



**First Sunday in Lent
Holy Communion
February 22, 2026: 9:30 am**

**Shalom Lutheran Church, ELCA
681 Voyager Drive – Alexandria, MN 56308
www.shalomlutheran.org
(320) 762-8641**

Pastor—David Fleener
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Youth & Music Director-Sam Meehan
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youth@shalomlutheran.org
Office Administrator—Geri Rindahl

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“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”

GATHERING

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

The congregation may stand.

CONFESSION

P: Blessed be God: Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.
Through faith, the free gift of God,
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
dwells in you,
pours God's love into your hearts,
and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" ELW 803

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
 Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

PASTORAL GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE:



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY*Book of Common Prayer*

P: Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

C: Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-13

L: A reading from Genesis:

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

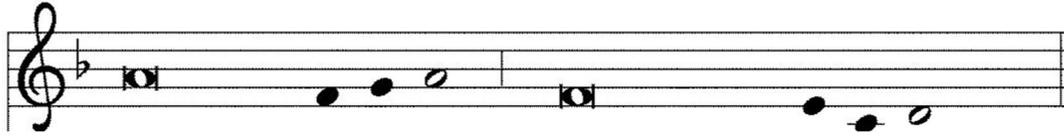
Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 32



Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,*
and whose sin is | put away!

**Happy are they to whom the Lord im- | putes no guilt,*
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**

While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,*
because of my groaning | all day long.

**For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;*
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my | sin to you,*
and did not con- | ceal my guilt.

**I said, “I will confess my transgressions | to the Lord.”*
Then you forgave me the guilt | of my sin.**

Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of
trouble;*
when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.

**You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;*
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.**

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;*
I will guide you | with my eye.

**Do not be like horse or mule, which have no |
understanding;*
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not
stay near you.”**

Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;*
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the Lord.

**Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the Lord;*
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart.**

SCRIPTURE: Romans 5:12-19

L: A reading from Romans:

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL WELCOME: *ELW* Setting 5



Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God,

throw yourself down, for it is written,
 'He will command his angels concerning you,'
 and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
 so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' ”

Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

"The Seventh Commandment"

Pastor David Fleener

NOISY OFFERING

SERMON “Secure in God’s Promise” Pastor David Fleener

The congregation may stand.

SONG OF THE DAY

"When We Are Tested" ACS 922



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
 2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
 3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
 4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
 plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
 trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
 sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
 lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
 teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
 Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
 trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
 seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
 an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
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APOSTLES' CREED

A: With the whole church, we confess our faith:

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

After each petition:

A: Hear us, O God

C. Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

P: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The congregation may be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

Offering baskets will be passed. If you prefer to give digitally, you can scan the QR code to give. White cards to place in the plate are available in the guest pad for those who give digitally.



MUSICAL OFFERING

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" Arr. Jason W. Krug
Joyce Engel and the Shalom Ringers

The congregation may stand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy...we praise your name and
join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW Setting 5

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER



Gathered into one by the Ho-ly Spir - it, let us pray as Je-sus taught us.



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al



and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,



and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

COMMUNION INVITATION

P: Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

The congregation may be seated.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW Setting 5

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

SPECIAL MUSIC

The congregation may stand.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: Beloved in the Lord,
God has shown you what is good.
What does the Lord require of you
but to do justice,
and to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and
forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" ELW 325

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SHALOM LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Week of February 22, 2026

Church Office Hours: M-F 8:00 am—12:00 pm

Welcome to our Shalom gathering! All God's children are welcome here, especially our guests, whoever you are or wherever you come from. We invite you to sign the guest pad in your row and hope you'll join us for refreshments after worship in the Community Room. If you have any questions about Shalom or how we worship, please ask our greeters and ushers (wearing name tags). You may also ask Pastor David. If you can't catch him after worship, you may call the office at (320) 762-8461 or email him at pastor@shalomlutheran.org.

COMMUNION: Lutherans believe Holy Communion is the true body and blood of Jesus Christ, given and shed for us for the forgiveness of our sins. All baptized Christians who trust these words of promise are welcome to receive today. Children under the guidance of their parents or caregivers may also receive. Those who do not receive may come forward with arms crossed over their chest for a blessing. To receive communion, come forward to receive the bread from the pastor. Gluten-free bread is also available in small plastic containers by the individual communion cups. You may take a cup from the tray by the pastor, then move to either the wine or grape juice chalice. The wine chalice is first, the grape juice chalice is second. Wine or grape juice will be poured into your cup. Place used cups in the baskets. Those who cannot come forward for communion are asked to inform the ushers so that communion may be brought to them.

HOSPITALITY servers for Mar 1 are Courtney Bouressa, Barb Wishard, Randy & Leann Hoffbeck.

LENTEN EVENING SUPPER AND PRAYER begins Wed., Feb. 25. Supper is at 5:15 pm in the Community Room and Evening Prayer begins at 6:30. Our liturgy is *That You May Have Life* by Marty Haugen and Susan Briehl, and our Lenten drama series is *Knock Knock* by Pastor John Trump. Accompany John as he unexpectedly finds himself at the pearly gates with a wisecracking angel as they explore several of Jesus's parables.

NEWS FROM THE RADIO MINISTRY COMMITTEE: Radio That Connects, KONX, Shalom Lutheran Church's proposed community radio ministry, has news to share in the February Weekly Updates! The Radio Ministry Committee is now seeking program ideas, volunteers, and financial support from the congregation and community to bring this project to fruition in 2026. Take a look at this month's weekly updates for more information on how you can help. If you know others in our community who also might be interested, share the news! And remember, the Radio Ministry Committee continues to meet on the second Sunday of each month after Worship, and everyone interested is welcome to attend those meetings. Questions? Contact Kersten Kappmeyer or Pastor Kathryn Rothman for more information.

SEATING As part of our commitment to being a welcoming church, the back row of each section will be reserved for guests and families with young children. Thank you for helping us keep those seats available.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

*John & Carrie Carlberg, *Bob Hildebrandt, *Dave & Mary Owen, *Gerry Kingsburg, Bill Malvin (Dave Malvin's Father), *Delores Martin, *Evie Raguse, *Charles & Jeanne Tanksley, Teri Market, *Jeanette Priebe, *Bonnie Anderson, *Dave Burbank, Joan Searles (Pastor David's aunt), *Skeeter Kingsberg, Ben DeLong (brother of Chrissy Oachs), *LaTelle Bailey. **Shalom member*

Jan/26 Activity			
<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Surpl/ (Deficit)</u>	
\$ 2,928	\$ 6,587	\$ (3,659)	Building Fund
\$ 18,898	\$ 30,159	\$ (11,262)	General Fund

The annual General/Bldg Funds budget was approved showing offerings equal to congregation approved expenses. Current General/Bldg fund cash balance is \$100,572.

Shared Ministry

Shared Ministry

02-22-26

03-01-26

Acolyte	
Assisting Minister	Cami Pexsa
Communion Assist	Grant Pexsa
Communion Assist	Judy Hoffman
Greeters	Amy Schlosser
Greeters	Pam McCormick
Lector	Nola Smith
Musicians	Sam/Joyce Engel
Proclaim/FB Live	CJ/Kim/Julie
Ushers	Dave Morgan
Ushers	Carolyn Carlson
Counters	Dave Harris
Counters	Al Anderson

THIS WEEK AT SHALOM

Sunday	02-22	9:30 am 10:30 am	Worship in-person or online Hospitality
Monday	02-23	1:00 pm	Book Club
Tuesday	02-24	7:30 am 9:00 am 5:00 am 6:30 pm	Men's Bible Study at Common Ground Dartball Gospel of Uke Runestone Chorus
Wednesday	02-25	5:15 pm 5:30 pm 5:30 pm 6:30 pm After Worship	Meal Shalom Ringers Drama Rehearsal Lenten Service Drama Rehearsal
Thursday	02-26	8:00-9:45 am 10:00-11:00 am 1:00 pm 6:00 pm	Shalom Piecemakers Bible Study Retired Pastors Shalom Singers
Sunday	03-01	9:30 am 10:30 am 10:30 am 4:30 pm	Worship in-person or online Hospitality GWOH Bible Study Ladies