

VOL. 25 ISSUE 12 Dec 2025

Shalom Now!

Official Newsletter of Shalom Lutheran Church

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

BY PASTOR DAVID FLEENER



As you may know, I'm a fan of the psalms. These ancient poems run the gamut of emotion, from rage and despair to blissful jov. In that way, they mirror the peaks and valleys of our lives. They can speak the word of God into any situation. In the psalms, we give expression to the darkness and light of our nature: our capacity for thanks and praise as well as for cursing and rage. In them, we confess our sin and receive assurance of God's Pastor David Fleener steadfast love.

One of my favorites during the Advent and Christmas seasons is Psalm 24, especially this portion (sung as part of Handel's *Messiah*):

> Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in! Who is the King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in! Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory.

This psalm, perhaps composed for procession into the Temple, tells us one important thing: God is Sovereign over all. This struck not only at the claims of rival gods—the Baals and the Asherahs—but also at the claims of human sovereigns. Human leaders have often made too much of their own abilities and brilliance. They have often claimed too much, making themselves into idols. This psalm puts the lie to those claims.

Rather, we remember a very different kind of Sovereign during Advent and Christmas. We remember the infant King Jesus, who comes not with military might or braggadocio, but in vulnerable human flesh. We remember the King who doesn't wage physical war on physical enemies, but conquers the root of suffering: sin, death, and the devil. We remember that the King of glory is known to us fully in a particular man, at a particular

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."

time and particular place, who was crucified by the combined powers of religion and the state. We remember that the King of Glory is none other than Jesus the Christ, crucified and risen for the life of the world.

When we remember those things, we remember that no other human leader has any ultimate claim on us. Neither does any human ideology or system of governance. The only true Sovereign is our King of Glory, Jesus Christ.

Love to you all,

Pastor David



For onto us a child is born

SHALOM LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES October 20th, 2025

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

ABSENT: Kim

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm

Motion was made to approve agenda with additions of retirement funding and Palm Sunday Path discussions. Motion was seconded and carried.

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

Prayer led by Pastor: Devotion from "Utmost for Highest" by Oswald Chambers on proper intentions of prayer.

Reviewed reports by Pastor and Committees

- **Pastor's Report: Report included in packet. Pastor reported on progress with the Jeremiah 29 Project and trends related to tech, intergenerational relations, and needs and resources in time of disaster, with more to come. Palm Sunday Path, an invitation from the Bishop to collaborate with the Isaiah Network was also discussed and direction given on advocacy, mass action, and building relationships.
- ** **Staff**: Report in packet. Retirement funding for the Music/Youth Director position and different options were discussed on that topic, with more information to be gathered on this after talking to folks at Portico regarding options.
- ** Worship: Report in packet. Ken gave an update on the completion of the updated congregation constitution, which has been submitted and accepted and awaiting synod action. Ken asked for committee descriptions to be shared by committee liaisons for documentation purposes for those that do not already have descriptions, as these should also be submitted as part of the Constitution updating process. No council action requested.
- ** Finance: Report in packet. Reported to be at 80% of expected giving year-to-date for 2025. Discussed rate of pledge card returns, budget development process, and the need for a special meeting to review budget proposals and targets before the Annual Meeting. Motion made, seconded, and carried to hold a special Council meeting on Monday, October 27, 2025 at 5:30pm for the purpose of budget proposal development and review.
- ** Stewardship: Report in packet. Giving cards are being received, about 35 at this point. Time and talen sheets are intended to be sent out after the first of the year. Book study attendance noted. No council action requested.
- ** Y/ED: Report in packet. Outreach to Bethesda and Programming schedule for youth for the coming year was outlined in the report. No council action requested.
- ****Outreach and Caring:** Report in packet. Need for Communion help for members was noted. No council action requested.
- **God's Work Our Hands: Report in packet. Noted commitment to serve a meal to Love, INC's Tuesday class participants on November 11th. No council action requested.
- **Personnel: Did not meet.
- ** Property: Julie Anderson discussed the Church's emergency action plan, with the goal to continue to develop a plan useable to staff and the congregation, with future input sought in order to finalize. The Council accepted Julie's donation of a portable crank radio and light for the office with gratitude. Council also discussed potential emergency preparation activities in the future. With the current contractor not continuing snow removal work, replacement quotes were discussed, ranging in price and ranging from per occurrence to

per season basis. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the lowest per season quote from Martinson Snow Services in the amount of \$2,205. Sewer project has been squared up, with one bill still anticipated for plumbing to close out.

**Tech: Report in packet. Made some adjustments to requested Tech budget for 2026 due to other funding sources. Awaiting sales to purchase office PC and other various tech items. No council action requested.

** FM Radio: Report in packet. Acknowledged recent financial and studio equipment donations via correspondence. Submitted an Endowment Fund application to the Alexandria UMC for additional funding. Submitted a newsletter update for November the congregation and discussed impact of federal administration and shutdown impacts on the FCC. No council action requested.

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

Old Business: None

New Business: Noted the need for all committees to submit annual reports of activities to the church office by the end of October for inclusion in the Annual Meeting packet for November 23, 2025.

A closing prayer was offered by Carol.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn at 7:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Kersten Kappmeyer, Council Secretary Pro Tem





Shalom Lutheran Financial Activity: Jan/Oct 25

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

			Annual		
General Fund Activities	Actual	Budget	Budget	V	ariance
Revenues					
General Offerings	\$ 196,719	\$ 242,130	\$ 290,556	\$	(45,411)
Building Fund Offerings	53,466	71,440	85,728		(17,974)
Interest and Other	7,979	4,210	 5,050		3,769
Total General/Bldg Fund Revenues	258,164	317,780	381,334		(59,616)
Expenses					
Office expenses and Wages/Benefits	172,015	177,217	212,642		(5,202)
Building and Grounds	39,147	42,272	51,260		(3,125)
Synod payments, Outreach, GWOH	9,141	8,174	9,800		967
Shalom programs (music, Ed, worship, Technology)	 10,024	18,937	22,700		(8,913)
Total General Fund Expenses	230,327	246,600	296,402		(16,273)
Net Transfers in/(out) of General/Bldg Fund	4,789	(4,920)	(5,900)		9,709
Building Fund Mortgage Payments	(65,875)	(65,860)	(79,032)		(15)
Net General/Bldg Fund Surplus / (Deficit)	\$ (33,249)	\$ 400	\$ -	\$	(33,649)

Fund Activities	2/31/24 Balance	2025 Receipts	2025 Disbursed	-	ransfers etween funds	0/31/25 salance
General Fund (Unrestricted)	\$ 88,193	\$ 205,812	\$ 231,441	\$	(65)	\$ 62,499
Bldg Fund (mortg pmt, debt reduction)	51,283	53,466	65,875		4,854	43,727
Restricted Funds - WELCA	37,413	2,893	2,531		-	37,775
Restricted Funds - Youth	18,224	7,217	12,702		750	13,488
Restricted Funds: Shalom internal use	84,196	27,300	15,094		(5,539)	90,863
Restricted Funds for Outreach use	 3,886	2,416	5,173	l	-	1,129
Totals	\$ 283,194	\$ 299,104	\$ 332,816	\$	(0)	\$ 249,482

Summary:

This Shalom reporting is through October with a combined General and Building Funds deficit of \$32,249. The deficit is primarily due to Jan-Oct offerings under-budget by \$63,384. The General/Bldg Funds balance is about \$107,000, 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 \$9,707. Council approved transferring the BBQ net proceed 50% to Building Fund and 50% to General fund. October results reflect that transfer.

Notes:	Cash	M Mrkt	
1 Cach & chart term investment halances:	\$ 62 117	\$ 194 227	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:	\$ 16,564	\$ 196,719	\$ 242,130
Building Fund Offerings:	\$ 4,653	\$ 53,466	\$ 71,440

- 5. Building Fund receipts to-date are \$12,409 under funds needed to pay the mortgage.
- 6. Mortgage balance at time of reporting is \$465,919. Our monthly payment is \$6,586.

Christmas I Spy

How many can you find:









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.

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.



UKE-tide Caroling

The Gospel of Uke invites you to join us for caroling at Edgewood in Alexandria at 2pm on Sunday, December 14th. We'll spend time filling the residents with

Christmas joy on the assisted living wing and the memory care wing. If you have questions, you can contact Sam Meehan at music@shalomlutheran.org.



It's that time of year again. We are coming into the Christmas season. That means a few different things.

- 1. Caroling-We will be caroling with the Gospel of Uke at Edgewood this year on December 14th at 2pm.
- 2. We will be doing the same Christmas program that we did last year that everyone loved so much. Come join us on 12/21, grab a costume and immerse yourself in the story of the birth of Jesus Christ!
- 3. Following the Christmas program, during coffee hour, we will be holding our annual youth bake sale. Come support the youth and get some delicious goodies! Like we have in years past, we will give folks the option to contribute baked goods to this years bake sale. If you have too many baked goods an nowhere to bring them for the holidays, you can bring them to Shalom for the youth bake sale.



2025 Fall Bazaar Story



The 2025 Fall Bazaar was a wonderful success!

Thank you to everyone who made soup, baked, crafted, served food, donated, set up, or cleaned up. A special thanks to Charly, Renae Hill's granddaughter, for her help. Our soups were all especially tasty and the bake, craft, and lefsa sales were a hit, with more than 800 packages of lefsa made!

It truly takes a Shalom Village to make this event possible. Together we raised **\$10,533 after expenses** to support Shalom's mission projects and local community organizations. Heartfelt thanks to Charmaine and CJ (Carol Jensen) for their many years of leadership as event chairs. They are now passing the torch to new coordinators—please contact them or the church office if you're interested in helping continue this wonderful tradition.











Congratulations! Raffle Winners!

The 2025 Fall Bazaar Quilt Raffle winner is Rob Tryggeseth!

The Lake Country Meats Gift card winners:

Sara Miller (Judy Radjenovich's daughter)
Susan Pletcher, who is in Florida for the winter



Rob Tryggeseth

GWOH Dec. 2025 Shalom Newsletter

God's Work Our Hands Team and Shalom's youth invite you to support the Christmas Angel Tree set up in the Narthex this month. The tree will display decorated angels with gift suggestions for residents of Viking Towers. If you can, grab an angel off the tree, shop and place the unwrapped gift and Angel under the tree. Gift cards, however, should be left in the church office.



Dec 3 5:30-6:30 Grades 6-8 Confirmation Pre-K-6th

Dec 17 5:30-6:30 Grades 6-8 Confirmation Pre-K-6th

Dec 31 No activities

Dec 10 5:30-6:30 Grades 6-8 Confirmation

Pre-K-6th

Dec 24 5:30-6:30

No activities

Dec Shared Ministry

Shared Ministry	12/7/2025 0:00	12/14/2025 0:00	12/21/2025 0:00	12/28/2025 0:00
				Rhe'von
Acolyte	Mara Malvin	Caedyn Whipkey	Olivia Flaten	Richmond
				Carol
Assisting Minister	Nola Smith	Deb Kramer	Cami Pexsa	Hedlund
Communion Assistants	Cheryl Burbank	Amber Whipkey	Grant Pexsa	Dean Kliewer
Communion Assistants		Amy Klimek	Dave Morgan	Catherine Kliewer
Communion Bread/Month	Vic Dale	Vic Dale	Vic Dale	Vic Dale
C	Linda Fenelon	Renae Hills	Pam McCormick	Eric Holthusen
Greeters	Liliua Felleloli	Reliae fillis	WICCOTTIICK	Kala
Greeters	Connie Facciotto	Rachel Buse	Amy Schlosser	Holthusen
Kitchen Monitor/Month	Cheryl Burbank	Cheryl Burbank	Cheryl Burbank	Cheryl Burbank
Lector	Tam Bukowski	Joann Garland	Sarah Fleener	Brian Casaven
Proclaim Slide Presenter	CJ/Kim/Julie	CJ/Kim/Julie	CJ/Kim/Julie	CJ/Kim/Julie
Usher	Fritz Bukowski	Lona Neubarth	Renae Hills	Dave Malvin
Usher	Sherri Endreson	Craig Neubarth	Darrell Neilsen	Sherri Endreson
Counter	Renae Hills	Vic Dale	Derek Navratil	Craig Neubarth
Counter	Al Anderson	Renae Hills	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.

Dec Birthdays

12/01	Johnson	Nick
12/01	Thompson	Joyce
12/07	Kappmeyer	Katie
12/09	Buse	Ryan
12/09	Scholer-Kliewer	Catherin
12/11	Arnquist	Tom
12/11	Flaten	Mike
12/11	Mohon	Kiera
12/15	Arneson	Ed
12/15	Cadena, Jr.	Skylar
12/16	Engstrom	Sue
12/16	Erickson	Ryan



12/17	Linow	MaCee
12/18	Klimek	Natalie
12/20	Wacholz	Beth
12/21	Dale	Maddi
12/22	Hoven	Debbie
12/23	Engeldorf	Brad
12/24	Dale	Jake
12/27	Holthusen	Eric
12/28	Mays	Terry
12/29	Wacholz	Tom
12/30	Huset	Kaitlyn
12/31	Granning	Karsen

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

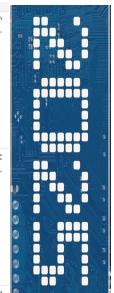
Hospitality Time

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

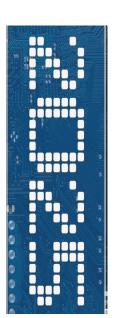
The schedule Dec is:

<u>12-07-25</u>	<u>12-14-25</u>	<u>12-21-25</u>
Ryan & Rachel Buse Tom & Renae Hills Courtney Bouressa	Joann Garland Pam McCormick Charmaine Munt	Randy & Leann Hoffbeck Judy Hoffman Darrell Neilsen
12-28-25 The Malvin/Freier Family		

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



December



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 30	Dec 1	2	ω	4	5	6
9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (in persor		7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Comr ¢		8 AM LWR Quilting	· O	9 AM SOS Rehersal 9:00 am
		6:30 PM Runestone Chorus		le Study	Đ.	
				5:30 PM Tech Team meets	O.	
				6 PM Shalom Singers	t.	
7	00	9	10	11	12	13
9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (in perso⊧Ç		7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Comr⊄		8 AM LWR Quilting	Q.	9 AM SOS Rehersal 9:00 am
10:30 AM GWOH Ф		11 AM Outreach ₽		10 AM 📝 Adult Bible Study	· O	
		5 PM Youth/Ed meets		11 AM Altar Guild		
		5:30 PM Property Meeting		6 PM Shalom Singers	Đ.	
		6:30 PM Runestone Chorus				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (in persor	5:30 PM 妇 Council Mtg 口	7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Comr⊄		8 AM LWR Quilting	へ Newsletter items due ぐ	9 AM SOS Rehersal 9:00 am
10:30 AM Radio Ministry 🗘		6:30 PM Runestone Chorus		10 AM 📝 Adult Bible Study	Đ	
					Ð	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (in persor		7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Comr⊄		8 AM No LWR Quilting	· O	9 AM SOS Rehersal 9:00 am
		5 PM Newcomers		10 AM No Adult Bible Study	· Q	
		6:30 PM Runestone Chorus		1 PM No Retired Pastors	O.	
				6 PM No Shalom Singers	₽.	
28	29	30	31	Jan 1	2	ω
9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (in perso⊧Ç	1 PM Book Club ₽	7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Comr⊄		8 AM No LWR Quilting	Q.	9 AM SOS Rehersal 9:00 am
		6:30 PM Runestone Chorus		10 AM 🗟 No Adult Bible Study	Đ.	
				6 PM No Shalom Singers	O	



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