October 16, 2026

Dear friends,

Every Sunday morning, an acolyte or usher reaches across our altar and hands me a plate. And as I lift it over my head – offering to God what each of you have brought that morning – I can feel the weight of it, not just in my wrists and arms, but in my heart and soul.

The big brass plate *is* a little heavy. But most of the weight of an offering plate is spiritual, not physical. Because that plate contains not just cash and checks, but decisions. Decisions about how, and why, and whether to give. Decisions about what's important, and what's less so. Decisions that express our hope, shape our future and our present – decisions that are holy acts of love. There's sacrifice in that offering plate. There are new decisions and long-term, unwavering commitment. There are moments of spontaneous generosity, and careful balancing acts. And there is joy.

For a moment, each Sunday, I get to hold in my hands the weight and power of your decision to give to God, to Trinity, to this community. Whether you physically put something in the plate that morning or entered payment information online, whether you put a check in the mail or set up automatic payments from your bank, each Sunday morning I touch and feel your investment in God's love, and in the vitality of our Trinity community, multiplied by hundreds of other decisions in other households.

That weight doesn't strain my arms. Instead, it grounds me. It roots all of us, whether we notice or not, in the love of God, working and growing here at Trinity. It's the bedrock on which we build our community of prayer, friendship, music, service, and hope – the faith and faithfulness that get us through times of chaos or boredom, that support us in joy or grief. All of your decisions to give build the liveliness and the wisdom of our children's and youth ministry and the generosity of our household goods pantry, our service projects and Outreach ministry. Each commitment you make to financially support Trinity lifts up the volunteers who plan events for us to enjoy, and those who ensure our grounds and our buildings welcome old friends and new visitors with beauty, safety, and strength. Your choice to invest regularly in Trinity resonates in the sound of our organ, our choirs, our sermons, and the prayers found in our books or written by our children – who learn to trust God with their hopes and needs and joys by the example of this community.

Your decisions, day-by-day, and year-by-year, inspire, encourage, and support me. They do the same for everyone else who comes through our doors, finds us online, or gives us a call, and meets God's love in this place. And, as I give careful thought to my decision for financial support of Trinity in 2027, I hope my commitments do the same for you.

Please take some time to consider your own share in the love of God and life of Trinity, what you receive, and what you give, and then prayerfully make a decision. Additional information on giving, and stories from other Trinity folks about their giving decisions, are on our website. We'll be formally "gathering" the 2027 pledges – and celebrating our commitments and our community with a

stewardship breakfast – on Sunday, October 25. On or before that date, please complete a pledge card online, or use the card mailed to you, to let our office know what financial support we can count on from you as you invest in Trinity for 2027.

I pray that you, too, feel the holiness of your commitments to Trinity, and that everything we lift up together at God's altar inspires and strengthens you, as we continue to grow together in the love of God and our neighbor.

Blessings,



Mother Emily Mellott