

THE BELL TOWER November 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

Reflecting on the gift of Time

As we begin this month of November, it is usually a time to reflect on thanksgiving. All of the things that God has blessed you with and to give Him thanks. I have recently been reflecting on time, probably because my granddaughter is growing so fast and wish I could spend more time with her and Megan and Josiah. But I have come to cherish the moments I do have with them. There is a saying called "touch grass." It basically means something like; get off your phone, go outside, breathe, remember you are a human being with a body and soul and not just a thumb scrolling through other people's highlights. The other day I read an article a friend of mine wrote that talks about this and how we should reflect on the gift of time.

I have a habit of wanting to get to the next thing, even when there's nothing wrong with the thing, I'm in. "Just a few more minutes." Anytime someone says "just a few more minutes," you know that is a lie. If they were ready, they would say yes. If they were not ready, they would say just a few more minutes.

I wandered off and found the non-book section. Records, posters, and, to my surprise, a massive wall of VHS tapes. I stood looking at the wall, trying to remember the last time I'd even thought about a VHS tape. I reached out and picked up an old movie and held it in my hand. It was lighter than I remembered. The cardboard box was faded and the corners were cracking apart. The tape made a rattling noise as I held it.

I felt this peace come over me, like my body had been holding its breath but finally exhaled. Something about it brought me back to my childhood. On Friday nights at Blockbuster, standing in the aisles, wrestling with the hardest question in the world: "What do you want to watch?" You had hundreds of options, but you could only take one home. Maybe two if your parents were feeling generous or had recently received a raise.

There was no algorithm suggesting what you might like. No endless scrolling through thousands of movies only to give up and watch the same television show again. No app. Just a magical rectangle of plastic that could take you somewhere you'd never been. You walked around. You picked things up. You read the backs of boxes. You argued with your siblings. You tried to remember the name of the movie your classmate told you they rented last week. You made a decision.

And then you lived with it. You took that one movie home and gave it your entire attention. You'd devour it and then eventually get back in your car to return the movie so that another family could see just how heartbreaking and hopeful Homeward Bound actually is. And then you'd do it all again the next week. Back then, there was something beautiful about having to wait. You couldn't have everything whenever you wanted it. That wasn't such a terrible thing.

To people who remember the sound of a tape sliding into a VCR. The blue screen. The tracking lines. The previews. The warning that you could go to jail if you did anything more than watch the movie. The way the whole family gathered around a television to watch the same thing at the same time. I stood there holding this little plastic rectangle that had once been the future and now it was the past. I was standing in a room full of what once was new. *(Continued on next page)*

November's Memory Verse

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

Psalm 145: 1 & 3

I couldn't stop thinking about how everything eventually becomes old. I know this is true because I own a mirror. I wonder how many things I've stopped noticing simply because they're no longer new and how many moments, I've rushed through because I was busy looking for the next one.

Nostalgia has a funny way of making us think we're reaching back into the past, when really, it's trying to wake us up to the present. It reminds us that we were once fully present in moments we didn't know we'd someday wish we could return to. We were just living, not knowing we were making memories. And the beautiful thing is, we're still doing that right now.

Someday I'll look back at these ordinary days, the ones I was in such a hurry to get through and wish I could hold them in my hands for just a few more minutes. One of the gifts of getting older is realizing that the days we thought we were living between the good ones were the good ones all along.

Beauty has a way of reminding us of this. A poem in a used book. An old movie. A story we've heard told a hundred times. Little things that invite us to slow down and pay attention to the life we're living. Something doesn't have to be new to be beautiful. And something doesn't have to last forever to have mattered. And for once, I wasn't in a hurry. Just a few more minutes sounded pretty good to me.

Have a blessed month,
Pastor Brett

Worship Schedule for November

Sunday, November 1st- 9am Worship with Communion
Wednesday, November 4th- 7pm Worship with Communion
Sunday, November 8th - 9am Worship
Sunday, November 15th- 9am Worship with Communion
Wednesday, November 18th – 7pm Worship with Communion
Sunday, November 22nd– 9am Worship & 7pm Thanksgiving Service
Sunday, November 29th – 9am Worship

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
Oct. 14, 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.

Members in attendance: Nikki Grenz, Derrick Grenz, Kayme Torgerson, Cassie Waggoner, Brett Hartwig, Gary Schellack, Adam Schellack, Cody Nelson, Adam Schellack, Erik Hanson, Bob Johnk

1. Call to order – Gary Shellack.
2. Opening prayer – Pastor Brett Hartwig.
3. Approve agenda – Motion by Curt Hutchins to approve the agenda. Seconded by Adam Schellack. Motion carried.
4. Secretary's report – The minutes were published electronically. No revisions were noted. Motion by Amy Wohlwend to approve the minutes. Seconded by Curt Hutchins. Motion carried.
5. Treasurer's report – Report by Amy Wohlwend.

a. The balance sheet format has been revised to better distinguish between funds available for operations and funds restricted for specific designations.

b. Operating income for Quarter 3 was $47,686.64. Total operating expenses were $47,849.08, resulting in expenses exceeding income by $162.44 for the quarter. Year-to-date, expenses exceed offering income by $6,887.33.

c. Quarterly giving statements will be mailed within the next week.

6. Committee reports.

a. Elder – Report by Bob Johnk.
   i. The elders met prior to the council meeting.
   ii. Discussion focused on leadership responsibilities and the church council ballot.

b. Trustee – Report by Jesse Sandry.
   i. Adam Hanson and Jesse Sandry recently completed a walk-through of the church.
   ii. An outdoor power source was located, rubber doorstops were ordered, and the accessible doors were examined and will be replaced.
   iii. Adam is developing a QR code for submitting maintenance requests.

c. Stewardship – Report by Nikki Grenz on preparations for meatball dinner.
   i. Dry goods were purchased using $250 in Thrivent funds donated by Gail. The receipt will be submitted after costs are entered into the spreadsheet.
   ii. Paige will order the remaining food items for delivery to the church on October 23.
   iii. Corlyss Hutchins donated $422 in Thrivent funds toward the remaining purchases.
   iv. Randy coordinated delivery of the event sign.
   v. Angie and her family donated and husked corn, and Tera froze 96 cups for the meal.
   vi. Proceeds will benefit Sanford Children's Hospital. Volunteers are still needed for meal preparation and event-day activities.
   vii. The flyer was shared on the neighborhood page and should be reposted as the event approaches.
   viii. Gail secured volunteer shirts through Thrivent for those helping October 23–24. Paige created the flyer and printed more than 400 placemats.

d. Evangelism – No report.

e. Board of Education – Report by Jessica Heim.

i. Rally Sunday drew approximately 30 children plus parents. Having a volunteer dedicated to kitchen duties was especially helpful, and the bouncy house was well received.
ii. Future events should include gluten-free options and recruit high school students to assist.
iii. The Sunday School offering will support Homeward Animal Shelter, with a goal of $500.
iv. Youth Sunday is planned for November. Activities include fall crafts for preschool through fifth grade and a fall dessert bake-off for sixth grade and older students.
v. Advent family devotion options include a nativity-scene Advent calendar and a Concordia Publishing House devotion.
vi. The 2027 budget was reviewed.

f. Budget/Nominations – Discussion continued under new business.

g. Pastor's report – Report by Pastor Brett Hartwig.

i. Official Acts included the committal of Dennis Lass on October 8. Average September attendance was 85, with three attending the Wednesday service.
ii. Pastor attended the installation of Pastor Adam Thompson on September 13.
iii. The Tanner Olson event on September 16 drew more than 300 people for the program and approximately 250 for supper.
iv. Confirmation has 11 students studying the Ten Commandments. Confirmation Sunday is October 25, when Sarah Hartwig, Daxen Hansen, and Ella Sedlacek will be confirmed.
v. Wednesday evening worship continues the first and third Wednesdays of each month until Advent begins in December.
vi. Pastor continues to lead chapel at ORLC Child Care twice each month.
vii. The Thanksgiving service is scheduled for Sunday, November 22, at 7:00 p.m., with pie to follow.

7. Old business

a. Meatball Dinner – See the Stewardship report above.

b. Snow removal – Luke Torgerson agreed to assist with snow removal. Cody Nelson can also help as needed. Budgeting for snow removal services should be discussed because Del has not submitted hours in the past.

c. Furnace update – Two furnaces are nearing failure and should be replaced. Schritz Plumbing and Heating CF LLC provided a quote of $10,803 for two furnaces. Motion by Adam Schellack to proceed with the furnace replacement. Seconded by Nikki Grenz. Motion carried.

8. New business.

a. Nominations for council positions – The nomination process was easier than in prior years, with many members willing to serve. The voters' meeting is scheduled for October 17. Motion by Amy Wohlwend to present the slate of candidates to the congregation at Sunday's quarterly voters' meeting. Seconded by Nikki Grenz. Motion carried.

b. 2027 budget – Presented by Amy Wohlwend. The most notable change from 2026 was removal of DCE compensation because there is no immediate plan to fill the position. The Heimarck Scholarship was also removed because it is funded separately and is not an operating expense. Several minor category adjustments and reorganizations were made. Motion by Adam Schellack to present the 2027 budget to the voters for approval. Seconded by Janelle Kistner. Motion carried.

c. Advent meals – Last year's soup-and-sandwich meals were well attended. Similar meals are planned for this Advent season.

d. Quarterly voters' meeting – Scheduled for Sunday.

9. Other new business – None.
10. Adjourn meeting – Motion by Adam Schellack to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Curt Hutchins. Motion carried.
11. Closing prayer – Pastor Brett Hartwig.
12. Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, November 11, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

Church Happenings

Wednesday Evening Services - We are continuing our Wednesday Midweek service until December when Advent starts. We will be having two Wednesday Evening services each month, on the first and third Wednesday at 7pm with Communion. Our services this month will be November 4th and 18th. Join us as we continue to grow in His Word and worship Him for who He is.

Thanksgiving Eve Service - Join us on Sunday, November 22nd at 7pm for our Thanksgiving Eve Service. We will remember all that God has blessed us with and give Him all the thanks and praise. We will have our pie social following service.

Adult Bible Study - This past month we have continued our series titled, "Becoming Like Jesus". In the series we are looking at Jesus's sermon on the mount where he talked of the Beatitudes, topics like poverty, quiet strength, mercy and peacemakers. We will be wrapping up this study and then looking for a new study. Join us this month as we learn more about becoming like Jesus. All are welcome to join us during the Sunday School hour- 10:15-11:15am.

Advent is coming - Advent is just around the corner. We will continue with our Wednesday evening services at 7pm and before service we will be serving dinner at 6:30pm. This year's theme for Advent is Everlasting Light. It is based on Isaiah 60 and employs Phillips Brooks's cherished hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem". Isaiah famously promises that "the glory of the LORD shall be revealed". Brooks's masterpiece beautifully describes Bethlehem on a December night. The hymn moves back and forth from a description of Christmas to the meaning of Christmas. It ends with the prayer, "O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!". When you connect Isaiah 60 to "O Little Town of Bethlehem," what happens? A wonderful weaving together of biblical hope and Christian hymnody. Come and join us next month starting on December 2nd as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Heart of Clay Sweet Freedom Dessert Social and Fundraiser - Heart of Clay is having a Dessert Social and Fundraiser on Tuesday, November 10th. It will be held at Courtyard by Marriott in Moorhead with raffle starting at 6pm and program at 7pm. Tickets for the event are $35 and can be purchased at their website www.heartofclay.org. All are welcome to attend as they celebrate lives restored and families reunited.

A Celebration of Grace - All are welcome to attend Grace Lutheran Schools Celebration of Grace on Friday, November 13th starting at 5pm at the Sanctuary Events Center in Fargo. Tickets are $50 and can be purchased at their website www.glsfargo.org. There will be a social hour, dinner, program and live and silent auction items.

Newly Elected Council members - We welcome our newly elected council members that were elected at our Voters Meeting last month. We thank them for their willingness to serve and pray they will be a blessing to this congregation with their leadership. The following were elected:
Gary Schellack- Chairman
Erik Hanson- Secretary
Amy Wohlwend- Treasurer
Alex Hansen- Trustee
Cody Nelson- Elder
Jesse Sandry- Elder
Haleigh Krieger- Board of Education
Tera Orr- Board of Stewardship
Nikki Wardien- Board of Evangelism

Confirmands of 2026 - Congrats to our three confirmands that were confirmed on October 25th.
Daxen Alex Hansen
"I can do all this through him who gives me strength" Philippians 4:13
Sarah Ruth Hartwig
"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding." Proverbs 3:5
Ella Ann Sedlacek
"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

All Saints Day - We remember all those brothers and sisters in Christ who went home to be with their Savior this past year.
Elsa Nerby
If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.
Ardis Rosenfeldt
Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
Lorraine Edwards
"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, They will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God."
Bob Lohse
My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.
Dennis Lass
"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. There is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day."

Youth Happenings

Youth Events—Join us November 8th.

PreK-5th Grade will be doing a fall craft at 11:15-11:45am.

6th Grade and up will be having a bake off at 5-8pm.

Sr High Hang Out—Join November 22nd from 6-7:30pm!

Noisy Offering – Will be on November 8th.



November Celebrations

Birthdays

1st Brian Lass
4th Tara Nelson
5th Jason Liedberg, Hailey Paulsen
8th Jason Wardien
10th Danielle Hutchins
12th Judith Rosenfeldt
13th Tammie Dohman, Stacey Zbasnik
15th Sydney Nelson
17th Karen Byram, Bob Johnk
18th Elisia Christianson-Tamez
19th Darryl Johnk
20th Megan Hartwig, Declan Nygaard, Linda Butenhoff
21st Jerry Cook, Cole Nelson
22nd Josiah Wasvick
24th Gary Schellack, Eleanor Wagner
25th Elisabeth Hason, Cecelia Mayer, Eric Mayer, Brianna Groettum
26th Ava Kistner
27th Eli Heim, Wendy Paulsen
29th Matthew Dohman, Janelle Kistner

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **9am – Worship with Communion** **10:15am – Sunday School & Adult Bible Study** **11:30am – Confirmation**	**2**	**3**	**4** **7pm – Worship with Communion**	**5**	**6**	**7**
8 **9am – Worship with Noisy Offering** **10:15am – Sunday School & Adult Bible Study** **11:15am – Prek-5th youth event** **11:30am – Confirmation** **5pm – 6th grade & up youth event**	**9**	**10**	**11** **6:30pm – Elders Meeting** **7:30pm – Council Meeting**	**12**	**13**	**14**
15 **9am – Worship with Communion** **10:15am – Sunday School & Adult Bible Study** **11:30am – Confirmation**	**16**	**17**	**18** **7pm – Worship with Communion**	**19**	**20**	**21** **Elders Training**
22 **9am – Worship** **6:30pm – Sr. High Hangout** **7pm – Thanksgiving Service**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26** **Thanksgiving**	**27**	**28**
29 **9am - Worship**	**30**					

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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