

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

BY PASTOR DAVID FLEENER



Pastor David Fleener

Hinlicky says this on several episodes of *Queen of the Sciences*, a podcast he does with his daughter, Sarah Hinlicky Wilson.

This is the fourth in a year-long series of festivals of the church calendar, which can serve as an alternative to 24/7 "market-time" (or "blursday"). This month, we're talking about Holy Week.

These past few months, we've discussed several other Christian feasts that are rarely celebrated, at least among upper Midwestern Lutherans. Holy Week is a glaring exception, as nearly every Lutheran church has special services on Thursday and Friday. However, Holy Week is not quite as well-known as Easter, even among Lutherans. Why is this?

For one thing, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are, well, on Thursday and Friday! Many Americans work those days. But I wonder if there is also a lingering discomfort with the story of Holy Week in our American culture that idolizes success.

After all, during Holy Week we remember that Jesus lost everything. He failed. His movement appeared to suffer the same fate as other first-century messianic cults. A charismatic leader would rise up. He would amass followers. The authorities would kill the leader. Then the followers would scatter. Jesus' movement appeared to follow this pattern at first. All four gospels report that nearly all his disciples abandoned him at his arrest. The only ones to remain were several women and, in John's Gospel, the beloved disciple. John further reports that the disciples are behind locked doors two weeks after Jesus' death because they were afraid of the authorities. To history, Jesus was just another failed revolutionary, with another failed promise of the kingdom of God.

This is why I appreciated the theologian Cornel West's remarks when he spoke at Luther College over 20 years ago. He mentioned that he appreciated Lutherans because we don't just show up when Jesus wins. We know that the path to Sunday morning goes through Friday afternoon (and Thursday night). The resurrection of Jesus is not isolated from the events preceding it. Rather, in the resurrection, we have the culmination of a crisis in the very being of God. God the Son, who descends to the created realm in human flesh, is arrested by Roman and Temple authorities, is tried before a regional governor, and is executed in a gruesome way. That is shocking. In fact, Paul calls it "a scandal to Jews and foolishness to gentiles" (1 Cor. 1:23). As theologian Paul Hinlicky has often stated, "Saying 'Christ crucified', would be like saying 'Joshua, put to the sword,' or 'David, crushed by Goliath.'" Without the Spirit, the story ends with Jesus' death.

Cont'd

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."

That's why Holy Week is so important. It's a story of failure—irreversible failure—out of which God does the impossible. God the Son carries the sin of the world upon his person. As Paul writes, “he became sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God”. And the Son of God suffers death as the wage of that sin. And yet, he is raised up. Out of that death comes life—not a life according to the terms of the world, but according to God's will for all life.

I encourage you to come to Holy Week services this year. And if you can't come in person, join us online. Those three days are the culmination of God's love for our broken and hurting world.

Love to you all,

Pastor David

YOUTH

Youth Mission Trip Fundraising Easter Morning Breakfast

Join us on Easter morning for a cinnamon roll breakfast at 8:30 a.m., prior to worship. A free will offering will be received, with all proceeds supporting the youth mission trip to Niagara Falls this summer.



A Journey to the Cross: An Afternoon of Music from Lent, Holy Week, and Easter

You are invited to join us on April 12 at 1:00 p.m. for a special program of music centered on the seasons of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. The first half of the program will feature solos and ensembles from members of our community.

The second half will highlight the Shalom Singers, joined by additional community members, as they present *The Cross* by Robert Lau. This powerful cantata traces the journey from the beginning of Holy Week through the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Come and be part of this meaningful musical journey. All are welcome. A free will offering will be taken to support Love INC.

A HYMN SING FOR EARTH DAY

Come with a voice.

Hymns of Creation
will be ready for singing!

Sunday April 19, 2026,

7:00 p.m.

Shalom Lutheran Church

**SHALOM LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
February 16th, 2026**

PRESENT: Carol, Corey, Ken, Kersten, and Sherri

ABSENT: Grant, Pastor

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm

Motion was made by Ken to approve agenda, seconded by Sherri and carried unanimously. Motion was made by Carol to approve January 19, 2026 and January 24, 2026 minutes, seconded by Ken and carried unanimously.

Devotion and Prayer by Carol: A favorite reading was shared about giving others we come into contact with the grace and love God shows us, and sharing that greatest gift with all.

Reviewed reports by Pastor and Committees:

****Pastor's Report:** Report included in packet for review.

****Jeremiah 29 Project Report:** Report included in packet. Noted the group is in the process of re-evaluation. Carol mentioned coordination of resources was a topic of the group when she attended.

**** Finance:** Report in packet for review. Mentioned needing to catch up on paid family leave deductions. Motion by Ken to remove Kim Casavan as a signer and put on Kersten Kappmeyer as a signer on the Viking Bank general account (number x5037). Motion seconded by Corey and carried unanimously. Question was raised about the different youth and bible camp accounts that will need to be reviewed with Grant.

**** Y/ED:** Report in packet for review. Also had goal of adding additional people to the committee in discussion. On the topic of **committees in general**, the body also talked about the role of staff versus the various committee membership in carrying out various functions of the church. Many committees report smaller member numbers over time, and the need for new committee members. Also talked about this trend similarly applying to Council and its size over time. Council discussed and reaffirmed the role of committees taking and welcoming the feedback of staff, and the role of committees as a whole directing the activities within the scope of each committee. Staff is also invited to Council to give us feedback directly as well on staff roles and helping them be successful.

**** Staff:** Report in packet from Music/Youth Director.

**** Worship:** Report in packet. Also discussed seating adjustment for hospitality for visitors and for young families. Consensus of council was this suggestion was positively received and Worship Committee would be advised of the Council's feedback. If adopted, ushers should be advised of the seating adjustment. Seating numbers should likely be increased to compensate for this. Also mentioned making sure busy bags for kids were also available for various ages.

****Outreach and Caring:** Report in packet for review. Office noted a need for rides to Worship for some attendees if members can help with that.

****God's Work Our Hands:** Report in packet. No immediate projects in progress, but looking toward making school bags again in the Fall. Habitat information will be coming in the Spring.

**** Property:** No report in packet. Met and are working on the emergency response procedures, starting with basics. Will meet more regularly with spring coming. The goal of adding additional people to this committee was also discussed.

**** Tech:** No report in packet. Goal of adding additional people to the committee was discussed. New office computer is almost ready for testing along side the old one to assure smooth transition. Noted need for having a checklist so basics for streaming and recording can happen at events other than Worship. Event list would apply to Property tasks too.

**** Stewardship:** No report in packet.

****Personnel:** No report. Did not meet.

**** FM Radio:** Report in packet. Noted there might still be a lack of awareness about and support of the ministry internally. Fundraising still ongoing. Deadline to decide on going forward with this ministry is approaching soon.

Old and New Business: None noted.

A closing prayer was offered by Kersten. Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn at 6:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kersten Kappmeyer, Council Secretary



Shalom Lutheran Financial Activity: Feb/26

SHALOM LUTHERAN CHURCH STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY: JAN/26 - FEB/26

General Fund Activities	Actual	Budget	Annual Budget	Variance
Revenues				
General Offerings	\$ 34,049	\$ 49,552	\$ 297,303	\$ (15,503)
Building Fund Offerings	11,309	13,172	79,032	(1,863)
Interest and Other	1,321	1,012	6,050	309
Total General/Bldg Fund Revenues	46,679	63,736	382,385	(17,057)
Expenses				
Office expenses and Wages/Benefits	35,576	36,442	218,553	(866)
Building and Grounds	11,486	9,712	58,245	1,774
Synod payments, Outreach, GWOH	99	1,640	9,800	(1,541)
Shalom programs (music, Ed, worship, Technology)	3,373	3,324	19,855	49
Total General Fund Expenses	50,533	51,118	306,453	(585)
Net Transfers in/(out) of General/Bldg Fund	(983)	516	3,100	(1,499)
Building Fund Mortgage Payments	(13,178)	(13,172)	(79,032)	(6)
Net General/Bldg Fund Surplus / (Deficit)	\$ (18,015)	\$ (38)	\$ -	\$ (17,977)

Fund Activities	12/31/25 Balance	2026 Receipts	2026 Disbursed	Transfers between funds	02/28/26 Balance
General Fund (Unrestricted)	\$ 68,527	\$ 35,573	\$ 50,736	\$ (983)	\$ 52,381
Bldg Fund (mortg pmt, debt reduction)	39,300	11,309	13,178	20,000	57,432
Restricted Funds - WELCA	38,579	158	-	-	38,736
Restricted Funds - Youth	13,740	1,366	464	150	14,792
Restricted Funds: Shalom internal use	96,581	24,868	523	(19,167)	101,759
Restricted Funds for Outreach use	2,126	100	-	-	2,226
Totals	\$ 258,853	\$ 73,374	\$ 64,901	\$ -	\$ 267,326

Summary: This Shalom reporting is through February with a combined General and Building Funds deficit of \$18,015; primarily due to below-budget offerings. The General/Bldg Funds balance is \$109,812; about the same as Dec/25; again, mostly due to the recent \$20k estate gift that was transferred into the Building fund from Memorial Funds.

Notes:

- | | Cash | M Mrkt | |
|---|-----------|------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Cash & short term investment balances: | \$ 77,049 | \$ 195,638 | 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:	\$ 15,763	\$ 34,049	\$ 49,552
Building Fund Offerings:	\$ 8,276	\$ 11,303	\$ 13,172

5. Bldg Fund offerings are \$1,863 below budget.
 6. Mortgage balance at time of reporting is \$447,224. Our monthly payment is \$6,586.

25th Annual

Golf Scramble

Monday August 3rd, 2026

Lake Milona Golf Club

SAVE THE DATE



**Women of the ELCA
NW MN Synodical Women's Organization
2026 Conference 8 Spring Gathering**

*Hosted by WELCA of Bethesda Lutheran Church
1204 N Nokomis St NE,
Alexandria, MN 56308*

Saturday, April 18th



Theme: “SERVING WITH LOVE”
Luke 10 vs 38-42:

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, “Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!” “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

Guest Speaker: Peggy Kallevig
The Women of Valor

Bethesda WELCA is ask us to bring items for Life Connection of Alexandria. Suggestions:
baby wash, ointment, wipes, Huggies or Pampers: Premie to Size 12

Registration and fellowship: 8:15-9:00 am

Noon Lunch: Cost is \$ 20.00 per person

Registration Deadline: Monday, April 6th

Send registration and fees to: **Bethesda Lutheran Church, 1204 N. Nokomis St NE, Alexandria, MN 56308**

Phone: 320-763-5164 Email: bethesdachurch1204@gmail.com

MAKE CHECKS OUT TO: WOMEN OF THE ELCA



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!

BOOKWORM BUNCH

“SO MANY BOOKS-SO LITTLE TIME”!! Enjoy reading??? Great Discussions???. Come join us at one of our monthly gatherings. We meet the last Monday of each month (unless it is a holiday) at 1 pm at Shalom. If any questions, call Barb at 952-297-2541 or Joann at 320-219-0810.



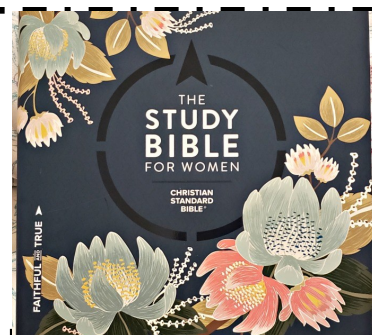
Following is the list of books selected for discussion.

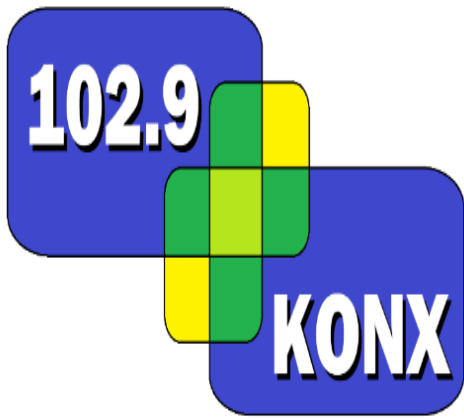
April 27	When The World Fell Silent	Donna Jones Alward
May 25	The Faith Club	Ranya Idilby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla
June 29	The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell	Robert Dugoni
July 27	Where the Wildflowers Grow	Terah Shelton Harris



Adult Bible Study

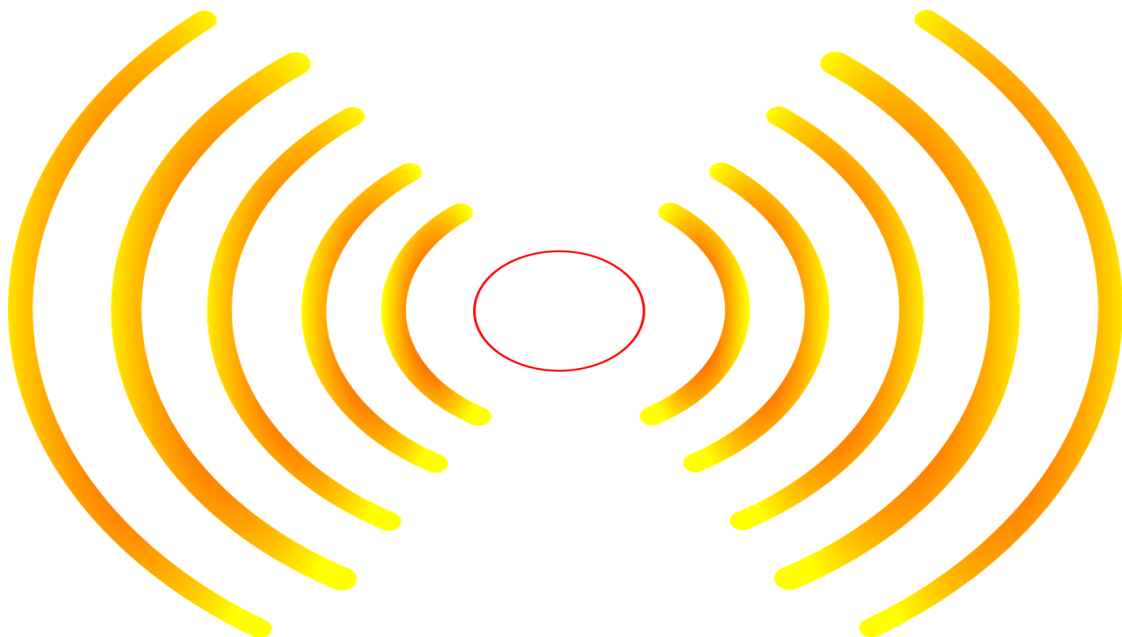
- First, the good news: God always speaks to us through the Bible.
- Second, the bad news: we don't listen or read the Bible as often as we would like.
- Third, the good news: we can share God's Word in inspiring ways. Come to our gatherings on Thursday mornings from 10-11:00 am.





Looking to help your community connect? Shalom's Radio Ministry Committee is still seeking volunteers and supporters to make **"102.9 Connects" (KON-X)** a reality! In prior newsletters and weekly updates, the Committee has shared details about this proposed radio ministry, seeking to connect the community, express our love and support of our neighbors, meet God's calling to serve others, share the good news of Jesus Christ, and help others discover true peace.

Thanks to donors within and outside of Shalom, significant progress has been made toward raising the startup costs needed to launch this ministry, but approximately \$6,000 remains of the fundraising goal before the ministry can launch, and deadlines on the radio station construction permit mean this goal must be met in the next few months to begin. If you feel moved to support this ministry, please consider lending support, either financially or by getting involved with the Committee. Donations are accepted through the usual channels; just clearly designate them for "Radio Ministry." And all are welcome to attend committee monthly meetings second Sundays after Worship. Questions? Want to offer support? Please contact Kersten Kappmeyer or Pastor Kathryn Rothman. Connect with us to help our community connect!



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!

REMINDER: Please continue to support our Coffee Fund with your donations. The donation box is located on the treat table in the Community Room!



EASTER SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday April 2, 2026 6:30 p.m. (With communion and stripping of the altar.)

Good Friday April 3, 2026 6:30 p.m.

Prayer Vigil Saturday, April 4, 2026 6:00 –12:00 p.m. (Everyone welcome.)

Easter Sunday Worship April 5, 2026 9:30 a.m.

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS



Dust off that hardhat and strap on a tool belt! **Shalom's Rag Tag Army for Jesus** is forming to join Habitat's 100th home Faith Build on **Tuesday, April 21**. Build hours: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm (Lunch is 12-12:45 pm, not provided by Habitat)

- Each group day is split into a morning and afternoon shift, each with eight (8) available spots.
- Volunteers may sign up for one shift or both shifts on their group day.

Catherine of God's Work Our Hands team will forward the registration info to those interested and able to join us. Remember that contribution checks made out to **Habitat of Douglas County** are most welcome and essential to help us reach our commitment goal of \$1500. Checks can be placed in Catherine Kliever's PO box or given to Geri in the office.

Apr Shared Ministry

Shared Ministry	4/5/2026 0:00	4/12/2026 0:00	4/19/2026 0:00	4/26/2026 0:00
Acolyte	Joshua Flaten	Katie Kappmeyer		
Assisting Minister	Carol Hedlund	Dave Burbank	Nola Smith	Cami Pexsa
Communion Assistants	Dave Morgan	Cheryl Burbank	Dean Kliewer	Grant Pexsa
Communion Assistants	Amy Klimek	Amber Whipkey	Catherine Kliewer	Angie Erickson
Communion Bread/Month	Charmaine Munt	Charmaine Munt	Charmaine Munt	Charmaine Munt
Greeters	Marlys Wanttie	Dave Rogosheske	Linda Fenelon	Pam McCormick
Greeters	Judy Radjenovich	Joyce Rogosheske	Amy Schlosser	Connie Facciotto
Kitchen Monitor/Month	Charmaine Munt	Charmaine Munt	Charmaine Munt	Charmaine Munt
Lector	John Smith	Kersten Kappmeyer	John Smith	Sarah Fleener
Proclaim Slide Presenter	CJ/Kim/Julie	CJ/Kim/Julie	CJ/Kim/Julie	CJ/Kim/Julie
Usher	Dave Malvin	Rena Hills	Carolyn Carlson	Craig Neubarth
Usher	Grant Pexsa	Sherri Endreson	Sue Engstrom	Lona Neubarth
Counter	Derek Navratil	Craig Neubarth	Dave Harris	Rena Hills
Counter	Al Anderson	Fritz Bukowski	Dave Burbank	Dean Kliewer

Shared Ministry

Maundy Thursday

Good Friday

Acolyte

Assisting Minister

Nola Smith

Carol Hedlund

Communion Assist

Grant Pexsa

Communion Assist

Dan Hermanson

Greeters

Corey Drewes

Greeters

Tammy Drewes

Lector

Cami Pexsa

Joann Garland

Musicians

Proclaim/FB Live

CJ/Kim/Julie

CJ/Kim/Julie

Ushers

Al Anderson

Ushers

Sue Engstrom

Apr Birthdays

04/01 Pexsa Bennett
 04/05 Hermanson Sharon
 04/06 Hoffbeck Leanne
 04/06 Wehofer Kay
 04/08 Fieldhammer Pris
 04/09 Preston Leila
 04/12 Solano Diego
 04/13 Blom Ruth
 04/14 Ruud Sharon
 04/15 Bovendam Linda (Lyn)



04/15 Medenwaldt Connie
 04/15 Navratil Isabelle
 04/20 Johnson Ryan
 04/24 Maxwell Mary Gale
 04/24 Meehan Kelsey
 04/25 Huebner Linda
 04/26 Bovendam Stephen
 04/27 Ross Shirley
 04/28 Bailey LaTelle

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 Apr is:

<u>04-05-26</u>	<u>04-12-26</u>	<u>04-19-26</u>
Sue Engstrom Judy Hoffman Pam McCormick Easter Service, Cinnamon Rolls will be served, youth will set up and clean up. Bring Milk, Juice, and Fruit. Serve before church and after.	Joann Garland Barb Carstens Mike & Sarah Flaten	Greg & Karen Toivonen Al Anderson Ed & Pat Arneson
	<u>04-26-26</u> Lona & Craig Neubarth Ron Samuelson John & Vic Dale	

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



April



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mar 29 9:30 AM Palm Sunday 9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (in perso)	30 1 PM Book Club	31 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Comm 6:30 PM Runestone Chorus	Apr 1 5:30 AM Shalom Ringers	2 8 AM LWR Quilting 10 AM Adult Bible Study 5:30 PM Tech Team meets +2	3 6:30 AM Good Friday	4 6 PM Prayer Vigil
5 9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (in perso) 10:30 AM GWOH	6	7 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Comm 6:30 PM Runestone Chorus	8 5:30 AM Shalom Ringers 11 AM Altar Guild 5:15 PM Meal 5:30 PM Confirmation/Faith Tim	9 8 AM LWR Quilting 10 AM Adult Bible Study 6 PM Shalom Singers	10	11 9 AM SOS Rehearsal 9:00 am
12 9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (in perso) 10:30 AM Radio Ministry	13	14 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Comm 11 AM Outreach 5 PM Youth/Ed meets +2	15 5:30 AM Shalom Ringers 5:15 PM Meal 5:30 PM Confirmation/Faith Tim	16 8 AM LWR Quilting 10 AM Adult Bible Study 6 PM Shalom Singers	17 Newsletter items due	18
19 9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (in perso)	20 5:30 PM Council Mtg	21 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Comm 6:30 PM Runestone Chorus	22 5:30 AM Shalom Ringers 5:15 PM Meal 5:30 PM Confirmation/Faith Tim	23 8 AM LWR Quilting 10 AM Adult Bible Study 1 PM Retired Pastors 6 PM Shalom Singers	24	25 9 AM SOS Rehearsal 9:00 am
26 9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (in perso)	27 1 PM Book Club	28 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Comm 5 PM Newcomers 6:30 PM Runestone Chorus	29 5:30 AM Shalom Ringers 5:15 PM Meal 5:30 PM Confirmation/Faith Tim	30 8 AM LWR Quilting 10 AM Adult Bible Study 6 PM Shalom Singers	May 1	2



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