed**

C I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**\*Prayers of Intercession**

P God of grace,  
C Hear our prayer.

# MEAL

## Offering

Text to Give is available at Trinity!  
Simply text the amount you wish to give to 833-412-0093.  
Or scan the QR code with your smartphone.  
Please note where your gifts should be directed towards.



## Anthem

*In the Bleak Midwinter*  
**Trinity Choir**

## Offertory

*Doxology*  
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## \*Offering Prayer

P God who draws near to us, we give thanks for every good gift you place in our lives. Receive these offerings as signs of our trust and gratitude, and use them to share your presence, peace, and love with a world longing for hope; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C Amen.**

## \*Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

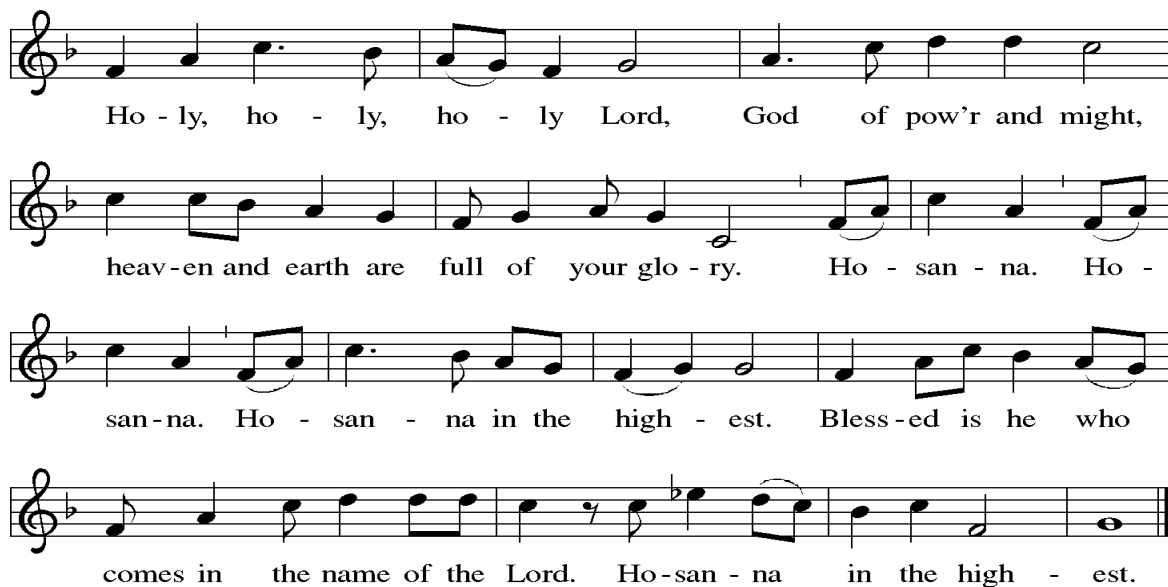
P Lift up your hearts.

**C We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

### \*Words of Institution

### \*Lord's Prayer

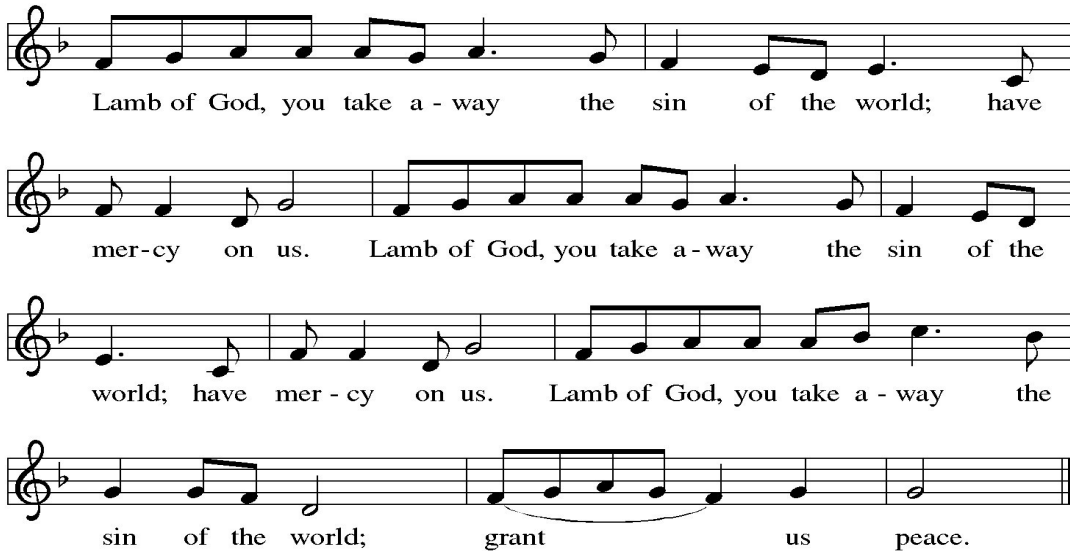
C Our Father, who art in heaven,  
 hallowed be thy name,  
 thy kingdom come,  
 thy will be done,  
 on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread;  
 and forgive us our trespasses,  
 as we forgive those  
 who trespass against us;  
 and lead us not into temptation,  
 but deliver us from evil.  
 For thine is the kingdom,  
 and the power,  
 and the glory,  
 forever and ever. Amen.

## Communion

*All who desire the presence and forgiveness of Christ that comes in the sharing of this bread and wine are welcome to commune with us today. Ushers will direct you from the outside aisles to one of the stations in the front of the sanctuary, where you may kneel at the rail. You will return to your seat by the center aisle. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are also available. If for any reason you are not comfortable participating in communion today, we invite you to come forward with your arms crossed over your chest to receive a blessing*

### Lamb of God

ELW pg. 146



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Communion Hymns

*He Comes to Us as One Unknown*

ELW 737

*All My Heart Again Rejoices*

ELW 273

## \*Prayer after Communion

**P** Faithful God, we thank you for meeting us here at your table, where you come close to us in bread and cup. Strengthened by your presence, send us out to live with hope and to share your peace, for you dwell with us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## SENDING

### **\*Blessing**

P May the God who comes near in the Christ child fill your hearts with peace and your days with hope. As you go, may you trust this promise always: God is with you, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### **\*Sending Hymn**

*He Came Down*

ELW 253

### **\*Sending**

P As we depart to the many places we call home, we go forth in hope, trusting that

**C God is with us.**

P As we look to our neighbors, we love boldly and deeply, knowing that

**C Jesus guides us.**

P As we seek our way in this world, we find strength and courage for the journey ahead,  
discovering that

**C the Holy Spirit fills us.**

P Go in peace, proclaim the good news!

**C May peace and justice abound!**

### **Postlude**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **PUZZLE PALOOZA January 4, Sunday! | 10:00 am | Fellowship Hall**

Jigsaw puzzles are known to enhance brain health, improve problem-solving skills, decrease stress, and improve mood. The Health Cabinet is hosting a puzzle race and exchange to give your health a boost! Bring your gently used PUZZLE(S) and go home with “new” one(s). Bring 1–Get 1 ~ Bring 2–Get 2 ~ Bring 3–Get 3 and so on. You may drop off your puzzles any time during the week or bring to church that Sunday. Interested individuals will be divided into four teams for the puzzle race that begins at 10:00 a.m. Prizes will be awarded to all participants. If you have questions, contact Becky at [becky.elsbernd@trinity-mc.org](mailto:becky.elsbernd@trinity-mc.org).

## **CENTERING PRAYER Monday, January 5 | 9:00 AM | Room 322 and on Zoom**

Centering Prayer is a form of silent prayer that enhances and nurtures our relationships with God, one another and all of creation. We meet on the First and Third Mondays. Please contact the Office for information to join by Zoom. Start your new year off well by incorporating this practice.

## **WELCA BIBLE STUDY Thursday, January 8 | 9:30 AM | Room 208**

Using Luther’s Large Catechism, we shall take a deeper look at The Lord’s Prayer. January’s session will be “To Pray is to act”, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Petitions. The class is led by the Rev. Dr. Norma Cook Everist. Women, bring your friends for Engaging conversation.

## **BOOK DISCUSSION Monday, January 12 | 1pm | Gathering Space**

Our next book is *Little Wolves* by Thomas Maltman. The story is set on the Minnesota prairie in the last 1980s during a drought season that is pushing family farms to the brink. The book weaves together elements of folklore and Norse mythology while being driven by a powerful murder mystery.

## **DINNER FOR SIX February, March and April | Please Sign Up by Sunday, January 18**

Looking for a meaningful way to connect with others in our church? Join our “Dinner for 6” program, running February–April. Individuals and couples will join a group of six that gathers once a month for a shared meal. Participants may host in their home or organize a restaurant meal where everyone pays their own way. Groups will be assigned, and monthly hosts will coordinate the date and time. **Sign up by January 18 on the clipboard outside the office.**

## **TRINITY ANNUAL MEETING Sunday, January 25 | Noon | Fellowship Hall**

This will be an in-person only meeting. Our agenda includes:

- Reports from staff and leadership
- Election of 2026 Committees and Council
- Approval of 2026 Mission Plan (Budget)
- Updates on TLC's strategic initiatives, including potential ministry partnerships

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## WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE BEGINS THIS WEEK

**COMMUNITY MEAL THIS WEEK: 6:00pm:** Soup & Salad, Fruit, Cookies & Bars

### NEW WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE SERIES:

Wednesdays | 6:30 PM | Gathering Space.

***Seeing the World like Luther: Grace, Freedom, and a God Who Meets Us Where We Are***

A six-week adult education series exploring not just what Lutherans believe, but how we see God, ourselves, and our neighbors. Led by Pastor Dan Gerrietts and Josh Guyer.

- **January 7** — *Grace Is Not Fair:* God's Yes Comes Before Our Response
- **January 14** — *Simultaneously Broken and Beloved:* A Lutheran Way of Talking About Sin
- **January 21** — *A God Who Hides:* The Cross as the Key to Reality
- **January 28** — *Sacred Stuff in an Ordinary World:* Word and Sacrament as God's Promise
- **February 4** — *Freed... for What?:* Christian Freedom, Love, and Vocation
- **February 11** — *Church for Sinners, Not Saints:* Why This Way of Seeing Still Matters

All adults are welcome—whether Lutheran, from another tradition, or simply curious. Come for thoughtful discussion, honest questions, and a fresh way of seeing the world through the lens of grace.

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### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry creates tangible reminders of God's presence in the form of prayer shawls and prayer squares that are given to people who are facing health challenges and/or grieving. Prayer shawls are also given to our seniors in high school as they graduate as a blessing on their journey. In 2025, the Prayer Shawl Ministry volunteers crocheted or knitted 88 prayer shawls and 394 prayer squares. If you know of someone who would benefit from a prayer shawl, feel free to take one for them from the display by the Trinity office windows. The group welcomes new members at any time, even those who have never touched a crochet hook. Come and check it out on the third Tuesday of the month at 10:45 a.m. in room 307 in the education wing.

### COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS: Due on Sunday, March 1st.

College scholarship applications and reapplications for the 2026-2027 school year are available to pick up on the ledge outside the church office. Forms are available on Trinity's website at [trinity-mc.org/scholarships/](http://trinity-mc.org/scholarships/). Start them now during Christmas Break!

Applications must be turned in to the church office by March 1

### BASES EXERCISE CLASS IN THE NEW YEAR! Tuesdays & Thursdays

8:00 AM | Gathering Space

BASES (Balance-Agility-Strength-Endurance-Socialization) Exercise Classes continue into the cold Season. This is a free program for Adults ages 55 or older, coordinated by the Retired Senior Volunteer Program and led by Trinity volunteers. Join us to kick off a New Year of Health!

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### MONDAY, JANUARY 5TH

**9:00 AM** Centering Prayer (322 and on Zoom)  
**6:00 PM** Bronze Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 6TH

**8:00 AM** BASES Exercise Class (Gathering Space)  
**12:00 PM** Staff Meeting

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7TH

**7:00 AM** Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)  
**8:30 AM** Women's Bible Study (Rm 300)

#### Wednesday Night Alive

**6:00 PM** Community Meal in the Fellowship Hall  
**6:30 AM** Wednesday Night Alive Program (Gathering Space)  
**6:30 PM** Confirmation  
**6:30 PM** Campfire Kids (Rm 208)

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 8TH

**8:00 AM** BASES Exercise Class (Gathering Space)  
**9:30 AM** WELCA Bible Study (Rm 208)  
**10:30 AM** Clappers & Coffee Bell Choir (Rm 307, Sanctuary)

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 10TH

**5:00 PM** **WORSHIP SERVICE**

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 11TH

**9:00 AM** **WORSHIP SERVICE** - Livestream, 97.9 FM  
**10:30 AM** **WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**11:30 AM** **Youth Group (Fellowship Hall)**

## DECEMBER DONATIONS FOR THE HYGIENE PANTRY

Trinity is in an on-going effort with our neighbor church to collect donations for the Community Hygiene Pantry. You can place any donations in the cabinet below the Church Office window. Cash donations are also welcome. Just note on the memo line of your check. The items needed are:

Toothpaste  
Toothbrushes  
Dish Soap  
Toilet Tissue

Laundry Soap  
(powder, pods)  
Shampoo  
Soap, bar + body wash

Deodorant  
Feminine Hygiene  
Disposable Diapers  
Baby Wipes

## A BIRTHDAY THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for the birthday wishes and for coming to my 90th Birthday Party in December in the Fellowship Hall - it was a great afternoon of celebration with family and friends. A special thank you to: Trinity Altar Guild, Sharon Lindgren, Denise Lind and Dave Smith for all your help to make the day special. Feeling blessed,  
*Marlene Freudenberg*

## COLOR BULLETIN AND ALTAR FLOWER SIGN UP SHEETS

New sheets for 2026 been posted outside the office. If you would like to honor a celebration or memory of a Loved One, this is a nice way to remember them and add to our Worship Service as well!