



THE BELL TOWER October 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

The Gifts He Gives Us

This past week was our last week of the regular season for tennis. We also celebrated Senior night. This is always a special night to honor the seniors that have been a part of the program and what they have given to the team over their years. This year was a special one for me because these seniors have been with me from when I first started coaching. Every year they have been there and they all have become part of my family. As I reflected on my time with me, it will be hard to imagine them not being there next year. I think sometimes we take things for granted and we don't always appreciate what we have in the present as much as we should. This past week, one of my devotions talked of this and really helped me put perspective on this past week and all the things that God has blessed me with. Have a blessed month!

What we see too often, we take for granted. What we take for granted, we don't truly see.

I was looking through photos from our trip to Paris and was frustrated that many of my iPhone snapshots were better than images from my expensive SLR camera. Today, I was surprised as I reviewed those images and remembered why I took them. As I looked less critically at the effort, and allowed the images to stir my memory. I realized that even those that weren't perfect accomplished that purpose. They helped me see what I didn't want to take for granted down the road.

Our Viking cruise boat was docked in Paris just south of the Eiffel Tower and just north of a replica of the Statue of Liberty (remember, that was a gift from France!) Every day we were in Paris we saw both of those sights and I quickly took them for granted. Just like every other special thing in life, once the thrill is gone, we start to miss what was thrilling at first sight! As we were returning to our boat on the last day, I saw a rainbow and took a quick photo with my iPhone. After only a week those two monuments had become taken for granted until I saw the rainbow. And even though the photo wasn't that good, the memory will last.

What we see too often, we often take for granted. What we take for granted, we don't truly see. Life is like that, even with the gift of a loved one, the love of God, or even the gift of faith. Sometimes it takes a special surprise, like a rainbow, a smile, the silence of prayer, or truly seeing the image of Calvary's cross for what it is, to remember what should never be taken for granted. How often do we say "I love you" by rote rather than see whom we love, remember why that love is so important, and say what we mean, not because it is the thing to do, but because the words are true?

That is why a rainbow was so important for Noah as he would always remember a special moment, when the storm clouds cleared and a new life began. We know the story of Bethlehem and Easter but because we know them so well, we don't always remember them in the normal rhythms of life, yet the more time we spend remembering those images the more likely we are to not take God's love and grace for granted. And then such gifts will have the power to change us, that they were given for. A faint rainbow was all it took to help me see a special time in my life for what it was, rather than be distracted by what was already taking for granted.

We don't always get unexpected hugs, a child's giggle, or a powerful image that catches us off guard, but whatever it takes to cease taking for granted what is special, is worth the effort to remember. Today there are so many things I want to quit taking for granted, simply because of a snapshot of a rainbow that caught me off guard. This gift helped me to keep my eyes and heart open so I never take for granted what should never be taken for granted

In Him,
Pastor Brett

October's Memory Verse

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6

Worship Schedule for October

Sunday, October 4th- 9am Worship with Communion

Wednesday, October 7th- 7pm Worship with Communion

Sunday, October 11th - 9am Worship

Sunday, October 18th- 9am Worship with Communion

Wednesday, October 21st – 7pm Worship with Communion

Sunday, October 25th– 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 September 9, 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 Schellack
2. Opening prayer – Pastor Brett Hartwig
3. Approve agenda
 - a. Kayme Torgerson recommended adding creation of a church Instagram account to New Business.
 - b. Motion by Amy Wohlwend to approve the agenda; seconded by Adam Schellack. Motion passed.
4. Secretary's report – Erik Hanson

- a. Motion by Cody Nelson to approve the secretary's report; seconded by Adam Schellack. Motion carried.
- 5. Treasurer's report – Amy Wohlwend
 - a. The balance sheet has been revised to better distinguish operating funds from funds restricted for specific purposes.
 - b. July and August offering income totaled \$39,219.23, supported by a few larger donations. Church operating expenses totaled \$30,116.20. As of the end of August, the church is operating in the green and is caught up to budget.
- 6. Committee reports
 - a. Elder – Bob Johnk
 - i. The Elders met before the council meeting.
 - ii. Pastor Hartwig gave his report.
 - iii. The Elders discussed nominations for next year's committees.
 - b. Trustee – No report
 - i. Pastor Hartwig noted that the men's bathroom was recently painted.
 - c. Stewardship – Nikki Grenz
 - i. Flyers are being created for the meatball dinner.
 - ii. The council discussed where dinner proceeds should be donated. Because changes in school locations and logistics have affected programs serving Moorhead Public School students experiencing food insecurity, alternative recipients are still being considered.
 - iii. The council discussed organizing youth volunteers for the meatball dinner.
 - iv. The council discussed lessons learned from Harvest Days and the 5K.
 - d. Evangelism – Lynn Johnk, presented electronically
 - i. Forty-two prayer shawls were made by members of Trinity and will be blessed Sunday, September 13. Some will be given to residents in area nursing homes in the coming weeks.
 - ii. Anyone who knows someone who could use a prayer shawl should contact a member of the Evangelism Committee.
 - iii. Anyone who would like a care package prepared for someone in need should contact Lynn Johnk or Amy Rasmussen.
 - iv. On Sunday, September 20, someone from Heart of Clay will give a short talk after the service about the ministry.
 - e. Board of Education
 - i. Rally Sunday is September 13, with teacher installation during the service.
 - 1. Activities will follow the service.
 - 2. Lunch will be served at 11:00: chicken nuggets, mini corn dogs, fruit, chips, lemonade, and leftover soda from the youth stand.
 - ii. Sunday School begins September 20, with the second-grade Bible presentation during the service.
 - 1. Fifty-seven of 76 student members are registered; all student members will be included on class lists.
 - 2. Two new families have registered four children total, including one family from VBS.
 - iii. Carrie and Kayme prepared the new Sunday School curriculum for teachers.
 - 1. A teacher meeting was held September 6, and details were emailed to all teachers.
 - 2. The board will check in with teachers around Christmas to evaluate curriculum; a full refund remains available if curriculum is not continued after this year.
 - iv. Sunday School and Noisy Offering

1. Students will choose between Homeward Animal Shelter and UC Hope as the offering recipient.
 2. Youth Sunday and Noisy Offering will continue on the second Sunday of each month, beginning with Rally Sunday.
 - v. Youth events begin in October; Senior High Hangout continues on the fourth Sunday of each month and resumes in September.
 - f. Youth Director / Youth Coordinator
 - i. Service Project Challenge
 1. Ten of the 21 eligible students earned the trip.
 2. Four of the 10 students attended the Mall of America trip on August 22.
 - ii. Service projects completed this summer included:
 1. Preparing food for the Moorhead Career Academy graduation.
 2. Preparing sack lunches for the Moorhead Career Academy on two dates.
 3. Seeds of Hope.
 4. Girls Art Camp (four dates).
 5. Organizing the Sunday School storage room.
 6. Harvest Day service to the community and church.
 - iii. National Youth Gathering fundraiser
 1. A soda stand was set up next to the church concession stand, serving dirty sodas and cans of soda.
 2. The fundraiser raised \$200.
 - g. Budget and nominations
 - i. Derrick Grenz and Amy Wohlwend are working on the 2027 budget and hope to provide an update before the next meeting. Anyone with items to include should contact them.
 - ii. The Elders have identified initial nominees for open positions and will contact them in the coming days.
7. Pastor's report
- a. Official acts: no baptisms or funerals. Average attendance was 43 in July and 47 in August.
 - b. Pastor Hartwig has been filling in as co-vacancy pastor at Our Redeemer with Pastor Greg from Barnesville. ORLC called Pastor Adam Thompson, who accepted the call and will be installed September 13.
 - c. Confirmation planning is underway. There will be eight seventh graders, three eighth graders, and three ninth graders confirmed this fall. Confirmation Sunday is October 25.
 - d. Pastor Hartwig helped Evangelism and Stewardship plan the 5K for Harvest Days.
 - e. Wednesday evening worship services will continue on the first and third Wednesdays of each month until Advent. Due to the Tanner Olsen event, this month's service will be on the fourth Wednesday.
 - f. Planning continues for the Tanner Olsen event on September 16 at Our Redeemer. All are welcome to attend.
 - g. Pastor Hartwig continues to lead chapel at ORLC Child Care once a month.
 - h. Pastor Hartwig served as Circuit Representative at the National Synod Convention in July in Phoenix and will provide highlights at the October Quarterly Voters Meeting.
8. Old Business – updates and discussion
- a. Sprinkler system – The sprinkler system was installed.
 - b. Fellowship – Summer volunteer coverage was difficult. For now, individuals and families will continue signing up to serve fellowship; the council will consider having the church purchase items during summer months next year.

- c. Patio – Concrete has been poured and was used for Harvest Days. Phase 2, the roof, will begin next year.
- d. Office hours – The council discussed whether sharing Paige’s availability and contact information would be helpful. Since people typically contact Paige or Pastor Hartwig directly, regular in-office hours may not be necessary, but clearer communication to the congregation could be beneficial.
- e. Tanner Olsen Event – The September 16 event at ORLC is sponsored with area churches. Trinity will provide food, and other congregations will handle other items.

9. New Business

- a. Meatball Dinner – Discussed under Stewardship.
- b. Naa sponsorship – Naa is a Lutheran Island Camp counselor and student at Concordia-Nebraska.
 - i. Last year’s sponsorship was \$1,500, paid as \$750 per semester.
 - ii. Motion by Amy Wohlwend to approve the sponsorship; seconded by Cody Nelson. Motion carried.
- c. Propane prepay contract – Petro Serve offered a prepay rate, and the church will pre-buy at that rate.
- d. Snow removal – Del Lass is no longer going to complete snow removal for the church. Gary Schellack suggested asking the congregation for volunteers.
 - i. Sidewalks need to be cleared; the parking lot is already handled by the Fitzgeralds.
 - ii. Priority times are Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings.
 - iii. Some council members may be willing to help but not necessarily lead the effort.
 - iv. If no volunteers are available, the church will need to hire the work out.

10. Other New Business – discussion

- a. Kayme Torgerson will work with Isabella Orr to create social media content.

11. Adjourn

- a. Motion by Adam Schellack to adjourn; seconded by Nikki Grenz. Motion approved.

12. Next meeting – October 14, 2026

13. Closing prayer – Pastor Brett Hartwig

Church Happenings

Wednesday Evening Services - We are continuing our Wednesday Midweek service. Starting this month and continuing until December when Advent starts, we will be having two Wednesday Evening services each month, it will be the first and third Wednesday of each month. Our services for September will be Wednesday, October 7th and October 21st at 7pm. We will continue offering communion. Join us as we continue to grow in His Word and worship Him for who He is.

Adult Bible Study - This past month we have started a series titled, "Becoming Like Jesus". We have looked at the topics of the Invitation and then the poor in Spirit. In the series we are looking at Jesus's sermon on the mount where he talked of the Beatitudes. Join us this month as we learn more about becoming like Jesus. All are welcome to join us during the Sunday School hour- 10:15-11:15.

Women's Tuesday Evening Bible Study - All are welcome to attend the women's Bible study every other Tuesday. The study will start up again this month so stay tuned for date. The study will still be at 6:30 and the topic will be discussed when they meet up again. Emma Hansen will be leading the study.

Meatball Dinner - Help spread the word of our Meatball Dinner. The dinner will be on Saturday, October 24th from 4:30 to 7:00pm. We will also be having a craft fair and Silent Auction. Have something you want to donate to the craft fair or Silent Auction? If so, please let Lynn or Maggie know. If you can help with the event, please sign up either on the bulletin board at church or on the sign-up genius.



Confirmation Sunday - Join us on Sunday, October 25th as we celebrate Confirmation Sunday for our 3 confirmands this year. Our confirmands are Sarah Hartwig, Daxen Hansen, and Ella Sedlacek.

Congregational Quarterly Voter's Meeting - Join us on Sunday, October 18th for our Quarterly Voter's Meeting following Sunday School and Bible Study. We will be electing our new officers and approving the budget for the 2027 year.

We Could Use a Helping Hand at Grace Lutheran School!

Grace Lutheran School students are blessed by the many people who give their time and talents to support our school. We are looking for a few volunteers (and maybe some paid time, too) to help make our school days run a little smoother!

- Morning Care: Help welcome students as they arrive in the morning and provide a caring, friendly presence as they begin their day. This could be a regular, paid position from 7:10-8:30 am daily.
- Reading with Students: Spend some time reading with students and encouraging their love of books and learning.
- Lunch Helpers: Help supervise students during lunchtime and lend a hand with the little things that make lunch run smoothly.

Whether you can volunteer regularly or just occasionally, we would love to have you join us! Your presence is a wonderful way to support our teachers, encourage our students, and be part of the Grace Lutheran School community.

If you are interested in helping, please contact the school office. Thank you for sharing your time and helping our students grow and thrive!

Youth Happenings

Youth Events—Join us today (October 11th). PreK-5th Grade will be painting pumpkins at 11:15-11:45am. 6th Grade and up will be carving and painting pumpkins at 6-8pm.

Sr High Hang Out—Join us October 25th from 6-7:30pm!



Trinity Lutheran
CHURCH • SABIN

MEATBALL *Dinner*

SATURDAY

**OCTOBER
24TH**

4:30 – 7PM



Free Will
DONATION



Take Out
MEALS AVAILABLE!



**Proceeds will help
Sanford Children's Hospital.**



CRAFT SALE

*Handcrafted
with Love!*



AND

**SILENT
AUCTION**

*Bid on
Something Special!*



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH SABIN
100 2nd Avenue West
Sabin, MN 56580



October Celebrations

Birthdays

3rd Callia Christianson-Tamez, Brielle Nelson

7th Isabella Orr

12th Linda Crawford, Jennie Heimark

15th Kellan Hason

18th Jessica Fuentes

19th Cheryl Krabbenhoft

20th Lila Krebs

21st Everett Hason, Kristin Sellent

22nd Kasey Groettum

24th Noah Dobmeier, Ashley Paulson

25th Amanda Dablow, Sabrina Wasvick

26th Fred Dickelman

29th Brandon Christianson

30th Cooper Nelson, Oliver Orr, Madison Reinbold



Happy Anniversary



Anniversaries

2nd Jessica and Arnaldo Fuentes – 5 years

6th Ben and Terra Orr – 19 years

17th Eric and Tami Hansen – 34 years

23rd Curt and Carmen Hutchins – 27 years

27th Derrick and Nikki Grenz – 19 years

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 9am – Worship with Communion 10:15am – Sunday School, Confirmation, Adult Bible Study	5	6	7 7pm – Worship with Communion	8	9	10
11 9am – Worship 10:15am – Sunday School, Confirmation, Adult Bible Study 11:15am – PreK-5 th Youth Event 6pm – 6 th Grade & up youth Event	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 9am – Worship with Communion 10:15am – Sunday School, Confirmation, Adult Bible Study 11:15am – Quarterly Voters Meeting	19	20	21 7pm – Worship with Communion	22	23	24 4:30-7pm – Meatball Dinner
25 Confirmation Sunday 9am – Worship 10:15am – Sunday School, Confirmation, Adult Bible Study 6pm – Sr High Hangout	26	27	28	29	30	31

Trinity Lutheran Church
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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