



THE BELL TOWER February 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 Gift of Hospitality

This past month, many of my devotions that I read, related to the idea of hospitality, how we are to treat others. Of course this is a hot topic in our world today, of how we are to treat others. We are all reminded that we are created by our Heavenly Father and that we are all His children. As we go through this month, we have some opportunities to serve others. We have Giving Hearts Day where we can support some amazing organizations in this area that do some great things for the people they serve. We also will have the chance to go and make meals for individuals and families in this world that might not be as fortunate as us to have a meal every day through Feed My Starving Children Mobile pack. These are just a few ways to serve others; I encourage you to find other ways to serve people that come into your presence. I want to leave you with one of the devotions I read this month that talks about this idea of hospitality.

My grandfather was a Lutheran pastor. He grew up in the early 1900's and after graduating from the Seminary in St. Louis, served a congregation in Little Rock, Arkansas during the final years of the "Great Depression." I know that he and Grandma didn't have much money ... ever! But that never kept them from being who they couldn't help but be. I'll never forget a story that Grandma told me about those difficult years during the Depression.

She told me that Grandpa always walked home for lunch, and to do so, he had to cross the railroad tracks that separated downtown, where the church was, and the neighborhood in which they live. Grandma said that she quickly became accustomed to setting an extra plate for lunch, despite their own lack of food. The reason she did that was that my Grandpa would wander through the train yard on his way home, looking for someone who might need a meal. She said there were many days he would bring a "hobo" home for lunch.

As I think about that story, I am struck by the reality there is nothing that such a guest could have offered in return, except the opportunity for my grandparents to be the hospitable servants that they were committed to be. They didn't give to receive, so there was no other motive than faithful love. And yet, I can't help but think that such giving gave much to them in return.

Hospitality is an act of love that can happen only when someone makes a practice of serving others. When it becomes a lifestyle, amazing things happen. Any love involves risk, and hospitality is a mighty risk, as one must drop barriers by inviting others to share in your life. As we serve others, we open ourselves to the potential of being served. An important thing that happens, should any of us open our door to others, is that fresh air from "outside" replaces the same old, stale air that surrounds too much "insider living." And the risk of being hospitable yields rewards beyond what ever could have been imagined. I don't know all the conversations that my grandparents had with their guests, but I do know that their actions influenced many others, such as me! Hospitality is like a gift that can be opened twice, just like an open door that not only allows someone in, but enables those inside to go out.

Remember, just as you love to be invited in, sometimes it is you who needs to be willing to open a door to those who are "out." And not with the hope that you will surprise others, but that you are open to being surprised by the many ways that God's love touches you! (excerpt from "Life Crossings")

Have a blessed month,
Pastor Brett

February's Memory Verse

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."

Ephesians 6:1-3

Worship Schedule for February

Sunday, February 1st – 9am

Wednesday, February 4th – 7pm

Sunday, February 8th – 9am

Sunday, February 15th – 9am

Wednesday, February 18th – 7pm

Sunday, February 22nd – 9am

Wednesday, February 25th – 7pm

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

January 21, 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: Derrick Grenz, Nikki Grenz, Erik Hanson, Pastor Hartwig, Curt Hutchins, Bob Johnk, Lynn Johnk, Cody Nelson, Gary Shellack, Kayme Torgerson, Amy Wohlwend

1. Call to order – Gary Shellack

2. Opening prayer – Pastor Hartwig
3. Approve agenda – Motion by Curt Hutchins to approve agenda. Seconded by Nikki Grenz. Motion passed.
4. Secretary’s report – No report.
5. Treasurer’s report - Motion by Bob Johnk to approve treasurer’s report. Seconded by Cody Nelson. Motion passed.
 - a. Balance sheet
 - i. The bill for the water leak was \$39,885. \$14,000 was transferred from the capital savings account and the remaining \$15,885 was taken from the reserves savings to cover the bill.
 - b. Operating income/expenses
 - i. Due to a few larger, generous donations in the 4th quarter, operating income exceeded operating expenses by \$10,090.95 for 2025.
 - ii. Total offering was approximately \$10,000 more in 2025 than in 2024.
 - c. Budget vs actual
 - i. Endowment tithes (\$52,000) that were paid in 2025:
 1. Heart of Clay: \$10,000
 2. Lutheran Island Camp: \$12,500 (\$2,500 of this is from Lutheran Church Extension Fund)
 3. FMSC: \$10,000
 4. LAMP: \$10,000
 5. Moorhead School Homeless: \$10,000
 6. Down Home: \$2,000
 - ii. Miscellaneous designations in 2025:
 1. Giving Hearts Day Match: \$2,500
 2. LIC Adopt-A-Counselor: \$5,000
 - d. Capital improvements and cemetery income and expenses were summarized. This information is not contained in previous two reports because of different funding sources.
 - e. Other items:
 - i. Year-end contribution statements will be mailed out this week, and should be received by January 30th. If anyone has questions on their statement, they can contact Amy Wohlwend at tlcsabin.treasurer@gmail.com or 701-212-2956.
 - ii. Contact Amy if you need assistance setting up online giving through SubSplash.
6. Committee reports
 - a. Elder – Bob Johnk
 - i. First meeting was held on January 21.
 - ii. Elder duties and months were assigned: Curt Hutchins (head elder), Bob Johnk (secretary), Cody Nelson (stewardship), Adam Shellack (evangelism), Derrick Grenz and Lance Kistner (budget).
 - b. Trustee – Maggie Hanson (via e-mail)
 - i. Jesse and Adam have continued to look at the roof situation. They attempted to seal up one side of the church, but dripping on the other side has persisted.
 - ii. Trustees are waiting to receive Art’s bid for work on women’s bathroom toilets.
 - iii. Dick Klug expressed willingness to work on some cabinetry in the bathroom. He will pause project until learning whether toilets and sinks will be replaced first.
 - iv. The final bill was received for the water main break this summer.
 - c. Stewardship – Nikki Grenz
 - i. RaiseRight Gift Cards
 1. There are still a limited number of physical gift cards available.

2. Committee discussed printing a list of available physical cards to keep on hand as an alternative to using the app.
 3. Committee discussed creating a RaiseRight post or flyer to share on Facebook for awareness and promotion.
 - ii. Offering
 1. Committee discussed providing an “I Give Online” card for individuals who give electronically.
 2. Cards can be placed in the offering plate during service and would be laminated to allow for repeated use.
 - iii. Survey
 1. A total of 15 survey responses were received.
 2. Committee will begin working with those who have replied.
 3. Committee will review and revise current survey questions (e.g., there is currently no question addressing funeral assistance).
 - d. Evangelism – Lynn Johnk
 - i. Evangelism ideas for 2026 include outreach to nursing homes and shut-ins.
 - e. Board of Education
 - i. Sunday School offering will go to Seeds of Hope in Dilworth
 1. Goal is \$1,000.
 2. This will include noisy offering and Sunday School Offering.
 - ii. Youth Sunday
 1. Youth hit their offering goal for the first half of the year so we had a movie day on Sunday, January 11th.
 2. On Sunday, February 8, students will make valentines and goodie bags for the shut-ins.
 - a. Pre-K-1st will decorate valentines.
 - b. 2nd-5th will make goodie bags.
 - iii. Eggstravaganza will be on Saturday, March 28, from 9:30-11:30 AM
 - iv. VBS is planned for June 14-18
 1. This timeframe is one week earlier than normal because Father’s Day falls on the Sunday after VBS.
 2. Program will be CPH Tropical Trek 2026.
 - f. Budget – no report
 - g. Pastor’s report
 - i. Funeral for Elsa Nerby was held on January 15.
 - ii. Average attendance at worship was 89 in November (11 more than 2024) and 105 in December (19 more than 2024). Christmas Eve services (105 at 5:00 PM service and 51 at 10:00 PM service) were highest attendance in Pastor’s tenure.
 - iii. Wednesday worship services have resumed after Advent. Services will be discontinued for Lent and then resume after Easter.
 - iv. Our Redeemer’s senior pastor recently accepted a call at another church. Pastor Hartwig may help supervise Our Redeemer’s vicar after senior pastor leaves, but Pastor Hartwig does not plan to take on more extensive interim duties.
7. Old business
- a. Youth and church event with area churches on September 16, 2026
 - i. Was tabled at previous meeting
 - ii. Pastor Hartwig is on planning committee considering sponsoring Tanner Olsen to come to event.
 - iii. Cost of event would be shared by area churches (goal is to not charge admission).

- iv. Motion by Cody Nelson to provide \$1,000 sponsorship for event. Seconded by Amy Wohlwend. Motion passed.
 - b. Update on the repairs to the water main break this summer.
 - i. Randy Shellack followed up with Randall's Excavating. Bill has been paid.
- 8. New business
 - a. Giving Hearts Day (February 12)
 - i. Early giving is open. Church's list of supported organizations is being finalized.
 - ii. \$2,500 match has been budgeted for this year.
 - iii. Giving link will be posted on website and other church platforms
 - iv. Pastor Hartwig discussed putting early giving link on website. Still finalizing church's final list of supported organizations.
 - b. Lent meals (Ash Wednesday is February 18; Easter is April 4)
 - i. Meals will be at 6:30 PM prior to 7:00 PM service
 - ii. Elders will provide first meal on Ash Wednesday.
 - iii. Other meal duties will be settled at next council meeting.
 - c. FMSC packing (Saturday, February 28)
 - i. Church's shift is from 12:30-2:30 at the RRV Fairgrounds
 - ii. Kayme and Nikki will lead shift because Pastor is out of town that day.
 - iii. There are 30 spots for church group to fill on shift.
 - d. Other new business
 - i. Regan Hutchins will be exiting youth director role after this spring. Kayme Torgerson has been proposed as replacement for this position. Kayme would accept hours and pay currently budgeted for position in 2026. Kayme would work with Regan to learn about position and programming prior to taking over paid position after spring.
 - ii. Lynn Johnk proposed idea of using service time (approximately 5 minutes) to teach people how to use Sub Splash. She will work to identify teacher.
- 9. Adjourn. Motion by Cody Nelson to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Nikki Grenz. Motion passed.
- 10. Closing prayer – Lord's Prayer

Church Happenings

Adult Bible Study - This past month we looked at the stories of Samuel and the movement from Judges to kings ruling Israel and Saul- the first king of Israel and how God and Samuel told the people what would happen if they got a king. This month we will be looking at the stories of David and Solomon. Come and join us this month as we continue to grow in our faith through His Word and story!

Men's Morning Bible Study - Join us on Friday morning, February 20th as we continue our Men's Bible Study. We will meet at 6:30am here at the church for doughnuts and coffee and a short Bible study 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.

Reading with Pastor Brett on our App! - We are going to start up again, Reading with Pastor Brett on our App. Starting on Monday, February 2nd, we will be reading a Psalm a day, Monday to 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.

Giving Hearts Day 2026 - Once again, we are offering matching funds for Giving Hearts Day 2026 up to \$2500. The past two years that we have offered a match, we as a congregation has reached it, so let's do it again! Below is the link to our page for Giving Hearts Day that has the 15 organizations that the Stewardship and Evangelism committees came up with to support. Giving Hearts Day is February 12th but early giving has already started so if you would like to give now you can. There is also a link on our Website and App that will take you to our Giving Hearts Day page. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Brett.

<https://tlcsabin.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5aa48b1238e6b0ad09daf68a1&id=d69f8014a5&e=c7cdda681f>

FMSC Packing - We once again have a time slot to pack mana meals for FMSC as a congregation. We have 30 spots on Saturday, February 28th from 12:30pm to 2:30pm. It is being held at Butler Arena on the Red River Valley Fairgrounds. If you would like to participate, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex. We will meet at the arena at 12:00pm. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Brett.

Youth Selling Butter Braids - Starting on Sunday, February 15th, our youth will be selling Butter Braids to begin fundraising for the National Youth Gathering in 2028. Butter Braids will be \$15.00. They will then be delivered the week of March 23rd, so you will have them in time for Easter!

Trinity Apparel – Now available to order! Sample shirts are available in the Narthex. Please visit <https://www.jotform.com/form/260256989798179> to place an order or there is an order form available in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please see Amy Wohlwend or email pourandpressdesigns@gmail.com

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.

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, February 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 here at the church! This will be open to the community. Please invite your friends, family, neighbors, community members, coworkers, etc. More details to come soon! If you are interested in joining or have questions, please reach out to Paige at PaigeSchmidt1@yahoo.com. Once we have a date set, we will email anyone who has expressed interest.

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.

Meal Prep for Moorhead Food Pantry - All are welcome to come and help with meal prep on Tuesday, February 10th at 6:00pm here at church.

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 on February 18th for service. We will have a meal starting at 6:30pm and then service at 7:00pm. Come and join us.

February 18th- Ash Wednesday- Sitting in Dust and Ashes

February 25th- The Gift that Sweetens and Preserves

March 4th- Water Gives You Life

March 11th- Light Shinning in Darkness

March 18th- Bread of Life

March 25th Palms and Victory

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

Youth Happenings

Eggstravaganza - will be Saturday, March 28th 9:30-11:30am. More details to come soon!

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

Pre-K thru 5th grade Event – Join us on February 8th, 11:15-12:00pm. We will be making Valentine cards and crafts.

National Youth Gathering 2028 Informational Meeting—We will be having an informational meeting for any 6th to 10th grade youth who might be interested in attending the National Youth Gathering in July of 2028 in San Antonio. We will provide a brief summary of what the Gathering is all about and talk about future fundraising. The meeting will be after church on February 15th.

February Celebrations

Birthdays

1st David Suedel

2nd Bret Jones

4th Dennis Johnk

6th Donald Poehls

8th Amy Mayer

9th Beverly Schroeder

13th Shane Nelson, Robbie Wagner

14th Emma McFarland, Michael Sedlacek

15th Michael Dohman

19th Garrett Milks

22nd Julie Hayes, Steven Rosenfeldt

24th Ronald Johnk

25th Samantha Hansen, Iver Johnson

26th Reid Rasmussen

27th Patricia Kruger

28th Chad Nelson, Joan Nelson



Happy Anniversary



13th Michael & Tammie Dohman – 38 years

14th Vern & Lois Arntson – 67 years

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9am – Worship with Communion 10:15am – Sunday School/Adult Bible Study	2	3	4 7pm - Worship	5	6	7
8 Youth Sunday/Noisy Offering 9am – Worship 10am – Evangelism/Stewardship Meeting 10:15am – Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 11:15 – Prek-5 th Grade Event	9	10 6pm – Moorhead Schools Food Pantry Meal Prep @ Church	11	12 Giving Hearts Day	13	14 Valentines Day
15 Youth Selling Butter Braids 9am – Worship with Communion 10am – NYG Meeting 10:15am – Sunday School/Adult Bible Study	16	17	18 Ash Wednesday 6:30pm – Meal 7pm - Worship	19	20 6:30am – Men’s Bible Study	21
22 9am – Worship 10:15am – Sunday School/ Adult Bible Study	23	24	25 6:30pm – Meal 7pm - Worship	26	27	28 12-2:30pm – FMSC @Red River Valley Fair Grounds

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

www.tlcsabin.com

tlcsabin@gmail.com

Pastor Brett Hartwig 218-790-8431

Paige Schmidt, Office Manager 218-789-7259



FEBRUARY'S MEMORY VERSE

**"CHILDREN, OBEY YOUR PARENTS
IN THE LORD, FOR THIS IS RIGHT.
"HONOR YOUR FATHER AND
MOTHER" (THIS IS THE FIRST
COMMANDMENT WITH A
PROMISE), "THAT IT MAY GO
WELL WITH YOU AND THAT YOU
MAY LIVE LONG IN THE LAND."
EPHESIANS 6:1-3**