



VOL. 25 ISSUE 11 Nov 2025

Shalom Now!

Official Newsletter of Shalom Lutheran Church

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

BY PASTOR DAVID FLEENER



Pastor David Fleener

In 1949, British diplomat Hughe Knatchbull-Hugessen published his memoirs, in which he popularized what he called a “Chinese curse”: “May you live in interesting times.” While there’s no evidence this phrase originated in China, the meaning is clear enough: interesting times are often turbulent times.

If you’re like me, you might long for some boring times now. Things have been a little too interesting for a lot of us. As I write this, we are twenty-three days into a government shutdown with no end in sight.

The state of Minnesota, among other states, is pausing SNAP benefits until the shutdown ends due to lack of federal funding, which will negatively impact families in need and create further strain on food shelves. Other troubles compound our stress. Health insurance costs continue to rise. Political violence has become more frequent and severe. Attacks on places of worship seem to make the front page every couple of weeks. On top of these public challenges, many of us carry personal burdens—such as illness, aging, financial difficulties, or struggles with addiction.

Jesus never promised to rescue us from interesting times. After all, he wasn’t rescued in his own life and ministry, despite his pleas to his Abba Father (Mark 14:32-36). He also told his disciples “slaves are not greater than their Master (John 13:16; 15:20)”. If we are not greater than our Lord Jesus Christ, what makes us think we can escape troubling times?

We are in this time for a purpose. The purpose is the same as it has been in every generation: to point to the shalom we have in Jesus Christ by living lives rooted in Him.

German theologian and pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer pointed to this shalom in an address he gave in 1934 at Fanø, an island off the Danish coast. The aged German president Paul von Hindenberg had just died, giving chancellor Adolf Hitler total power in Germany. Rumors of wars were spreading across Europe. Pastors swore allegiance to Hitler from the pulpit. In this turbulent situation, Bonhoeffer addressed the crowd this way:

*How does peace come about? Through a system of political treaties? Through the investment of international capital in different countries? Through the big banks, through money? Or through universal peaceful rearmament in order to guarantee peace? **Through none of these, for the single reason that in all of them peace is confused with safety. There is no way to peace along the way of safety. For peace must be dared.** It is the great venture. It can never be made safe. Peace is the opposite of security. To demand guarantees is to mistrust, and this mistrust in turn brings forth war. To look for guarantees is to want to protect oneself. Peace means to give oneself altogether to the law of God, wanting no security, but in faith and obedience laying the destiny of the nations in the hand of Almighty God, not trying to direct it for selfish purposes. **Battles are won, not with weapons, but with God. They are won where the way leads to the cross.** (Underling and bolding mine.)*

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.”

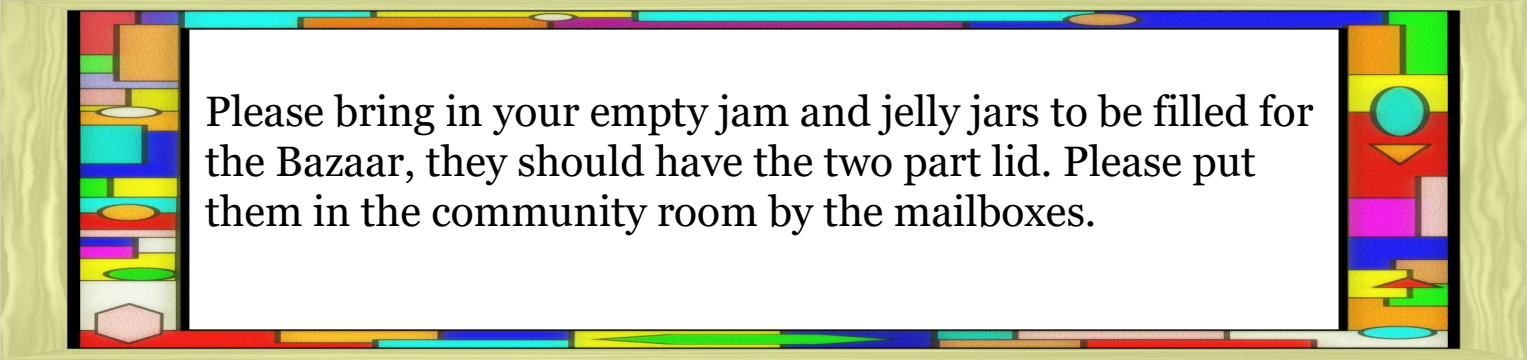
Cont'd

Our shalom is not in anything else but Jesus Christ and him crucified for the life of the world. And like Esther, we have been put here “for a time like this”. God give us the courage to live well in these interesting times.

Love to you all,
Pastor David

<https://dcyf.mn.gov/federal-shutdown>.

Clifford J. Green and Michael P. DeJonge, eds., *The Bonhoeffer Reader* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2013), 396–397.
Esther 4:14.



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.

Daylight Saving Time 2025

- began Sunday, March 9

Fall back

Standard time begins at 2 a.m.

Sunday. Turn clocks
back one hour.

Daylight
saving time
returns the
second
Sunday in
March.



Lakes Area Operation Bootstrap Africa 25th Annual Year-End Appeal

Jason Bergmann, Director of Operation Bootstrap Africa, will kick off our 25th Annual fundraiser at First Lutheran Church on Sunday, November 9th. His temple talks at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. will recap his latest trip to Tanzania and focus on the School Lunch Program. Our goal this year is to raise \$5000 to feed primary school children in East Africa and Madagascar. Remember: a mere **20 Cents a Day** provides a school lunch which ensures that these kids get at least one meal a day. LET'S FEED THESE KIDS.



SHALOM LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
September 15th, 2025

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

ABSENT:

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm

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

Motion was made to approve September minutes. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Prayer led by Pastor: Devotion from “More Days for Praise” by Gail Ramshaw

Reviewed reports by Pastor and Committees

****Pastor’s Report:** Report included in packet. Bethesda has 1 confirmation student that is attending confirmation with our confirmands. Pastor just returned from his retreat at St. Augustine’s House. Pastor will be going through the data from the Jeremiah Project.

**** Staff:** Report in packet. Sam will be directing the Runestone Chorus now. Pastor would like to work with Sam on finding some continuing education.

**** Worship:** Stewardship will be taking on the Time and Talents for Shared Ministry. Will contact Sam to let him know. There will be a joint Thanksgiving Eve service.

**** Finance:** Report in packet. Grant did speak with Church Mutual regarding an incident that happened at church. Should not be a cost to us.

**** Y/ED:** Report in packet. No council action required.

****Outreach and Caring:** Report in packet. No council action required.

****God’s Work Our Hands:** Report in packet. No council action required.

****Personnel:** Did not meet.

****Jeremiah 29 Project:** Pastor will be reviewing the data. Once he has done that the decision on what the next steps are will be made.

**** Property:** Sewer has been repaired. ALP sent Corey to their contractor. The contractor will be paying for the repair. We will have the cost of tile in kitchen to replace and the clean-up.

**** FM Radio:** Team met on Sunday. Looking at a Temple Talk and newsletter article. We have been given an opportunity to submit a request to Methodist Church for their Endowment Fund. A motion was made to approve the UMC Endowment Fund application. Seconded. Motion approved.

****Tech:** No report. Team did not meet this month.

****Stewardship:** Report in packet. Committee is working hard on the campaign.

Old Business: None

New Business: Ken has been working on the 2025 Model Constitution. Motion was made to send to the Synod for approval. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted, Kim Casavan Council Secretary



Shalom Lutheran Financial Activity: Jan/Sep 25

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

General Fund Activities	Actual	Budget	Annual Budget	Variance
Revenues				
General Offerings	\$ 180,252	\$ 217,917	\$ 290,556	\$ (37,665)
Building Fund Offerings	48,971	64,296	85,728	(15,325)
Interest and Other	7,269	3,790	5,050	3,479
Total General/Bldg Fund Revenues	236,492	286,003	381,334	(49,511)
Expenses				
Office expenses and Wages/Benefits	157,620	159,503	212,642	(1,883)
Building and Grounds	39,880	38,162	51,260	1,718
Synod payments, Outreach, GWOH	616	7,359	9,800	(6,743)
Shalom programs (music, Ed, worship, Technology)	8,825	17,052	22,700	(8,227)
Total General Fund Expenses	206,941	222,076	296,402	(15,135)
Net Transfers in/(out) of General Fund	(4,427)	(4,428)	(5,900)	1
Building Fund Mortgage Payments	(59,288)	(59,274)	(79,032)	(14)
Net General/Bldg Fund Surplus / (Deficit)	\$ (34,164)	\$ 225	\$ -	\$ (34,389)

Fund Activities	12/31/24 Balance	2025 Receipts	2025 Disbursed	Transfers between funds	09/30/25 Balance
General Fund (Unrestricted)	\$ 88,193	\$ 188,538	\$ 207,958	\$ (4,427)	\$ 64,346
Bldg Fund (mortg pmt, debt reduction)	51,283	48,971	59,288	-	40,966
Restricted Funds - WELCA	37,413	684	-	-	38,097
Restricted Funds - Youth	18,224	6,956	12,372	675	13,483
Restricted Funds: Shalom internal use	84,196	27,190	13,405	3,752	101,733
Restricted Funds for Outreach use	3,886	2,160	5,167	-	879
Totals	\$ 283,194	\$ 274,500	\$ 298,190	\$ -	\$ 259,504

Summary: This Shalom reporting is through September with a combined General and Building Funds deficit of \$34,164. The deficit is primarily due to Jan-Sep offerings under-budget by \$52,990. 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 September, the July BBQ grossed \$16,077 with net proceeds of \$9,677.

Notes:

- Cash & short term investment balances:

Cash	M Mrkt
\$ 69,243	\$ 193,599

 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:	\$ 23,422	\$ 180,252	\$ 217,917
Building Fund Offerings:	\$ 4,653	\$ 48,971	\$ 64,296

- Building Fund receipts to-date are \$10,317 under funds needed to pay the mortgage.
- Mortgage balance at time of reporting is \$470,544. 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.



2025 Shalom Fall Bazaar



Shalom Fall Bazaar 3-Item Raffle

Saturday, November 8, 2025 **\$2 /ticket**

Drawing @ 1:00 pm (need not be present to win)

"A Camping We Go"
(74" x 82")

On display at
Shalom Lutheran Church
681 Voyager Dr. Alexandria, MN

Quilt designed, pieced & stitched
by CJ & Deb Kramer

Machine-Quilted by CJ

Draw #1 - Reversible Quilt




Draw #2 & #3



Lake Country Meats
2 - \$50 Gift Cards



SHALOM 2025 FALL BAZAAR

DATE: Saturday, November 8, 2025

TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

How can You help?

- Make goodies for the Bake Sale
- Help the day of the Bazaar (see sign-up sheets)
- Help make lefse (see sign-up sheet)
- Work in the kitchen
- Set-up on Thursday & Friday (see sign-up sheet)
- Clean up after the Bazaar
- Hang posters at work or other places, etc.

DINE-IN or TO-GO ALA CARTE MENU

Cinnamon Roll	\$3.00
Soup Choices	\$4.00
<i>Chicken Wild Rice Tomato Basil Vegetarian Barley Vegetable Beef</i>	
Sandwich	\$4.00
<i>Egg Salad or Ham Salad</i>	
Dessert	\$4.00
<i>Slice of Pie</i>	
Coffee	Free
Bottled Water	\$1.00

If you have any questions, please call Linda Fenelon @ 320-763-4197 or 320-491-4484.

BAKE SALE IDEAS:

- Jam, Jelly
- Pickles, Relish
- Breads of any kind (especially yeast breads):
- Homemade donuts
- Kolaches, flat bread, sweet bread
- Swedish cake, krumkake, etc.
- Snack mixes (chex mix, puppy chow, caramel corn, etc)
- Pies of most kinds (no cream/pudding pies)
- Candy--fudge, peanut brittle, divinity
- Cookies, cupcakes, cakes or decorated pretzels



NOTES:

- Please label ALL items and note items that contain nuts or peanut butter and/or are Gluten free
- Each bake sale item must be individually wrapped or put in a bag, or covered box to avoid contamination.

- We invite anyone who would like to help, to check the sign-up sheets in the Narthex. It takes many hands to work together to make this event a success.
- This is a great mentor/mentee project and excellent bonding time for members/parents/youth.

Bake-sale items may be dropped off 11/6 -Thursday, 7am-Noon | 11/7- Friday, 7am-5pm | 11/9-Sat morning before 8am.



RUNESTONE CHORUS

Runestone Chorus: A New Musical Community in Alexandria

This fall marks the exciting beginning of a new musical journey in the Alexandria area! A community choir—**Runestone Chorus**—has begun meeting at Shalom Lutheran Church, under the direction of Sam Meehan. Rehearsals are held every Tuesday evening at 6:30 PM.

Open to all who love to sing, Runestone Chorus offers a welcoming space for anyone interested in making music together and connecting with others through song. Whether you're an experienced vocalist or just someone who enjoys singing in the shower, this group is about community, creativity, and the joy of shared music-making.

If you'd like to learn more, feel free to reach out to Sam Meehan via email at sam.meehan.sm@gmail.com, by phone at 4064809675 or better yet, come check out a rehearsal or two. You might just find your voice and your people!

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!



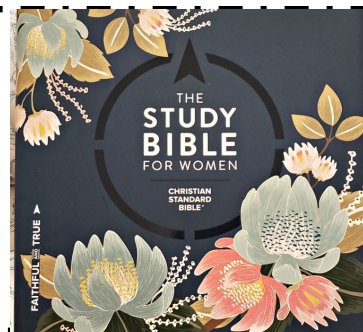
Following is the list of books selected for discussion.

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 Shalom WELCA ladies attended the Fall Conference 8 Gathering on October 11, 2025. This event was hosted by the women of Messiah Lutheran Church, Hoffman MN. The theme of the conference was 'Hear God's Call and Walk in Faith'. The guest speaker was Betty McBrady Thomas. She enlightened us in the life of her sister, Carol McBady, who has been working and living in Zambia for many years. Everyone shared a business meeting, worship time, and a luncheon. All Shalom ladies are always welcome to join us in our Conference 8 activities.



You may be aware that the Radio Committee is meeting most months, usually on the second Sunday of the month following Worship. The Committee has regularly included Al Anderson, Pastor Kathryn and Ken Rothman, Kersten Kappmeyer, Nola Smith, Norm Priebe, and Pastor Rol Halvorson. Here is what they are doing: The first several months were spent tending to legal and technical issues. Engineering help was found and an equipment list was generated. After that, we began to contact some of the other churches in pulpit fellowship with ours in the local area - initially some of the smaller churches - to see if there was interest in partnering with us in a radio ministry. We asked them to consider helping with financial support, to think of ways to enhance ministry with this new opportunity, and to ask questions and give suggestions that would help us in further planning. We have been met with interest and enthusiasm! Several suggestions opened up new ways of extending our outreach even further and some ideas for fund raising were shared. Look for Temple Talks and information meetings coming from time to time as well as newsletter updates. You are welcome at committee meetings as well if you are interested in this ministry. We truly feel the hand of God and the leading of the Spirit in this new opportunity to share the Gospel with a hurting world.



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.

Nov 5 5:30-6:30
Grades 6-8 Confirmation
Pre-K-6th

Nov 12 5:30-6:30
Grades 6-8 Confirmation
Pre-K-6th

Nov 19 5:30-6:30
Grades 6-8 Confirmation
Pre-K-6th

Nov 26 5:30-6:30
Grades 6-8 Confirmation
Pre-K-6th

Nov Shared Ministry

Shared Ministry

11/2/2025 0:00 11/9/2025 0:00 11/16/2025 0:00 11/23/2025 11/30/2025 0:00

Acolyte		Skylar Cadena	Andrew Kappmeyer	Olivia Flaten	Aiden Bailey
Assisting Minister		Nola Smith	Cami Pexsa	Deb Kramer	Carol Hedlund
Communion Assistants	Amber Whipkey	Judy Hoffman	Grant Pexsa	Dean Kliwer	Judy Hoffman
Communion Assistants	Cheryl Burbank	Sue Engstrom	Amy Klimek	Catherine Kliwer	Dave Morgan
Communion Bread/Month	Chrissy Oachs	Chrissy Oachs	Chrissy Oachs	Chrissy Oachs	Chrissy Oachs
Greeters	Connie Facciotto	Dave Rogosheske	Corey Drewes	Amy Schlosser	Barb Beyer
Greeters	Pris Fieldhammer	Joyce Rogosheske	Tammy Drewes	Carolyn Carlson	Dave Beyer
Kitchen Monitor/Month	Sue Engstrom	Sue Engstrom	Sue Engstrom	Sue Engstrom	Sue Engstrom
Lector	Brian Casavan	John Smith	Kersten Kappmeyer	Sarah Fleener	Joann Garland
Proclaim Slide Presenter	CJ/Kim/Julie	CJ/Kim/Julie	CJ/Kim/Julie	CJ/Kim/Julie	CJ/Kim/Julie
Usher	Al Anderson	Dave Malvin	Craig Neubarth	Todd Zarbok	Al Anderson
Usher	Darrell Nielsen	Renae Hills	Lona Neubarth	Sherri Endreson	Cheryl Burbank
Counter					
Counter					

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.

Nov Birthdays

11/01 Melchert Dennis
 11/05 Bukowski Tam
 11/05 Malvin Ava
 11/05 Stark Jill
 11/07 Pletcher Susan
 11/11 Hanish Sam
 11/11 Mays Janel
 11/14 Abraham Stacey
 11/14 Stueve Cindy



11/01 Melchert Dennis
 11/05 Bukowski Tam
 11/05 Malvin Ava
 11/05 Stark Jill
 11/07 Pletcher Susan
 11/11 Hanish Sam
 11/11 Mays Janel
 11/14 Abraham Stacey
 11/14 Stueve Cindy

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!

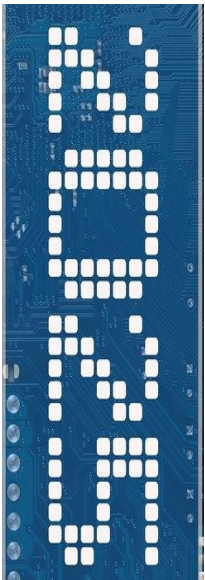
Hospitality Time

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

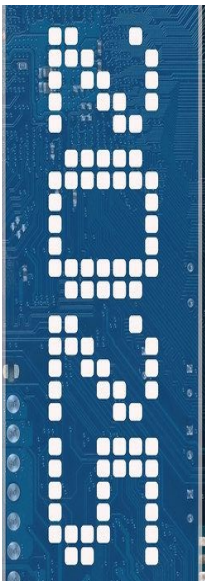
The schedule Nov is:

<u>11-02-25</u>	<u>11-09-25</u>	<u>11-16-25</u>
Dave & Barb Beyer Carolyn Carlson Eldie & Randy Dertinger	Sue Engstrom Ryan & Angie Erickson Carol Hedlund	Glen & Linda Huebner Dale & Naty Kittleson Dean & Catherine Klierer
<u>11-23-25</u>	<u>11-30-25</u>	
Brad & Deb Hoven Clem & Ginny Klimek Sherri Endreson	Dave & Karen Morgan Virginia Leutgers Derek & Isabelle Navratil	

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



November



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Oct 26	27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1
9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (in perso) ↻	1 PM Book Club ↻	7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Comi ↻ 5 PM Newcomers ↻ 6:30 PM Runestone Chorus ↻	8 AM LWR Quilting ↻ 10 AM 📺 Adult Bible Study ↻ 6 PM Shalom Singers ↻	8 AM LWR Quilting ↻ 10 AM 📺 Adult Bible Study ↻ +2		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (in perso) ↻ 10:30 AM GWOH ↻	9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (in perso) ↻ 10:30 AM Radio Ministry ↻	7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Comi ↻ 6:30 PM Runestone Chorus ↻	8 AM LWR Quilting ↻ 10 AM 📺 Adult Bible Study ↻ +2	8 AM LWR Quilting ↻ 10 AM 📺 Adult Bible Study ↻ +2		Bazaar
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (in perso) ↻ 10:30 AM Radio Ministry ↻		7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Comi ↻ 11 AM Outreach ↻ +3		8 AM LWR Quilting ↻ 10 AM 📺 Adult Bible Study ↻ +2		9 AM SOS Rehearsal 9:00 am ↻
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (in perso) ↻	5:30 PM 📺 Council Mtg ↻	7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Comi ↻ 6:30 PM Runestone Chorus ↻		8 AM LWR Quilting ↻ 10 AM 📺 Adult Bible Study ↻ 6 PM Shalom Singers ↻	↻ Newsletter items due ↻	9 AM SOS Rehearsal 9:00 am ↻
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (in perso) ↻	1 PM Book Club ↻	7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Comi ↻ 5 PM Newcomers ↻ 6:30 PM Runestone Chorus ↻		8 AM LWR Quilting ↻ 10 AM 📺 Adult Bible Study ↻ +2		9 AM SOS Rehearsal 9:00 am ↻
30	Dec 1	2	3	4	5	6
9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (in perso) ↻		7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Comi ↻ 6:30 PM Runestone Chorus ↻		8 AM LWR Quilting ↻ 10 AM 📺 Adult Bible Study ↻ +2		9 AM SOS Rehearsal 9:00 am ↻



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office@shalomlutheran.org



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