



VOL. 26 ISSUE 7 July 2026

Shalom Now!

Official Newsletter of Shalom Lutheran Church

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

BY PASTOR DAVID FLEENER



Pastor David Fleener

You may have noticed that we will have two sermon series this summer. The first is on the Ten Commandments, titled *Rules for a Shalom Life*. The second is on Paul's Letter to the Galatians, titled *Beyond the Rules*.

These twin series divide the summer into law and gospel. And Lutherans are all about dividing the Word of God rightly into these two categories. The law of God elaborates God's expectations for us. It helps us order our society. And perhaps most importantly, it reveals our sin and desperate need for forgiveness. God's law is like the bathroom scale. No matter how much we avoid it, it tells the truth about ourselves and our world.

If God's Word were to leave us with the awful truth of our failures, there would be no hope. But God's Word doesn't leave us there. Instead of dwelling on what we have done (or failed to do), the gospel reveals what God has done for us. God has come to us in the man Jesus. And God in Jesus has done what "sinful flesh could not do", as Paul writes in Romans. God has destroyed the powers of sin, death, and the devil by the cross of his Son.

When we get into Galatians, we will hear more about the radical effect the gospel has on us. Perhaps the most radical statement Paul makes is in Galatians 3, where he says flat out that we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian (the law), but are children of God through faith. Now, that doesn't mean that any behavior is compatible with the Christian life. If it were, Paul would not detail the marks of the Spirit-led life (or the sin-led life, for that matter). But it does mean we are radically free from all things not God, even good things like the law. We are freed to live into our full humanity as children of God.

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."

I hope you join us on Sundays at 9:30. If you can't, check out our sermon page on our website: <https://shalomlutheran.org/podcasts/media>.

Love to you all,

Pastor David



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



YOUTH

Be a Sponsor

We invite you to take part in a new opportunity to support our youth. This year, you may sponsor a participant attending the summer mission trip to Niagara Falls. Sponsors may choose the amount they wish to give, and the participant they would like to support. There is no limit to the number of sponsors per participant.

In June, participants will connect with their sponsor(s) to get to know one another and discuss the upcoming trip. After returning, they will meet again to reflect on the experience and share how the trip has impacted them. During the trip, sponsors are encouraged to pray daily for their participant and stay in touch in meaningful ways.

A display will be available in the narthex where you can sign up to sponsor a youth, select your donation amount, and choose your participant. Envelopes with the participants' names will be provided and may be placed in Sam's mailbox so donations can be tracked accordingly.

If you have any questions, please contact Sam Meehan.

Thank you for your support of our youth as they continue to grow in faith.

UPDATE we are currently just past the 50% mark of our fundraising goal.



**SHALOM LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
May 18th, 2026**

PRESENT: Carol, Corey, Grant, Ken, Sherri, and Pastor David

ABSENT: Sherri

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Motion was made to approve agenda without amendment by Ken, seconded by Corey, and carried unanimously. Motion was made to approve the April 20, 2026, Council minutes by Ken, seconded by Sherri and carried unanimously.

Devotion was offered by Pastor David using an excerpt of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Life Together*.

Reviewed reports by Pastor and Committees:

****Pastor's Report:** Report included in packet. Noted one confirmand confirmed at the 5-17 service. Jeremiah 29 Project will be a children's (elementary age) chorus subsidiary to the Runestone Choir, and a potential conductor has agreed to be involved. Rehearsal could begin in September or October.

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

**** Worship:** Report in packet. Committee continues to work on revising shared ministry forms. No council action is requested.

**** Finance:** Report in packet from Treasurer. Building funds remain ahead of budget but General fund giving continues to lag. The report confirmed the correction of noisy offering giving that went to the Youth fund instead of the Playground fund. No council action is requested.

**** Stewardship:** No report. Discussions continue with Thrivent to help Shalom this year with the theme of cultivating a generous spirit. No council action is requested.

**** Y/ED:** Report in packet. New confirmation materials have been purchased. Discussed concerns with the number of youths at Shalom. No council action is requested.

****Outreach and Caring:** Report in packet on outreach activities. Continue to work toward getting a chair for the women's restroom. No council action is requested.

****God's Work Our Hands:** Report in packet on committee activities. No council action requested.

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

**** Property:** Oral report given at meeting. Working on documenting acceptance of gift of playground equipment. Will be hiring an outside service for lawn mowing due to not having enough volunteers. Have agreed to rent out office space within the church for a short term (likely through August). A local organization has proposed interest in renting the facility for a theater day camp.

**** FM Radio:** No Report. Did not meet. Discussed options for further funding and how committee could be organized with departure of member.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Discussed filling of council vacancy left by Kersten who also had the role of Secretary.

A closing prayer was offered by Sherri.

With no other business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Grant Pexsa, Council Treasurer



Shalom Lutheran Financial Activity: May/26

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

| General Fund Activities | Actual | Budget | Annual Budget | Variance |
|--|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Revenues | | | | |
| General Offerings | \$ 106,673 | \$ 123,878 | \$ 297,303 | \$ (17,205) |
| Building Fund Offerings | 32,691 | 32,930 | 79,032 | (239) |
| Interest and Other | 3,578 | 2,526 | 6,050 | 1,052 |
| Total General/Bldg Fund Revenues | 142,942 | 159,334 | 382,385 | (16,392) |
| Expenses | | | | |
| Office expenses and Wages/Benefits | 88,845 | 91,096 | 218,553 | (2,251) |
| Building and Grounds | 27,225 | 24,278 | 58,245 | 2,947 |
| Synod payments, Outreach, GWOH | 380 | 4,096 | 9,800 | (3,716) |
| Shalom programs (music, Ed, worship, Technology) | 6,745 | 8,307 | 19,855 | (1,562) |
| Total General Fund Expenses | 123,196 | 127,777 | 306,453 | (4,581) |
| Net Transfers in/(out) of General/Bldg Fund | (1,590) | 1,290 | 3,100 | (2,880) |
| Building Fund Mortgage Payments | (32,941) | (32,930) | (79,032) | (11) |
| Net General/Bldg Fund Surplus / (Deficit) | \$ (14,785) | \$ (83) | \$ - | \$ (14,702) |

| Fund Activities | 12/31/25 Balance | 2026 Receipts | 2026 Disbursed | Transfers between funds | 05/31/26 Balance |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| General Fund (Unrestricted) | \$ 68,527 | \$ 110,828 | \$ 123,721 | \$ (1,590) | \$ 54,043 |
| Bldg Fund (mortg pmt, debt reduction) | 39,300 | 32,691 | 32,941 | 20,000 | 59,051 |
| Restricted Funds - WELCA | 38,579 | 373 | - | - | 38,952 |
| Restricted Funds - Youth | 13,740 | 4,956 | 5,565 | (1,585) | 11,547 |
| Restricted Funds: Shalom internal use | 96,581 | 28,197 | 590 | (16,825) | 107,363 |
| Restricted Funds for Outreach use | 2,126 | 2,389 | 3,554 | - | 962 |
| Totals | \$ 258,853 | \$ 179,434 | \$ 166,370 | \$ - | \$ 271,917 |

Summary: This Shalom reporting is through May with a combined General and Building Funds deficit of \$14,785; primarily due to below-budget General fund offerings. March Bldg Fund receipts reflect a large 1-time offering. The General/Bldg Funds balance is \$113,094; about \$5,200 above Dec/25; mostly due to below-budget offerings offset by a recent \$20k estate gift that was transferred into the Building fund from Memorial Funds.

Notes:

- | | Cash | M Mrkt | |
|---|-----------|------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Cash & short term investment balances: | \$ 77,368 | \$ 197,280 | 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: | \$ 26,208 | \$ 106,673 | \$ 123,878 |
| Building Fund Offerings: | \$ 4,420 | \$ 32,680 | \$ 32,930 |

5. Bldg Fund offerings are \$239 under budget ytd.

6. Mortgage balance at time of reporting is \$432,997. Our monthly payment is \$6,586.

25th Annual

Golf Scramble

Monday August 3rd, 2026

Lake Milona Golf Club

SAVE THE DATE



SUMMER FEST & AUCTION

JULY 11, 2026

SCAN ME



11:00am-4:00pm

Or visit
[https://luthercrest.org/
summer-fest-and-auction/](https://luthercrest.org/summer-fest-and-auction/)

Join us for Luther Crest's Summer Fest and Auction!

FEATURES:

- Exciting live auction at the camp waterfront at 2pm. All proceeds go toward camper scholarships!
- Online auction and day-of viewing.
- Camp fun like zip lining, tours, arts and crafts, and beach time at our staffed waterfront.
- Camp meal in the dining hall served 11:00-12:45pm.



WELCA has received a thank you letter from Luther Crest Bible Camp for our support for their quilt auction with a gift of \$500.00. We do make a difference!!



Your Shalom Relay for Life Team would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to everyone that supported the Relay through prayer and donations. The weather was a little “iffy” earlier in the day, but the evening turned out beautifully. The Relay is more than a walk, it’s a deeply moving event that brings together cancer survivors, caregivers, volunteers in an evening of celebration and remembrance. Our team goal was to raise \$2000.00 and we raised \$7,090.00.

Thank you,
Team Shalom, Relay for Life

40th Annual Shalom Western Barbeque

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Serving pork chops, potato salad, baked beans,
potato chips, relish, bread, watermelon, lemonade & coffee

In the good old summertime, it is Barbeque time again. Come and have FUN working together and welcoming our guests. You will recognize many repeat customers over the years. The BBQ Team thanks you for all your help!!

Sign-up sheets—your help is needed! Set-up, serving, **clean-up**, donate food or baked goods. Find the sign-up sheets on the easel. There are job descriptions available in the Office or at each station on July 15th, or ask a BBQ Committee member. On July 15th please come to your assigned area 15 min. early to receive instructions as needed. Please follow the instructions you are given. There is a reason why you do the things as listed, i.e. Health Dept. regulations. This year we are having just one shift and will have others to fill in if you need to go eat with family.

**Please stay in the area you are assigned to. Do not move to another area unless a BBQ Team member asks you to. While you may find something to help with the result is not enough help in some areas and too much in other areas—neither of which makes for happy workers. Whatever your skills or interests are, we have a spot for you! Working folks—we have a 5:30 opportunity to fill in as “floaters”—see Jim or Corey to fill a task.

Tickets-- Please return the money from ticket sales by July 15th to the Church Office or Dave Harris's mailbox. You can also get more tickets in the Office. **Posters** are available on the Information Desk—please take one to hang up at your place of work.

Bake Sale--We encourage and appreciate all items you make and bring. People love all kinds of homemade goodies—whether it is homemade jelly or jam, pickles, bread, pies, cookies or snacks. Don't like to bake? Make ziplock baggies of treats such as: Chex Party Mix (many versions available), candy corn & peanuts (tastes like a Salted Nut Roll), caramel corn, trail mix, gorp, etc. *This year we will be accepting gifts of money from those who are unable to help or not interested in providing items for the Bake Sale or dinner (see the sign-up sheet—put monetary gifts in Carol Hedlund's mailbox).* You may bring Bake Sale items Tuesday 7 am to 5 pm and up to 3:00 pm on Wednesday. We are happy to price your items. Be sure to label if it contains nuts, etc.

Donated items—Please have all donated items at Shalom by Sunday, July 12th Please put them on the rolling serving counter by the coffee cups in the Community Room and check your name off the sign-up sheet.

Take-out orders—no call-in orders. Everyone will have to go through the serving line whether eating in or doing take-out.

Left-over food—will be for sale the night of the BBQ after 7:00—prices available at that time.

Clean Up—Please stick around and help with the clean-up. Many, many people put in a long day and it is critical that we all pitch in and help to get it done quicker. Thank you, thank you!

Youth—We appreciate all the help from our Shalom youth. Thank you! We love working with you!

Barbeque Committee members are: Jim Whipkey, Corey Drewes, Carol Hedlund, Sue Engstrom, Dave Harris, Al Anderson, Linda Fenelon, Jan Zarbok and Deb Kramer. Our profit from the Barbeque is split with the Council having discretion over the use of one half the proceeds. The Committee has chosen to pay the annual dues of \$300 for Bread for the World with the rest going to Debt Reduction..

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.

| | | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| July 27 | Where the Wildflowers Grow | Terah Shelton Harris |
| August 31 | I See You've Called in Dead | John Kenney |
| September 28 | Fire Keeper's Daughter | Angeline Boulley |
| October 26 | Theo of Golden | Allen Levi |
| November 30 | Whatever Happened to Lori Lovely | Sarah Mc Coy |
| December 14 | Luncheon (Tentative Date) | |

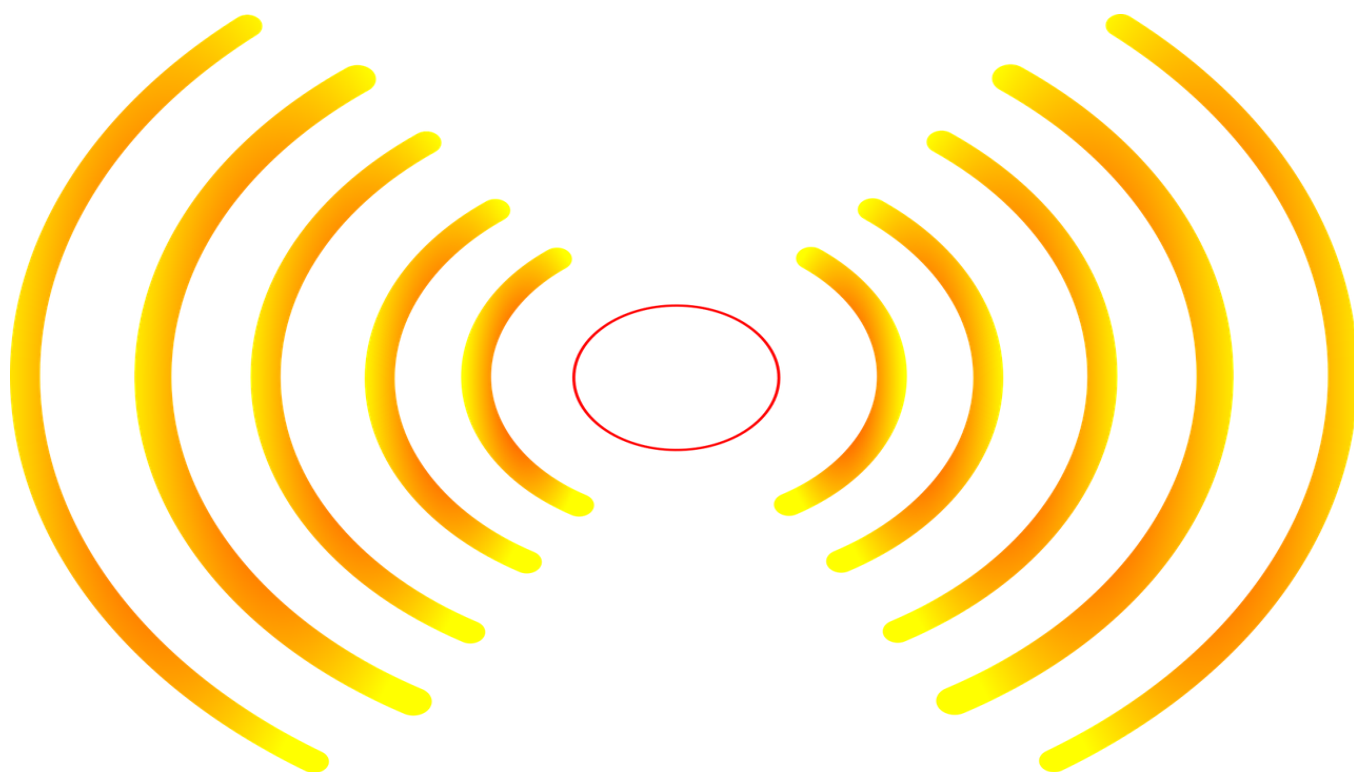
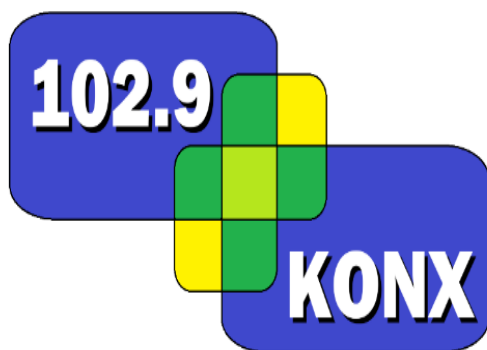


Adult Bible Study

- 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 thankful for those who have pledged their support and offered encouragement toward making "**102.9 Connects**" (**KON-X**) a reality! Our proposed radio ministry's goals are 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. Two updates this month! **First, a programming update.** We are pleased to feature two short form programs by Pastor Kathryn Rothman as an example of the features a radio ministry like KON-X could bring to the community. **You can listen to these programs by clicking on the following links: [Pastor Kathryn's conversation with Father Tom Sinning](#) and [Pastor Kathryn's conversation with Kersten Kappmeyer](#).** Click on the links and they should play on any internet device. **Second, a financial update.** We have received over **\$9,100 in monetary donations**, as well as equipment donations, leaving approximately **\$6,000 left to raise**. This startup funding is necessary to launch the ministry, and our goal is to meet this by a **July 1 deadline**. If you feel moved to support this ministry, please consider lending support, either financially or by getting involved with the Committee. Donations are accepted to Shalom Lutheran's attention; just clearly designate them for "Radio Ministry." And all are welcome to attend committee monthly meetings, generally on second Sundays after Worship. Questions? 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.

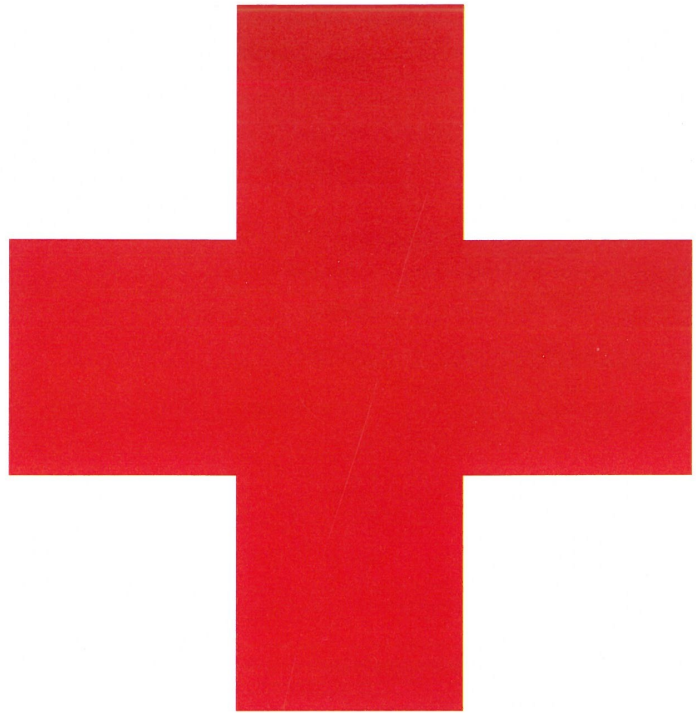
I invite you to explore the potential of this by reading the note below about KONX (Connects), the station's proposed callsign. Reach out to Kersten for more information. I am also happy to have a conversation too. Your thoughts and questions are always welcome. Let's discover the possibilities together!



Give blood.

Every 2 seconds someone
in the U.S. needs blood.

American Red Cross



Blood Drive
Living Word Lutheran Church

1722 16th Ave E - Alexandria

Thursday, July 9, 2026
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Living Word to schedule an appointment.



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®



**Come give blood June 29-July 12 for a classic American
Red Cross x Looney Tunes T-shirt, ltd. qty!**



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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July Shared Ministry

| Shared Ministry | 7/5/2026 0:00 | 7/12/2026 0:00 | 7/19/2026 0:00 | 7/26/2026 0:00 |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Acolyte | | | | |
| Assisting Minister | Cami P | Deb K | Nola S | Sharon H |
| Communion Assistants | Cheryl B | Judy H | Carol H | Dean K |
| Communion Assistants | Dave Mo | Amy K | Corrine I | Catherine K |
| Communion Bread/Month | Renae H | Renae H | Renae H | Renae H |
| Greeters | Barb Be | Linda F | Judy R | Corey D |
| Greeters | Dave Be | Marlys W | Carolyn C | Tammy D |
| Kitchen Monitor/Month | Renae H | Renae H | Renae H | Renae H |
| Lector | Joann G | Tam B | John S | Sarah F |
| Proclaim Slide Presenter | CJ/Kim/Julie | CJ/Kim/Julie | CJ/Kim/Julie | CJ/Kim/Julie |
| Usher | Grant P | Al A | Sue E | Sherri E |
| Usher | Diane K | Dave Ma | Todd Z | Renae H |
| Counter | Dave H | Renae H | Cheryl B | Vic D |
| Counter | Fritz B | Dean K | Arvin P | Charmaine M |



July Birthdays

07/01 Pexsa Cami
 07/02 Anderson Al
 07/03 Drewes Jeryn
 07/03 Malvin Mara
 07/04 McCormick Pamela
 07/06 Zarbok Jan
 07/09 Navratil Tommy
 07/10 Evjen Hailey
 07/11 Bohannon Paula
 07/12 Feigum James
 07/14 Rindahl Geri
 07/14 Whipkey Caedyn
 07/15 Abraham Brinley
 07/15 Feldhake Kayla
 07/15 Ruud Kristina



07/16 Rothman Ken
 07/18 Bailey Aiden
 07/21 Rooney Dan
 07/22 Luetgers Virginia
 07/23 Mastel Judy
 07/24 Buse Brody
 07/25 Dale Vic
 07/25 Johnson Connie
 07/26 Arneson Pat
 07/26 Kramer Roy
 07/27 Huebner Glen
 07/28 Facciotto Connie
 07/29 Whipkey Amber
 07/30 Garland Joann
 07/31 Morgan Karen

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 for July is:

| <u>07-05-26</u> | <u>07-12-26</u> | <u>07-19-26</u> |
|--|---|-------------------|
| Barb Carstens Virginia Leutgers Derek & Isabelle Navratil | Sue Engstrom Mike & Sarah Flaten Judy Hoffman | The Malvin Family |
| <u>07-26-26</u> John & Vic Dale Joann Garland Jenny Johnson | | |

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



July



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|-----------|--|--|---|
| Jun 28 9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (in perso) | 29 1 PM Book Club | 30 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Comm | Jul 1 | 2 8 AM LWR Quilting 10 AM Adult Bible Study | 3 | 4 9 AM SOS Rehearsal 9:00 am |
| 5 9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (in perso) 10:30 AM GWOH | 6 Office Closed | 7 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Comm | 8 | 9 8 AM LWR Quilting 10 AM Adult Bible Study | 10 | 11 |
| 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 5:30 PM Property Meeting | 15 | 16 8 AM LWR Quilting 10 AM Adult Bible Study | 17 Newsletter items due | 18 9 AM SOS Rehearsal 9:00 am |
| 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 | 22 | 23 8 AM LWR Quilting 10 AM Adult Bible Study 1 PM Retired Pastors | 24 | 25 |
| 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 | 29 | 30 8 AM LWR Quilting 10 AM Adult Bible Study | 31 | Aug 1 9 AM SOS Rehearsal 9:00 am |



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