



THE BELL TOWER July 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

Sitting at the feet of Jesus

Have you ever felt like you are in a rut and can't seem to shake it. These past few weeks have been like that for me. It seems that one day runs into another and it seems as if we can't find anything new to do or say. There are times that we just get frustrated and feel trapped in a routine or a mood that just won't change. So what do we do?

In one of my devotions this week, it talked about being in a rut and feeling frustrated and trapped and this is what the devotion talked about the answer to that questions of what do we do. The devotion stated, "The answer is easy, some days we just need to complain. Now on other days we choose a different path, but let's think about the times when we check into the complaint department.

Complaining seems rampant in the journeys of life, but the bottom line is always the same. If we can't control what we can't control we are tempted to become angry or afraid. Then we complain. Somehow that gives us a false sense of control. I don't know why that is human nature, but it is. I wonder if in finding someone to complain to we aren't in fact just making sure that others know how difficult my life is right now. Did you ever stop to think that in every complaint, we are really just saying, "look at me!"

Remember Jesus' visit with Mary and Martha? The greatest teacher and miracle worker ever was not only a friend but was in their house! Mary jumped at the chance to visit. Martha wouldn't leave the kitchen and complained that her sister wasn't helping her at all. Think about it! Jesus was in her house and all she could do was complain! Mary trusted if she put Jesus first, she would be lifted up. Martha lifted herself up, hoping to make herself feel special.

Such stories make me uncomfortable as they cause me to think of all the times when I make sure others know how unfair my life is. Or I want others to know how I have been mistreated or ignored. Or I want to complain that God has disappointed me and not given me what I want and need. Complaining never accomplishes what it seeks, but can easily become a lifestyle that distracts us from living. But what a change comes into our lives when we remember to sit at Jesus' feet and allow him to be the change which makes the moment special.

When Jesus invited Martha to join Mary, his goal was not to hurt her feelings but invite her to learn what would really make the day special for all. He invited her to give up her control, sit at his feet, and be changed by his loving presence.

Complaining changes nothing, while sitting at Jesus' feet pulls us away from saying life is all about me. No matter where I am or what I face, if I am sitting at Jesus' feet what reason do I have to complain? We might not always get to choose where we live or what life is like, but how our perspective changes when we know God has chosen to join us in the journey?

Is there any better gift than simply being invited to sit at Jesus' feet? Guess what? God loves you so much that he has cleared such a place for you to be."

I pray that if you find yourself ever in a rut, that you look to this story of Jesus and Mary and Martha and just sit yourself down at the feet of Jesus and let Him help you, spend time with your Savior, I can't imagine a better place to be. Have a great month.

In Him,
Pastor Brett

July's Memory Verse

"And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind... And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Matthew 22:37 & 39

Worship Schedule - Our Sunday morning worship services are at 9am on July 6th, 13th, and 20th. These services are in-person and live streamed on our Facebook page. They are also archived for viewing anytime. Our Communion schedule is July 6th and July 13th. We will have outdoor worship service on July 27th at 10am.

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

06/11/2025

1. **Call to order** -Randy Schellack
Members in attendance: Pastor Brett Hartwig, Amy Wohlwend, Beau Wohlwend, Curt Hutchins, Cody Nelson, Gary Schellack, Maggie Hanson, Nickki Grentz, and Tami Hansen
2. **Opening prayer** - Pastor Brett
3. **Approve Agenda** - Tami Hansen made a motion to approve the agenda. Cody Nelson 2nd. Approved.
4. **Secretary report** - Beau Wohlwend made a motion to approve the previous Secretary report. Gary Schellack 2nd. Approved.
5. **Treasurer's report** - Tami Hansen made a motion to approve the previous Treasurer report. Maggie Hanson 2nd. Approved.
 - a. **Balance Sheet**
 - i. Although our expenses exceeded our income as of the year to date, cash flow has not been an issue in the general bank account due to the timing of transactions. The balance seems to stay pretty consistently around \$2,000-\$4,000 daily and we haven't had to transfer from reserves to cover any expenses.
 - ii. An additional \$75,000 was taken from the Reserves Savings account and put into the CD that matured at Vision Bank.
 - b. **Operating Income/Expenses**
 - i. General Offering in May (outside of special missions) was \$7,932.99.
 - ii. Operating expenses were \$13,930.64.
 - iii. Operating expenses exceeded operating income by \$5,119.94 for the month. Overall year to date, operating expenses exceeded operating income by \$8,680.74.
 - 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.
 - 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, waiting for quotes on air conditioner units.
 - ii. Outdoor service is the 22nd and Nina will help with the service.
 - iii. Outing at Dick and Kathy Klugs on the 24th
 - iv. Talked about maybe having a meatball dinner in September
 - b. **Trustee** - Maggie Hanson
 - i. Working on yard work - trimming, weeding, removing bushes that covered the brick sign and will add more plants later.

- ii. The light for the sitting area is in.
 - iii. Christmas in September to fix and put up the lights
 - 1. Suggestion to install permanent color changing LED lights under the gutters that can change colors for holidays/seasons.
- c. **Stewardship** - Nikki Grentz
 - i. Last month the Time and Talent Survey was sent out and 10 have been sent back in. The survey will be sent out again.
- d. **Evangelism** - Pastor Brett
 - i. Working on the Sabin Harvest Days logo.
- e. **Board of Ed** - Kayme
 - i. VBS
 - 1. All Stations will have an adult and an older youth helper. These have all been filled.
 - 2. Still possibly needing some of the older youth or adults to help with supervising the individual groups of kids.
 - 3. 22 children registered will continue to post on Facebook to get some more registered beforehand. We have planned for 40 attendees.
 - 4. Planning on serving a meal the last day Thursday, June 26th-will need volunteers to help prepare food ■ Burgers & Hotdogs ■ Watermelon ■ Chips ■ Drinks
 - 5. Sweet Treats Icecream truck is booked for the last day to be there at 6:30p
- f. **Budget** - Curt Hutchins
 - a. Nothing to report
- g. **Pastors Report** - Pastor Brett Hartwig
 - i. **Official Acts:**
none
 - ii. **Average Attendance for month:**
April - 77
May- 70
Maundy Thursday- 30 Good Friday- 53 Easter- 107
 - iii. Confirmation finished up in May and went well- looked at the topics of Lord's Prayer, 10 Commandments, and Apostle's Creed this year along with some faith topics. Will start up again in the fall with the 9th graders and get them ready for confirmation and then will have the 7th graders join Sarah in the fall. Most likely will continue meeting on Sunday's after Sunday School- seemed to work out well this year.
 - iv. We had our First Communion for our 8th and 7th graders on May 18th. Went well again having the families meet with the youth to cover the topic of Lord's Supper.
 - v. Began a 3 week study on the book of Philemon last week. Will end on the 29th. We then will take the month of July off and then start up another study in August.
 - vi. We will be doing Outdoor Worship again this summer. They will be June 22nd, July 27th, and August 24th.
 - vii. Continue to lead chapel twice a month at Arbor Park Assisted Living and chapel at ORLC Child Care.
 - viii. Men's Bible Study continues to meet on Friday's once a month at Fryn Pan in Moorhead and continue to look at passages from scripture and discuss. This summer we will be meeting at Fill Thy Cup in Barnesville before we going golfing.

- ix. Got the Time and Talents Survey out to members and have been collecting those. Will be sending it out again to hopefully get more members to respond, have collected about 10 so far.
- x. Are working on the final fundraising for the National Youth Gathering and have got most of the trip details planned out. We will be meeting this week to do some team building and go over our plans and what a day at the Gathering is like and answer questions the youth may have.

7. Old Business

- a. **Gift money as endowment - advisory committee**
 - i. Already talked about.
- b. **Shelter behind the church**
 - i. We don't have bids but have someone who would like to build the shelter.
 - ii. There are two downspouts that will need to be relocated.
- c. **Summer Activities**
 - i. Red Hawks game this Friday, June 13th
 - ii. Klug's have invited everyone to their house on August 24th
 - iii. Hide and find painted rocks for money or gift cards for Harvest days
- d. **Shelter behind the church**
 - i. Joe and Dick will help build it and the planning will start soon

8. New Business

- a. **Bids for new air conditioners**
 - i. Replace the two units we currently have and add one for the Sunday School wing

9. Other New Business

- a. **Carbon monoxide**
 - i. Are in
- b. **Subspash**
 - i. Send a message that church is starting 1 hour before services instead of 10 minutes.
- c. **Church Security**
 - i. Look into having security Fobs instead of keys so it's more accessible.
 - 1. Having a Fob vs a Key will lead to the same issues - suggestion to install key pads instead, they don't need to be wired
 - ii. Counting money cameras - install one in the counting room and over the offering buckets.
- d. **Electronic Sign North of Sabin**
 - i. It will need power (color is not strong enough), wifi, something thin and see through to cover the panels so they don't get damaged.
- e. **Gift money as endowment-advisory committee**
 - i. They will go through the air conditioner bids when they come in

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 **Tuesday, July 9th at 7:30 pm**

Submitted by Secretary, Tami Hansen

Church Happenings

Outdoor Worship - Come and join us in July for our Outdoor Worship service. We will have it in the shelter on July 27th at 10am and then will have some indoor games for the whole family. Come and join us.

Sabin Harvest Days - 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. We are in need of people to help out with both events. If you are interested, please see Pastor Brett or Randy.

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, July 13th at Village Green. We have tee times starting at 4:30pm. We also have tee times beginning at 8am on Tuesday, July 22nd at Willow Creek. 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.

National Youth Gathering Envelope Fundraiser - There are just a couple more envelopes left on the window in the narthex for the youth's last fundraiser to go to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this month. On the window in the Narthex are envelopes to help cover the cost of meals or activities for the youth. Pick one and then put a check or cash in the envelope and place it in the large envelope on the window. Some examples of expenses are \$15 for lunch, \$20 for dinner, \$75 for breakfast/snacks for the entire group, \$135 for lunch for the entire group etc. If you have any questions, see Pastor Brett.

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

Faithfulness: The Stewardship Standard

“Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful” (1 Cor. 4:2).

What is the standard to which a steward is held? Ask the average person, and they might talk about percentages, tithes, and commitments. Too often, the default mode of measuring stewards is by how much and how frequently they give. This is not helpful. Measuring activity without any connection to baptismal identity is a recipe for disaster. It can either breed a sense of superiority and self-righteousness or create a culture of scarcity and despair. Neither outcome is godly or helpful.

This is not to say that stewardship should be regarded as "no big deal." St. Paul, within his discussion of the ministry to which he has been called, sets the standard of accountability for the steward: faithfulness. This removes any sense of superiority or self-righteousness and dispels scarcity and despair. When a steward manages what the Lord has entrusted to them — resources and all aspects of life — for God's purposes, the focus is not on how much or how frequently they give.

This standard reflects the stewardship portrayed in the Gospels where Jesus entrusts varying amounts, each according to ability. The commended stewards were recognized for their faithfulness in their vocation, not the amounts they managed. Conversely, the condemned stewards were not castigated for their lack of performance but for their lack of faithfulness.

What does this mean for the steward in the pew? The Lord has entrusted you with various things. Luther captures them in his explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed and the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer. The familiar couplets of food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals and all possessions are the Lord's, and He has entrusted them to you for His purpose. This trust brings an active realization of thanksgiving.

This active thanksgiving is our stewardship. It can be distilled into two questions that the steward regularly needs to answer:

1. How has God blessed me?
2. How is He calling me to respond?

The first question is quite simple to answer: if the Lord has entrusted something to you, it is a blessing. This blessing is for God's glory and the benefit of your neighbor. The second question is more challenging to measure; it is not about percentages and charts. Instead, it is about a life of thanksgiving that flows from the mercies of God revealed in Jesus Christ. This thanksgiving starts at and flows from the cross and the empty tomb. Our stewardship of the Gospel drives our stewardship of everything else.

The standard, then, is faithfulness. Faithfulness flows from eyes focused on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. It does not come from our efforts but through the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives, through Word and Sacrament. It begins at the altar in the Divine Service but extends into the world — from hearth and home to workplace and classroom, from commerce to leisure. The mercy of God, freely given in Jesus, leads us to demonstrate a faithfulness that reveals to others the same mercy we have received in Jesus.

This faithfulness cannot be measured empirically. It is simply allowing the Holy Spirit to work in and through us for the glory of God and the benefit of our neighbor. Weekly. Daily. Faithfully.

July Celebrations

Birthdays

1st June Hanson

5th Charlie Nelson

6th Aaron Christiansen

7th Nicole Bednar, Abby Odden-Lemar

9th Haleigh Krieger

10th Jessica Heim, Nevaeh Kellerman, Anthony Morgan, Jennifer Nyland

11th Laurie Moore

12th Paige Schmidt

13th Emily Mayry, Alex Nelson

14th Regan Hutchins, Keith Zbasnik

15th Levi Wasvick

20th Julia Kellerman

22nd Lucas Lass

23rd William Oliver

24th Cody Nelson, Shaun Rezac

25th Terry Krabbenhoft

26th Carla Dickelman, Haiden Lass

27th Rebecca Hoppe

28th Avery Heim, Muriel Oliver

29th Lavonne Leach, Amy Wohlwend

31st Larry Leach



Happy Anniversary



6th Jerry and Ione Cook-62 years

12th Shane and Tara Nelson-28 years

14th Nick and Amanda Dablow-24 years

16th Mark and Cindy Noennig – 42 years

27th Andrew and Angie Hayes-3 years

28th Norm and Rebecca Nyland-46 years

28th Scott and Paige Schmidt-7 years

July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9am – Worship with Communion 4:30pm – Golf at Village Green	7	8	9 7:30pm – Council Meeting	10	11	12
13 9am – Worship with Communion	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 9am – Worship	21	22 6:30am – Breakfast/ Devotion @ Fill Thy Cup 8:45am – Golf @ Willow Creek	23	24	25	26
27 10am – Outdoor Worship	28	29	30	31		

Trinity Lutheran Church
100 2nd Ave. W.
PO Box 198
Sabin, MN 56580

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

www.tlcsabin.com
tlcsabin@gmail.com
Pastor Brett Hartwig 218-790-8431
Paige Schmidt, Office Manager 218-789-7259

