



THE BELL TOWER December 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

The Wonders of Christmas

I can't believe that it is already December and almost the end of another year. The theme that we are using for this Advent season is the Wonders of Christmas. We are looking at the themes of Love, Peace, Joy, Hope, and His birth. As we have been going through God's story the past few months, I have been reminded so often of His love for His people and creation. His people constantly fall away from Him, turn to other gods, and yet He is still right there, welcoming them back and walking with them. He so loves His people.

In reading through the Nativity story and all that lead up to the birth of our Savior, I am always amazed that God made the first move. He sent His Son to this broken, fallen world. The disciple named John wrote some bold and shaping realities about the love we can experience because of the love God expresses towards people. Note these two verses that John wrote on the wonder of God's love.

"We love because God first loved us." 1 John 4:19

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

The love of God for people so compelled Him to make the first move in manifesting His love towards people that He came in the form of a baby. The prophecies called Him Immanuel, which means, "God with us." The God who loves us is the God who is with us in the person of Jesus. He came near to us because He wanted a relationship with us that would enable us to love Him back like He desires to be loved by His most precious creation: humans. God made the move to choose Mary as the mother of His only begotten Son in part because she could be trusted with such a task but also because of the way Mary must have loved God with all her heart, soul, mind, and strength. She loved God back with her life. God chose her to be the loving mother of Jesus even though it was a startling moment when the message was conveyed to her by the angel Gabriel. Mary, who was called "highly favored" by Gabriel, must have been one who engaged in the prayers of her people toward the God who loved her and loved her people.

Whether you are a first-century Jewish teenage girl trying to understand how you just were chosen by God to be the mother of the Messiah or you are a twenty-first-century person trying to figure out life with God in your circumstances, know that God loves you this Christmas. He is not afraid of your curiosities or your anxieties that crop up in life through the various seasons and circumstances of change. He knows where you have been, where you are, and where you are headed. He has a plan for your life and wants that plan to include heart-to-heart communication with Him as your Creator. He wants you to call on Him with all your questions and your doubts. He will answer you and show you the next steps as you walk faithfully with Him through this season of life. (Continued on next page)

December's Memory Verse

"May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer."

Psalms 19:14

The God who came near in the form of an innocent baby that first wondrous Christmas is the same God who desires to be near you this Christmas by His Holy Spirit. He is not only Immanuel, the God who is with you, but also, He is the God who is for you. And as the Apostle Paul once wrote in Romans, “If God is for us, who can be against us?” So, sing all the Christmas songs; enjoy all the festivities that are part of this special time of year, and know that in the middle of your anxieties, fears, doubts, frustrations, uncertainties, and even curiosities about life and God, He still deeply loves you! And He wants to connect with you in a special way during this wondrous Christmas season. I invite you to come and join us this Christmas season and be reminded of that love that He has for us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior!

Have a blessed month,
Pastor Brett

Worship Schedule for December -

Wednesday, December 3rd - 7pm
Sunday, December 7th – 9am
Wednesday, December 10th – 7pm
Sunday, December 14th – 9am – Noisy Offering
Wednesday, December 17th - 7pm
Sunday, December 21st – 9am – Children’s Christmas Program
Wednesday, December 24th – 5pm & 10pm- Christmas Eve Service
Thursday, December 25th – 10am – Christmas Day Service
Sunday, December 28th – 9am

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 – 11/12/25

*Teach and share Gods 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 -Randy Schellack**
2. **Opening Prayer - Pastor Brett Hartwig**
3. **Approve Agenda** - Curt Hutchins made a motion to approve the agenda. Cody Nelson 2nd. Approved.
4. **Secretary report** - Maggie Hanson made a motion to approve the previous Secretary's report. Nikki Grenz 2nd. Approved
5. **Treasurer's report** - Cody Nelson made a motion to approve the previous Treasurer's report. Curt Hutchins 2nd. Approved.
 - a. **Balance Sheet**
 - I did not have to transfer funds from savings to cover expenses in October!
 - CD with Bell Investments (\$130,000) is due in November. I will roll it over and cash out the interest and put in the Endowment Tithe account. I will know the interest amount later this month.
 - b. **Operating Income/Expenses**
 - General Offering and interest for October was \$11,012.33.
 - Operating expenses for October were \$13,404.95.
 - Operating expenses exceeded operating income by \$2,392.62 for the month of October. This YTD shortage is \$14,675.07.
 - 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**
 - Offering is short of the budget YTD of \$74,903.91.
 - The main Capital Improvements expenses year to date are made up of the following:
 - Basement remodel project: approximately \$37,000
 - Fire inspection and replacing alarm panel: approximately \$2,500
 - New water softener & install: \$1,700
 - Audio equipment: \$3,100
 - Plumbing: \$700
 - Endowment tithes (\$52,000) that have been paid year to date:
 - Heart of Clay: \$10,000
 - Lutheran Island Camp: \$12,500 (\$2,500 of this is from Lutheran Extension Fund)
 - FMSC: \$10,000
 - LAMP: \$10,000
 - Moorhead School Homeless: \$10,000
 - Down Home: \$2,000
 - Miscellaneous Designations year to date:
 - Giving Hearts Day Match: \$2,500
 - LIC Adopt A Counselor: \$5,000
 - d. **Other Items:**

- 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. Elder - Gary Schellack

- Discussed new members and there were 4 in attendance at last Wednesday service.

b. Trustee - Maggie Hanson

- Joe has done a lot of work at the cemetery digging trenches.
- Casey would like to do the work on the gutters and already has the materials.
- Art will get us an estimate on new urinals and toilets.
- Adam and Jessie didn't see anything obvious on the roof that caused the drip. It has dripped before. It could possibly be from the temperature cycle and humidity was locked in. They will keep an eye on it.

c. Stewardship - Nikki Greutz

- Nothing to report.

d. Evangelism - Pastor Hartwig

- Nothing to report.

e. Board of Ed - Kayme Torgerson

- Sunday School Offering
 - Shayla Johnk
 - Goal \$500 should have hit it with noisy offering.
 - Movie day for hitting goal?
 - Nov 30th?
- Youth event for December
 - All ages gingerbread houses?
 - After Christmas Program rehearsal?
- Advent family devotion? Last year they did something during Advent services.
 - Is Maggie doing a craft during Advent service
 - Tentative Magnetic Advent wreath on Amazon
- Teacher gifts
 - Pastor already got a small nativity scene for each teacher
 - Just need to get a gift card for each teacher to finish it up (How much?)
 - Target gift card
 - 7 Brew
- Christmas Program
 - When will we start/pass out parts
 - 12/14-Program rehearsal during Sunday School
 - 12/21-Program during service
 - Email parts and dates to parents

f. Budget - Curt Hutchins

- Accounts have been combined and reductions made to the budget.
- As expected utilities and propane have increased.
- The DCE salary is in the budget to see if we can support it.
- We have removed our names from the DCE call.

g. Pastor's January Report

i. Official Acts:

- Baptisms- Melody Liedberg- October 26th
- Beverly Nelson- November 2nd

3. Confirmation- Camilla Escobar, Ethan Grenz, and Zoey Rezac- October 26th

None

- ii. **Average Attendance for month- November- 91**
- iii. Continue to lead chapel twice a month at Arbor Park Assisted Living and chapel at ORLC Child Care.
- iv. Led chapel at Grace Lutheran School this past month.
- v. Went to the 8th Annual Hunger and Health Summit on October 30th with Karla. Karla won the Lifetime Achievement Award for her and the church's work with the Moorhead Public School Food pantry.
- vi. Have done two Wednesday evening services- one in October and one in November. We had 10 and 4 people attend. They are the first Wednesday of the month and will evaluate it after December if this is something to continue or expand or reevaluate it.
- vii. Finished up 9th grade confirmation and continue with the 7th-8th grade class on Sunday. We continue our study of the Bible and have finished our unit on the Old Testament and will then begin looking at the New Testament.
- viii. Began teaching the Sunday morning Bible Study as we continue our study on God's Word- are now working through the book of Exodus.
- ix. Started up the Men's Morning Bible Study. We will meet the 3rd Friday of each month at church at 6:30 for coffee and treats and a short Bible Study. The goal is to be done in a half hour. We are looking at starting up our evening study. More information to come.
- x. Meet with 2 families about membership this past month and will look at meeting with 1 or 2 more families in the coming months.
- xi. Began planning our Advent Services for December. We will be using the Skit Guys series titled The Wonders of Christmas. It contains 5 videos that reveal thoughtful perspectives on the joy of the wise men's journey, the peace found in the Good Shepherd, the hope promised in the prophecies of Jesus' birth, the love of God revealed in Gabriel's message to Mary, and the messy place where Jesus first entered our world; this series points to the miracle of Christmas and God's desire to be in relationship with us. Join us each Wednesday in December.

7. Old Business

a. Gift money as endowment advisory committee

- i. They will get together soon to discuss ideas on how to allocate the money to the groups.
- ii. We have not received an invoice for the excavating work this summer. The company should be contacted to see if we will be getting an invoice or if the work was a donation. If its a donation a thank you and/or gift basket should be sent to them.

8. New Business

a. Nominations/Budget for Voter's meeting

- i. Maggie Hanson made a motion to present the budget to voters for approval. Cody Nelson 2nd. Approved
- ii. Sill looking for nominations fo the following committees:
 - 1. Three Elders
 - 2. One Chairman, Secretary, Evangelism, and Stewardship

b. Voter's Meeting date

- i. Sunday December 7th at 11:15 after Sunday School

c. Help with sponsoring Youth Event with area church's Tanner Olsen was a speaker at the NYG - would be in the fall of 2026

- i. Emily from Our Redeemer has asked if we would help with monetary support to bring Tanner Olsen to be a speaker. The cost is \$6,000.

- ii. This would be for one evening with a meal. We would like to host it here if there will be less than 300 attending.
- iii. Tanner Olsen's newest children's book is "All the Things I Say to God,". We can look into purchasing copies of his book for him to sign and give them to the children at the event.
- d. **Sponsor Naa - LIC counselor this summer for her education this year at CUN.**
 - i. Naa volunteers at Lutheran Island camp and with her Visa she isn't allowed to work and has lost sponsorship for her education.
 - ii. We will bring this to the voters.
- 9. **Other New Business**
 - a. No new business
- 10. **Adjourn** -Gary Schellack made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Curt Hutchins 2nd. Approved
- 11. **Closing Prayer** - Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Secretary, Tami Hansen

Church Happenings

Midweek Advent Services - Join us as we celebrate the wonder of Christmas this Advent. Join us on Wednesday, December 3rd, 10th, and 17th at 7pm. We will also have soup and sandwiches starting at 6:30pm. We'll be focusing on the joy of the wise men's journey, the peace found in the Good Shepherd, the hope promised in the prophecies of Jesus' birth, the love of God revealed in Gabriel's message to Mary, and the messy place where Jesus first entered our world.

Christmas Eve and Day Services - Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. We will have services at 5pm and 10pm on Christmas Eve (December 24th) and at 10am on Christmas Day. Join us as we celebrate the reason for the season.

Men's Bible Study - Join us on Friday morning, December 19th as we continue our Men's Bible Study. We will meet at 6:30am 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.

RaiseRight Giftcards - We have gift cards for purchase in the fellowship hall and a list of others that can be purchased. Proceeds are given to the Youth. If you need help purchasing, please see Pastor Brett.

Fern Tree – is set up in the fellowship hall during the Advent Season. The needs this year are; hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, warm socks, boots, coats & snow pants. The gifts will go to Moorhead Public Schools. Gifts can be brought into the church and put on or under the tree.

Angel Tree—If you took a tag(s) to help with the angel tree, please wrap the gift with the tag attached and return by December 14th. These gifts will go to local families who otherwise would not get Christmas presents. If you have any questions, please talk with Pastor Brett or Paige. You can also email us at TLCSabin@gmail.com

Poinsettias—If you would like to purchase a poinsettia for \$15 this Christmas season, please sign up on the bulletin board. You can put your money in the offering plates with the label “Poinsettia”.

Children’s Christmas Program— Our Children’s Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 21st at 9am.

Quarterly Voter’s Meeting - Our Quarterly Voters Meeting will be December 7th following Sunday School and Bible Study at 11:30am. We will approve our budget for 2026 and vote on new council members. Please join us.

Youth Happenings

Grades 6-12 Event— on December 7th from 4-6:30pm youth in grades 6-12 are invited to shop for angel tree gifts! We will meet at church at 4pm, leave to shop, and return to church to wrap the gifts!

Christmas Program Practice—

Sunday, December 7th—4th-8th Grade Christmas Program practice during Sunday School 10:15-11:15am.

Sunday, December 14th—All Grades will have Christmas Program practice 10:15am-12:00pm.

Saturday, December 20th—All Grades Christmas Program practice from 4:00-5:30pm. We will be serving pizza and making Gingerbread houses afterwards from 5:30-6:30pm.

Grades 6-12 Christmas party— join us on December 28th from 6-8pm! We will be doing a gift exchange (maximum \$10 value), gingerbread houses, and games, with seasonal drinks and goodies to snack on!

Community Happenings

Santa is coming to town - December 7th from 2-4pm. Santa will arrive in the fire truck at 3pm. Stop by for games, food and have your list ready for Santa Claus.

Lions Mixed Holiday Dinner - will be December 13th. Doors open at 5:30pm. Tickets will be \$40 with open bar and available in November.

Sabin Lions Plastic Bag Update - We have almost reached our 1,000 pound goal for collecting plastic. Please continue dropping off your plastic bags at the C store or Trinity Lutheran Church. With all the plastic we collected, NexTrex will be making a bench for us to place at the park.

December Celebrations

Birthdays

2nd Lou Ingebretsen, Connor Torgerson
3rd Sandy Rehder
5th Rich Hayes
7th Nicole Weiss
11th Brad Sogn
12th Jodi Christianson
13th Dennis Butenhoff, Keith Krabbenhoft
14th Carter Skatvold
16th Scott Schmidt
19th Scott Paulsen
20th Brandyn Lass, Luke Torgerson, Wrenley Nelson
21st Steven Adams
24th Peggy Rezac
25th Alexander Lass
26th Burl Ingebretsen
27th Del Lass, Emeila Mayer, Elsa Nerby
28th Bruce Hanson, Crew Nelson, Briggs Nelson
31st Blake Christiansen, Gail Klug, Steven Sellent



Happy Anniversary



5th Doug and JoAnn Rosenfeldt - 27 years
9th Donald and Rebecca Hoppe - 64 years
31st Beau and Amy Wohlwend - 20 years

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 6:30pm – meal 7pm - Worship	4	5	6
7 9am – Worship with Communion 10:15am – Sunday School 11:30am – Quarterly Voters Meeting 4pm – 6-12 th Grade Event	8	9	10 6:30pm – meal 7pm – Worship	11	12	13
14 Angel Tree Gifts need to be returned! 9am – Worship with noisy offering 10:15am-12pm – Christmas Program Practice for all grades	15	16	17 6:30pm – meal 7pm – Worship	18	19 6:30am – Men's Bible Study	20 4-6:30pm – Christmas Program Practice for all grades with pizza and gingerbread houses after.
21 9am – Children's Christmas Program	22	23	24 5pm & 10pm – Christmas Eve Service	25 10am – Christmas Day Service	26	27
28 9am – Worship	29	30	31			

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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