



THE BELL TOWER October 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

God our Creator

This past month as we have begun our sermon series on God's story, I have done a lot of thinking about who God is, how awesome it is that He involves us in His story and how amazing His story truly is. It amazes me as we look at how humans have wandered from Him time and time again, yet He remains faithful to us and continues to walk with us and bless us. This past month I came across a devotion talking about God and who He is and wanted to share it with you for you all to reflect on who He is.

"As a youngster, when I caught a butterfly, I would place it in a jar, being anxious for someone else to have the same awe and excitement I did. I never realized now how selfish my need to control such beauty truly was. Would capturing a butterfly allow a full expression of its life patterns, its diet, the incandescent glow of its wings when shadowed by the sun, or its freedom to float on a cushion of invisible air? I remember now how each capture resulted in a slowing down of the pulsing of microscopic blood vessels, the subtle motions of feet, antennae, and its tiny mouth. And such a capture always resulted in faded colors and a dead butterfly. So often our efforts to control what is incredibly beyond our capacity to understand causes unintended consequences. That inability to capture what is beyond complete description got me into trouble in a confirmation class as we were discussing the attributes and reality of what we mean by the word God.

No matter what words we use to define God, something is lost in translation, and our limitations cause the infinite glory of an infinite Creator to fade. Using all the right descriptive words such as Lord, Messiah, Savior, Father, Redeemer, Son of God, Holy Spirit, or anything else is limited by our experience or language abilities. The harder we try it seems sometimes as if we are trying to capture God in a jar. One year I suggested to our confirmation students that it is beyond my abilities to fully explain or understand God. My intent was that they not be limited by the words or experience of others but open their hearts and minds to the majesty and awesomeness and find more time and ways to allow God the freedom to float and flutter and fly inside their hearts and minds. I wanted them to know it is more important for God to set us free rather than for us to limit God by our imperfections. I wanted them move beyond a text book answer and consider the idea of an infinite (meaning limitless) Being that created galaxies and microbes, star clusters and puppy dogs, butterflies and babies, and also walked on earth in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus as well as living in our hearts and minds through his gift of faith.

How can we adequately explain what is beyond our ability to comprehend. I wanted them to watch sunsets and thunderstorms in a new way. I wanted them to watch the changing colors of leaves, feel the love of Mom and Dad, and consider the ability of the moon to move oceans or our earth to be able to support life. I wanted them to think about the amazing love God has for us, no matter how often we disappoint those we love, or forget to be still enough in prayer to listen for God's guidance. I wanted them to think outside of the box and allow God to be more beautiful, colorful, and powerful than they could ever fully express.

October's Memory Verse

"Do not fear for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Isaiah 41:10

Something got lost in translation and a parent berated me for saying God is bigger than I can explain. I understood the words of reprimand as the older we get the fewer questions we like to leave unanswered, and like capturing a butterfly in a jar we often want to do the same with God. What we know about God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is all true, but only a beginning, for as soon as we think we have figured God out it is no different than putting God in a jar and moving on to our next adventure.

I am at a phase of life with fewer restrictions and more time for reflections so that I can marvel and wonder like I used to as a little kid. We have all the right answers to explain what we can explain, but that is only a tiny beginning who God is, and what our loving Creator has in store for us every day. God is not like a jack in the box, that we keep hidden for a rainy day or call upon when we don't know what else to do. God is bigger than the universe, brighter than every star in the heavens, small enough to enter our hearts and full of more love than we ever could imagine. And more amazingly, he has entered the jar of earthly life in which we are trapped to rescue us and free us into the eternal glory of his nature which is more dazzling and peaceful than we have words for.

Rather than keep us trapped in this brief jar of life, because we are so different from God, the incredible gift is that he opens the lid, setting us free to soar into the glory of his love and the eternal presence of his very being. What a joy that we don't have to understand what we cannot understand but are blessed by a God who stoops to our level, to forgive us, wash our feet, and lift us to his very essence forever! While we trying to control what is beyond our control, God spends his timeless existence in setting us free by the glories and majesty of his infinite and undeserved love.

Have a blessed month,
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 October 5th and 19th.

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

9/10/25

1. **Call to Order -Randy Schellack**
2. **Opening Prayer - Pastor Brett Hartwig**
3. **Approve Agenda** - Beau Wohlwend made a motion to approve the agenda. Curt Hutchings 2nd. Approved.
4. **Secretary report** - Gary Schellack made a motion to approve the previous Secretary's report. Adam Schellack 2nd. Approved
5. **Treasurer's report** - Gary Schellack made a motion to approve the previous Treasurer's report. Curt Hutchins 2nd. Approved.
 - a. **Balance Sheet**
 - i. Transfers from Reserves Savings
 1. I transferred \$5,000 from savings to missions account for the National Youth Gathering. Part of the reserves balance was from the gifted money and per the Advisory Committee, it was decided to put \$5,000 toward the youth gathering.
 2. I have transferred \$10,000 from savings to the main checking account over the summer months to cover low balance and shortage.
 - b. **Operating Income/Expenses**
 - i. General Offering and interest YTD (outside of special missions) is \$99,828.01.
 - ii. Operating expenses YTD are \$118,863.91.
 - iii. Operating expenses are exceeding operating income by \$19,035.90 for the year to date.
 - iv. This report is run to only show operating income and expenses to accurately reflect operations without any large expanses 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. Offering is short of the budget YTD of \$108,317.61
 - ii. The main Capital Improvements expenses year to date are made up of the following:
 1. Basement remodel project: approximately \$37,000
 2. Fire inspection and replacing alarm panel: approximately \$2,500
 3. New water softener & install: \$1,700
 4. Audio equipment: \$3,100
 5. Plumbing: \$700
 - iii. Endowment tithes (\$50,000) that have been paid year to date:
 1. Heart of Clay: \$10,000
 2. Lutheran Island Camp: \$12,500 (\$2,500 of this is from Lutheran Extension Fund)
 3. FMSC: \$5,000
 4. LAMP: \$5,000
 5. Moorhead School Homeless: \$5,000
 6. Down Home: \$2,000
 - iv. Miscellaneous Designations year to date:
 1. Giving Hearts Day Match: \$2,500
 2. LIC Adopt A Counselor: \$5,000
 - 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. Elder - Gary Schellack

- i. We will start a midweek service on a trial basis. It will be on the 1st Wednesday of October and November. It will be a revised service with communions, confessions, absolution and a few hymns.
- ii. Elders have been assigned a list of members to update and contact.

b. Trustee - Jason Sandry

- i. The water leak under the church has been fixed

c. Stewardship - Nikki Grentz

- i. The Time and Talent survey was sent and only a few filled it out.
 - 1. Suggestion to print the time and talent survey and hand them out or leave on fellowship tables.
- ii. Gift cards should be added to our website and facebook

d. Evangelism

- i. They designed the t-shirts and were in charge of the 5K run at Harvest Days.
- ii. Janelle Kistner made the logo and updated some brochures and it was used on the 5k t-shirts.

e. Board of Ed

i. Sunday School

- 1. Rally Sunday was Sunday, September 7th
 - 2. Held during voters meeting
 - 3. If held during the meeting again we will want to plan to have more help to keep the kids/families involved. There were a few families that left before food was served.
- ii. Sunday School and Noisy Offering will go to help Shayla Johnk and family to help with medical and other expenses that have accumulated during her fight against colon cancer.
 - 1. Goal \$500?
- iii. Youth Sunday will continue on the 2nd Sunday of the month along with noisy offering starting in October.
 - 1. PreK-5th event 11:15-12:00pm
 - a. Board of Ed will help come up with events
 - b. Youth Committee member help at the event
 - 2. 6th and Up event 6:30-8:30pm
 - a. Regan will come up with event and help at the event
 - b. Youth Committee member help at the event
- iv. 4th Sunday Senior High Hangout 9th and Up 6:30-7:30
 - 1. Moving to just the 4th Sunday due to lack of attendance and help
 - 2. Youth Committee member help at the even
- v. Discussed with Regan the possibility of each Youth Committee member committing to a specific month similar to Alter Guild. The commitment would be to attend and help at both events the 2nd Sunday and then the Sr High Hangout on the 4th Sunday.

f. Budget

- i. Nominations will be in the fall and there are open positions
- ii. The Treasurer and Secretary positions have completed their 3 years commitment.
- iii. Will put a budget committee together to work with Curt Hutchins and Amy Wohlwend.

1. Some suggestions are Bob Johnk and Jesse Sandry

g. Pastor's January Report

- i. **Official Acts:** None
- ii. **Average Attendance for month- August- 49**
- iii. Continue to lead chapel twice a month at Arbor Park Assisted Living and chapel at ORLC Child Care.
- iv. Worked with Evangelism team to organize 5k for Harvest Day- had about 25 runners this year. Janelle designed a logo for the church and had a t-shirt designed to wear at events.
- v. Went with the youth to Down Home to help assist them with putting some furniture together for residents, also got a tour of the facilities.
- vi. Confirmation will be starting this month for 7th and 8th graders- we have 3 that will be in confirmation this year. Confirmation Sunday will be October 26th this year- will confirm 3 youth.
- vii. Bruce Hanson and Gary Schellack will be leading Adult Bible study while I do 9th grade confirmation. Bible Study for this year will be based off of the sermon series- God's Story- looking at different stories throughout the Bible.
- viii. Working with Elders for Family groups to have an elder assigned a group of families within the congregation and also looking into updating our membership roles- those who are inactive or not going to the church anymore.

7. Old Business

a. Gift money as endowment advisory committee

- i. Has been put on hold while we wait for the bill from the excavation company that fixed the leak under the church.

b. Shelter behind the church

- i. The excavation that was done to fix the leak under the church is where we are going to build the shelter. The project is on hold until next spring to allow the ground to settle.

c. Bids for new air conditioners

- i. No bids have been received

d. Sprinklers at the cemetery

- i. $\frac{2}{3}$ of the sprinklers have been installed
- ii. Lights on the flag pool are not working and Joe is looking into it.

8. New Business

a. Meatball dinner

- i. Will be Saturday September 27th 4:30 to 7:00
- ii. Firehall will display our meatball advertisement.
- iii. A big sign will be put north of Sabin by Friday - \$179 for 16 days .
- iv. Sausage has been ordered from Hornbachers and will be ready Thursday 25th.
- v. Suggested to have printed signup sheets

b. Midweek Worship Service

- i. Some members that can't make it to Sunday service would like another option for service. A new service will be held the first Wednesday of the month and depending on how it goes another one can be added.

c. Fall or winter ideas

- i. Family Bonfire at the cemetery - scheduled for Saturday, October 11th at 6:00 pm there will be hotdogs and smores.
- ii. Game Night - Bunko - scheduled for the afternoon on Saturday, November 22nd. Bring snacks to share.
- iii. Christmas Decorating - will check with Bruce on when we should put them up.

9. **Other New Business**

- a. Have a link on subsplash to our website.
- b. Suggestion to add member list and digital directory onto subsplash. Will need to check to see if it can be locked down first otherwise anyone can get into it. Our website can be locked down so that might be an option.

10. **Adjourn** -Beau Wohlwend made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Curt Hutchins 2nd. Approved

11. **Closing Prayer** - Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Secretary, Tami Hansen

Church Happenings

Winter Clothing Drive—We are collecting all sizes of winter gear! Please keep us in mind as you do your fall cleaning! We will donate to local schools and other local organizations that are in need. All items can be placed in the bin at the Church. If you need to schedule a time to drop off, please email Tlcsabin@gmail.com or call the church office at 218-789-7259.

Fergus Falls Area Reformation Service - All are welcome to join us for a Reformation Service, Sunday, October 26, at 2:30 pm. At Trinity Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls. Our guest preacher will be Rev. Dr. Don Fondow. There will be a dessert potluck following the service — all attendees please bring a dessert to pass.

Confirmation Sunday - Join us on Sunday, October 26th as three of our youth confess the faith that they believe in. This year we confirm Ethan Grenz, Camilla Escobar, and Zoey Rezac.

Wednesday Evening Services - For the next couple of months, we will be offering a new midweek service. The first Wednesday of each month we will offer a Midweek service with communion. The service will begin at 7pm. Join us on October 1st and November 5th.

Family Bonfire Night - All are welcome to join us on October 12th from 6-8pm at the cemetery for a night of fellowship and fun. We will have smores as well. Join us if you can!

Family Game Night- Bunko - We will have a family game night on November 22nd from 4-6pm in the fellowship hall. We will play the game Bunko- a dice game. If you don't know how to play, come and we will teach you. If you would like to come earlier to watch the Bison game, join us at 2:30pm.

Donations - We are looking for donations of trunks and candy for the Trunk or Treat event happening on October 26th 1-3pm at the Sabin Community Center. The youth will take care of decorating your trunk and handing out candy! You are welcome to join in on the fun as well! Sign-up sheet to donate your trunk is located on the bulletin board and a bin to collect candy is in the Narthex.

Youth Happenings

Youth Sunday will be on October 12th - Noisy offering during service will go towards helping Shayla Johnk and family. PreK-5th Grade: 11:15-12:00pm - will be painting pumpkins! 6th-12th: 6:30-8:30pm - will be painting pumpkins!

Sr High Hangout - October 26th ****NOTE time change!**** - 12:30-3:30pm. We will be decorating trunks and handing out candy at the Sabin Lions Trunk or Treat!



Community Events

Fish Fry – Friday, October 24 4-7pm at Baker Downer Presbyterian Church. Fried fish, baked potato, coleslaw, corn, garlic toast, rolls, desserts, and beverage. Cost: 12 years and older \$20, 6-11 years old \$10, age 5 and under free. Takeout meals available.

Sabin Harvest Days Ladies Night – October 18th 5:30pm at Sabin Community Center. Tickets are \$40 and includes dinner and drinks.

Trunk or Treat at Sabin Fire Department – Friday, October 31st 6-8pm. Stop by to trick or treat inside where it will be warm and lights. Interested in having a table with us to hand out candy/treats? Contact Sabinfd@gmail.com

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

Harmonious Stewardship

“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another” (Romans 12:4-5).

One of the most forgotten concepts in stewardship is the interdependent nature that makes up the Body of Christ and the way that body supports the shared work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is experienced in the local congregation, as well as in broader mission and ministry efforts at the district and Synod levels. Yet in these words, St. Paul reminds the Romans and us that we are indeed members of one another. This is true in our worship. It is also true in our stewardship of the Gospel. Stewards of all shapes and sizes, ages and abilities, affluence and influence are all assembled around Word and Sacrament in the local congregation with no one being more important than the other.

Part of this forgetting lies in what the eyes see and how our human mind operates. Our eyes and our minds are quick to come to the erroneous conclusion that the person who writes the biggest check is the more important steward. Human logic, flawed by sin as it is, could make a claim that the youngest child or the most infirm, aged member of the congregation would certainly be considered something less than important when it comes to the stewardship of the Gospel.

Paul makes it clear in these words that this is not how stewardship of the Gospel is measured in the Body of Christ. Rather, it would be better to view local stewardship like the lost art of harmony in congregational singing. This has been lost not only due to the performative nature of the lead singers of the local praise team, but also because modern hymnals are written to almost force the novice hymn-singer into unison voice. Creative harmonization by talented organists is beautiful to listen to, but does not always support the people in the pews in singing in parts. This is a loss in demonstrating a very practical aspect of whole-body stewardship.

The sound that builds when choral and congregational singers settle into their voice parts is nothing short of heavenly! Yet when altos, tenors and bass sing their individual parts without any concept of how they fit together, the music doesn't sound as powerful. The narrow range of the typical alto line almost sounds monotonous. The tenor line can get painfully high, and the base line can get uncomfortably low. But, when interdependently entwined, along with the melody that is so often carried by the sopranos, the music becomes a tremendously powerful tool in communicating the Gospel.

The same is true of individual stewards. Certainly, stewards with more financial means are in a unique place to “carry the tune” for ministry in a local congregation. But that doesn't rule out the faithful stewardship of the saint-like 94-year-old Hulda, who prayed for her young pastor in German every night while the aches and pains of arthritis and the grief of losing a daughter to cancer kept her awake. This does not rule out Jimmy, the profoundly developmentally disabled confirmand whose basic but dramatically eloquent confession of the faith left an impression on a congregation long after he went to be with Jesus. It doesn't rule out the single parent, the recovering addict, the family coming out of bankruptcy, the elderly widow and everyone in between.

The Lord has entrusted all the baptized with stewardship of the one thing needful: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. No one member of any congregation is more important than another when it comes to this stewardship. The biggest check isn't always the best way to communicate the Gospel. In fact, it is almost always better communicated with the widow's mite, the tenacious stewardship of the talents and so much more.

In the local congregation and beyond, our corporate stewardship of the Gospel needs each other to fill out our great confession. It is not about equal amount. It is about interdependence that only the Holy Spirit can work! Each of us has a role to play, a harmony to sing. The standard for that role is faithfulness. We do not have the same function, but we have the same Jesus! As we sing the parts entrusted to us by the Holy Spirit, the sweet music of the Gospel goes out!

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
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



2nd Jessica and Arnaldo Fuentes – 4 years
6th Ben and Terra Orr – 18 years
17th Eric and Tami Hansen – 33 years
23rd Curt and Carmen Hutchins – 26 years
27th Derrick and Nikki Grenz – 18 years

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7pm – Midweek Service	2	3	4
5 9am – Worship with Communion 10:15am – Sunday School	6	7	8 6:30 pm – Elders Meeting 7:30pm – Council Meeting	9	10	11
12 Youth Sunday 9am – Worship with noisy offering 10:15am – Sunday School 11:15am-12pm – PreK-5 th Grade Event 6:30-8:30pm – 6 th -12 th Grade Event 6-8pm – Family Bonfire Night @ Cemetery	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 9am – Worship with Communion 10:15am – Sunday School	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Confirmation Sunday 9am – Worship 10:15am – Sunday School 12:30-3:30pm – Sr High Hangout 1-3pm – Trunk or Treat @Community Center	27	28	29	30	31	

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Pastor Brett Hartwig 218-790-8431
Paige Schmidt, Office Manager 218-789-7259

