



THE BELL TOWER August 2025



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

Our Role Model in Jesus

Last month as I was at the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, a session I went to talked about how we can model the life and love of Jesus with those we serve in our congregations, communities, and families. They talked of all the role models that the youth in our congregations see and how we need to be those role models that point them to their Savior. I thought of how I can do this not only to the youth and adults here at Trinity, but also to the girls I coach on the tennis team. Showing them how they matter, that they have a purpose here. This past week, I came across a devotion that talked about role models and how Jesus had the role model of His father I want to share it with you and I pray that in your life, you can model who your Savior is to those you come in contact with.

“A model is a replica of something, or used to advertise or increase interest in an object. A role model is similar except that it involves a breathing, living person who may or may not realize the role that they have in the lives of others. A role model is not a job one can apply for or assume arbitrarily, as that would be so presumptuous and selfish that it would negate, from the beginning, any possibility of success.

Consider Joseph, husband of Mary, the earthly mother of Jesus, as the role model he must have been for Jesus. Jesus would be born despite Joseph and through no action on his part. Jesus was the fruit of Mary's womb and she would be by his side throughout his entire ministry. Joseph gets far less attention, and we don't know anything about him after Jesus went missing one Passover and was found by his parents in the temple. But Joseph's role in Jesus' earthly life was typical of the best of any earthly role model.

Joseph accepted the miraculous arrival of Jesus, by faithfully accepting the message of an angel in a dream. He endured all the gossip of a little village when his wife to be became pregnant before their marriage was consummated. He found them a place to stay in Bethlehem, when there weren't any rooms available, and didn't bat an eye when shepherds and later wise men intruded into the privacy of their little family. He listened to another angel vision and his Mary and Jesus, after a lengthy overland trip to Egypt, to keep them safe from the evil king Herod. He worked at a complicated and tedious job as a carpenter to create practical items for his village, as a way of using his gifts and supporting his family.

He was the faithful husband of Jesus' mother, and by all appearances an observant man of faith. He was who he was – ordinary, faithful, loving, and strong. And then, Joseph disappeared from any public notice before Jesus accepted his messianic mantle. And yet, his role was significant! There is no way to pay attention to Jesus' ministry without seeing the influence of a quiet, in the background, earthly father figure named Joseph. Jesus was true God, but also fully human, and as a child and adolescent his earthly father was as important in his growing up as his mother Mary. We can see from Jesus' compassion, strength, faithfulness, and capacity for love the influence of the closest role models in his life, one of whom was named Joseph. Joseph didn't choose that role, but because he was faithful to his God and faithful to his family, not out of ambition or a search for fame, he provided a framework for an earthly son to grow up in and have a role model who apparently was blessed by God to assume that role. (Continued on next page)

August'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

We never choose to be role models or force such importance on others, but God will always use his faithful people in ways they might never have imagined possible. As I consider the role models in my life, they were all simply being who they were called to be, and that was good enough for me. And you as well, as you are faithful in being whom God has created you to be, will be amazed how even your shortcomings can become gifts, and your faithfulness touches others beyond what you ever could have dreamed. You can't choose who that will be, but your faithfulness will be blessed by God and that ought to be more than enough reason of pay attention to the steps you take, the love you share, and the faithfulness of God in your heart!"

Have a blessed month!

In Him,

Pastor Brett

Worship Schedule - Our Sunday morning worship services are at 9am. These services are in-person and live streamed on our Facebook page. They are also archived for viewing anytime. Our Communion schedule is on August 3rd, 17th, and 31st. We will have outdoor worship service on August 24th at 10:30am at Dick and Kathy Klug's home in Pelican Rapids, MN.

Check out our Facebook and YouTube Page for past videos and livestreams.

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



2025 Trinity Council Members

Randy Schellack, Chairman
Cody Nelson, Elder
Gary Schellack, Elder
Adam Schellack, Elder
Beau Wohlwend, Elder
Curt Hutchins, Elder



Adam Hanson, Trustee
Maggie Hanson, Trustee
Tami Hansen, Secretary
Amy Wohlwend, Treasurer

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jessica Heim
Cassie Waggoner
Kayme Torgerson

BOARD OF EVANGELISM

Cheryl Nerby
Amanda Nelson
Janelle Kistner

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Tera Orr
Nikki Grenz

Council Meeting Minutes

07/16/2025

1. **Call to order** -Randy Schellack

Members in attendance: Pastor Brett Hartwig, Amy Wohlwend, Beau Wohlwend, Gary Schellack, Maggie Hanson, Randy Schellack ,Kayme Torgerson

2. **Opening prayer** - Pastor Brett

3. **Approve Agenda** – Maggie Hanson made a motion to approve the agenda. Beau Wohlwend 2nd. Approved.

4. **Secretary report** - Beau Wohlwend made a motion to approve the previous Secretary report. Gary Schellack 2nd. Approved.

5. **Treasurer's report** – Beau Wohlwend made a motion to approve the Treasurer report. Maggie Hanson 2nd. Approved.

a. **Balance Sheet**

- i. Balance as of June 30th was negative, but due to timing of the bills and deposits, I have not had to transfer any funds from reserves until last week. I transferred \$5,000 from the Reserves Savings account on Monday

ii.

b. **Operating Income/Expenses**

- i. General Offering in June (outside of special missions) was \$8,000.06
- ii. Operating expenses were \$15,764.88
- iii. Operating expenses exceeded operating income by \$7,760.82 for the month. Overall year to date, operating expenses exceeded operating income by \$14,167.76
- iv. This report is run to only show operating income and expenses to accurately reflect operations without any large expenses that are covered with other funds. The other income and expenses, such as capital improvements, missions, etc. are shown in the budget to actual statement.

c. **Budget vs Actual**

- i. Capital improvements expenses year to date are mainly made up of the basement remodel project.
- ii. We paid out \$5,000 in June under Miscellaneous Designations for "Adopt a Counselor" program at LIC as discussed at our previous meeting.

d. **Other Items:**

- i. If you need assistance setting up online giving through SubSplash, please contact Amy Wohlwend at tlcsabin.treasurer@gmail.com or 701-212-2956.

6. **Committee reports**

a. **Elders** - Gary Schellack

- i. Talked about maintenance issues at church
- ii. Talked about the ongoing cemetery improvements
- iii. Talked about church attendance

b. **Trustee** - Maggie Hanson

- 1. Talked about some of the general maintenance issues

2. Talked about the sump pump discharge and will look into some solutions
3. Thank you to everyone who helped out with the water main break cleanup and repairs
- c. **Stewardship** – Pastor Brett - They are working on T shirts and a church logo. Should be ready by Harvest Days
- d. **Evangelism** - Pastor Brett
 - i. Working on the Sabin Harvest Days logo.
- e. **Board of Ed** - Kayme
 - i. **VBS**
 1. We had a total of 43 kids registered and averaged around 30 attendees each day
 2. We tried something new this year and each station had one adult volunteer and one youth helper. We also had a floating team that would help where needed. Similar to years past we had additional youth volunteers walk the groups of kids around to their stations. This worked really well, all of the volunteers did an amazing job!
 3. We are treating VBS volunteers to bowling and pizza on Sunday 7/27 at King Pinz
 4. For Thursday we hosted a family night again. We served dinner to 100+ attendees. Huge thank you to those who took the time to cook and serve food that night!
 5. Ohana Shaved Ice was unavailable this year for the last event. We had Sweet Treats Ice cream truck come out and it was a hit!

Sunday School

Rally Sunday will be September 7th

Last day of Sunday School will be May 17

Registration form will go out to parents at the end of July

We will be sending forms to all of the parent emails from VBS as well to try to get some new families to attend

Carrie will be working on planning the curriculum again this year

- f. **Budget** - Curt Hutchins
 - a. Nothing to report
- g. **Pastors Report** - Pastor Brett Hartwig
 - i. **Official Acts:**

Funeral- Gerry Tonsfeldt- June 20th

Baptism- Vayda Odden-Lemar July 6th
 - ii. **Average Attendance for month:**

June-45

Helped out with VBS again this year-had 40+ kids attend- over 100 for the end of the week celebration with families-have families to check in on that attended that don't attend Trinity.

Did final planning for NYG trip- we have 7 youth and 3 adults going this year to New Orleans- should have a great trip.

Working on sermon series that will start on Rally Day and go through the year-going through the story of the bible

Continue to lead chapel twice a month at Arbor Park assisted living and ORLC Child Care. Have started doing chapel every other month at Edgewood for the LCMS members there Lorraine Edwards lives there
Summer golf- had 8 attend the Tuesday morning golf in Barnesville and 12 at the Sunday afternoon one. All seemed to have a good time!
Working with Evangelism team in planning the 5k-getting t-shirts and route done

7. Old Business

- a. **Bid for new air conditioners**
 - i. Still waiting on bids
- b. **Shelter behind the church**
On hold due to the water main repairs
- c. **Sprinkler/ shed at the cemetery**
 - i. We are making progress

8. New Business

- a. **Sabin Harvest Days**
August 15-16
5k Saturday registration 7:30 am Race 8am.
Concessions 11-3.
Bouncy house, face painting, ice cream
Prairie Doves concert 11-12
Open house in youth room and crafting in the fellowship hall 12-2
Rock scavenger hunt. \$100 first prize

9. LIC gift for ERC remodel

Talked about using the Interest from the LCEF endowment to help fund some of these projects. Will follow up this fall

10. Adjourn - Gary Schellack made a motion to adjourn. Beau Wohlwend 2nd. Approved

11. Closing Prayer -The Lord's Prayer

Next Council meeting scheduled for **Wed. August 13 7:30 pm**

Submitted by Gary Schellack for Secretary, Tami Hansen

Church Happenings

Outdoor Worship - Come and join us on August 24th for our Outdoor Worship service. Our service will be at Dick and Kathy Klug's house in Pelican Rapids (address is 25395 479th St Pelican Rapids, MN 56572). Our service will start at 10:30am to allow time to travel. Following service, we will have lunch and then have the afternoon to spend on the lake for pontoon rides, swim in the pool, play yard games and just hang out as a body of Christ. If you are in need of a ride out, please let Pastor Brett know and we will coordinate that for you. Come and join us.

Sabin Harvest Days - is August 15th and 16th this year and we again are helping coordinate the 5K on Saturday morning and serve food that day as well. A sign-up genius was emailed out last week to sign up for helping with the 5K, and serving food. You can also scan the QR code below to sign up. We will email the sign-up genius again as we get closer to the date.



Summer Golf - Join us this summer on the 2nd Sunday and 4th Tuesday of the month for golf. We will meet this month on Sunday, August 10th at Village Green. We have tee times starting at 4:30pm. We also have tee times beginning at 8am on Tuesday, August 26th. For those who can, we will gather at Fill Thy Cup in Barnesville at 6:30am for coffee/breakfast and a short Bible study or devotion. We will meet at the golf course at 7:45am. Register to use the church app (Pastor Brett has sent an invite) for the golf group messages if you are able.

Time and Talent Survey - The Stewardship Committee has put together a Time and Talent Survey. It was sent out this spring and if you have not filled it out yet, can you click the link below and fill it out, it only takes about 5 minutes to fill out. The committee will then start putting a database together of our member's talents to best serve our church. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdaPiiVx-me0pZn3WB6llQHv3uWqUaHSxPS7h54ZOjT_hF05A/viewform



Sunday School Starting - Sunday School registration is now available for the upcoming year. Rally Sunday will be September 7th and the first day of Sunday School will be September 14th. Please use the link or QR code to register. <https://forms.gle/dvqVRnNzH4drJ3EP7>



Youth Events

Down Home Event for grades 6-12 – Volunteer with Down Home on Thursday, August 21st 1-3pm. We will meet at the church at 12:30pm.

Lock In Event for grades 9-12 – Join us on Friday, August 22nd at 6pm through Saturday, August 23rd at 8am.

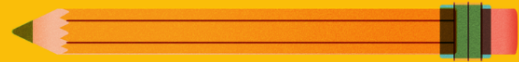
Thunder Road Event for grades 6-12 – Join area LCMS Churches at Thunder Road on Monday, August 11th from 6:30-8:30pm. Please see Pastor Brett to sign-up.



School Supply Drive!

Trinity Lutheran Church will be collecting school supplies to donate to local area schools to help families who are unable to purchase supplies.

Ways you can help:



- Purchase item(s) at the store, on our Amazon, Walmart or Target wishlist/registry.

- **Amazon list -**

https://www.amazon.com/registries/gi/guest-view/B5WDTYN1T7MK?ref_=cm_sw_r_cp_ud_ggr-subnav-share_TEBDE57GJ8FRR2RNVFEY_1 or by searching Trinity Lutheran Church Sabin

- **Walmart list -**

<https://www.walmart.com/registry/ER/d7a065fc-5dda-4f46-b354-a5db226f5082> or by searching Trinity Lutheran Church School Supply Drive

- **Target list -** <https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/trinity-church-school-supply>

Monetary donation can be made on our website or check to Trinity Lutheran Church with school drive in the memo and dropped off/mailed to PO Box 198 Sabin, MN 56580

Where to drop items off:

- Trinity Lutheran Church
- Mailed direct from the wishlists/registries

Have questions? Contact TLCsabin@gmail.com or call 218-789-7259



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship
Newsletter Article – August 2025

Jesus' transforming presence

“But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, ‘Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost’” (Luke 19:8-10 NIV).

Who knew, all those kids sitting in Sunday school were getting a lesson in stewardship! Generations of children have very often heard lessons based on the familiar account of Zacchaeus. The diminutive tax collector's curiosity surrounding the person and ministry of Jesus is what the Holy Spirit used to set him on a collision course for a total stewardship transformation. This transformation, according to the text of Luke 19, is not just about this life. This stewardship transformation is about eternity as well!

Remember the story: Zacchaeus was a tax collector. Do not think of friendly neighborhood IRS agents. This was more like a toll booth operator, but the governing authorities did not set the toll. They would contract men to staff roadside booths and tax the commerce that was passing along the road. This was an enterprise full of greed and graft. The tax collectors would take as much as they could and only pass on a portion to the government. The rest did not go into the community chest either! It went into the pocket of the tax collector.

This is why the people had such disdain for *Jewish* tax collectors. They were seen as both crooks and traitors. They were crooks in that they extorted their compatriots and others in the toll process. But worse, they were seen as traitors because their efforts supported the occupying Roman authorities. That is the real reason that the people would not make way so that short Zacchaeus could see Jesus.

For this reason, he runs ahead and climbs a tree. He had heard all the stories. He wanted to see this Jesus with his own eyes. Mercy is on display. This hated crook and traitor gets a direct audience with Jesus — at Jesus' own request! Jesus invites Himself to Zacchaeus' house. This is where the transformation is about to take place!

Notice how Jesus does it. He does not preach a three-week sermon series, nor does He ask Zacchaeus to make a pledge. There is nothing programmatic about Jesus' approach. But Zacchaeus is completely transformed! The transforming force is the very presence of Jesus! Direct time with Jesus takes a crooked, selfish, criminal and makes him the most faithful steward.

This new life of stewardship is marked by the promises made. First, he gives half of his ill-gotten gains to the poor. These are people whom he would not have defrauded at all! Yet, after spending time with Jesus, they are His first concern. Only after this does he double the requirement of the Levitical law on fraud. And what does Jesus say is the result? Salvation!

Doing the acts of stewardship does not save. Rather, the faith in Jesus that is created by the Holy Spirit is what saves! This is critical for us to confess. Failed stewardship can and will cut you off from God. The only antidote for failed stewardship is the presence of Jesus.

We do not need to run ahead and climb a tree for this presence of Jesus. He makes Himself available to us every week in the Divine Service. He speaks His Word of invitation to us in the pages of Holy Scripture. This, and this alone, transforms us from sinner to saint, from owner to steward of all that belongs to the Lord.

Do you want to become a more faithful steward? Spend more time with Jesus. Make the Divine Service a weekly priority. Feast on Christ's body and blood weekly! This is the great gift that brings salvation from God's House to yours!

August Celebrations

Birthdays

1st Maleah Schellack

2nd Amya Zapata

4th Amy Rasmussen, Rexton Rosenfeldt, Jesse Lass, Bob Lohse

5th Teresa Dickelman

6th Erika Escobar, Randy Johnk

7th Ashley Davis

9th Arlene Dickelman

11th Paula Dobmeier, Haylee Wohlwend

13th Brooke Windus

14th Micah Hall, Brooklyn Nelson

16th Lorraine Edwards, Russell Hoeck

17th Wayne Curry

18th Navey Kluver

21st Sandy Herbrandson

22nd Angie Dufault, Marvin Kuehl, Rob Rich

23rd Emma Brandt, Noah Brush

24th Edele Rosenfeldt

26th Darrell Byram, Paradise Rich-Johnson

27th Tina Windus

28th Josh Johnk

31st Lone Cook, Cheryl Nerby



Happy Anniversary

3rd Pastor Brett and Carrie Hartwig - 23 years

4th Josh and Shayla Johnk – 13 years

8th Del and Jessica Lass - 17 years

8th Herman and Rennae Weiss - 55 years

13th Wayne and Jeanne Curry - 48 years

21st Ronald and Cheryl Hoeck - 54 years

24th Scott and Wendy Paulsen - 23 years

24th Hermie and Nicole Weiss - 23 years

25th Roger and Anne Morris - 46 years

28th Chuck and Sara Skatvold - 21 years

28th Philip and Karen Wagner - 32 years



August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9am – Worship with Communion 4:30pm – Golf at Village Green	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 9am – Worship 4:30pm – Golf @ Village Green	11 6:30pm – Youth Event Thunder Road	12	13 7:30pm – Council Meeting	14	15 Sabin Harvest Days	16 Sabin Harvest Days
17 9am – Worship with Communion	18	19 6:30am – Breakfast/ Devotion @ Fill Thy Cup 7:45am – Golf @ Willow Creek	20	21 1-3pm – Youth Event Down Home Volunteering	22 6pm – Youth Event Lock In until 8am	23
24 10:30am – Outdoor Worship at Dick & Kathy Klug's in Pelican Rapids, MN	25	26 6:30am – Fill Thy Cup Breakfast/Devotion 7:45am – Golf @ Willow Creek Barnesville	27	28	29	30
31 9am – Worship with Communion						

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Sabin, MN 56580

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Paige Schmidt, Office Manager 218-789-7259

