



THE BELL TOWER March 2026



Our mission is to:

Teach and share God's Word with those around us

Live in fellowship with one another and foster Christ-centered relationships

Care and grow in faith by serving God and His People

God's Love for Us

As we are in this season of Lent and are reflecting on our sinful nature and because of that, Jesus had to endure the cross on our behalf, I am always struck by the love that God and our Savior have for us. I have been teaching a short 3-week session of tennis to elementary and middle school aged kids and the phrase I have heard a lot during these sessions is it's not my fault. I came across a devotion recently that I want to share that struck me about how many in this world view things as not their fault, why is this happening to me, which made me reflect on how it was not Jesus' fault that He had to go to the cross, but out of His love for us, He did.

One of the earliest full sentences a child produces is, "It's not my fault!" A misbehaving child doesn't appreciate being punished by mom or dad, but is more upset that they got caught. We might fight a ticket for or illegal parking, but when honest, we have no doubt as to why we received a ticket. Such suffering is deserved. It isn't fun, but it is our fault.

But much of what causes heartbreak and pain in our lives really isn't our fault. Wars break out in other countries, hatred and violence might affect us more than we like, illness rears its ugly face, and death comes to all. Even if we can find a cause to blame that doesn't take suffering away. The reality is we live in a creation not perfect as God planned. There is so much that just isn't our fault and just isn't fair.

In a letter to young Christians, Peter wrote, "It is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering is God's will, than to suffer for doing evil." Suffering is still suffering, but why bring it on yourself? If you have been the cause it adds a double load of pain on top of suffering. If you are not the cause, it is still suffering, and the only response is to find a means to deal with it. He went on to remind us that Christ's suffering on our behalf was because we will suffer, in many ways and at different times. By enduring what he didn't deserve, out of love, Jesus assured us that when we face such difficult times (and especially in death) He has already been endured the same, and stands with through every similar moment. During Lent we remember what it is easy to forget, and that is the incredible love of God for each of us.

There is a story about a girl who texted her dad late in the afternoon asking why he and her brother and mom hadn't been answering any of her texts. He reminded her that he was in meetings all day, her brother was in school and mom was at a conference. He told her he would leave work a little early and would pick her up. He reminded her how important it was to tell Mom and Dad ahead of time of things like being picked up from soccer. The point was made and life moved on.

As I reflected on this story I was struck by how familiar that sounded from my own life many years back when I was in the same position with busy kids. Then he shared a poignant conclusion to that late afternoon dilemma. After dinner his daughter asked if he was ever "tired of parenting." The question itself tells you something about their family dynamics and the awareness of each other's needs. His answer was priceless. He said, "I will never be tired of being your parent, but for the rest of the night I am done parenting."

Anyone can be the biological parent of a child, but to be a real parent takes love, sacrifice, and surrender. This father and daughter have a relationship built on love and dad made certain she heard that his love for her was never to be doubted. None of us is perfect and there will always be disappointments and misunderstandings. But when love is the flavor of the day and the color of a relationship anything that happens is blanketed with the assurance of such gifts. It's like God's love for us. We exist only because of God's gift of creation, but being loved by God is a relationship which changes us forever. When we hear and feel the warmth of God's love there is nothing we cannot face without remembering we are never alone and always loved. Even our questions, doubts, and fears are changed when we share them with the God who loves us no matter what and will always be there for us. Does God love us no matter what? That is one question that, by grace, is answered before even asked. And if asked, the answer will always be the same. Yes!

March's Memory Verse

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.
Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."*

John 14:27

Faith allows the strength and peace that is beyond understanding and helps us to face both the good and the not so good that is part of every life. Fault is never going to change reality, but the love of God in Jesus Christ will. We love to say "it's not my fault," to which Jesus answers, "It isn't my fault either, but I will carry any suffering to the cross because I love you that much." Lent calls us to focus on his suffering rather than ours, knowing that his triumph over the world helps us to learn how to live with whatever we face.

Have a blessed month,
Pastor Brett

Worship Schedule for March

Sunday, March 1st– 9am

Wednesday, March 4th – 7pm

Sunday, March 8th – 9am

Wednesday, March 11th – 7pm

Sunday, March 15th – 9am

Wednesday, March 18th – 7pm

Sunday, March 22nd 22nd – 9am

Wednesday, March 25th – 7pm

Sunday, March 29th – 9am

Electronic Giving: Scan the QR code to give via Subsplash. The QR code will also bring you to our livestream and newsletter.



2026 Trinity Council Members

Gary Schellack, Chairman
Cody Nelson, Elder
Bob Johnk, Elder
Adam Schellack, Elder
Lance Kistner, Elder
Curt Hutchins, Elder
Derrick Grenz, Elder



Adam Hanson, Trustee
Jesse Sandry, Trustee
Rich Hayes, Trustee
Erik Hanson, Secretary
Amy Wohlwend, Treasurer

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jessica Heim
Cassie Waggoner
Kayme Torgerson

BOARD OF EVANGELISM

Lynn Johnk
Amanda Nelson
Janelle Kistner

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Tera Orr
Nikki Grenz
Amy Rasmussen

Trinity Lutheran Church
Sabin, MN
Council Meeting
February 11th, 2026

Teach and share God's Word with those around us. Live in fellowship with one another and foster Christ centered relationships. Caring and growing in faith by serving God and His people.

1. Call to order by Gary Schellack.
2. Opening prayer led by Pastor.
3. Approve agenda. Motion by Curt Hutchins, second by Adam Schellack. Motion carried.
4. Secretary's report. Motion to approve by Lynn Johnk, second by Amy Wohlwend. Motion carried.
5. Treasurer's report. Motion to approve by Bob Johnk, second by Curt Hutchins. Motion carried.
6. Committee reports
 - a. **Elder:** Presented by Bob Johnk. The Elders have reviewed our updated communion policy that Pastor will be sending to the District for approval. They have also talked about visit Pastor has been doing and reviewed the membership letter that will be going out soon.
 - b. **Trustee:** There were no trustees present, however they are getting bids for the A/C unit. They have also been talking with Art Escobar about bathroom improvements and have been getting ideas for countertops and toilets.
 - c. **Stewardship:** Our committee met on Sunday, Feb. 8th.
 1. Discussed having posters made with QR code (and instructions) and post around church to encourage members to download the app and use our website more.
 2. Isabella Orr completed "I give electronically" laminated cards. The cards will be placed at the entrances to the sanctuary for members to use during the Offering. Isabella will also create a type of post card saying "We Miss You" that the Elders will mail out to church members who have not been at services in a while and encourage them to join us.
 3. Lynn and Amy are in the process of assembling New Member Welcome Bags.
 4. Lynn is starting to receive pictures of new members to hang on the bulletin board in the narthex.
 5. Trinity clothing apparel samples and order forms are now available. A huge THANK YOU to Amy Wohlwend for taking on this project.
 6. Prayer shawls are in the process of being made by several ladies from our congregation and by others outside of our congregation.
 7. Janelle is working on pricing to add our Trinity logo to drink tumblers and pens to go in New Member bags, community outreach bags or give at other events, etc.
 8. Our church logo will replace the current TLC icon. The process will take about 6-8 weeks to complete.
 9. We've had great response to individuals and families signing up to be Sunday morning greeters. Anyone interested can sign up on the calendar sheet located on the food table in the Fellowship Hall. As well, we have started implementing congregation members reading the Scripture lessons during the service. Anyone interested in reading Scripture on Sunday mornings can contact Lynn Johnk. We are very thankful to all who are sharing their time and talents in spreading God's word.
 10. There are a few "To Do" list binders (with pictures) in the Fellowship Hall explaining suggested procedures to follow during events such as funeral meal set up; how to make coffee and set up for Sunday morning fellowship; and, even where and how different Christmas decorations should be set up, taken down and stored. If any member would like to keep these binders updated, please let Lynn know.
 - d. **Evangelism:** The Evangelism committee met this past Sunday, Feb. 8th. Elder Cody Nelson was also in attendance. Thank you, Cody, for attending.
 1. Lynn will talk to Luke Torgerson on how to get the names of families who are new to Sabin. We would like to come up with a "Welcome to the community" bag with a few small gift items, as well

as, information about our church. These bags will then be delivered to the homes by (hopefully) Trinity member/youth volunteers.

2. This spring and fall we would like to bring in someone to talk about their organization (after service on non-communion Sunday, 5-10 minute talk) and focus that month on them. We decided that Heart of Clay would be our first outreach. We would then encourage members to fill out a postcard to give to those in jail. Lynn has already spoken to Bruce Hanson who will get back to her on possible dates.

3. Paige Schmidt is wanting to host a class on how to make sourdough bread and would like to invite the community to the church for this. She is working on the cost of the class plus time/date. Is it possible for the memorial fund to pay half the cost of class?

4. Lynn mentioned to Regan/Kayme about having our older youth learn how to engrave on wooden pocket crosses. They could possibly make one for themselves and also give a cross to someone else as a simple way to evangelize. They will get back to me on interest. Bruce H. connected Lynn with a gentleman willing to come to the church to teach this event.

5. Thank you to Curt and Cody for having a presence in the narthex Sunday mornings. The goal is to have the "Elder of the Month" be in the Narthex welcoming members and visitors as they enter the building. Evangelism starts with developing relationships!

6. Take a look at Visitor table by Pastor's office. "Connection cards" are available to be filled out to learn more about those visiting our church and connect with them.

7. Lynn and Maggie dropped off a "Comfort bag" to a Trinity member to remind them they are being prayed for and thought about. The Evangelism committee wants to encourage other members to visit the elderly, as well as those facing difficulties in our community.

8. Amy and Lynn are going to make approx 40 homemade jars of candles for May baskets and have the youth deliver them to the community. They will include a scriptural message.

e. Board of Ed

I) Sunday School Offering

- Seeds of Hope in Dilworth
- Goal: \$1,000
 - a. Collected around \$290 so far
- Reward for meeting goal decide in February
 - a. Slime Pastor

II) Youth Sunday

- Sunday, March 8th
 - a. Family Bowling event
 - i. Consolidate both age groups into one event
 - ii. After Sunday School

III) Eggstravaganza

- Serve snacks
- Planned out games & crafts
- Ask 6th grade and up to help with the games

IV) Serving Lent Meal

- Wednesday, March 18th
 - a. Pizza

f. **Budget:** nothing to report this time of year

g. **Pastors report**

Official Acts:

Wedding- Keith and Darla Krabbenhoft February 7th

Average Attendance for month- January- 67 Wednesday Midweek Service- 5

- Confirmation continues to go well. We picked up a student, so we now have 6 in our class. We just finished up talking about Baptism and have moved on to Confession.
- Adult Bible Study continues with God's Story- the past month we looked at the stories of Samuel, King Saul and King David. This coming month we will look at the stories of King Solomon, Israel divided and Elijah and Elisha.
- Have started up again, Reading with Pastor Brett on our App. We are reading a Psalm a day and then have some questions to reflect on the Psalm.
- Been getting ready for Lent- doing the series called Promised Treasures. Ash Wednesday is on February 18th and Easter is on April 5th.
- Had our first planning meeting for hosting Tanner Olsen. Looking at where to host it and if we charge for the event and looking into sponsors.
- Continue to lead chapel at ORLC Child Care once a month.

7. Old business

- a. Giving Hearts Day- February 12th- matching funds of \$2500- early giving-link on App and website. Email has and will go out tomorrow.
- b. Lent Meals- Ash Wednesday is February 18th and Easter is April 4th.
 - i. Elders will do February 18th
 - ii. Stewardship/Evangelism/Treasurer will do February 25th
 - iii. Youth will do March 4th
 - iv. Potluck for March 11th
 - v. Board of Ed will do March 18th
 - vi. Church Council will do March 25th
- c. FMSC packing- Saturday February 28th- shift from 12:30 – 2:30 at Red River Valley Fairgrounds- (February 23rd to 28th). Nikki Grenz and Kayme Torgerson will be the points of contact for us that day.

8. New business

- a) Trinity App- how can it be used more- is there more content, etc. to put on it?
 - a. Now have monthly newsletter and bulletin on there.
 - b. Will be adding the District newsletter.
 - c. Will be adding a link to the apparel store.
 - d. QR code instructions for how to download and use the app are being made and will be available for people.

9. Other new business

- a. Can we look into scheduling the quarterly meetings in advance for the entire year.
- b. Would like to see the Elder of the Month in the Narthex greeting people before service.
- c. Looking into getting a new piano with memorial funds and remaining coming from gifted money. Maggie and Lynn have one in mind from Grand Forks.
- d. Requested to change the name of the Men's Bible Study to Men's Fellowship if not doing a bible study.
- e. Discussed getting cling on to put on the church entrance doors with hours of services and availability, etc.

10. Adjourn: Motion by Adam Schellack. Second by Curt Hutchins. Motion carried.

11. Closing prayer: Lord's Prayer.

Church Happenings

Adult Bible Study - This past month we looked at the stories of King David and Solomon and the division of Israel. In the coming month we will be making a switch to the New Testament and looking at the life and ministry of Jesus. Come and join us this month as we continue to grow in our faith through His Word and story!

New Adult Bible Study - Join Bruce and Lynn for a new Bible Study during the Bible Study hour starting on March 15th. The first session will be how to study the Bible and the topic moving on will be determined at the first session either a New Testament book or Christian living theme. All are welcome to attend.

Women's Tuesday Evening Bible Study - All are welcome to attend a women's Bible study starting on Tuesday March 3rd and will be every other Tuesday following. The study will start at 6:30pm and the topic will be women of the Bible. Emma Hansen will be leading the study.

Men's Morning Fellowship and Devotion - Join us on Friday morning, March 20th as we continue our Men's Morning Fellowship and Devotion. We will meet at 6:30am here at the church for doughnuts and coffee and a short devotion and fellowship and be done by 7:00am. You are welcome to stay longer if you are available. Come and enjoy some fellowship and time with God.

Lent Schedule - This Lenten season, we will take a weekly journey to concretely see, smell, touch, and taste a number of biblical elements. Our Lenten series is called Promised Treasures. This series will begin with ashes, then proceed to salt, water, light, bread, and finally, palms. Then, during Holy Week, the focus shifts toward water and blood, wood, fragrant oil, and finally, on Easter, milk and honey. All these beautiful Old and New Testament elements will remind you of God's eternal love in Christ, fill you with renewed hope, and increase your joy, knowing that because we are His baptized children, God is near to us now more than ever. Join us each Wednesday starting with a meal at 6:30pm and then service at 7:00pm. Come and join us.

March 4th- Water Gives You Life, March 11th- Light Shinning in Darkness, March 18th- Bread of Life, March 25th Palms and Victory

Holy Week and Easter Schedule - Join us for our Palm Sunday service starting at 9am as we process in with palms as we begin that journey with our Savior into Jerusalem and to the cross. Please join us on Thursday and Friday at 7pm for our Maundy Thursday with Communion and Good Friday Services. *Easter service will begin at 8am- notice the change in Sunday time- with breakfast to follow.*

April 2nd- Manday Thursday- Water and Blood, April 3rd- Good Friday- The Old Rugged, Wooden Cross, April 5th- Easter- Welcome to the Promised Land of Milk and Honey

Easter Breakfast - All are welcome to join us following Easter service for Easter Breakfast. There will be a free will donation for the youth who will be attending the National Youth Gathering in San Antonio Texas in 2028.

Reading with Pastor Brett on our App! - We have started up Reading with Pastor Brett on our App. We have been reading through the book of Psalms by reading one Psalm a day, Monday through Friday. Each day we will read the Psalm and then there will be a few questions for you to ponder or meditate on from what you read. Join us as we continue to grow through His Word.

Extra Jars? – Evangelism/Stewardship committees are looking for small jelly jars. If you have any you would like to donate, please place in the bin located in the Narthex.

Trinity Apparel - We now have Trinity apparel to purchase with our new logo and mission statement. There are sample shirts in the narthex. You can order by clicking on the link here or going to our website- www.tlcsabin.com and clicking on the Trinity Lutheran Sabin Apparel link on the top of the welcome page. Please visit <https://www.jotform.com/form/260256989798179> to place an order. There are also order forms available in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please see Amy Wohlwend or email pourandpressdesigns@gmail.com

New Members - If you are a new member to Trinity, I am starting a New Member Picture board on the bulletin board in the narthex. I would like to go back about three years as we have had several new families join our congregation. You can either bring a picture to church, send one to my email below or I can take a picture of you at church. If you are a seasoned member of Trinity, I encourage you to introduce yourself to the new members so they can learn who you are as well. Let's make 2026 the year to develop relationships with each other! ljohnk50@gmail.com
Thank you, Lynn Johnk

Noisy Offering - is Sunday, March 8th during service. Funds collected will go to Seeds of Hope in Dilworth.

Sourdough Class – Interested in learning how to make sourdough bread or how to get started? Paige Schmidt will be hosting a class coming up on March 28th at 2pm! This will be open to the community, so please invite your friend, neighbor, coworker, etc.! You can sign-up at <https://forms.gle/TZsEva4TKkwJ4Gig6> or by paper form located on the bulletin board. If you have questions, please reach out to Paige at PaigeSchmidt1@yahoo.com. (If this class date/time doesn't work for you but you are interested, please email Paige so she can message you about future dates.)

Shawls—Can you crochet? - The Evangelism/Stewardship committee is looking for people willing to crochet shawls. Our goal will be to bring the shawls to nursing homes in the fall and take time to visit with the residents. This may also open up an opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus with them. Yarn will be provided in the narthex to use. Please bring back completed shawls to church. Thank you in advance for using the gifts God has given you to bless others!

Eggstravaganza Donations – We are looking for plastic eggs and candy donations for Eggstravaganza which will be on Saturday, March 28th. If you would like to help with a donation, items can be placed in the bins located in the Narthex.

TLC Member Bowling Event - Sunday, March 8th from 12-2pm at Sunset Lanes. Food and beverages will be provided. Please sign-up on the bulletin board.

Potluck – We will be having a potluck for our Wednesday meal on March 11th. Please bring a dish to share.

Youth Happenings

Eggstravaganza - will be Saturday, March 28th 9:30-11:30am. Join us for snacks, games, crafts, and an Easter Egg Hunt!

VBS - Mark your calendars! VBS Tropical Trek will be Sunday, June 14th-Thursdays, June 18th.

Community Happenings

Sabin-Elmwood Fire Department Fundraiser – The Sabin-Elmwood Fire Department will be having their mixed social dinner fundraiser event on April 11th at the Sabin Community Center. Doors open at 5:30pm. Tickets are \$50 each and can be purchased from any firefighter, by emailing Sabinfd@gmail.com, or stop by the fire department March 9th or March 23rd at 7pm.

March Celebrations

Birthdays

2nd Travis Ingebretsen, Lindsey Nelson
3rd Stephanie Windus
5th Tom Dobmeier
6th Ryan Krabbenhoft
7th Scarlett Krieger
8th Donald Hoppe, Beverly Kuehl
10th Roger Poehls
11th Ardis Rossenfeldt
12th Andrew Zapata
13th Aiden Christiansen, Chuck Skatvold, Ella Skatvold
17th Steve Brush, Erin Rezac
18th Diane Mead, Nita Velo
20th Ryan Krieger
22nd Tenley Hansen
24th Darcy Burgard
25th Joe Moore
26th Hunter Zbasnik
28th Eric Hansen
29th Sheila Byram, Becky Nyland
30th Gavin Hall, Paula Tollerud
31st Miles Skatvold



Happy Anniversary

3rd Bob & Deb Lohse - 10 years
10th Ryan & Jessica Krabbenhoft - 19 years
11th Dennis & Sandy Herbrandson - 9 years
23rd Gary & Penny Schellack - 30 years

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9am – Worship with Communion 10:15am – Sunday School/Adult Bible Study	2	3 6:30pm – Women’s Bible Study	4 6:30pm - Meal 7pm - Worship	5	6	7
8 Youth Sunday/Noisy Offering 9am – Worship 10:15am – Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 12-2pm - TLC Member Bowling Event	9	10	11 6:30pm – Meal (potluck) 7pm - Worship	12	13	14
15 9am – Worship with Communion 10:15am – Sunday School/Adult Bible Study	16	17 6:30pm – Women’s Bible Study	18 6:30pm – Meal 7pm - Worship	19	20 6:30am – Men’s Morning Fellowship and Devotion	21
22 9am – Worship 10:15am – Sunday School/ Adult Bible Study	23	24	25 6:30pm – Meal 7pm - Worship	26	27	28 9:30-11:30am – Eggstravaganza 2pm – Sourdough Class
29	30	31 6:30pm – Women’s Bible Study				

Trinity Lutheran Church
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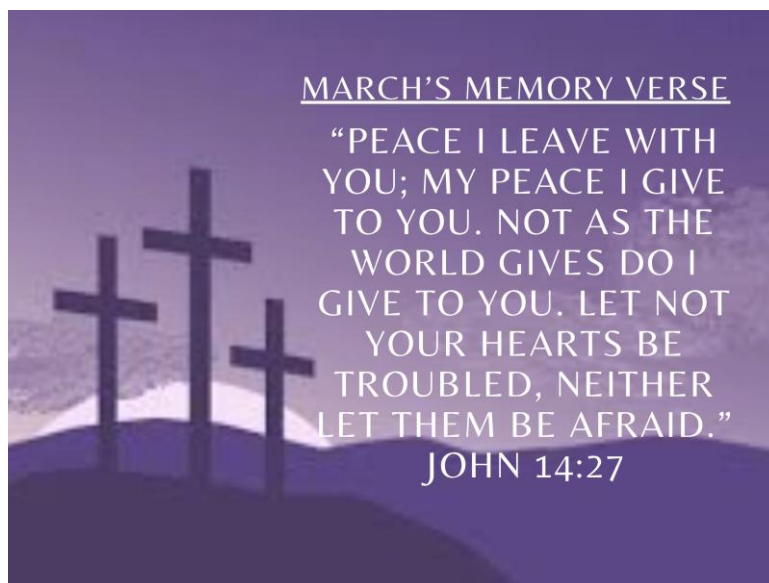
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Paige Schmidt, Office Manager 218-789-7259



MARCH'S MEMORY VERSE

“PEACE I LEAVE WITH
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