



THE BELL TOWER September 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

What it means to be Neighborly

As tennis is now in full swing and we have had a number of matches now, this past week we as a team had the conversation, how do we handle when our opponents are not honest in the line calls or are just plain rude when play is going on? The initial reaction for everyone is to do the same thing that they are doing to you right back at them. In our conversation, I had one of my athletes say to me and the team, but that is not how you have taught us to act or play coach. You told us to treat our teammates and our opponents the same way we would want to be treated. They do listen to me! The following day after this conversation, I came across a devotion that my former pastor growing up had just wrote about who our neighbor is and how do we treat them. We treat them with mercy and love, just as Christ showed and gave to us. Here is the devotion, it is my prayer that we can model this not just in our congregation, but also in our daily life, with all those we come into contact with.

One day Jesus was asked by an expert on the laws of Moses how to inherit eternal life. Jesus asked what the Law taught and the man answered love God and love neighbor in the same way. Jesus said, "what a great summary of the Law! Do this and you are on the right track." But like a reporter trying to trip up someone at a press conference he tried to trap Jesus with a follow up question, asking "well who is my neighbor?" Instead of answering, Jesus told a story about a Samaritan who stopped to care for a wounded traveler when Jewish clergy couldn't be bothered.

Who is my neighbor? Is that a tough or easy question? Words are important as we all define the same word in different ways. The Greek word translated in the Bible as neighbor can mean either an acquaintance, someone who happens to be close by, or a friend. The consensus of most is that it deals with anyone who might be encountered in daily life (which is a much different meaning than we would usually attach, and that is important to remember!)

Even more interesting is that Jesus didn't answer "who is my neighbor" in the parable but told a story and then asked his follow up question: "who do you think acted LIKE a neighbor?" The religious smarty pants who thought he had trapped Jesus was forced to answer, "well, I guess the one who showed mercy." And that was the Samaritan (a non-Jew whom no respecting Jew of that day would define as a neighbor.) And that was how Jesus trapped the prosecutor, as well as each of us.

Jesus' point today is the same as two thousand years ago! God's guidance in all of scripture boils down not to be who we define as a neighbor worth of mercy, but how we act mercifully to anyone who we come in contact with. It is not, therefore our goal in life to define what neighbor means, but to decide how to be neighborly (or merciful) to anyone we bump into in our daily living. This then is how our worship and love for God is evidenced – by the mercy we dispense day after day after day.

September's Memory Verse

"But He answered, 'It is written, man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.'"

Matthew 4:4

Who is my neighbor? That is the trick questions of the rich and powerful, the selfish and the mighty! But for those who have inherited a place in God's kingdom, by grace rather than by anything we could never do, the real issue is simply how will we be merciful, daily, to all, as God has been merciful to us (even though we are not deserving of it.) Jesus makes following God simpler than we could imagine, and it is all about loving as we have been loved, being merciful as we have been shown mercy. Rather than making distinctions about who deserves our merciful attention, Jesus makes it easy by saying, "do for all as I have done for you." The question is never "who is my neighbor" but always "who am I in a position to be neighborly toward?" 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 September 7th and 21st.

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
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Kayme Torgerson

BOARD OF EVANGELISM

Cheryl Nerby
Amanda Nelson
Janelle Kistner

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Tera Orr
Nikki Grenz

Council Meeting Minutes

8/13/25

We did not have a Council meeting in August, the reports from council members that emailed are below.

1. Treasurer's report -

● Balance Sheet

- 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 towards the youth gathering.
- I transferred \$5,000 from savings to the main checking account on July 14th to cover low balance. I transferred another \$5,000 to general checking account on July 28th to cover checks written but not cleared.

● Operating Income/Expenses

- General Offering and interest in June (outside of special missions) was \$11,305.14
- Operating expenses were \$14,003.10
- Operating expenses exceeded operating income by \$2,697.96 for the month. Overall year to date, operating expenses exceeded operating income by \$16,865.72.
- 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 statements.

● Budget vs. Actual

- 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 (\$50,000) 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: \$5,000
 - LAMP: \$5,000
 - Moorhead School Homeless: \$5,000
- Miscellaneous Designations year to date:
 - LIC Adopt a Counselor: \$5,000
 - Giving Hearts Day Match: \$2,500

● 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.
- Quarterly contribution statements were mailed out this week

a. Board of Ed - Kayme

i. Sunday School

- Rally Sunday will be September 7th with teacher installation during service

- Activities right after service
- Lunch served @11:00
 - Pizza, fruit, chips, & lemonade
- September 14th is the first official day of Sunday School and 2nd Grade Bible presentation during service.
- Added an additional teacher for Sunday School with how large the PreK and Kindergarten group is this year we had to split it up.
- Still need to confirm a couple more Sunday School Subs
- 37 of our “normal” 48 attending students are currently registered. (We are still taking into account all students that are members)
- 1 VBS family registered their Triplets adding to the Pre-K class (Emily & Adam Kelsey)
- Carrie finished the curriculum for this year. Using the same curriculum as last year.
- Extending Sunday School to run from 10:15-11:15am this will allow for the same time for the opening which was great last year but will allow for more time to go over the lesson and memory verses in class.
- We have a couple of options for Sunday School offering going to give a couple of options to the kids and let them choose
 - Seeds of Hope-yes
 - Cat’s Cradle
 - Homeward Animal Shelter
 - Dorothy Day
 - River Keepers
 - Open Doors 65
- Youth Sunday will continue on the 2nd Sunday of the month along with noisy offering starting in October.
- Cassie’s term was ending 12/25, she has committed to another term

Next Council meeting scheduled for **Wednesday, September 10th at 7:30 pm**

Submitted by Secretary, Tami Hansen

Church Happenings

Fall Golf - Join us as we continue our summer golf into the fall. We have tee times at Village Green in Moorhead on September 14th at 4:00pm. All are welcome to join us.

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>



Quarterly Voters Meeting - We will have our Quarterly Voters meeting on September 7th following service in the fellowship hall. The kids will have activities for Rally Day and following the meeting we will have a potluck. Please plan on attending as we discuss things that have gone on during the summer months and our plans for the rest of the year.

Meatball Dinner - We will have our Meatball dinner on Saturday, September 27th from 4:30 to 7:00pm in the fellowship hall. There will also be a craft fair and silent auction during the dinner. A sign up genius will be going out soon to sign up for helping serve, set up, clean up, and make the meatballs. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Brett. Please help spread the word about the dinner!

Confirmation starting soon - Confirmation will be starting soon. Both 9th graders and 7th-8th grade will have a short meeting following service on September 7th before the voter's meeting in the sanctuary. Please plan on attending to get the schedule for the year and answer any questions you may have.

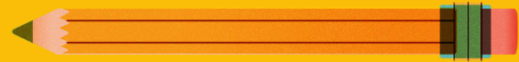
Winter Clothing Drive—We are collecting all sizes of winter gear! Please keep us in mind as you do your fall cleaning! We will donate to local schools and other local organizations that are in need. All items can be placed in the bin at the Church. If you need to schedule a time to drop off, please email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



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 - September 2025

Work and Keep

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it” (Genesis 2:15).

Genesis chapters one and two are familiar to us. We know them best as the Creation Account. Chapter one is where we hear the familiar, “let there be...and there was” directives. Chapter two gives us the account of Adam (the man) being formed from the “Adamah” (the dust) and becoming a living being when he receives the breath of life in his nostrils. Because of this, it would be quite easy to simply lump these two chapters into the category of creation accounts.

But do not be too hasty in this! While these two chapters do faithfully relate to us the account of creation, they also give us the creation of the “office” of steward. The man, created in the image of God in Genesis 1 and formed from the dust in Genesis 2, is created for a distinct purpose. He is created to be a steward of the perfect and beautiful creation that the Lord has made! In fact, this is THE reason that man was made. He — and we — were created in the image of God to be stewards of God’s creation.

This purpose is spelled out in verse 15 of Genesis 2. The steward has one job, with two purposes. It is fitting that in the month that our nation marks Labor Day, we consider the task of steward. The first purpose of the job of steward is to work. The steward is the caretaker of the Garden. Being a steward is work! Before the fall into sin, this was not an onerous task. But it was an active thing.

Imagine being a farmer in the Garden of Eden! Work would be only harvest. No plowing. No planting. No cultivating. No weeding. The perfect garden that the Lord had made would simply produce automatically to provide for man, woman, and all living beings!

But there is a second task in verse fifteen. The word “keep” is not just a synonym for work. This second task is related to defending. This garden, holy by virtue of its being called into existence by a holy God, needed to be defended. Here is where the vocation of steward becomes priestly. The steward was to defend the perfect and holy garden from that which was unholy. Later in the Old Testament, this was the task of the priests in the tabernacle and temple. They were to defend with their lives the Holy of Holies. This too is the labor of stewardship. It is a labor that calls the steward to be willing to put the garden before life!

Stewardship was always work. It only got burdensome after the original steward, Adam, failed to defend the garden from the alien word of the serpent. But this was not a failure of harvest. It was a failure to defend the garden! As a result, all work that followed that failure became burdensome.

The steward failed but was never fired. That is why we have such an issue with stewardship to this day. We continue to live out a pre-fall vocation in a fallen world as failed stewards. That is why we in the church need to be reminded of our vocational call to be stewards. We so easily forget that this world is not ours to do with as we please. Nothing is ours. We are but stewards entrusted with managing the creation for the glory of God and the benefit of the neighbor.

It is a daunting task. But it is the one to which we have been called. We cannot do it on our own. Apart from the grace of God shared with us through Jesus, we would be burdened to the point of temporal and eternal death. But the Holy Spirit calls us by the Gospel! This Gospel connects us to the fertile garden of Christ’s Work on our behalf. Now we are stewards of that grace! The Holy Spirit works this in and through us today and every day.

This is the work of the church. It is also the work of the individual steward. The Lord has placed us in the “garden” with the same twofold purpose: work and keep! Enjoy your labor. For in the Lord, our labor is never in vain!

September Celebrations

Birthdays

1st Brielle Wohlwend, Brinley Wohlwend

3rd Jenna Christianson

6th Barbara Mikkelsen, Ella Sedlacek

7th Jolene Kellerman

8th Cheryl Hoeck, Tasha Krull, Patrick Lass, Clarice Schmidt, Evan Sedlacek

10th Lance Kistner

11th David Altenbernd, Mattea Gardner, Lisa Johnk

12th Christian Byram

14th Lois Arntson

15th Tayler Yliniemi, Zach Odden-Lemar

16th Herman Weiss

17th Riley Heim, Hermie Weiss

19th Van Lass, Zack McFarland

22nd Kathy Klug, James Krabbenhoft, Anne Morris, Nathan Wasvick

23rd Jim Ingebretsen, Peyton Schmidt

24th William Brandt, Ronald Hoeck, Amanda Nelson

25th Andrew Christianson, Steve Rinkenberger

26th Leena Hartwig

28th Vern Arntson

29th Sarah Hartwig, Adam Schellack



Happy Anniversary



1st Bruce and Maggie Hanson 41 years

1st Cody and Amanda Nelson 13 years

2nd Darrell and Karen Byram 47 years

5th Marvin and Beverly Kuehl 67 years

6th Michael and Stacie Sedlacek 17 years

9th Roland and Linda Crawford 58 years

9th Joe and Laurie Moore 47 years

10th Ryan and Haleigh Krieger 9 years

16th Larry and Lavonne Leach 64 years

17th Dennis and Jayne Johnk 42 years

19th Chris and Amy Rasmussen 33 years

22nd Art and Erika Escobar 18 years

24th Michael and Nicole Bednar 20 years

25th Steven & Taylor Adams 4 years

25th Steve & Melanie Rinkenberger 15 years

29th Keith and Stacey Zbasnik 35 years

September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 9am – Worship with Communion -Rally Sunday -7-9 th Grade Confirmation Meeting -Quarterly Voters Meeting -Potluck	8	9	10 7:30pm – Council Meeting	11	12	13
14 9am – Worship 10:15am – Sunday School 4pm – Golf @ Village Green	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 9am – Worship with Communion 10:15am – Sunday School	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 9am – Worship 10:15am – Sunday School	29	30				

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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

