



VOL. 25 ISSUE 8 Aug 2025

Shalom Now!

Official Newsletter of Shalom Lutheran Church

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

BY PASTOR DAVID FLEENER



Pastor David Fleener

This month, I want to acknowledge the hard work the BBQ Committee and our volunteers did to make the BBQ such a success. Our members and friends posted signs around town, put up the signs on church property, pitched the tent, borrowed tables from Bethesda, set up tables and chairs, made baked goods, bought food from Henry's, lined up someone to make potato salad, made a slide show in the sanctuary, ushered, sold tickets, greeted diners, served food, cut watermelon, enlisted the Pork Producers, grilled pork chops, and perhaps most importantly, cleaned up afterward! It requires a genuine sacrifice of time, energy, and for some, money, to put on this event.

And there are many rewards to having such a long-running, well-regarded event.

I'm not just talking about the money raised, although that is worth mentioning. After Bread for the World dues, we may have close to two mortgage payments on our beautiful sanctuary. That is significant, to be sure. But perhaps more important than the money is the name the BBQ has made for Shalom in our community.

When community members find out that I'm your pastor, the first thing they often say is, "Oh yeah! You do the BBQ every year! I love the food." The goodwill this event has created for our little congregation is worth at least as much as the revenue we generate. That goodwill is helpful as a jumping off point for other ministries we do in our community. It builds relationships and opens doors.

And most importantly, it opens the door for the gospel of Jesus Christ, which finds its way into hearts through these relationships.

If you haven't helped with the BBQ in the past, I encourage you to do so. Many hands make for light work. It is remarkable what we can accomplish when we all come together.

I look forward to continuing this long-running tradition with you.

Love to you all,

Pastor David

Sunday Worship Service

in-person and online at 9:30
a.m.

Pastor David Fleener
pastor@shalomlutheran.org

Youth & Music Director- Sam Meehan

music@shalomlutheran.org
youth@shalomlutheran.org

Church Office:
Geri Rindahl
office@shalomlutheran.org

"We believe God is calling us to invite people into a deeper relationship with Christ, that they may discover true peace and be prepared to follow Him in compassionate service."

Women of the ELCA

Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization

37th Annual Convention

September 19, 2025 - 12:00-8:00

September 20, 2025 - 8:00-3:30

First Lutheran Church
1655 18th Ave E
Alexandria MN 56308



Keynote Speaker: Jennifer
Hockenbery, Interim
Executive Director of Women
of the ELCA



Theme: *How to be an authentic woman of God today.*
1 Peter 1:13 *"Therefore, prepare your minds for action, and
being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that
will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."*

Bible Study, keynote, breakout sessions, worship, banquet, business meeting.



NORTHWEST MINNESOTA
Communities Action



Adult & Teen Challenge
Minnesota



Mustard Seed
Media
Matthew 17:20

Contact: Luella Thom

320-815-7701

thom17@wisper-wireless.com

www.nwmnsynod.org/pages/synod-womens-organization



**Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization Convention
September 19 & 20, 2025 @ FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1655 – 18TH AVE EAST, ALEXANDRIA, MN 56308**

Convention Registration – ALL ATTENDEES MUST COMPLETE THIS FORM

EARLY .. Registration due by August 15, 2025

All registrations must be received by September 1st

NO CASH... CHECKS ONLY.... PAYABLE TO: NW MN SWO

All registrations MUST be postmarked on or before due dates. **Full payment** is required with registration form.
No refunds after September 1st, however registrations are transferable.

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM ... WITH CHECK TO:

NWMN SWO CONVENTION

Attn: Luella Thom

PO Box 103

Carlos, MN 56319

Phone: 320-815-7701

Email: Thom17@wisper-wireless.com

***** Please make your own hotel reservations. See attached list**

PLEASE PRINT:

Name: _____ Phone _____

Address: _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ E-mail _____

Conference # _____ Name of Congregation _____ City _____

Are you the contact for your Congregation Unit? Yes _____ No _____

____ Voting Member (1 per Congregation) ____ Non-Voting ____ Conference Officer

Please register early to save money and facility Convention Planning!!

If postmarked before August 15

If postmarked after August 15

____ Friday & Saturday \$100.00 \$ 125.00

I will be attending banquet: Friday: _____ Saturday _____

Please indicate any special dietary needs: _____

For Office use only: Name: _____ **Check #** _____ **Amt:** _____

SHALOM LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
June 16th, 2025

PRESENT: Carol, Corey, Ken, Kersten, Grant, Brian, Kim and Pastor

Meeting was called to order @ 5:30 by President Carol.

Motion was made to approve agenda with additions. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Motion was made to approve May minutes with corrections. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Prayer led by Pastor: Devotion from "My Utmost for His Highest".

Reviewed reports by Pastor and Committees

****Pastor's Report:** Report included in packet. Pastor working again at the Brophy Summer Concert Series for Rotary.

**** Staff:** Report in packet.

**** Worship:** No meeting.

**** Finance:** Building Fund is staying caught up. We are down about \$22,800. Last year at this time we were down about \$26,000. Grant was able to get a statement for Linda for WELCA. An account has been set up for Radio Ministry.

**** Y/ED:** No report in packet. Sam has been on the Youth Works Mission Trip. Kersten will be our new rep.

****Outreach and Caring:** Report in packet. Pastor has a vision for having members do one-on-one calls with communion after Worship with person, every week or every-other week.

****God's Work Our Hands:** Report in packet.

****Personnel:** Pastor, Kersten and Grant will send Carol examples of reviews. Executive Committee will meet.

****Jeremiah 29 Project:** On-going conversations with members of the congregation by the team.

**** Property:** AED's have been updated. We have flickering lights under the canopies. Property would like to meet with FM Radio Ministry to discuss some of their needs. Building rental and fees need to be discussed. Motion to delegate to the property committee to revisit and revise facility use policy.

**** FM Radio Ministry:** Ken has a family member who worked for AT & T and has a radio console and he is willing to send it to us. He also has some other equipment that might be helpful. Pastor Kathryn has been doing some outside conversations with the community.

****Tech:** Report in packet. Kersten will step off Tech Team. Council Action required regarding carillon.

****Stewardship:** Stewardship will be purchasing a program from KWL to assist with our Fall Generosity Campaign. Carol will check with Geri to see if she has the Acknowledgement of Gift Form.

Synod Assembly: Cami and Grant Pexsa spoke on the Assembly. Cami enjoyed the presentations on India and homeless. Discussion on what we can do to be the hands and feet of Christ. Cami spoke about the election process of the Bishop. Grant found the discussion on the missions of the synod very interesting. A resolution was passed on compensation.

Old Business: None

New Business: Sam and Geri have mentioned that people who are not members may not know where office and restrooms are. Motion made to delegate the sign issue to property. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

There have been some concerns about safety issues. Motion made to invite Julie Anderson, Emergency Management, to discuss Safety Procedures in our church. Motion seconded. Motion carried. Carol will touch base with Julie.

Closing Prayer: Kim

Motion was made to adjourn. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Kim Casavan Council Secretary



Shalom Lutheran Financial Activity: Jan/Jun25

SHALOM LUTHERAN CHURCH STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY: JAN/25 - JUNE/25

General Fund Activities	Actual	Budget	Annual Budget	Variance
Revenues				
General Offerings	\$ 122,316	\$ 145,278	\$ 290,556	\$ (22,962)
Building Fund Offerings	39,288	42,864	85,728	(3,576)
Interest and Other	5,198	2,528	5,050	2,670
Total General/Bldg Fund Revenues	166,801	190,670	381,334	(23,869)
Expenses				
Office expenses and Wages/Benefits	105,064	106,355	212,642	(1,291)
Building and Grounds	28,307	25,830	51,260	2,477
Synod payments, Outreach, GWOH	541	4,910	9,800	(4,369)
Shalom programs (music, Ed, worship, Technology)	6,473	11,381	22,700	(4,908)
Total General Fund Expenses	140,384	148,476	296,402	(8,092)
Net Transfers in/(out) of General Fund	(2,952)	(2,952)	(5,900)	-
Building Fund Mortgage Payments	(39,525)	(39,516)	(79,032)	(9)
Net General/Bldg Fund Surplus / (Deficit)	\$ (16,060)	\$ (274)	\$ -	\$ (15,786)

Fund Activities	12/31/24 Balance	2025 Receipts	2025 Disbursed	Transfers between funds	06/30/25 Balance
General Fund (Unrestricted)	\$ 88,193	\$ 128,186	\$ 141,057	\$ (2,952)	\$ 72,370
Bldg Fund (mortg pmt, debt reduction)	51,283	39,288	39,525	-	51,046
Restricted Funds - WELCA	37,413	359	-	-	37,771
Restricted Funds - Youth	18,224	6,128	12,175	450	12,627
Restricted Funds: Shalom internal use	84,196	3,703	1,202	2,502	89,199
Restricted Funds for Outreach use	3,886	1,884	3,482	-	2,288
Totals	\$ 283,194	\$ 179,547	\$ 197,441	\$ -	\$ 265,300

Summary:

This Shalom reporting is through June/25, with a combined General and Building Funds deficit of \$16,060. The deficit is primarily due to Jan-June offerings under-budget by \$26,538. The General/Bldg Funds balance is about \$123,000, down from \$139,000 at the end of December/24.

Notes:

- | | Cash | M Mrkt | |
|---|-----------|------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Cash & short term investment balances: | \$ 84,795 | \$ 182,775 | Includes all Restricted Funds |
| 2. Restricted Funds: activities such as Memorials, Love Inc, Music, Youth, WELCA, World Hunger, etc | | | |
| 3. Restricted Funds: not budgeted, but receive/use only money received for that specific purpose. | | | |

	Month	To-date	Budget
4. Offerings to-date are:	\$ 24,232	\$ 122,316	\$ 145,278
Building Fund Offerings:	\$ 4,653	\$ 39,288	\$ 42,864

5. Building Fund receipts to-date are \$237 over funds needed to pay the mortgage.

6. Mortgage balance at time of reporting is \$484,306. Our monthly payment is \$6,586.

BREAD FOR THE WORLD

Vote to End Hunger

Bread for the World's Vote to End Hunger campaign secured more than 1,400 pledges from Americans committing to cast their vote to end hunger. Launched in advance of the 2024 election season, the campaign employed a comprehensive multichannel media strategy. The primary objective was to inspire Christians to engage in thoughtful discernment when selecting candidates, focusing on their potential to make meaningful changes in ending hunger both domestically and globally.

The campaign was rooted in a biblical understanding of governance and social responsibility. Drawing inspiration from scriptural examples of leaders like Joseph and Nehemiah, the campaign emphasized the Christian calling to pray for elected leaders who prioritize justice, compassion, and the needs of people who are marginalized.

Ron Otterson member of God's Work our Hands.

REMINDER: Please continue to support our Coffee Fund with your donations. The donation box is located on the treat table in the Community Room!



BOOKWORM BUNCH

We meet the last Monday of each month at Shalom at 1 pm unless it is a holiday! If you enjoy reading and discussion, come join us sometime to see if you would enjoy our group! Contact Barb Beyer 952-297-2541 or Joann Garland 320-219-0810 if you have any questions!



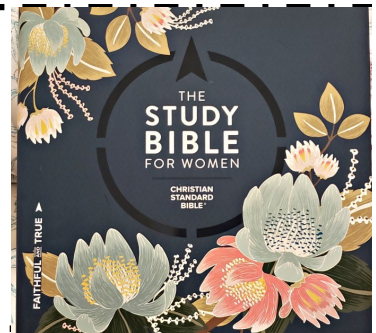
Following is the list of books selected for discussion.



August 25	The Personal Librarian	Marie Benedict/Victoria Christopher Murray
September 29	The Children's Blizzard	Melanie Benjamin
October 27	Two Squirrels and a Girl	Montie Carol Montgomery
November 24	The Raffle Baby	Ruth Talbot
December 8	Tentative date for group luncheon	

Adult Bible Study

- First, the good news: God always speaks to us through the Bible.
- Second, the bad news: we don't listen or read the Bible as often as we would like.
- Third, the good news: we can share God's Word in inspiring ways. Come to our gatherings on Thursday mornings from 10-11:00 am.



The Gospel of Uke!

Starting in January, join The Gospel of Uke, a ukulele choir for all ages and skill levels! This community group is open to everyone—whether you're a seasoned player or picking up a ukulele for the first time. Bring your own ukulele if you have one, but don't worry if you don't—we have a few available to share.

Rehearsals begin on Tuesday, January 7th, and will continue every Tuesday at 5 PM (except the second Tuesday of each month). There's no pressure to attend every rehearsal—come as your schedule allows!

Together, we'll make joyful music, provide special performances for worship at Shalom Lutheran Church, and unite the community through the power of song.

GWOH NEW

Once again, it's time to make book bags for LWR. Please pick up a bag, or two or, three or more. Fill with the required items and return them to church. If you wish to help with shipping costs, put your donation in the "List envelope" and return with bags. **Last year LWR sent 140,117 school kits to 16 countries around the world. Recently LWR has started**



sending material resources to those in need in the United States. So far, due to hurricanes, 9,494 school kits have been given to children in Florida, North Carolina and Tennessee. Thanks for letting Our Hands be God's Work.

Coordinator Needed A member of Shalom has given a very generous gift to WELCA to fund the **NEWBoRN KITS** we give to Global Health Ministries. For the NB ministry to continue, we need someone to step up and coordinate this project. The coordinator would ensure that all needed items are acquired, purchased, or donated; assemble the kits and pack them for shipping. (Talked to Judy Hoffman for specifics)

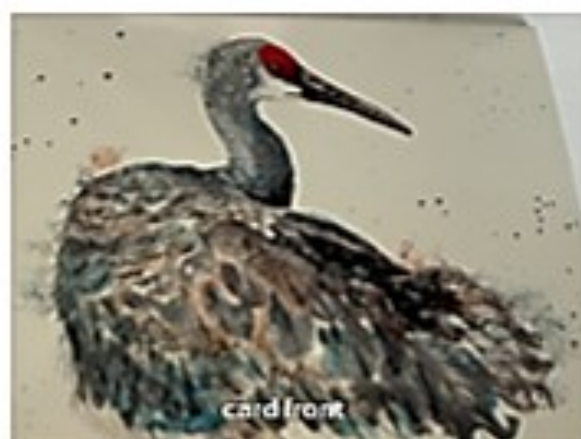


Our acronym, WELCA, is often misunderstood. I think most of us know that it stands for Women of the ELCA, but most often it is associated with that group of women who meet on a regular basis, have a Bible Study, conduct a business meeting, discuss possible projects, have lunch and go home. And yes it is BUT it is “Women of the ELCA” every single woman who is a member of an ELCA congregation is a part of WELCA. Through out this year I have heard from several congregations “We don’t have WELCA anymore”. I submit, “Yes you do! Perhaps you operate under a different name. Maybe you are the Mission Quilters, maybe you are the church Care and Share Committee, maybe you don’t even have an official name but I venture to say there is not a Lutheran congregation that doesn’t have that faithful group of women who step up when needed. We need to recognize that the same old format is not necessarily attractive to younger women who we need to engage. Let’s think and plan outside of the box. Know that you are invited, welcome, and a most important component of the greater WELCA organization. We Need you, your ideas and your participation. Blessings to all.

Carol Balk
SWO President



Prayers & Squares Thank You Note
from Trish & Ken Jensen (former members):



Dear Shalom Quilters -

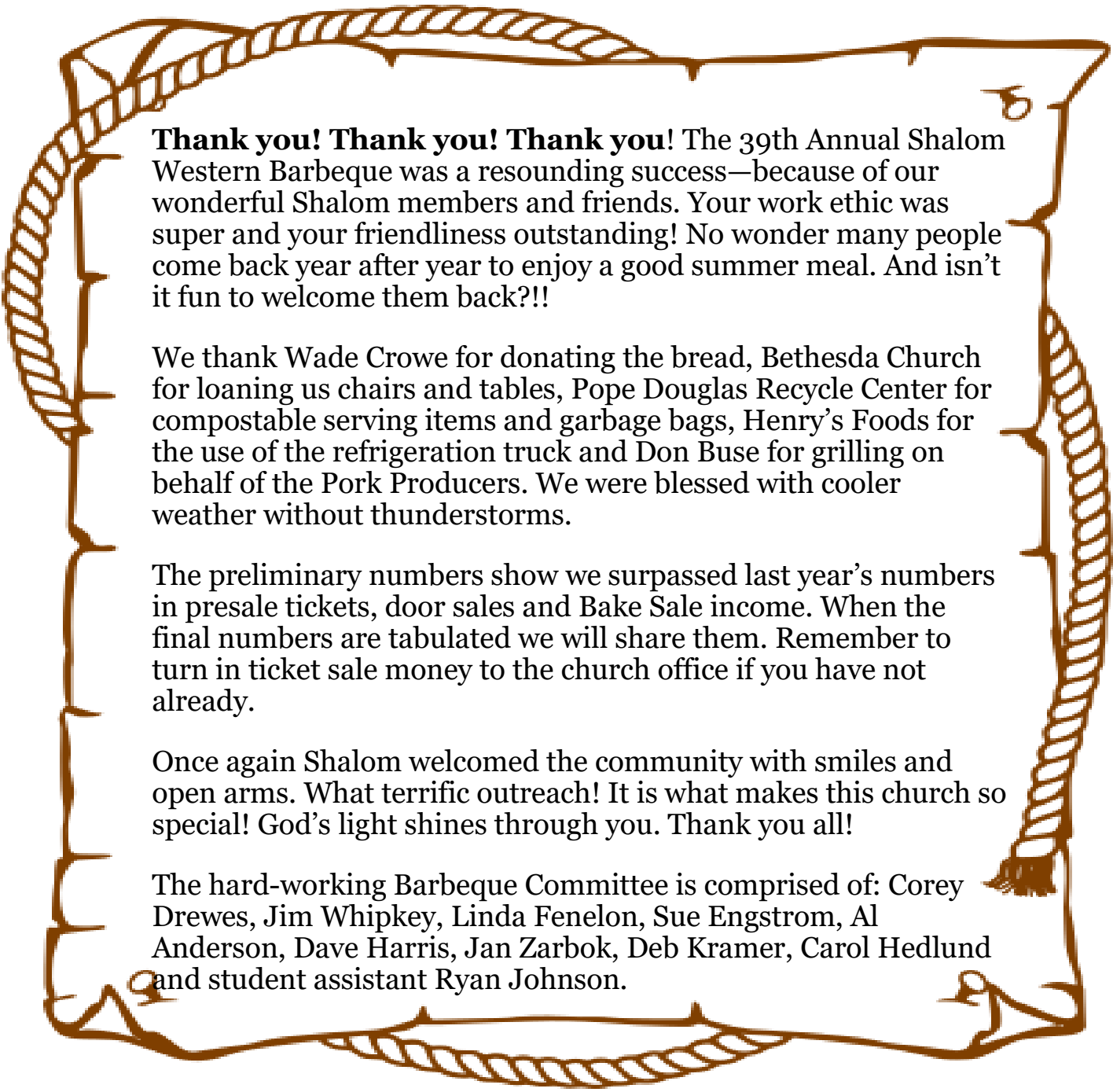
The prayer quilt you sent to Ken is beautiful and so appreciated. We cherish and are thankful for all the prayers. Shalom will always be near and dear to our hearts!

Ken is tolerating the chemo well and he is in stage 3 of a clinical trial, so we are thankful for that. His next scan is 6/19, so that will let us know if treatment is working.

Thank you all again!

Love,

Trish & Ken



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! The 39th Annual Shalom Western Barbeque was a resounding success—because of our wonderful Shalom members and friends. Your work ethic was super and your friendliness outstanding! No wonder many people come back year after year to enjoy a good summer meal. And isn't it fun to welcome them back?!!

We thank Wade Crowe for donating the bread, Bethesda Church for loaning us chairs and tables, Pope Douglas Recycle Center for compostable serving items and garbage bags, Henry's Foods for the use of the refrigeration truck and Don Buse for grilling on behalf of the Pork Producers. We were blessed with cooler weather without thunderstorms.

The preliminary numbers show we surpassed last year's numbers in presale tickets, door sales and Bake Sale income. When the final numbers are tabulated we will share them. Remember to turn in ticket sale money to the church office if you have not already.

Once again Shalom welcomed the community with smiles and open arms. What terrific outreach! It is what makes this church so special! God's light shines through you. Thank you all!

The hard-working Barbeque Committee is comprised of: Corey Drewes, Jim Whipkey, Linda Fenelon, Sue Engstrom, Al Anderson, Dave Harris, Jan Zarbok, Deb Kramer, Carol Hedlund and student assistant Ryan Johnson.

**Thank
You**

August Shared Ministry

Shared Ministry	8/3/2025 0:00	8/10/2025 0:00	8/17/2025 0:00	8/24/2025 0:00	8/31/2025 0:00
Acolyte	Rhe'von Richardson	Caedyn Whipkey	Joshua Flaten	Andrew Kappmeyer	Skylar Cadena
Assisting Minister	Nola Smith	Carol Hedlund	Deb Kramer	Dave Burbank	Susan Pletcher
Communion Assistants	Grant Pexsa	Dave Morgan	Angie Erickson	Dean Kliewer	Cheryl Burbank
Communion Assistants	Sue Engstrom	Judy Hoffman	Judy Hoffman	Catherine Kliewer	Juanita Freier
Communion Bread/Month	Judy Radjenovich	Judy Radjenovich	Judy Radjenovich	Judy Radjenovich	Judy Radjenovich
Greeters	Lona Neubarth	John Smith	Connie Facciotto	Barb Beyer	Carolyn Carlson
Greeters	Craig Neubarth	Nola Smith	Amy Schlosser	Dave Beyer	Linda Fenelon
Kitchen Monitor/Month	Judy Radjenovich	Judy Radjenovich	Judy Radjenovich	Judy Radjenovich	Judy Radjenovich
Lector	Tam Bukowski	Sarah Fleener	Diane Koranda	Ellen Kappmeyer	Nola Smith
Proclaim Slide Presenter	CJ/Kim/Julie	CJ/Kim/Julie	CJ/Kim/Julie	CJ/Kim/Julie	CJ/Kim/Julie
Usher	Renae Hills	Al Anderson	Darrell Neilsen	Craig Neubarth	Dave Malvin
Usher	Fritz Bukowski	Eric Holthusen	Todd Zarbok	Lona Neubarth	Arvin Pletcher
Counter	Renae Hills	Cheryl Burbank	Vic Dale	Derek Navratil	Craig Neubarth
Counter	Arvin Pletcher	Dave Harris	Charmaine Munt	Dave Burbank	Al Anderson

Training is available for serving. Let the office know and arrangements will be made for a training session.

If you are unable to be here for your Shared Ministry appointment, please try your best to find someone else to take your place. Then,



let the church Office know who will be here.

Thank you to all who share their time & talents to bring God's word to our Shalom family and friends. We are always looking for more people who would like to share in this Ministry.

Aug Birthdays

08/01	Steussy	Blake
08/09	Stoltz	Charles
08/09	Whipkey	Celia
08/10	Maanum	Luke
08/11	Eddy	Sharon
08/11	Klimek	Amy
08/11	Rothman	Kathy
08/12	Buse	Micah
08/12	Kramer	Deb
08/13	Klimek	(Josh)
08/13	Priebe	Jeanette
08/15	Halvorson	Rol
08/16	Holthusen	Kala
08/16	Kittleson	Naty
08/17	Rogosheske	David



08/18	Boe	Robert
08/18	Meehan	Myra
08/19	Morgan	Dave
08/22	Maanum	Nicole (Cole)
08/22	Zarbok	Todd
08/23	Bouressa	Courtney
08/23	Strand	Phyllis
08/24	Kingsberg	Skeeter
08/24	Melchert	Jan
08/26	Toivonen	Karen
08/30	Burbank	Cheryl
08/30	Hanish	Piper

Your Shalom family rejoices with you as you celebrate the day God gave you life. Birthday Blessings! If we missed your birthday please let us know in the church office because we would like to include you in our thoughts and prayers on your birthday!

Hospitality Time

Hospitality treats will be served in the Community Room between 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. on Sundays.

The schedule Aug is:

08-03-25

Dave & Barb Beyer
Bonnie Anderson
Sue Engstrom

08-10-25

Diane Koranda
Glen & Linda Huebner
Dean & Catherine Kliever

08-17-25

Joann Garland
Clem & Ginny Klimek
Roy & Deb Kramer

08-24-25

Karen Toivonen
Virginia Leutgers
Derek & Isabelle Navratil

08-31-25

Craig & Lona Neubarth
Ron Samuelson
Dave & Karen Morgan

If you are unable to make it, please call someone to replace you. Thank you

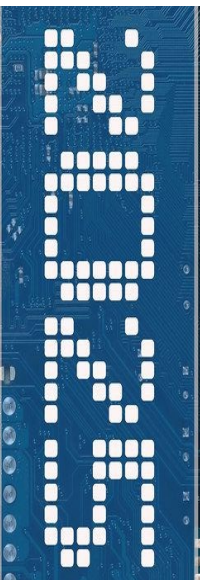
Names of Jesus

I N O N V L W N M L F P Z T M P S C Z P X R P G
 K V D D A W I P D W D R E H P E H S D O O G I D
 G N A Q O M O G B N D U X N M W X F D Y Z W M O
 B Q J G X K F E H O U H R Y K K F Q P O Q G M G
 J C H F E A S O G T M K R G D K B I J S R S A F
 W Q V I B M V F N Q O O E O W J L Y Z B I Q N O
 S A R E D F O U Y O Q F E Z E W G D Q P U W U N
 B Y Y L B B T D X T S R T S D L V X X F C Z E O
 T N S A M Z B S N M Q J U H I C F J E S I C L S
 E I G A H Y G R H A O S W S E M K G I T E H U J
 B D L X R K W Q V N A R Z C R W T U K M C H Z L
 X H N U H F Y G V K W H N V J R O G E K A A O H
 W U N T Z E N I V S J D P I C X B R U S E C X I
 N U T F A G R U H A Q U Z L N H E S L U P I N F
 Z L Y P R S Q M Q A K O Z S A G O Z H D F F S A
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 K D X V I C I E K F J S G G L K Z T J Z E Q D V
 C M I H B D E L V O T B S Y Y M C P A H C B R T
 T O J V P J X I C T R U N E N A C K W R N H O M
 R Y Z G M R D F C Z U G A D M D V J Z Q I W W N
 I K F W N U T E I J T J M B W K E X N R R P R V
 Q I X N I F I S M Y H E Y Y Q J Y J P Q P E I B
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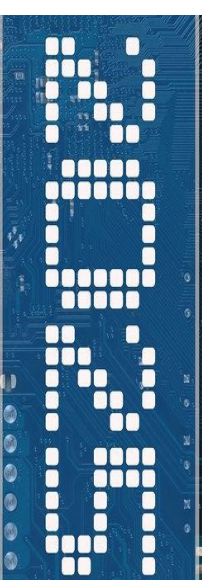
Lamb of God
 Word
 Morning Star
 Good Shepherd
 Way
 Son of God

Prince of Peace
 Immanuel
 Vine
 Life
 Messiah
 Christ

Alpha and Omega
 Savior
 Light of the World
 Truth
 Son of Man
 Jesus



August



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jul 27 9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (🔗)	28 1 PM Book Club (🔗)	29 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study (🔗)	30	31 8 AM LWR Quilting (🔗) 10 AM 📺 Adult Bible Studi (🔗)	Aug 1	2 9 AM SOS Rehearsal 9:00 ar (🔗)
3 9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (🔗) 10:30 AM GWOH (🔗)	4	5 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study (🔗)	6	7 8 AM LWR Quilting (🔗) 10 AM 📺 Adult Bible Studi (🔗) 5:30 PM Tech Team meets (🔗)	8	9 9 AM SOS Rehearsal 9:00 ar (🔗) 10 AM Meehan bridal shower
10 9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (🔗) 10:30 AM Radio Ministry (🔗)	11 5 PM Katie Swing Band	12 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study (🔗) 11 AM Outreach (🔗) +2	13	14 8 AM LWR Quilting (🔗) 10 AM 📺 Adult Bible Studi (🔗)	15 Newsletter items due (🔗)	16 9 AM SOS Rehearsal 9:00 ar (🔗)
17 9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (🔗)	18 5:30 PM 📺 Council Mtg (🔗)	19 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study (🔗)	20	21 8 AM LWR Quilting (🔗) 10 AM 📺 Adult Bible Studi (🔗)	22	23 9 AM SOS Rehearsal 9:00 ar (🔗)
24 9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (🔗)	25 1 PM Book Club (🔗)	26 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study (🔗) 5 PM Newcomers (🔗)	27	28 8 AM LWR Quilting (🔗) 10 AM 📺 Adult Bible Studi (🔗) 1 PM Retired Pastors (🔗)	29	30 9 AM SOS Rehearsal 9:00 ar (🔗)
31 9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (🔗)	Sep 1	2 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study (🔗)	3	4 8 AM LWR Quilting (🔗) 10 AM 📺 Adult Bible Studi (🔗) 5:30 PM Tech Team meets (🔗)	5	6 9 AM SOS Rehearsal 9:00 ar (🔗)



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office@shalomlutheran.org



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