



There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear....
—1 John 4:18a

About twenty years ago, I was diagnosed with an anxiety disorder. As you might imagine, this came as a surprise to absolutely no one. I have always been tightly wound. From preschool on, I was an overachiever, quick to correct and quicker to criticize others and myself. Case in point: on one notable elementary school report card, the teacher wrote:

When I went to seminary, I discovered challenges that no good grade could fix. I was in a failing marriage. I isolated myself from my colleagues out of fear. Ironical that in a Lutheran seminary, where we were trying to learn about grace and forgiveness, I doubled down on overachievement to try to feel better about myself. Yet, the “mighty fortress” of achievement I had built for myself was crumbling under the weight of relentless anxiety and shame.

I had a lot of help. A kind, competent therapist helped me gain perspective. I was introduced to private confession and forgiveness, which has continued to be a source of liberation for me. My professors were supportive. My internship supervisor was always in my corner. But it was my colleagues that provided the most important learning of all. They provided me grace and comfort during one of the lowest periods of my life. They helped me learn a little more about love—the love that is deeply concerned for someone, just as they are. No strings, no quid pro quos, no hidden expectations.

God has graced me with more teachers in this kind of love, especially Sarah. Abigail, too, has taught me more about what it means to love and to be gentler with others and myself. (A work in progress, of course!) And of course, you all have been my teachers in how to love. I’m grateful to you all.

As we continue to be church together in a deeply anxious time, God help us to love as he loves us. And God drive out our fears so we can live more fully in his love, without condition.

Love to you all,

Pastor David

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 in-vite people into a deeper relationship with Christ, that they may discover true peace and be prepared to follow Him in compassionate service.”



Shalom Lutheran

Financial Activity:

Sep/26

SHALOM LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
September 21st, 2026

PRESENT: Ken, Corey, Carol, Julie, Sherri, Grant, and Pastor David
ABSENT: none
Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Motion was made by Ken to approve agenda with addition of Endowment Fund report to the agenda, seconded by Grant, and carried unanimously. Motion was made to approve the August 17th, 2026 Council minutes by Pastor, seconded by Julie and carried unanimously.

Pastor David read a short devotional from Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s *Life Together* and opened the meeting with prayer.

Reviewed reports by Pastor and Committees:
****Pastor’s Report:** Report included in packet. Pastor shared that 8 individuals attended the adult catechism class. Three youth are expected to attend confirmation this year.

- ** Staff:** Report in packet from Youth and Music Director.
- ** Worship:** Did not meet since last Council meeting. New members have been added to the committee, and a new Chairperson is yet to be selected.
- ** Finance:** Report in packet from Treasurer. General fund giving remains behind budget. Building fund giving is also below budget. An incomplete first draft budget was distributed for feedback from committees.
- ** Stewardship:** Report in packet. Generous Mindset initiative with Thrivent has started at Shalom.
- ** Y/ED:** Report in packet.
- **Outreach and Caring:** Report in packet on outreach activities. Feedback has remained positive for healing prayer sessions so more will likely be held.
- **God’s Work Our Hands:** Report in packet on committee activities.
- **Personnel:** No report. Staff reviews schedule for October 1st.
- ** Property:** No report. Discussed need to get bids for leaking roof repairs over fellowship area as well as budgeting to begin window replacements.
- ** Technology:** Did not meet.
- ** Endowment fund:** Report in packet

New Business: Council was reminded that committee reports are due by the end of September to support production of annual reports.
Discussed ideas to promote participation in shared ministry, including new training sessions.
Carol shared changes to bazaar leadership organization.

Old Business: None.

A closing prayer was offered by Carol.
With no other business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Grant Pexsa, Council Treasurer

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

General Fund Activities	Actual	Budget	Annual Budget	Variance
Revenues				
General Offerings	\$ 186,125	\$ 222,978	\$ 297,303	\$ (36,853)
Building Fund Offerings	47,578	59,274	79,032	(11,696)
Interest and Other	7,690	4,541	6,050	3,149
Total General/Bldg Fund Revenues	241,393	286,793	382,385	(45,400)
Expenses				
Office expenses and Wages/Benefits	160,724	163,942	218,553	(3,218)
Building and Grounds	41,791	43,692	58,245	(1,901)
Synod payments, Outreach, GWOH	8,225	7,357	9,800	868
Shalom programs (music, Ed, worship, Technology)	8,484	14,926	19,855	(6,442)
Total General Fund Expenses	219,223	229,917	306,453	(10,694)
Net Transfers in/(out) of General/Bldg Fund	4,414	2,322	3,100	2,092
Building Fund Mortgage Payments	(59,313)	(59,274)	(79,032)	(39)
Net General/Bldg Fund Surplus / (Deficit)	\$ (32,729)	\$ (76)	\$ -	\$ (32,653)

Fund Activities	12/31/25 Balance	2026 Receipts	2026 Disbursed	Transfers between funds	09/30/26 Balance
General Fund (Unrestricted)	\$ 68,527	\$ 194,809	\$ 220,217	\$ 4,414	\$ 47,533
Bldg Fund (mortg pmt, debt reduction)	39,300	47,578	59,313	20,500	48,066
Restricted Funds - WELCA	38,579	1,298	1,118	-	38,759
Restricted Funds - Youth	13,740	7,271	8,239	(1,585)	11,188
Restricted Funds: Shalom internal use	96,581	44,500	8,049	(23,329)	109,703
Restricted Funds for Outreach use	2,126	2,672	3,554	-	1,245
Totals	\$ 258,853	\$ 298,129	\$ 300,489	\$ (0)	\$ 256,493

Summary: This Shalom reporting is through September with a combined General and Building Funds deficit of \$32,579; primarily due to below-budget General fund offerings and Annual ELCA dues paid in July. The General/Bldg Funds balance is \$95,599; about \$12,229 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. Current General Fund balance is \$47,533. Also, see Note 7 below for BBQ sales.

- Notes:
- | | Cash | M Mkt | |
|---|-----------|------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Cash & short term investment balances: | \$ 49,922 | \$ 209,598 | 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:	\$ 16,258	\$ 186,125	\$ 222,978
Building Fund Offerings:	\$ 3,423	\$ 47,539	\$ 59,274

5. Bldg Fund offerings are \$11,696 under budget ytd.
6. Mortgage balance at time of reporting is \$413,750. Our monthly payment is \$6,586.

Shared Ministry Training

You're invited to a first-ever all-position Shared Ministry Training. Shalom leadership thanks everyone who currently gives their time and talent to fill these roles before, during and after services. The goal is to increase the number of people willing to help by providing training in each position in the most efficient way.

Please join us on Thursday, November 19 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Experienced Shalom members will be available at separate stations to show how manageable it is to fill any of the needed positions: Assistant Minister, Lector, Communion Assistant, Usher, Greeter, Kitchen Monitor, Communion Bread Making and Hospitality.

Attendees will rotate from station to station.

Cookies and coffee will be provided. We hope to see you there.

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.

November 30 Whatever Happened to Lori Lovely Sarah Mc Coy

December 14 Luncheon (Tentative Date)



Wednesday 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. There is a sign-up sheet in the community room where folks can sign-up to provide meals.

Family Nights

Family Nights will be held on the second Wednesday of each month. Bring your friends and family! We will serve a meal starting at 5 p.m. with a different event/activity each month from 5:30-6:30 p.m. This is a great time to come together and connect with others in our community.

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.



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



Shalom Ringers: New ringers are always welcome! Come be part of this fun musical ministry. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Shalom Singers: You have a voice and we encourage you to come use it here! We 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 experi-enced 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.

November Birthdays

11/01 Melchert	Dennis
11/05 Bukowski	Tam
11/05 Malvin	Ava
11/05 Stark	Jill
11/07 Pletcher	Susan
11/11 Hanish	Sam
11/14 Abraham	Stacey
11/14 Stueve	Cindy
11/17 Iverson	Corrine
11/17 Toivonen	Greg
11/18 Priebe	Michael
11/22 Pexsa	Gavin
11/27 Mastel	John
11/27 Silver	Marlene
11/29 Hills	Tom
11/30 Endreson	Curt





“Labyrinth” Quilt
(90” x 110”)
On display at
Shalom Lutheran Church
681 Voyager Dr. Alexandria, MN
Quilt designed, pieced & stitched by
Linda Fenelon
Machine-Quilted by
Terry Kennedy



Fall Bazaar

RAFFLE

November 7, 2026
Drawing @ 1:00 pm

RAFFLE TICKETS
purchase from Shalom members or church office
8 am-noon | Mon-Fri
or at the door

\$5

Lake Country Meats
2 - \$50 Gift Cards



Kwik Trip
1 - \$50 Gift Card



Cub Foods
1 - \$50 Gift Card



Winners need not be present to win!





Growing
in Faith.
Serving in
God's Love.

FALL BAZAAR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2026

9:00 AM – 1:30 PM



RAFFLE



CRAFT SALE



BAKE SALE



SOUP, SANDWICH
& PIE À LA CARTE
Lunch



TAKE-OUT
Available!

Homemade. Delicious. Made with Love. ♥

Call 320-762-8641
or 703-585-8810

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Nov Shared Ministry

Shared Ministry	11/1/2026 0:00	11/8/2026 0:00	11/15/2026 0:00	11/22/2026 0:00	11/29/2026 0:00
Acolyte	Kassidy Klimek	Joshua Flaten			Oliva Flaten
Assisting Minister	Dan Hermanson	Carol Hedlund	Deb Kramer	Camp Pexsa	Nola Smith
Communion Assistants	Amber Whipkey	Judy Hoffman	Dean Kliever	Dave Morgan	Carol Hedlund Sharon Hermanson
Communion Assistants	Amy Klimek	Sue Engstrom	Catherine Kliever	Angie Erickson	Hermanson
Communion Bread/Month	Judy Hoffman	Judy Hoffman	Judy Hoffman	Judy Hoffman	Judy Hoffman
Greeters	Marlys Wanttie	Sherri Endreson	Dave Rogosheske Joyce	Amy Schlosser Pris	Corey Drewes
Greeters	Linda Fenelon Judy	Barb Beyer	Rogosheske	Fieldhammer Judy	Tammy Drewes
Kitchen Monitor/Month	Radjenovich	Judy Radjenovich	Judy Radjenovich	Radjenovich	Judy Radjenovich
Lector	Tam Bukowski	Joann Garland	Cami Pexsa	Sarah Fleener	John Smith
Proclaim Slide Presenter	CJ/Kim/Julie	CJ/Kim/Julie	CJ/Kim/Julie	CJ/Kim/Julie	CJ/Kim/Julie
Usher	Todd Zarbok	Al Anderson	Grant Pexsa	Renae Hills	Craig Neubarth
Usher	Fritz Bukowski	Dave Morgan	Dave Malvin	Cheryl Burbank	Lona Neubarth
Counter	Renae Hills	Dave Harris	Renae Hills	Derek Navratil	Vic Dale
Counter	Al Anderson	Corrine Iverson	Deb Kramer	Virginia Leutgers	Charmaine Munt



November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 1 9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (in person) 10:30 AM GRNCH	2	3 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Camo 9 PM Gospel of Luke 9:30 PM Children's Church 6:30 PM Rurekone Chorus	4 9 PM M Meal 5:30 PM Programming 6:30 PM Sation Singers	5 8 AM LWR Outing 10 AM Adult Bible Study 3:30 PM Tech Team meets 6 PM Sation Singers	6 9 AM SOS Referral \$100 am	7 9 AM SOS Referral \$100 am
8 6:30 AM 6:30 am worship (in person)	9	10 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Camo 11 AM Outreach 9 PM Gospel of Luke 9 PM Youth/Ed meets +J	11 9 PM M Meal 5:30 PM a/Family Night 6:30 PM Sation Singers	12 8 AM LWR Outing 10 AM Adult Bible Study 6 PM Sation Singers	13	14
15 9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (in person)	16 5:30 PM Council Mtg	17 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Camo 9 PM Gospel of Luke 9:30 PM Children's Church 6:30 PM Rurekone Chorus	18 9 PM M Meal 5:30 PM Programming 6:30 PM Sation Singers	19 8 AM LWR Outing 10 AM Adult Bible Study 6 PM Sation Singers	20 Newsletter items due 9 AM SOS Referral \$100 am	21
22 9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (in person)	23	24 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Camo 9 PM Gospel of Luke 9 PM Newcomers 9:30 PM Children's Church 6:30 PM Rurekone Chorus	25 9 PM M Meal 5:30 PM Programming 6:30 PM Sation Singers	26 8 AM LWR Outing 10 AM Adult Bible Study 1 PM Refined Pastors 6 PM Sation Singers	27	28
29 9:30 AM 9:30 am worship (in person)	30 1 PM Book Club	Dec 1	2 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Camo 9 PM M Meal 5:30 PM Programming 6:30 PM Sation Singers 6:30 PM Rurekone Chorus	3 8 AM LWR Outing 10 AM Adult Bible Study 5:30 PM Tech Team meets 6 PM Sation Singers	4	5 9 AM SOS Referral \$100 am

SUNDAY MORNING HOSPITALITY

Nov 2026

11-01-26

Barb Beyer
Randy & Eldie Dertinger
Derek & Isabelle Navratil

11-08-26

Sue Engstrom
Ryan & Angie Erickson
Randy & Leann Hoffbeck

11-15-26

Mike & Sarah Flaten
Nick & Jenny Johnson
Sherri Endreson

11-22-26

The Malvin/Freier Family

11-29-26

Al Anderson
Pat Arneson
John & Vic Dale

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.



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