



**Fourth Sunday of Easter
Holy Communion
April 26, 2026: 9:30 am**

**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

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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

"King of Love" Adam Palmer

The congregation may stand.

GATHERING TIME "Living Waters" Kristyn Getty

Verse 1

Are you thirsty
Are you empty
Come and drink these living waters
Tired and broken
Peace unspoken
Rest beside these living waters

Verse 2

Christ is calling
Find refreshing
At the cross of living waters
Lay your life down
All the old gone
Rise up in these living waters

Chorus

There's a river that flows
With mercy and love
Bringing joy to the city of our God
There our hope is secure
Do not fear anymore
Praise the Lord of living waters

Verse 3

Spirit moving
Mercy washing
Healing in these living waters
Lead your children
To the shoreline
Life is in these living waters

Chorus

Bridge

Ooh Ooh Ooh
Ooh Ooh Ooh

Verse 4

Are you thirsty
Are you empty
Come and drink these living waters
Love forgiveness
Vast and boundless
Christ He is our living waters

Chorus

Ending

There our hope is secure
Do not fear anymore
Praise the Lord of living waters

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

SCRIPTURE Ezekiel 34:7-15

L: A reading from Ezekiel:

Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: As I live, says the Lord GOD, because my sheep have become a prey and my sheep have become food for all the wild animals, since there was no shepherd, and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves and have not fed my sheep, therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am against the shepherds, and I will hold them accountable for my sheep and put a stop to their feeding the sheep; no longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, so that they may not be food for them.

For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL WELCOME "Alleluia" Matt Maher

Band

Alleluia alleluia

Allelu alleluia

All

Alleluia alleluia

Allelu allelu alleluia

GOSPEL John 10:1-10

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation may be seated

CHILDREN’S SERMON

“The Eighth Commandment”

Pastor David Fleener

NOISY OFFERING

SERMON “Our Truth and Life” Pastor David Fleener

The congregation may stand.

QUILT BLESSING

You are invited to touch a quilt or extend your hands as a sign of blessing.

P: God, our neighbors around the world are in need of hope. Your Spirit is a mighty force, your whispers of hope bring light into the world. Open our hearts and hands to see your presence in our neighborhoods and across the world.

C: Jesus, help us speak words of hope to our neighbors.

P: God, we give you thanks for the pieces of fabric, thread, sewing machines, and the items collected for the kits. May their presence be a sign of hope, may these quilts wrap our neighbors in unending love, and may these kits offer dignity and healing.

C: Jesus, help us reach out in hope to our neighbors.

P: God, we give thanks for all the hands of our Shalom Piecemakers: those that fashioned hope into a quilt, those that collected and sorted, and those that continually open wider so that no one feels left out.

C: Jesus, help us see hope in our neighbors.

P: God, we ask you to guide the staff and partners at LWR. May their voices and hands be a beacon of hope. Keep them safe. Keep them filled with your strength and perseverance.

C: Jesus, help us share a taste of hope with our neighbors.

P: God, be with our neighbors who will receive these gifts. Wrap them in your love, help them taste your goodness, empower them to touch signs of your hope. Whether or not we know their names or where they live, they are our neighbors, our brothers and sisters in Christ. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One who is our hope.

C: Amen.

SONG OF THE DAY "He Knows My Name" Tommy Walker

Verse 1

I have a Maker
He formed my heart
Before even time began
My life was in His hand

Chorus

He knows my name
He knows my every thought
He sees each tear that falls
And hears me when I call

Verse 2

I have a Father
He calls me His own
He'll never leave me
No matter where I go

Chorus

He knows my name
He knows my every thought
He sees each tear that falls
And hears me when I call,
He hears me when I call.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

After each petition:

A: Merciful God

C: receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

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 "Psalm 23" Phil Wickham

The congregation may stand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Merciful God,

accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day
when we will hunger and thirst no more.

Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,
that goodness and mercy may follow us
and bless the world you love.

In the name of Jesus,

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

"Remember Now, My Children" by John C. Ylvisaker

Pastor sings the first two verses. The congregation joins on the third verse.

We share this food together, remembering Christ.

We share a common treasure and know the price.

We share it without measure, a gift of love.

We share our life forever with God above.

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 of new life.
Receive the risen Lord.

The congregation may be seated.

LAMB OF GOD "Lamb of God" Matt Maher
Lamb of God You take away the sins of the world
Miserere nobis
(REPEAT)

Lamb of God You take away the sins of the world
Dona nobis pacem
Dona nobis pacem

COMMUNION SONG "Good, Good Father" Pat Barrett

Verse 1

I've heard a thousand stories
Of what they think You're like
But I've heard the tender whisper
Of love in the dead of night
You tell me that You're pleased
And that I'm never alone

Chorus

You're a Good Good Father
It's who You are
It's who You are
It's who You are
And I'm loved by You
It's who I am
It's who I am
It's who I am

Verse 2

I've seen many searching for answers
Far and wide
But I know we're all searching for answers
Only You provide
Because You know just what we need
Before we say a word

Chorus (2x)

Bridge

You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways to us
(Repeat)

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Verse 3

Love so undeniable I can hardly speak
Peace so unexplainable I can hardly think
As You call me deeper still
As You call me deeper still
As You call me deeper still
Into love love love

Chorus (2x)

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: Holy One,
through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies,
and to bring your healing to the nations.
In the name of Jesus,

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION "Blessing" Hans Peterson

P: May God bless you and keep you.
May God's face shine upon you.
May God look upon you with favor
and give you peace,
and give you peace,
and give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG "Happy Day" Tim Hughes**Verse 1**

The greatest day in history
Death is beaten You have rescued me
Sing it out Jesus is alive
The empty cross the empty grave
Life eternal You have won the day
Shout it out Jesus is alive
He's alive

Chorus

And oh happy day happy day
You washed my sin away
Oh happy day happy day
I'll never be the same
Forever I am changed

Verse 2

When I stand in that place
Free at last meeting face to face
I am Yours Jesus You are mine
Endless joy perfect peace
Earthly pain finally will cease
Celebrate Jesus is alive
He's alive

Chorus

Bridge

Oh what a glorious day
What a glorious way
That You have saved me
And oh what a glorious day
What a glorious name
Hey

Chorus

Ending

What a glorious glorious day
I'll never be the same

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

SHALOM LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Week of April 26, 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.

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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.

YOU ARE INVITED Shalom members are invited to say farewell and God bless to long-time members Gerry & Skeeter Kingsberg as they move to the metro to be near their children. They have been a blessing to Shalom for many years. Carol Hedlund will host a small gathering to say goodbye and wish them well on Sunday, May 17th at 3:00 p.m. Your presence will be a gift to them.

PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY: *“It’s not about the quilt; it’s all about the prayers.”*

The Prayer Quilt Ministry invites you to take part in this shared ministry of prayer and care. Prayer quilts are given freely and without obligation. Financial contributions help sustain quilting supplies, and volunteers are welcome to assist with making quilt tops and/or machine quilting. At this time, our supplies are becoming limited, and additional support would be greatly appreciated to help this ministry continue. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and ongoing care. **To get involved or for questions:** Contact Linda Fenelon at (320) 491-4484 or linda.fenelon02@gmail.com or CJ at (703) 585-8810 or cj1004ok@gmail.com

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS: The quilts displayed in the sanctuary today will be blessed and given to Lutheran World Relief, the Adult-Teen Challenge facility in Alexandria and the Viking Towers. Any quilt may be purchased for \$50. Make check payable to Shalom WELCA and put in Judy Hoffman's PO box..

At the conclusion of worship today please take a quilt from the floor chairs (NOT choir area) and take it to the Community room and help us pack them for shipment to LWR on Wednesday. THANK YOU!

HOSPITALITY servers for May 3 are Ken & Pastor Kathryn Rothman.

DEDICATION of a PRAYER QUILT on April 26, 2026

This Prayer Quilt Ministry combines the gift of prayer with the gift of a hand-tied quilt. As each knot is tied, silent prayers are said for the special recipient, who will receive the finished quilt. There can never be too many prayers (knots) tied to a quilt. Knots on top of knots can be tied. The Prayer Quilt Ministry motto: *"It's not about the quilts, it is all about the prayers."*

STEPHANIE BLADE: Stephanie has re-curring breast cancer (BRACII) and is undergoing breast removal & treatments. **Prayers are requested for: successful surgery, treatments, healing and peace.**

Sponsors: friends, Amy Schlosser & Avis Brashayko. *Please remove the quilt after worship and give to the recipient.*

THANK YOU to our Shalom family for all the love and support you have given these last few weeks. Your cards, texts, calls and hugs have meant the world to us. The beautiful prayer quilt is my daily reminder of your love. Bless you all! Kim

NEW MEMBER GROUP meets after worship today. Get your refreshments first and meet us in the youth room. We will meet today, April 26, and May 3.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

*John & Carrie Carlberg, *Bob Hildebrandt, *Dave & Mary Owen, *Gerry Kingsburg, *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, Mike Miller (Geri's Brother), *Kim Casavan, Carl Lund, *Amy Schlosser, Liz Nelson, JD Phelps (nephew of John & Nola Smith). **Shalom member*

Mar/26 Activity

<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Surpl/ (Deficit)</u>	
\$ 25,164	\$ 19,766	\$ 5,398	Building Fund
\$ 64,584	\$ 77,071	\$ (12,487)	General Fund

The annual General/Bldg Funds budget was approved showing offerings equal to congregation approved expenses. Current General/Bldg fund cash balance is \$120,738.

Shared Ministry

<u>Shared Ministry</u>	<u>04-26-26</u>	<u>05-03-26</u>
Acolyte		Aiden Bailey
Assisting Minister	Cami Pexsa	Nola Smith
Communion Assist	Grant Pexsa	Amy Klimek
Communion Assist	Angie Erickson	Amber Whipkey
Greeters	Pam McCormick	Barb Beyer
Greeters	Connie Facciotto	Dave Beyer
Lector	Sarah Fleener	John Smith
Musicians	SOS Band	
Proclaim/FB Live	CJ/Kim/Julie	CJ/Kim/Julie
Ushers	Craig Neubarth	Craig Neubarth
Ushers	Lona Neubarth	Lona Neubarth
Counters	Rena Hills	Cheryl Burbank
Counters	Dean Kliewer	Arvin Pletcher

THIS WEEK AT SHALOM

Sunday	04-26	9:30 am 10:30 am	Worship in-person or online Hospitality New Member Group
Monday	4-27	1:00 pm	Book Club
Tuesday	04-28	7:30 am 9:00 am 6:00 pm 5:00 pm 6:30 pm	Men's Bible Study at Common Ground Dartball Newcomers Gospel of Uke Runestone Chorus
Wednesday	04-29	5:00pm 5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Meal Confirmation/Faith Time Shalom Ringers
Thursday	04-30	8:00-9:45 am 10:00-11:00 am 6:00 pm	Shalom Piecemakers Bible Study Shalom Singers
Sunday	05-03	9:30 am 10:30 am 4:30 pm	Worship in-person or online Hospitality New Member Group GWOH Bible Ladies