

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

BY PASTOR DAVID FLEENER



Pastor David Fleener

Empowered by God — Responding by Grace

Now as you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you — so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking (2 Cor. 8:7).

It's September, which means it's time for our annual generosity campaign. This year, the theme is "Empowered by God — Responding by Grace." During this time, we will consider how God has empowered us and how our response, by grace through faith, can be used by God, especially in the ministry here at Shalom Lutheran Church.

Power can be a tricky concept for church folks like us. When we think of power, what often comes to mind is the classic quote from Lord Acton: "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." We might think of totalitarian government or crooked politicians. But this is not the whole story. Power simply refers to one's ability to act.

And the power we receive from the Holy Spirit gives us an ability to act for the sake of the kingdom of God. The Spirit's power "gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist" (Rom. 4:17). It is the power that Jesus spoke of right before he ascended to his Father: "...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). It is the power spoken by an elderly Paul to his protégé Timothy: "...for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline" (2 Tim. 1:7). We received this Spirit of power on the day of our baptism, and we renew that power every time we hear God's Word and share the Lord's Supper.

The Spirit also gives us the power to respond to God's amazing grace. We have all been blessed beyond measure by God. And we are empowered to respond by giving what God has given us. A classic prayer from the *Lutheran Book of Worship* says, "...we offer to you what you have first given us: our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love...." We give not out of fear or obligation, but out of the gracious love God has shown us.

There are many things in which we excel at Shalom Lutheran Church. We're a congregation that cares for each other through Outreach and Caring, home communion visits, and many other things. We also care for others through our other

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."

side you about God's love, blessing, and the opportunities we receive to respond out of God's amazing grace.

"Empowered by God — Responding by Grace." That is true of God's saints throughout the ages. That has been true of us at Shalom Lutheran Church. God empower us to make it true again and always.

Love to you all,

Pastor David

Extensively reworked and adapted from an article by Kenneth Williams, ©2026. Used by permission.

ATTENTION COMMITTEES

Please submit budget request for 2027 to Grant Pexsa by September 30th.

Submit annual reports to Geri in the Office no later than October 20th as she has to have the Annual Report out two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting which will be held on Sunday, November 22.

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



Our Wednesday programming year begins the week of September 13, with our first Wednesday gathering on **September 16**. We'll gather for a meal at **5:00 p.m.**, followed by our regular programming.

As we have in years past, we're looking for members of the congregation who would be willing to **host a meal or donate toward the youth meal fund**. Providing a meal is a wonderful way to support our youth and help make Wednesday nights a welcoming time of fellowship. If you'd like to host a meal or contribute to the meal fund, please reach out to Sam



CELEBRATION

Shalom member Bob Hildebrandt is turning 100 years young on September 7th.

Let's all send him a card! We will also be serving cake in his honor during Hospitality time on Sunday, September 6th. Please join us for the fun of reaching this milestone. Bring your card then if you wish.

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

ABSENT: None

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Motion was made to approve agenda with amendments by Ken, seconded by Corey, and carried unanimously. Motion was made to approve the June 15th, 2026 Council minutes by Ken, seconded by Julie and carried unanimously.

A prayer was offered by Pastor David as devotion.

Reviewed reports by Pastor and Committees:

****Pastor's Report:** Report included in packet. Pastor has continued to provide guidance to the Runestone Chorus on implementing a children's chorus.

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

**** Finance:** Report in packet from Treasurer. General fund giving rose slightly again this month but total for the year is still behind budget. Building fund giving is slightly below budget.

**** Stewardship:** No report. Met with Thrivent on initiative for the Generous Mindset initiative at Shalom. Representatives from Thrivent will likely do a temple talk at Shalom.

**** Y/ED:** Report in packet

****Outreach and Caring:** Report in packet on outreach activities. Chairs were purchased and placed in bathrooms. Three Shalom members have been trained and began home visits that include serving communion.

****God's Work Our Hands:** Report in packet on committee activities. The donation of 106 place settings of dishes to Viking Towers was completed per council vote from June.

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

**** Property:** Oral report given at meeting. Discussed a new requirement for coordinating the application and implementation of endowment fund requests. Motion made by Ken that endowment committee will require a sign-off by a committee or council for all requests. The motion was seconded by Grant and carried

**** FM Radio:** Report in packet. The Radio Ministry Committee met on July 19th after worship service and voted to disband. Motion made by Julie to approve dissolution of Radio Ministry Committee. The motion was seconded by Sherri and carried unanimously.

Old Business: None.

A closing prayer was offered by Ken.

With no other business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:07 pm.

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

General Fund Activities	Actual	Budget	Annual Budget	Variance
Revenues				
General Offerings	\$ 153,870	\$ 173,428	\$ 297,303	\$ (19,558)
Building Fund Offerings	40,922	46,102	79,032	(5,180)
Interest and Other	5,565	3,534	6,050	2,031
Total General/Bldg Fund Revenues	200,356	223,064	382,385	(22,708)
Expenses				
Office expenses and Wages/Benefits	127,124	127,523	218,553	(399)
Building and Grounds	32,007	33,986	58,245	(1,979)
Synod payments, Outreach, GWOH	8,040	5,727	9,800	2,313
Shalom programs (music, Ed, worship, Technology)	8,827	11,624	19,855	(2,797)
Total General Fund Expenses	175,998	178,860	306,453	(2,862)
Net Transfers in/(out) of General/Bldg Fund	(1,590)	1,806	3,100	(3,396)
Building Fund Mortgage Payments	(46,119)	(46,102)	(79,032)	(17)
Net General/Bldg Fund Surplus / (Deficit)	\$ (23,351)	\$ (92)	\$ -	\$ (23,259)

Fund Activities	12/31/25 Balance	2026 Receipts	2026 Disbursed	Transfers between funds	07/31/26 Balance
General Fund (Unrestricted)	\$ 68,527	\$ 160,232	\$ 176,745	\$ (1,590)	\$ 50,424
Bldg Fund (mortg pmt, debt reduction)	39,300	40,922	46,119	20,000	54,103
Restricted Funds - WELCA	38,579	521	-	-	39,099
Restricted Funds - Youth	13,740	6,921	7,974	(1,585)	11,102
Restricted Funds: Shalom internal use	96,581	45,897	8,552	(16,825)	117,100
Restricted Funds for Outreach use	2,126	2,489	3,554	-	1,062
Totals	\$ 258,853	\$ 256,982	\$ 242,944	\$ -	\$ 272,891

Summary: This Shalom reporting is through July with a combined General and Building Funds deficit of \$23,351; primarily due to below-budget General fund offerings and Annual ELCA dues paid in July. Spring/26 Bldg Fund receipts reflect a large 1-time offering. The General/Bldg Funds balance is \$104,528; about \$3,300 below Dec/25; mostly due low below-budget offerings offset by a recent \$20k estate gift that was transferred into the Building fund from Memorial Funds. See Note 7 below for BBQ sales.

Notes:

- Cash & short term investment balances: \$ 76,462 \$ 198,410 Includes all Restricted Funds
- Restricted Funds: activities such as Memorials, Love Inc, Music, Youth, WELCA, World Hunger, etc
- Restricted Funds: not budgeted, but receive/use only money received for that specific purpose.

Month	To-date	Budget
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*Women of Grace Lutheran Church
205 Central Ave N
Brandon, MN 56315*

Saturday, October 24th



INTERNATIONAL HEALTH PARTNERS, U.S. & IHP-TZ
To Improve Healthcare in Tanzania

Theme: “Bringing Hope and Healing to God's People”
James 2:17 Faith without works is dead

Guest Speaker: Paula Lofstrom

Grace Women are requesting us to bring donations to International Health Partners Tanzania.
You can do cash or make check to Grace with note in memo IHPTanzania

There will be tables of items made by Tanzania artists for sale that day also.

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

Noon Lunch: Cost is \$ 20.00 per person

Registration Deadline: Friday, October 9th

Send registration and fees to: **Grace Lutheran Church**

P. O Box 7

Brandon, MN 56315

Attn: Kelli Wendel

Phone: 320-824-4873 Email: grace@gctel.com

@
Grace Lutheran Church
205 Central Ave N, Brandon, MN 56315

Hosted by the Women of Grace Lutheran Church

Dear Unit Presidents, Circle Chairmen, ALL WOMEN OF YOUR CHURCH:

Please share this invitation with the women of your congregation, NOT JUST WELCA

Come and join us in Worship and Christian Fellowship:

Saturday, October 24th at Grace Lutheran
8:15-9:00 AM Registration & Fellowship
12:00 Noon Lunch

Theme: “Bringing Hope and Healing to God's People”

Guest Speaker: Paula Lofstrom
International Health Partners Tanzania

Bible Verse: James 2:17 Faith without works is dead.

The Registration fee of \$ 20.00 will cover the cost of lunch, refreshments, and materials. An offering will be received. This includes both individual and unit offering. Each unit is asked to pay an assessment fee of \$ 25.00. Make your checks out to “Women of the ELCA”. On the memo section of the check, please write “Assesment Conference 8”. Registrations are needed by **October 9th**. Lunch count is based on this, so please register ASAP. Send your registration and check made out of “Women of the ELCA” to:

Grace Lutheran Church, PO Box 7, Brandon, MN 56315 Attn: Kelli Wendel
Phone: 320-824-4873 Email grace@gctel.com

Make checks payable to Women of the ELCA

God's Work Our Hands News

September 13 has been designated **ELCA Day of Service**. Congregations across the country will engage in projects that reflect service to others. Please join us at Shalom as we assemble **Newborn Kits** that will be donated to Global Health Ministries and then distributed around the world. The needed items (diapers, pins, a onsie, stocking cap, wash cloth, soap and receiving blanket) will be wrapped in a towel and boxed for shipping to GHM. This project will be completed in the community room immediately after worship on **Sunday September 13**. See you then!!

Thanks to all who filled LWR school book bags!! As of August 15, 71 bags have been filled and returned. School bags and quilts will be shipped to LWR in October.

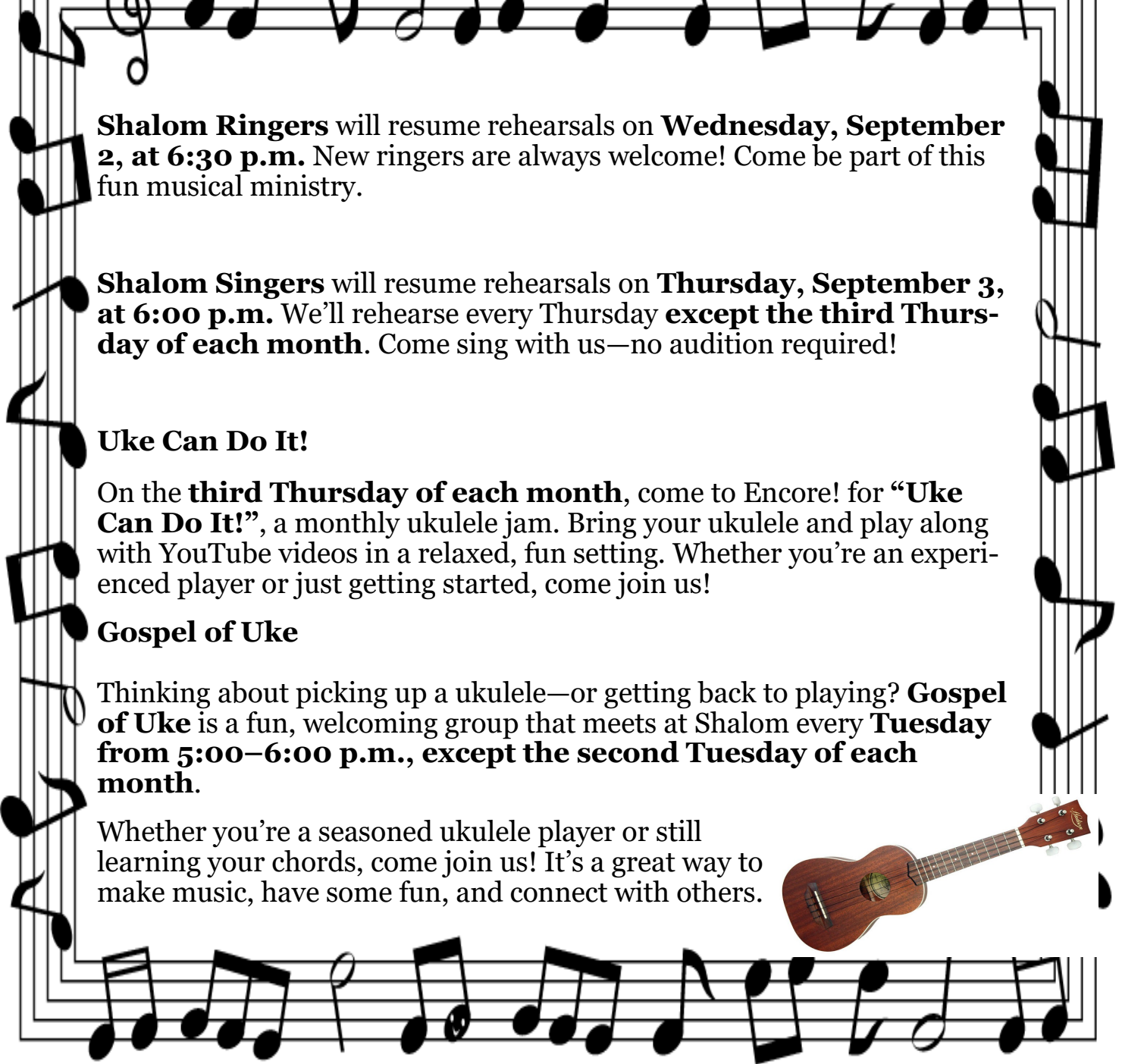


ENDOWMENT FUND

SHALOM MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND:

Your Mission Endowment Fund committee is happy to announce that we will be accepting applications for another round of MEF Grants. **All Shalom members** can apply through the various church teams for a grant to help fund an activity or project that is not already being supported by the church budget.

- Endowment Fund Grant Application Forms will be available in Shalom's Office by the first



Shalom Ringers will resume rehearsals on **Wednesday, September 2, at 6:30 p.m.** New ringers are always welcome! Come be part of this fun musical ministry.

Shalom Singers will resume rehearsals on **Thursday, September 3, at 6:00 p.m.** We'll rehearse every Thursday **except the third Thursday of each month.** Come sing with us—no audition required!

Uke Can Do It!

On the **third Thursday of each month**, come to Encore! for “**Uke Can Do It!**”, a monthly ukulele jam. Bring your ukulele and play along with YouTube videos in a relaxed, fun setting. Whether you're an experienced player or just getting started, come join us!

Gospel of Uke

Thinking about picking up a ukulele—or getting back to playing? **Gospel of Uke** is a fun, welcoming group that meets at Shalom every **Tuesday from 5:00–6:00 p.m., except the second Tuesday of each month.**

Whether you're a seasoned ukulele player or still learning your chords, come join us! It's a great way to make music, have some fun, and connect with others.



"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.

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.



Shared Ministry	9/6/2026 0:00	9/13/2026 0:00	9/20/2026 0:00	9/27/2026 0:00
Acolyte	Olivia Flaten	Joshua Flaten		
Assisting Minister	Nola Smith	Carol Hedlund	Dan Hermanson	Carol Hedlund
Communion Assistants	Cheryl Burbank	Dean Kliewer	Angie Erickson	Judy Hoffman
Communion Assistants	Dave Morgan	Catherine Kliewer	Corrine Iverson	Sue Engstrom
Communion Bread/Month	Deb Hoven	Deb Hoven	Deb Hoven	Deb Hoven
Greeters	Carol Klein	Carolyn Carlson	Corey Drewes	Pris Fieldhammer
Greeters	Judy Radjenovich	Linda Fenelon	Tammuy Drewes	Marlys Wanttie
Kitchen Monitor/Month	Sue Engstrom	Sue Engstrom	Sue Engstrom	Sue Engstrom
Lector	Joann Garland	Judy Hoffman	Sarah Fleener	Cami Pexsa
Proclaim Slide Presenter	CJ/Kim/Julie	CJ/Kim/Julie	CJ/Kim/Julie	CJ/Kim/Julie
Usher	Arvin Pletcher	Renae Hills	Craig Neubarth	Todd Zarbok
Usher	Dave Malvin	Al Anderson	Lona Neubarth	Grant Pexsa
Counter	Renae Hills	Derek Navratil	Dave Harris	Craig Neubarth
Counter	Deb Kramer	Virginia Leutgers	Arvin Pletcher	Fritz Bukowski



Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization Convention
September 18 & 19 @ TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
205 S Broadway, Crookston, MN 56716

Convention Registration – ALL ATTENDEES MUST COMPLETE THIS FORM

EARLY .. Registration due by August 22, 2026

All registrations must be received by September 1st

NO CASH... CHECKS ONLY.... PAYABLE TO: NW MN SWO

All registrations MUST be postmarked on or before due dates. **Full payment** is required with registration form.
No refunds after September 1st, however registrations are transferable.

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM ... WITH CHECK TO:

NWMN SWO CONVENTION

Attn: Luella Thom

PO Box 103

Carlos, MN 56319

Phone: 320-815-7701

Email: Thom17@wisper-wireless.com

***** Please make your own hotel reservations. See attached list**

PLEASE PRINT:

Name: _____ **Phone** _____

Address: _____ **City** _____

State _____ **Zip Code** _____ **E-mail** _____

Conference # _____ **Name of Congregation** _____ **City** _____

Are you the contact for your Congregation Unit? Yes _____ **No** _____

____ Voting Member (1 per Congregation) _____ Non-Voting

Please register early to save money and facilitate Convention Planning!!

____ **Friday & Saturday \$100.00** **Attending meals both Friday** _____ **Saturday** _____

____ **Saturday only \$ 75.00**

____ **Postmarked after September 1st \$ 125.00**

Please indicate any special dietary needs: _____

Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization

38th Annual Convention

September 18 & 19, 2026

Trinity Lutheran Church, Crookston, Minnesota

Theme: Button Up Your
Faith

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith
is confidence in what we
hope for and assurance
about what we do.

Business Meeting
Bible Study by Pastor
Rebel Hurd
Closing Worship by Bishop
Bill Tesch

Breakout Sessions

Dana Johnson & Silas

Victim/Witness Coordinator- Facility Dog Handler

Camp Knutson

Carolina Díaz

Care & Share Homeless Shelter

Keynote Speaker



Gaye Lindfors

Inspirational Christian
Speaker and Author

Native of Climax, MN

gayelindfors.com

Check www.nsynod.org
for more information
and updates.

Button Up Your Faith

Wall Hanging Project

Participate by bringing a button to attach to

09/03	Fleener	David
09/04	Dalum	Gwyn
09/06	Anderson	Julie
09/06	Kingsberg	Gerry
09/07	Hildebrandt	Bob
09/07	Kliwer	Dean
09/07	Radjenovich	Judy
09/08	Carlson	Carolyn
09/11	Hoffman	Judy
09/11	Kallberg	Vicki



09/12	Carlson	Richard
09/13	Klimek	Virginia
09/15	Nagle	Ruth
09/16	Casavan	Kim
09/18	Bentson	Emily
09/19	Meehan	Sam
09/24	Malvin	Lynn
09/24	McKay	Bill
09/28	Hoffbeck	Randy
09/29	Dale	John
09/30	Neilsen	Darrell

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

The schedule for Sep is:

09-6-26

Randy & Leann Hoffbeck
Alli Halvorson
Courtney Bouressa

09-13-26

Carol Hedlund
Glen & Linda Huebner
Connie Johnson

09-20-26

Fritz & Tam Bukowski
Dale & Naty Kittleson
Dean & Catherine Kliwer

09-27-26

Ryan & Rachel Buse
Tom & Renae Hills
Carolyn Carlson

If you are unable to serve on the date you are scheduled please change with another family unit. If you have any problems, questions or concerns, or if you have an idea which would make this Sunday Hospitality more effective, please contact Geri at the church office.

Thanks for your ministry in this area.

Hospitality treats will be served in



September



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	31	Sep 1	2	3	4	5
worship (in perso)	1 PM Book Club	7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Comm 5 PM Gospel of Uke 6:30 PM Runestone Chorus	6:30 PM Shalom Ringers	8 AM LWR Quilting 10 AM Adult Bible Study 5:30 PM Tech Team meets 6 PM Shalom Singers		9 AM SOS Rehearsal
	7	8	9	10	11	12
worship (in perso)		7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Comm 11 AM Altar Guild 11 AM Outreach 5 PM Youth/Ed meets +2	6:30 PM Shalom Ringers	8 AM LWR Quilting 10 AM Adult Bible Study 6 PM Shalom Singers		
	14	15	16	17	18	19
worship (in perso)		7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Comm 5 PM Gospel of Uke 5:30 PM Children's Chorus 6:30 PM Runestone Chorus	Meal 5:00 pm 5 PM Meal 5:30 PM Programming 6:30 PM Shalom Ringers	8 AM LWR Quilting 10 AM Adult Bible Study	Newsletter Items due	9 AM SOS Rehearsal
	21	22	23	24	25	26
worship (in perso)	5:30 PM Council Mtg	7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Comm 5 PM Gospel of Uke 5 PM Newcomers 5:30 PM Children's Chorus 6:30 PM Runestone Chorus	5 PM Meal 5:30 PM Programming 6:30 PM Shalom Ringers	8 AM LWR Quilting 10 AM Adult Bible Study 1 PM Retired Pastors 6 PM Shalom Singers		
	28	29	30	Oct 1	2	3
worship (in perso)	1 PM Book Club	7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Comm 5 PM Gospel of Uke 5:30 PM Children's Chorus 6:30 PM Runestone Chorus	5 PM Meal 5:30 PM Programming 6:30 PM Shalom Ringers	8 AM LWR Quilting 10 AM Adult Bible Study 5:30 PM Tech Team meets 6 PM Shalom Singers		9 AM SOS Rehearsal



320-762-8641
office@shalomlutheran.org



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