



Shalom Tidings

Fourth Sunday in Lent: March 15, 2026

His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him...." –John 9:2-3

This week at Shalom:

WORSHIP AT SHALOM: Come join us for a contemporary worship service at 9:30 am led by the Spirit of Shalom Band. Enjoy treats and fellowship afterward in our Community Room. Seekers and guests are invited!

SERMON: When Jesus gives sight to a man blind from birth, the immediate reaction from his neighbors is disbelief. When the religious leaders hear of it, and learn that Jesus is behind the healing, disbelief hardens into unbelief. What makes the good news for the man born blind so offensive to the religious leaders? How do we sometimes find grace offensive, and what are the ways we discount it? And most importantly, what is Jesus's response? How does he open our spiritual eyes to perceive his grace? Pastor David preaches, "The Gospel on Trial", based on John 9:1-41.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR DAVID ON THE RADIO MINISTRY: Dear friends, as many of you are aware, Shalom's Council gave approval in 2024 for the formation of a radio ministry committee. This came out of a rare (once-in-a-decade) opportunity to acquire a low-power FM license from the FCC. Here are a few reasons I support this project with my prayers and my checkbook:

1. Versatility and ease of use. You don't need to download a podcast app to listen to the radio. You don't need a computer. You don't need any kind of technical savvy beyond pushing a knob and turning a dial. Most cars have a radio. This doesn't discount the need for other means of communication. It enhances them and could potentially expand the reach of our ministry without relying on the internet.
2. Collaboration: Radio is a good medium not only for broadcasting Shalom programming, but for collaborating with community partners, too. First Congregational Church has recently given a grant to this project. Other ecumenical partners have also shown interest. This could be a community ministry that isn't "branded" to one congregation. On top of this, a radio station could play an important role if we were to face another disruption, like the tornadoes several years ago. Together, we could make a significant positive impact on our community.
3. Theology: Many Christian radio stations have a theology that is unaligned with our understanding of the gospel. For instance, you may turn on a preacher saying that a particular political party, leader, or ideology is either heaven-sent or demonic. They may imply that one cannot be a Christian without supporting the cause they champion. This is a distortion of the gospel of Jesus Christ. This project provides another opportunity to proclaim the gospel in a life-giving way.
4. Affordability: While the startup cost is substantial, ongoing yearly maintenance should be 10-20% of that cost. Considering the potential outreach, the cost is affordable, especially if it is shared by community partners. There are possibilities for underwriting programs as well.

I invite you to explore the potential of this by reading the note below about KONX (Connects), the station's proposed callsign. Reach out to Kersten for more information. I am also happy to have a conversation too. Your thoughts and questions are always welcome. Let's discover the possibilities together!



Radio Ministry Committee Update: Seeking Your Support!

Radio that Connects... 102.9 Connects... KONX is a new proposed ministry of Shalom Lutheran Church and partner Alexandria area congregations and organizations intended to bring local voices and programs rooted in faith to support our neighbors,

We are calling this ministry **"102.9 Connects" (KON-X)**, a nod to the ministry's overarching goal. By connecting the community through this ministry, we express our love and support for our neighbors, meet God's calling to serve others, share the good news of Jesus Christ, and help others discover true peace.

Shalom Lutheran Church, along with partner congregations, individuals, and organizations in the Alexandria area, are working to bring to the Alexandria area a radio ministry by the community and for the community.

While ministry by radio is not novel, **102.9 Connects seeks to be a true reflection of our very own community**. Music, services, teaching, discussion, education, the arts, and information will all be featured through this ministry, brought to you by your friends and neighbors right here in Alexandria and the surrounding area. Through the power of collaboration of people of faith in your community, we hope to bring a connection to our friends and neighbors and build community together, following the teachings and examples of Jesus Christ and telling those in our midst they are all welcomed, cared for, and loved.

We have the construction permit for the station license to broadcast on 102.9 from Alexandria, Minnesota. All we need now is you... and your support!

We are grateful to have reached a bit more than half of our startup fundraising goal. Thank you to all of you who have contributed to date! But in order to make this ministry a reality, **we need to raise about another \$8,000 to be able to get started on air, and this goal must be reached in the next few months in order to proceed**. Financial support can be given through designated online giving, by submission of donations for "Radio Ministry" through offering, or to the Shalom Office. For more information, to propose program ideas, or to get connected with the Radio Ministry, attend our committee meetings after Worship on second Sundays of the month, or contact Pastor Kathryn Rothman or Kersten Kappmeyer.

THE PURPOSE OF COMMUNION is to reflect on the gift of the sacrament, focus on our relationship with God, and receive the grace and peace it brings. This reflection can take different forms — sometimes through singing together, and at other times through the quieting of the heart in prayer. In this season, we are holding a quieter, more contemplative space during Communion, inviting you to be fully present in this sacred moment.

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS (GWOH) is collecting cleaning supplies during the month of March to support Love INC's Transformational Tuesday Program. If you would like to help, grab a bucket in the community room, shop for the listed supplies, and return them to Shalom. OR if you would like to donate towards this project you can put a check in Vic Dale's mailbox and someone will shop for you. THANK YOU!!!!

WELCA: NW MN synodical Women's organization 2026 Conference 8 Spring Gathering. This year it is hosted by Bethesda Lutheran Church in Alexandria. The gathering is Saturday April 18th. Registration and fellowship is at 8:15-9:00, the cost for noon lunch is \$20.00 per person. Registration deadline is April 6th. Send registration and fees to Bethesda Lutheran Church, 1204 N Nokomis St NE, Alexandria.

EASTER FLOWERS: The Altar Guild will be accepting donations to the flower fund in honor of or in memory of loved ones March 1-29.

Find donation envelopes on the tall counter in the Narthex. Complete the front of the envelope, enclose your monetary gift and put in Carol Hedlunds mailbox. The flowers will beautify the altar area for Easter Worship. Anyone who donates may take a flower home after April 12.

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.

PRAYER VIGIL: Shalom is holding a Prayer Vigil again this year on Saturday, April 4 from 6:00 pm to midnight. Please come anytime to offer prayers of petition or praise and thanks. We all know the power of prayer; come offer yours. It is a moving experience.

TRANSPORTATION NEEDS: Sometimes our members need transportation to our Sunday service. If you are available to provide transportation, please provide your name and phone number to the church office. To request transportation to church services, please contact the church office. This service can help people stay connected to Shalom. Carol Hedlund is available if you need a ride.

SHARED MINISTRY & CALENDAR: [Here is the link to our shared ministry sign-up.](#) You can find the [monthly calendar here.](#)

Shared Ministry

Shared Ministry	<u>03-15-26</u>	<u>03-22-26</u>
Acolyte	Caedyn Whipkey	Olivia Flaten
Assisting Minister	Sharon Hermanson	Cami Pexsa
Communion Assist	Angie Erickson	Grant Pexsa
Communion Assist	Amber Whipkey	Carol Hedlund
Greeters	Barb Beyer	Corey Drewes
Greeters	Dave Beyer	Tammy Drewes
Lector	Dave Morgan	Brian Casavan
Musicians	SOS Band	
Proclaim/FB Live	CJ/Kim/Julie	CJ/Kim/Julie
Ushers	Lona Neubarth	Fritz Bukowski
Ushers	Craig Neubarth	Dave Malvin
Counters	Derek Navratil	Cheryl Burbank
Counters	Al Anderson	Renae Hills

THIS WEEK AT SHALOM

Sunday	03-15	9:30 am 10:30 am	Worship in-person or online Hospitality
Monday	03-16	5:30 pm	Council Meeting

Tuesday	03-17	7:30 am 9:00 am 5:00 pm 6:30 pm	Men's Bible Study at Common Ground Dartball Gospel of Uke Runestone Choir
Wednesday	03-18	5:15 pm 5:30 pm 6:30 pm After worship	Meal Shalom Ringers, Drama Rehearsal Lenten Service Drama Rehearsal
Thursday	03-19	8:00 am 10:00 am 6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Quilting Bible Study Shalom Singers Vintage Car Club
Friday	03-20		Newsletter articles due
Sunday	03-22	9:30 am 10:30 am After worship	Worship in-person or online Hospitality Drama Rehearsal



This is the Meal Train for LaTelle Bailey:

<https://mealtrain.com/998ld5>

What is Meal Train?

There are times in our lives when friends and family ask, "What can I do to help out?" The answer is usually to help them with a meal. When many friends provide support through a meal, Meal Train keeps everyone organized.

MealTrain.com is a free meal calendar tool that makes planning meals among a wide group easy and less stressful.

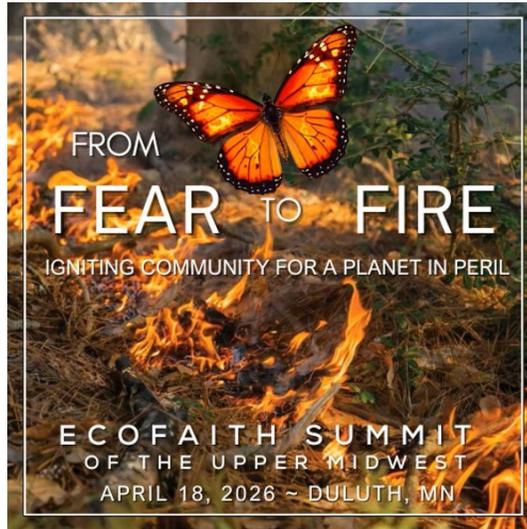
Contact Chrissy Oachs for more information.

Around the Synod and ELCA:



july 16-19, 2026 ✠ des moines, iowa

Click [here for NW MN Synod Updates](#) (March 2026)





Sacred Refuge: From Light to Light Join the National Lutheran Choir under Artistic Director Jennaya Robison for *Sacred Refuge: From Light to Light*. The choir will perform in Brainerd on March 20 and in Moorhead on March 21. This moving winter-to-spring concert traces the arc from winter's stillness to spring's awakening, featuring Shavon Lloyd's *So Breaks the Sun*, Jake Runestad's *Under This Tree* and *Nada te Turbe*, and Aaron McDermid's *From Light to Light*, commissioned by NLC in 2008.

Dates & Locations:
7:30pm, Friday, March 20, 2026 in partnership with The Legacy Chorale Gichi-ziibi Center for the Arts, 602 S 5th Street, Brainerd, MN 3:00pm, Saturday, March 21, 2026 in partnership with The Concordia Choir Trinity Lutheran Church, 213 8th Street S., Moorhead, MN 56560

Community Opportunities:



Ensure your home stays warm this heating season by applying for Minnesota's Low Income Household Energy Assistance Program.



- Easy application process
- Homeowners and renters both encouraged to apply
- No asset limits
- Free Furnace repair and replacements to non-functioning units. (must own the home)

wcmca.org
1-800-492-4805 option 1



Apply
Online



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

*John & Carrie Carlberg, *Bob Hildebrandt, *Dave & Mary Owen, *Gerry Kingsburg, Family of 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 Kingsburg, Ben DeLong (brother of Chrissy Oachs), LaTelle Bailey, Family of Norm Sukke, Mike Miller (Geri's brother).

*Shalom member