



VOL. 25 ISSUE 10 Sep 2025

Shalom Now!

Official Newsletter of Shalom Lutheran Church

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

BY PASTOR DAVID FLEENER



Pastor David Fleener

Like many of you, I was horrified to learn of Charlie Kirk's murder, just as I was to hear of the murder of Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband. Along with the assassination attempts on President Trump, Governor Josh Shapiro, and state Senator John Hoffman, we seem to be back on a very dark but familiar road in American history—that of politically-motivated violence.

We should first note that we in the United States are unusually privileged. Political violence is an everyday reality in much of the world. In contrast, our lives have been relatively peaceful. To be sure, we've witnessed political violence in recent memory, such as 9/11. But targeted assassination seems to harken back to the 1960s through the 1980s. Medgar Evers, JFK, RFK, MLK, Malcolm X, George Lincoln Rockwell, Fred Hampton, and Harvey Milk were all prominent victims during this era. Governor George Wallace was paralyzed by an assassin's bullet. And Presidents Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan narrowly survived attempts on their lives. Many of you remember this era of turmoil.

Such violence, it should go without saying, is unacceptable. Fighting words with bullets is a lose-lose situation for everyone. We would also do well to remember that our Lord was also a victim of politically motivated violence. Jesus was no meek-and-mild milquetoast but spoke hard words to powerful people. Jesus was put to death precisely because he infuriated such people. The charge he was executed under was a political one: "The King of the Jews". Rome had no patience for would-be politicians and revolutionaries. Neither did the religious establishment, which had much to lose from the coming of the reign of God.

But Jesus was not an ordinary Jewish politician or revolutionary. Not once did he raise an army. Not once did he target his enemies for assassination. Not once did he preach retribution or revenge. He didn't even pick up a sword! The only violent act Jesus did in the gospels was use a whip in the Temple precinct (John 2:13-22). When his disciples try to begin an armed insurrection at Jesus' arrest, he tells them, "Put your sword back in its place, for all who take the sword will die by the sword" (Matthew 26:52). Jesus knows that violence only begets more violence.

Rather, Jesus proclaims the reign of God. And as citizens of this realm, we know that it is not merely another Eden. It is not a utopian project. It is not based on the right kind of laws or social manipulation. And it certainly isn't a fantasy for nice little people. The reign of God is an apocalyptic event. It is the inbreaking of a new way of being, based not on the world's values of retributive justice, accumulation, or merit, but on the sheer mercy, grace, and love of God. God's reign cannot be engineered. It can only be received.

Cont'd

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

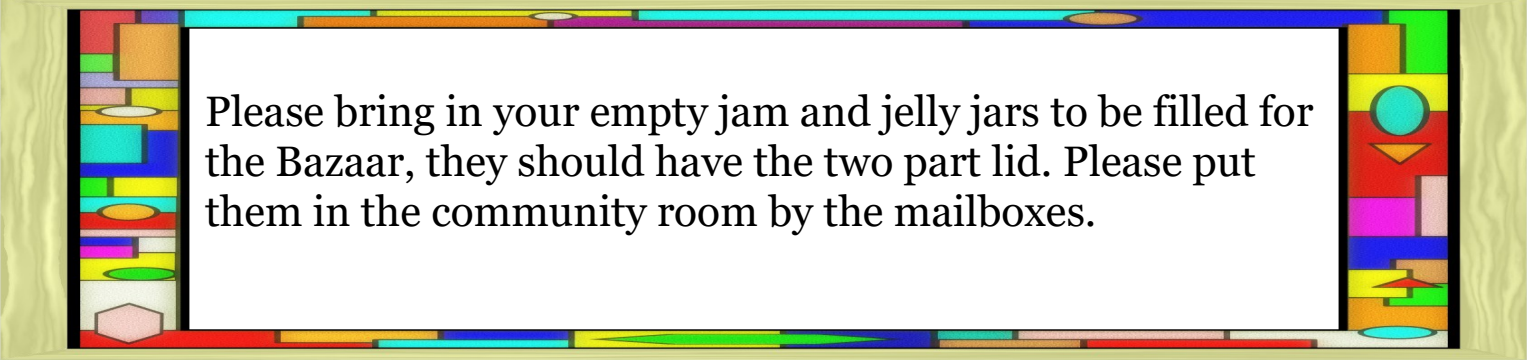
Church Office:
Geri Rindahl
office@shalomlutheran.org

"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."

God bless us all as we seek to live differently under God's reign.

Love to you all,

Pastor David



Please bring in your empty jam and jelly jars to be filled for the Bazaar, they should have the two part lid. Please put them in the community room by the mailboxes.

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, 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.



THANKS to at least a baker's dozen of LEFSE LADIES/GENTS FOR SHALOM, we prepared and served lefse bites at the Alex Diversity Fest Global Bites & Beats in September. Proceeds came to \$315 which will fund Youth Meals on Wednesdays.



SHALOM LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
August 18th, 2025

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

ABSENT: Corey

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm

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

Motion was made to approve July 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 will be gone on September 13th and 14th. He will pre-record his sermon.

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

**** Worship:** No meeting. Pastor made a motion that the Runestone Chorale be allowed to hold their rehearsals at Shalom. Motion seconded. Motion carries. Council would like to discuss provision to the facility fee at next meeting.

**** Finance:** Report in packet. Pastor made a motion to add Vanco a Radio Ministry Fund, Youth Playground and Technology Fund option and an associated Youth Playground to Icon. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

**** Y/ED:** Report in packet. Team would like to have Property, Beautification and Youth teams be involved in a playground vision.

****Outreach and Caring:** Report in packet. Nola took communion to a member. Committee continues to reach out to members through cards and personal contact.

****God’s Work Our Hands:** Report in packet. Discuss cyber security.

****Personnel:** Reviews are done. Catherine is working on translating our job list for Cindy.

****Jeremiah 29 Project:** Completing contact with members.

**** Property:** Sewer issue is being worked on but has been mostly repaired. Property is recommending an increase to \$50 facility fee-use for the groups that are using our facility. Motion made to accept recommendation of Property Committee to increase fees to \$50 for current groups meeting. Motion seconded. Motion carried. Motion made to refer back to property and pastor to adjust other fees, particularly for weddings. Motion seconded. Motions carried.

**** FM Radio Ministry** Looking for a location for the boxes that Ken brought in. They are currently in the storage room.

****Tech:** Report in packet. Team has been looking at replacement options for monitors/speakers that are not working well.

****Stewardship:** Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 26th.

Old Business: None

New Business: Ken brought up the Synod wide constitution has 14 areas of grammatical or other small issues on the constitution that we can update. Ken will update and will send out to council within the next month. Once approved it will go to Synod. Ken is one of 6 people in the Synod that reviews the constitutions.

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

Respectfully submitted, Kim Casavan Council Secretary



Shalom Lutheran Financial Activity: Jan/Aug25

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

General Fund Activities	Actual	Budget	Annual Budget	Variance
Revenues				
General Offerings	\$ 156,952	\$ 193,704	\$ 290,556	\$ (36,752)
Building Fund Offerings	45,780	57,152	85,728	(11,372)
Interest and Other	6,579	3,370	5,050	3,209
Total General/Bldg Fund Revenues	209,310	254,226	381,334	(44,916)
Expenses				
Office expenses and Wages/Benefits	139,887	141,789	212,642	(1,902)
Building and Grounds	33,979	34,052	51,260	(73)
Synod payments, Outreach, GWOH	591	6,544	9,800	(5,953)
Shalom programs (music, Ed, worship, Technology)	12,306	15,167	22,700	(2,861)
Total General Fund Expenses	186,763	197,552	296,402	(10,789)
Net Transfers in/(out) of General Fund	(3,936)	(3,936)	(5,900)	-
Building Fund Mortgage Payments	(52,700)	(52,688)	(79,032)	(12)
Net General/Bldg Fund Surplus / (Deficit)	\$ (34,089)	\$ 50	\$ -	\$ (34,139)

Fund Activities	12/31/24 Balance	2025 Receipts	2025 Disbursed	Transfers between funds	08/31/25 Balance
General Fund (Unrestricted)	\$ 88,193	\$ 164,425	\$ 187,658	\$ (3,936)	\$ 61,024
Bldg Fund (mortg pmt, debt reduction)	51,283	45,780	52,700	-	44,363
Restricted Funds - WELCA	37,413	657	-	-	38,070
Restricted Funds - Youth	18,224	6,814	12,175	600	13,462
Restricted Funds: Shalom internal use	84,196	24,392	7,040	3,336	104,884
Restricted Funds for Outreach use	3,886	1,984	3,482	-	2,388
Totals	\$ 283,194	\$ 244,052	\$ 263,056	\$ -	\$ 264,190

Summary: This Shalom reporting is through Aug/25, with a combined General and Building Funds deficit of \$34,089. The deficit is primarily due to Jan-Aug offerings under-budget by \$48,124. The General/Bldg Funds balance is about \$105,000, down from \$139,000 at the end of December/24. Based on reported receipts and supply expenses at the end of August, the July BBQ grossed \$16,077 with net proceeds of \$11,727.

Notes:

- Cash & short term investment balances:

Cash	\$ 82,949	M Mrkt	\$ 184,198
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 Includes all Restricted Funds
- Restricted Funds: activities such as Memorials, Love Inc, Music, Youth, WELCA, World Hunger, etc
- Restricted Funds: not budgeted, but receive/use only money received for that specific purpose.

	Month	To-date	Budget
4. Offerings to-date are:	\$ 16,721	\$ 156,952	\$ 193,704
Building Fund Offerings:	\$ 4,653	\$ 45,780	\$ 57,152

- Building Fund receipts to-date are \$6,920 under funds needed to pay the mortgage.
- Mortgage balance at time of reporting is \$475,150. Our monthly payment is \$6,586.



SHALOM LUTHERAN CHURCH
**3-Item Raffle, Bake & Craft Sales, Rolls,
Lefse & ala Cart Lunch**
November 8, 2025 9 am – 1:30 pm

CRAFTS: Crafters, bring your items to the church and set up your table(s) on **Thursday, Nov 6**, starting at 10:00 am or **Friday, Nov 7**, between 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. Any craft items left over after the Bazaar, will be the responsibility of the crafter to take home.


BAKE SALE: All bake sale items must be wrapped individually or boxed/covered. Do not price your items. Bake sale items may be delivered to Shalom on the following days and times:

Thursday, Nov 6: 7:00 am – noon Friday, Nov 7: 7:00 am – 5:00 pm

If you need to make arrangements to drop off items outside of the above hours, call CJ @ 703-585-8810.

Labeling: Please label your baked goods and note if they have nuts, are gluten free, have coconut or other potential ingredients that could cause allergic reactions. Thank you for your attention to this detail.

SIGN-UP SHEETS: YOUR HELP IS NEEDED to make this event successful. It takes a village. Won't you be a part of the Shalom village? Sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex or Community Room.





Shalom Lutheran Church

FALL BAZAAR

LUNCH

CRAFTS

BAKE SALE

RAFFLES

Saturday | November 8 | 2025

9:00AM - 1:30PM

681 Voyager Drive Alexandria, MN 56308

For more Info: Call CJ @ 703-585-8810

All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Contributions are solicited with the understanding that Shalom Lutheran Church has complete control over the use of all donated funds. Our policy is that all gifts designated for a specific project be used for that project. If we receive more gifts for a given project than is necessary for that project we will use the excess funds for similar projects if possible. The Shalom Church Council is the final arbiter of fund usage in accordance with the needs God lays before us."



Katy's Swing Band (who performed here at Shalom in August) will be playing again, October 20th at First Lutheran Church. More details to come as the date gets closer. If you have questions, you can reach out to Sam Meehan.

Music Ministry Update

Another summer has come and gone, and now it's time to get back into the swing of things! As we step into the fall season, here are a few important notes:

Shalom Singers rehearsals will be held on **Thurs. at 6:00 p.m.**

Shalom Ringers rehearsals will be held on **Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m.**

Both groups are open to anyone who would like to come and make a joyful noise. If you want to sing or ring, there is a place for you! Even if you've never participated before, consider giving it a try for just a season. You may find it's the highlight of your week — and there's always room for more voices and more hands.

Over the past year, we have been alternating our approach to communion music. For a time, we encourage congregational singing, and for a time, we create space for contemplation through special music. This balance allows opportunities for those who love to sing as much as possible and for those who desire a quieter moment of reflection.

As we move into the fall, we will be entering a season focused around contemplation during communion, offering special music that invites us to connect with God in ways that may be different than what we are used to. This is a chance to pause, listen, and open ourselves to God's Spirit in fresh and unexpected ways. Then, as Advent and Christmas approach, we will once again shift into a season of joyful congregational singing as we lift our voices together in praise.

In all things, we give thanks to the Lord for the gift of music. Included below is a prayer we share with our musicians, placed in their folders or on their stands, as they prepare to lead us in worship:

Lord of all beauty and harmony, as we prepare to lead your people in worship, we ask for your presence among us. Let our music be more than sound—may it be a reflection of your grace. Help us to set aside distractions and lead with humility, that we might sing and play not for ourselves, but to draw others closer to you. Bless our voices, hands, and hearts. May we serve with humility and love. Amen.

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





FALL BAZAAR INFO: an informational meeting will be held on **Sunday, October 19**, directly after our church service in the community room. We will be finalizing details for this event. Sign-up sheets for volunteer workers will be available in the community room. All ladies and gentlemen are invited to attend this meeting. It takes all of us working together to generate a successful Fall Bazaar.

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.



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.





Youth Ministry Update

Our Wednesday evening programming begins the following week. Just like the past couple of years, Shalom will be providing a meal for our youth at 5:00 p.m., with programming beginning at 5:30 p.m. Faith Time, Confirmation, and The Harbor will all share this meal together before splitting into their groups.

There are two ways you can help support these meals:

- Donating to the Wednesday meal fund, which helps us provide food each week.
- Signing up to cook and serve a meal — this is a wonderful way to get to know our youth, show them you care, and bring variety to the table beyond just “pizza, pizza, pizza!” Our hope is to have at least two weeks each month covered by volunteer cooks.

We do want to share honestly that last year’s meal program ended with a \$719 shortfall. If more of us step in — whether by giving, cooking, or serving — we can make sure every meal is covered this year. Let’s work together so our young people continue to be nourished in body and spirit each Wednesday night.

We are excited to see what blessings God has in store for us and our youth in this new year. Thank you for your prayers and support — they make all the difference!

Oct 1 5:30-6:30
Grades 7-9 Confirmation
Pre-K-6th

Oct 8 5:30-6:30
Grades 7-9 Confirmation
Pre-K-6th

Oct 15 5:30-6:30
Grades 7-9 Confirmation
Pre-K-6th

Oct 22 5:30-6:30
Grades 7-9 Confirmation
Pre-K-6th

Oct 29th 5:30-6:30
Grades 7-9 Confirmation
Pre-K-6th

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH: ANOTHER ENJOYABLE CRAFT/VISITING/TREAT AFTERNOON WITH EDGEWOOD VISTA RESIDENTS BY KAREN MORGAN, CAROL HEDLUND, BARB BEYER, AMY SCHLOSSER AND JUDY RADJENOVICH!!!! SHALOM MEMBER, JOYCE FREY, IS ALWAYS ESPECIALLY HAPPY TO SEE US BUT WE GET A WARM WELCOME FROM ALL OF THEM!



ENDOWMENT FUND

Shalom Mission Endowment Fund

Your Mission Endowment Fund committee is happy to announce that we will be accepting applications for another round of MEF Grants. **All Shalom members can apply** through the various church teams for a grant to help fund an activity or project that is not already being supported by the church budget.

Grant applications will be available in the church office from November 1st through November 30th. Please put completed application forms in Charmaine Munts church mailbox.

**Women of the ELCA
NW MN Synodical Women's Organization
2025 Conference 8 Fall Gathering**

*Hosted by WELCA of Messiah Lutheran Church
502 Kentucky Avenue
Hoffman, MN 56339*

October 11, 2025



Theme: Hear God's Call and Walk in Faith

**Matthew 19:26 With man this is impossible,
but with God all things are possible.**

Guest Speaker: Betty McBrady

Messiah is asking for cash donations to be given to the Children of Zambia. (make check to Messiah, put in notes Zambia)



Carol Hedlund was honored with the Mary Magdalene award during the NW Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization convention. This award is to celebrate and honor local women who demonstrate exceptional leadership within our NW MN Synod. Carol is a member of Shalom WELCA Conference 8, Alexandria.

Oct Shared Ministry

Shared Ministry	10/5/2025 0:00	10/12/2025 0:00	10/19/2025 0:00	10/26/2025 0:00
Acolyte		Andrew Kappmeyer	Rhe'von Richmond	Aiden Bailey
Assisting Minister	Carol Hedlund	Nola Smith	Deb Kramer	Carol Hedlund
Communion Assistants	Grant Pexsa	Dean Kliewer	Angie Erickson	Cheryl Burbank
Communion Assistants	Dave Morgan	Catherine Kliewer	Judy Hoffman	Sue Engstrom
Communion Bread/Month	Tammy Drewes	Tammy Drewes	Tammy Drewes	Tammy Drewes
Greeters	Joann Garland	Corey Drewes	Amy Schlosser	Sherri Maanum
Greeters	Jenny Johnson	Tammy Drewes	Connie Facciotto	Pris Fieldhammer
Kitchen Monitor/Month	Carol Hedlund	Carol Hedlund	Carol Hedlund	Carol Hedlund
Lector	Cami Pexsa	Kersten Kappmeyer	Joann Garland	Tam Bukowski
Proclaim Slide Presenter	CJ/Kim/Julie	CJ/Kim/Julie	CJ/Kim/Julie	CJ/Kim/Julie
Usher	Sherri Maanum	Renae Hills	Todd Zarbok	Al Anderson
Usher	Cheryl Burbank	Rachel Buse	Eric Holthusen	Fritz Bukowski
Counter	Derek Navratil	Craig Neubarth	Dave Harris	Renae Hills
Counter	Arvin Pletcher	Al Anderson	Arvin Pletcher	Dave Burbank

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.

Oct Birthdays

10/01 Feldhake Ricky
 10/02 Kappmeyer Andrew
 10/03 Fleener Sarah
 10/03 Samuelson Tyler
 10/03 Zarbok Emmott
 10/04 Carlberg Carrie
 10/04 Munt Charmaine
 10/07 Visser Joyce
 10/10 Berger Lloyd
 10/12 Kuhn Beth
 10/13 Malvin Chad
 10/14 Jensen CJ
 10/17 Dale Blake
 10/18 Edwards Valentino



10/18 Neubarth Craig
 10/23 Carstens Barb
 10/23 Granning Christi
 10/23 Whipkey Daisy
 10/24 Dale Josh
 10/24 Voigt Joan
 10/27 Priebe Norm
 10/29 Drewes Corey
 10/30 Klimek Clem
 10/31 Buse Rachel
 10/31 Drewes Tammy

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!

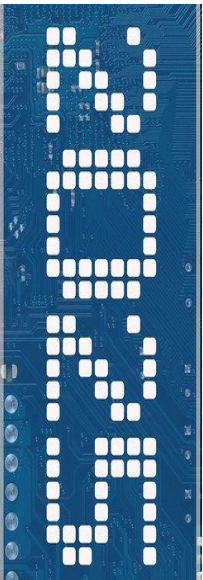
Hospitality Time

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

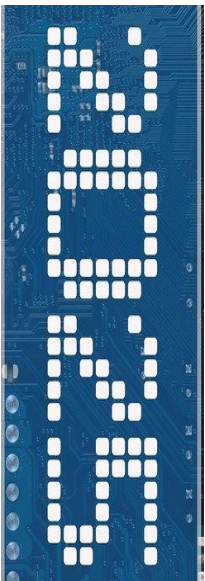
The schedule Oct is:

<u>10-05-25</u>	<u>10-12-25</u>	<u>10-19-25</u>
Al Anderson Tam & Fritz Bukowski Mike & Sarah Flaten	Brian & Kim Casavan Corey & Tammy Drewes John & Vic Dale	Malvin Family
<u>10-26-25</u>		
Joann Garland Randy & Leann Hoffbeck Judy Hoffman		

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



October



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sep 28 9:30 AM Malvin Baptism 9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (in perso)	29 1 PM Book Club	30 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Comi 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Comi	Oct 1 5 PM Meal 5:30 PM Confirmation/Faith Time	2 8 AM LWR Quilting 10 AM Adult Bible Study 5:30 PM Tech Team meets	3 👉	4 9 AM SOS Rehearsal 9:00 am
5 9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (in perso) 10:30 AM GWOH	6	7 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Comi	8	9 8 AM LWR Quilting 10 AM Adult Bible Study 11 AM Altar Guild	10	11 9 AM SOS Rehearsal 9:00 am
12 9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (in perso) 10:30 AM Radio Ministry	13	14 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Comi 11 AM Outreach 5 PM Youth/Ed meets 5:30 PM Property Meeting	15	16 8 AM LWR Quilting 10 AM Adult Bible Study	17 Newsletter Items due	18
19 9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (in perso)	20 5:30 PM Council Mtg	21 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Comi	22	23 8 AM LWR Quilting 10 AM Adult Bible Study 1 PM Retired Pastors	24	25 8 AM Chrissy Oachs 9 AM SOS Rehearsal 9:00 am
26 9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (in perso)	27 1 PM Book Club	28 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Comi 5 PM Newcomers	29	30 8 AM LWR Quilting 10 AM Adult Bible Study	31	Nov 1 9 AM SOS Rehearsal 9:00 am



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