



**Fourth Sunday in Lent
Holy Communion
March 15, 2026: 9:30 a.m.**

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

Pastor—David Fleener
pastor@shalomlutheran.org

Youth & Music Director—Sam Meehan
music@shalomlutheran.org
youth@shalomlutheran.org

Office Administrator—Geri Rindahl
office@shalomlutheran.org

CCLI License # 2592596

OneLicense.net

License #A-700000

“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 "Yes and Amen" Chris McClarney

The congregation may stand.

GATHERING TIME "How Great is Our God" Chris Tomlin

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL WELCOME

ELW Setting 8

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

P: The holy gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. 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. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he."

But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"

Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind."

Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation may be seated.

SERMON “The Gospel on Trial” Pastor David Fleener

The congregation may stand.

SONG OF THE DAY

"Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)" Chris Tomlin

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 OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The congregation may be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION MOMENT & 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 "This Is Amazing Grace" Phil Wickham

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

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

COMMUNION INVITATION

P: Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

The congregation may be seated

LAMB OF GOD *ELW* Setting 8

SPECIAL MUSIC "Healing is in Your Hands" Matt Redman

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 "The Wonderful Cross" Chris Tomlin

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SHALOM LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Week of Mar 15, 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 contact 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 that Christ's true body and blood is present in Holy Communion, given and shed for us for the forgiveness of sins. All baptized Christians who trust these words of promise are welcome to receive communion 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 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. There will be a basket for used cups. 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 22 are, Jenny Johnson, Sherri Endreson, Virginia Leutgers.

LENTEN EVENING SUPPER AND PRAYER continues Wed., Mar. 18. 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. Our Lenten drama series *Knock Knock* continues with a play titled "Signs".

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.

WELCA NW MN synodical Women's organization 2026 Conference 8 Spring Gathering. This year 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.

COME JOIN the Shalom Singers and friends on April 12 at 1 pm for "A Journey to the Cross", an hour-long program of music featuring Robert Lau's cantata *The Cross*. A freewill offering will be taken to support Love Inc.

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!!!!**

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.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

*John & Carrie Carlberg, *Bob Hildebrandt, *Dave & Mary Owen, *Gerry Kingsburg, Family of Bill Malvin *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*

Feb/26 Activity				
Revenues		Expenses		Surpl/ (Deficit)
\$ 11,309		\$ 13,178		\$ (1,869)
\$ 35,370		\$ 51,517		\$ (16,146)
The annual General/Bldg Funds budget was approved showing offerings equal to congregation approved expenses. Current General/Bldg fund cash balance is \$109,812.				

Shared Ministry

<u>Shared Ministry</u>	<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	Rena 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 9	Worship in-person or online Hospitality Drama Rehearsal