

Sharon Sharings

Monthly publication of Sharon
Lutheran Church | Grand Forks, ND

June 2024

This month:

- Synod Assembly—
Fargo—June 1 & 2
- Vacation Bible
School June 3-6
- Outdoor worship
June 5

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Join us for in-person worship!

Sunday morning at
9:00 and 10:30 am
We will alternate
worship spaces each
week. Both services
will be held in the
same worship space.

Wednesday evenings
in Celebration Hall
beginning at 6:00 pm

New Summer Worship: Created to Be

As the seasons change from Winter to Spring and soon to Summer, we are also experiencing some changes here at Sharon. A new season dawns upon us. We have been working on some structural changes to our staff including votes to call Deacon Jamie Travers as our new Lead Rostered Minister and myself, Pastor Tawanda Murinda as the new Associate Rostered Minister. This summer, we will transition to a new staffing model which will see adjustments to responsibilities for all our staff members. Indeed, a new season is coming for our church!

As we make these changes to our staff, we feel inspired by the Holy Spirit to try something different for our summer worship. And so, starting on Memorial Day weekend, we will be living into a new worship schedule and service.

While the times will remain the same at 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM, we will drop one service at 9 AM to have two services on Sunday mornings, one at 9 and one at 10:30. We will also be



alternating worship spaces weekly between the Sanctuary and Celebration Hall. One week will be in the Sanctuary and the next week will be in Celebration Hall. Wednesdays will remain at 6:00 PM in Celebration Hall.

One more thing: because we are bringing our worship communities together this summer, our worship experience (style, liturgy, order, music) will also be different. We will try something new-but-familiar. We will lean into our Lutheran roots and embrace the things we love about our worship here at Sha-

Created to Be—continued on Page 2



**Associate
Rostered
Minister
Tawanda
Murinda**

Created to Be—continued from Page 1

ron regardless of where people worship.

We are also feeling called to the ELCA Youth Gathering theme for this year: Created to Be. While our High School Youth will experience the theme in more detail in New Orleans, we will spend time weekly to talk about what it means to be created for a purpose. We will start this exploration in June.

I fully believe that God is up to something amazing here! We may not know the future, but we can be excited for these changes and the direction we are going. I invite you to join us on this journey. The more people who are engaged, the stronger we will be as Sharon Lutheran Church! Summer blessings.

Pastor Tawanda Murinda

Northlands Rescue Mission Cookout June 18

Our annual cookout at the Northlands Rescue Mission has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 18th with serving to begin at 5:00pm. Volunteers will be needed to help set up and serve the meal, and donations of salads, bars and watermelon will also be appreciated. Sign-up sheets and additional details are located on sign up genius and at the Welcome Center. Thanks for helping us to make this a successful event!

~Community Connections Team

Women of Sharon to hold Special Meeting

The Women of Sharon are calling a Special Meeting on **Monday, June 10 at 7 pm**. ALL women interested in our WELCA group and its finances are encouraged to attend. This Special Meeting is being called to ask members to reconsider a resolution that was passed at our May Annual Meeting.

Upon further discussion with our congregation's Treasurer, we want voting members to have more information about the impact of their recent decision to donate all of this year's Fall Bazaar proceeds to roof repair. We hope to see you there. Any questions or comments can be directed to the WELCA Board.

Contact the Sharon Lutheran office at 701-772-3122 or office@sharonlutheran.org for Board Member contact info.

Thank you,
The Women of Sharon,
A WELCA Group

Properties Team makes completes projects on main floor

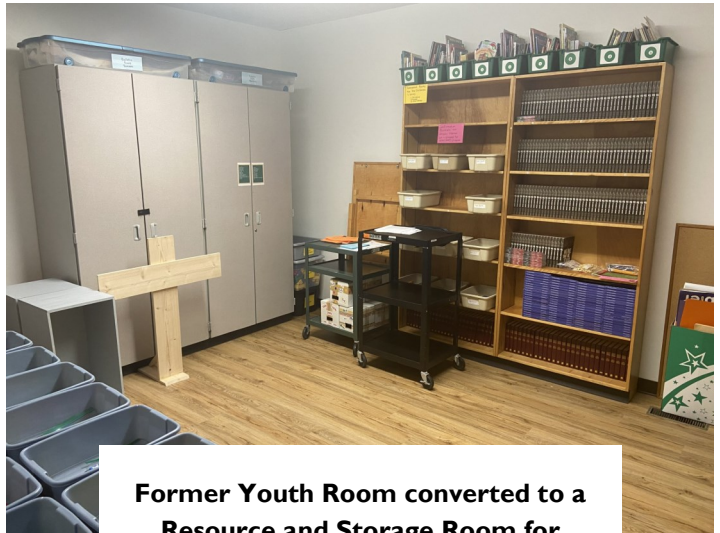
Thank you so much to Mark and Julie Bezcalo who were instrumental in painting and putting in the flooring in the rooms. Thanks also go out to Steve Adams, Jeff Bancroft, Naomi Bancroft and Scott Boettner for their volunteer efforts to complete these projects.

The main floor Youth Room has been converted into a Resource and Storage Room for Education.

Two main floor storage rooms have been converted into a beautiful new Youth Room.

An office space has been updated and converted into an Education Office and Resource Room.

We hope you will be able to check out these great new spaces in our church home!



Former Youth Room converted to a Resource and Storage Room for Education



Former office space updated and converted to an Education Office and Resource Room



Former storage rooms converted to new youth room called "The Lighthouse."

"Welcome to Baptism" Orientation

If you are planning a baptism in your family, plan to come to a one-hour orientation called "Welcome to Baptism" on Sunday, June 16 at 4 pm in the church lounge. Please enter through door #1.

To register for the class, please call the church office by Friday before the class at 772-3122; or email the church office at office@sharonlutheran.org; or speak to one of the Rostered Ministers.

Sponsors are welcome too, in addition to parents.

The class is designed to help answer questions about baptism, including:

- **What is baptism?**
- **When should baptism occur?**
- **What is my role as a parent, sponsor, or family member of the baptized?**

If you have any questions about this class, please speak to one of the Pastors or Deacon.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Each Wednesday morning at 9:45 there is an hour long Bible Study on the Scripture text for that coming Sunday's worship service. Anyone is welcome to attend.

The Bible Study goes on all year long with some breaks now and then. People are welcome to participate on whichever Wednesdays work for them.

We are happy to be able to meet in person in South Hall. An online option will also continue, so people can join in person or online. The online link is e-mailed out on Mondays. If you don't already receive that link and would like to please let Deacon Jamie know. His email is: jtravers@sharonlutheran.org



Memorials:

In memory of...

Rick Gessler: Gary & Renae Huseby, Richard & Dixie Horner, Bruce & Cheryl Nyhlen, Ken & Kathy Johnson, Lillian Elsinga, Mike & Kathy Jones, Jamie Travers, Mark & Sandy Rios, Tom & Lori Young;

Richard Anderson: Julie Hill, Vicki Lindberg, Jacki Lund, Jim & Sherryl Weisenberger, Dale & Jeanne Sollom, Rich & Karen Axvig, Roger & Delane Johnson, Lillian Elsinga, Scott & Jodi Boettner, Daniel & Yvonne Welsh;

Orville Aune: Rich & Karen Axvig;

Fern Bunde: Ken & Kathy Johnson;

Dick Clark: Ken & Kathy Johnson;

James Winder: Ken & Kathy Johnson;

Duane Oleson: Ken & Kathy Johnson;

Ed Goetz: Ken & Kathy Johnson;

Vidette Knain: Ken & Kathy Johnson

Roger Jerome: John & Dawn Botsford, Lillian Elsinga;

Rick Amundrud: Rich & Karen Axvig

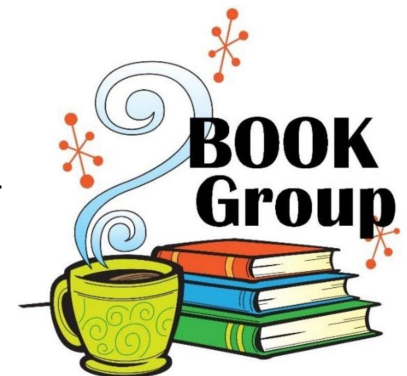
Sharon Book Group

Sharon Lutheran's Book Group will meet at 7:00 pm on the dates below in the Sharon Library and via Zoom. For more information on each meeting, please contact Rod Gigstad at gigstad@gmail.com

Summer Read:

(Sept. 17) The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest by Stieg Larsson

The stunning third and final novel in Stieg Larsson's internationally best-selling trilogy. Lisbeth Salander - the heart of Larsson's two previous novels - lies in critical condition, a bullet wound to her head, in the intensive care unit of a Swedish city hospital. She's fighting for her life in more ways than one: if and when she recovers, she'll be taken back to Stockholm to stand trial for three murders. With the help of her friend, journalist Mikael Blomkvist, she will not only have to prove her innocence, but also identify and denounce those in authority who have allowed the vulnerable, like herself, to suffer abuse and violence. And, on her own, she will plot revenge - against the man who tried to kill her, and the corrupt government institutions that very nearly destroyed her life.



Faith Formation Ministries

June News

VBS Is Coming!

Do you remember our Stellar Christmas—Shine Jesus' Light!? We will revisit our cosmic friends and more during Stellar VBS! Come for the Fun. Come for the Stories. Come for the Crafts. Come for the Music. Come for the Games. And Come for the Food. Register online at <https://www.sharonlutheran.org/event-registration>

Who: Children Age 3 through 5th Grade

When: June 3-6 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Where: Right here at Sharon Lutheran Church

We will Shine Jesus' Light AGAIN!



Thank you for supporting the Spring Dinner!

("From The Badlands To The Bayou")

Thanks to all of you, we had a very successful fundraiser last month, and we are now set to embark on our summer trips to Rapid City, South Dakota (middle school) and New Orleans, Louisiana (high school).

Whether you attended the event, purchased raffle tickets, donated an item, or prayed for all of us, you have helped make these experiences a reality for our students. Please continue to pray for our safety, our time of learning, and our growth in faith as we move outside our comfort zone, embark on new experiences, and witness how God is working in amazing ways in these places.

Watch for updates on our journeys throughout the summer!

UPPER ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Confirmation, 3-4-5 Alive, and 5G have all concluded for this program year. We will start back up in the fall. Thank you so much for participating in our weekly learning and fellowship ministries, and please complete your 2024-25 Confirmation registration as soon as possible so that we can continue our planning. You can register your student(s) by going to www.sharonlutheran.org/event-registration.

Thank you for a great year!!

Faith Formation Ministries

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS:

9th Grade Confirmation:

Confirmation instruction has concluded for this program year. Please look out for information about changes to the program including changes to the 10th Grade year. More on that soon.

Renew:

Renew has also concluded for the year. However, there will be events for High School students over the summer. Information will be shared as plans are made.

Church School/Confirmation Registration

Get set for a new year!

Already? We haven't even finished this one yet!

We know.

But Registration is open for the 2024-2025 program year for church school and confirmation—3 year olds (on or before July 31, 2024) through 10th grade.

Early registration helps us plan for volunteers, curriculum, supplies, and all the considerations for a successful year. You can register your student(s) by going to www.sharonlutheran.org/event-registration.

Greetings and Encouragement to You All!

This will be my last “article” for the newsletter as a staff member of Sharon Lutheran Church. Where to start . . .?! First and foremost, I thank you for the opportunity to work with the young people of our congregation and with the amazing volunteers, Education Team members, and Faith Formation Ministries staff who have accompanied me these past six years. We never know where the Holy Spirit may lead us. Many of you know that when I began as Director of Christian Education in 2018, it was intended to be a 3-month interim position. Due to many different circumstances along the way, that interim turned into a long term adventure. Together we explored a new curriculum, maneuvered through the challenges of COVID-19, tweaked some old standing traditions, and began some new ones. In the process, I think I more than doubled the acquaintances and friends I have here at Sharon. What a joy it has been! I look forward to once again being a volunteer in whatever ways the Holy Spirit may lead me this time. I cherish you all.

Grace and Peace—Cheryl

Hello, everyone! It is great to be back in the office after several weeks away recovering from surgery. I want to thank all of you for your prayers, your support and encouragement, your cards and letters, and your listening ears as well as your grace, patience, and understanding during my leave of absence. Please stop by my office the next time you are at Sharon; I would love to visit with you and hear about all of the wonderful things that you are doing this summer. Enjoy the beautiful weather, and make sure that you find some time to relax and marvel at God's creation! **Blessings and peace, Dave**

We have an important OPPORTUNITY for you!

Looking for a way to meet some wonderful individuals? Looking for a way to make a difference in children's lives? Looking for a way to make some decisions for the Christian education of our young people? Then you've come to the right place! We're looking for some people to join our Education Team. We meet once a month to guide our Church School, Confirmation, and Vacation Bible School programs. If this sounds like a good fit for you, please reach out to Kari Olson or Alissa Dahl, or email education@sharonlutheran.org.



Important Dates

Wednesday, May 29: 7:00 p.m.
VBS Volunteer orientation

Sunday, June 2: 11:30 a.m.
to VBS Decorating (Come
when you can); 5:00 p.m. VBS
Volunteer orientation

**Monday, June 3-Thursday,
June 6:** VBS 6:00-8:00 p.m.

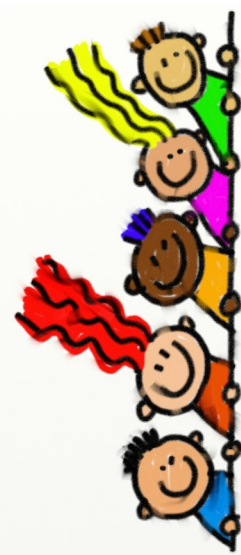
**Sunday, June 9 - Saturday,
June 15:** Middle School Mission
Trip to Rapid City, South Dakota

Church School Students designate offering recipients

Our church school students had the opportunity this year to determine where they wanted their offering to go. Through classroom requests throughout the year, student requests at the end of our school year, and service project supplies, we are happy to announce the following recipients of our offerings:

- Blizzard Meals and Easter Bags for the East Grand Forks Senior Center Meals Program
- ELCA Lutheran Disaster Relief
- Valley Memorial Homes
- Northlands Rescue Mission Backpack Program
- Ernie's Place
- ELCA World Hunger
- God's Global Barnyard for Pigs and Bees

- Circle of Friends Animal Shelter
- Altru Hospital Book Program
- Sanford Health-Children's Hospital
- Make-a-Wish Foundation
- River Keepers
- St. Joseph's Thrift Store and Social Care
- Sharon Lutheran Church Roof Fund
- St. Jude Children's Hospital



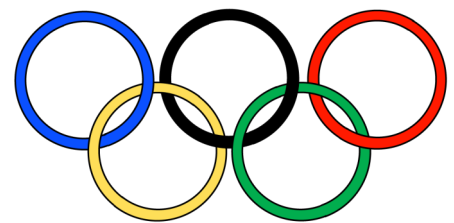
Women of Sharon collect donations for Ernie's Place

The Women of Sharon (our church's chapter of WELCA) requested donations during the month of April for Ernie's Place. Ernie's Place helps out young adults, aged 18 - 24, who have aged out of foster care. Many would be homeless without this support. They provide transitional housing as well as training and support to get these young people started. We asked and you sure delivered!! Thank you so much, Sharon family! We were able to donate many, many bags of household items and personal care items as well as several new large comforter sets, etc. It was an impressive amount of donations. Thank you so much!



Summer Stewardship theme announced

This summer, the Stewardship Team at Sharon Lutheran will be celebrating the Sharon Olympics. Our goal will be to raise \$8,000 for summer church expenses. We will ask you to help in "passing the baton" and to keep the faith. The particulars will be revealed soon.



Take me out to the ball game!

Step up to the plate and join Sharon members and friends for a Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks' baseball game on June 29th at 6:00 PM at Newman Outdoor Field in Fargo! Experience the excitement of America's favorite pastime with your Sharon family for just \$12.50 a ticket. **Deadline for buying your tickets is June 12th in the church office.** The Fellowship Team will facilitate car pooling.

Amount needed in Operating Revenue each month per approved 2023-2024 is \$85,000

April Designated gifts received:

Revenue	April Actual 2023-2024	YTD Actual 2023-2024
Current Ministry Gifts	\$62,445	\$725,965
Loose/Misc. Offering Gifts	\$990	\$17,463
Operating Fund Memorial Gifts	\$-	\$-
Church School, Confirmation & VBS Registrations	\$825	\$8,600
Benevolence Gifts	\$288	\$6,876
Other Gifts and Donations	\$2,217	\$28,922
2021-2022 Total	\$66,765	\$787,826

	April Actual 2023-2024	YTD Actual 2023-2024
Operating Expenses	\$72,419	\$742,707
Mortgage Debt Reduction	\$4,404	\$30,027
Total Expenses	\$76,823	\$772,734

Revenue Exceeding Expenses	\$(10,058)	\$15,092
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Capital Campaign-GIFT	\$230
Noisy Offering-Northlands Mission Picnic	\$424
Roof Donations	\$3,237
Operating Reserves	\$250
Fellowship Donations	\$245
Undesignated Memorials	\$160
Higher Ground Donations	\$150
Choir Fund Donations	\$275
Building/Grounds	\$125
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$1,861
Organ Repair	\$105
Faith Formation Donations	\$25
Church School Offerings	\$152
Confirmation Offerings	\$10

TOTAL: \$7,249

Women of Sharon Corner

The Women of Sharon invite you to join one of our Circles:

Hannah Circle (Gather magazine Bible study & Service Projects) meets the **SECOND** Monday of each month at 4:00pm at SLC in the Lounge
Contact: **Karen Axvig, 701-610-1056**

Mary Circle (Gather magazine Bible Study) meets the **THIRD** Tuesday of each month at 1:00pm in a member's home
Contact: **Ruth Thorson, 701-775-2706**

Sarah Circle (Gather magazine Bible Study)

meets the **THIRD** Wednesday of each month at 1:30pm at SLC in South Hall
Contact: **Jeannie Sollom, 218-779-8646**

Rachel Circle (Gather magazine Bible Study) meets the **THIRD** Wednesday of each month at 1:30pm at SLC in basement
Contact: **Church Office, 701-772-3122**

Esther Circle (new Circle with a book/Bible study format) Meeting dates will vary, text Emilie for info.
Contact: **Emilie DeKrey 701-388-8355**

Deborah Circle (new Circle, cur-

rently focussing on studying women of the Bible)

meets the **LAST** Monday of each month at 7:00pm at SLC in the Lounge
Contact: **Heather Peters, 701-429-7087 CHECK CALENDAR OVER THE SUMMER!!**

ESTHER Circle updates: This Circle is doing a book study and will meet on the following dates at 2pm at Caribou Coffee on South Washington. Text Emilie DeKrey at 701-388-8355 for more information.

Current Book Study is "Forged Through Fire" by Mark D. McDonough, MD

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

June's Noisy Offering will
go to Lutheran Disaster
Response

1 SYNOD ASSEMBLY
9:00 am AA-Women
Carrying the Message
8:00 pm AA Unity

**4:00 pm Beiswenger/
Kemnitz Wedding**

2 2nd Sun. of Pentecost SYNOD ASSEMBLY 9:00 & 10:30 am Worship—CH 11:30 am VBS Decorating 11:30 am Handbells	3 12:00 pm AA Noonday 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 8:00 pm AA Unity	4 9:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:00 pm Overeaters Anonymous 5:30 pm Stewardship Team 8:00 AA Primary Purpose 8:00 pm AI Anon Primary Purpose	5 9:45 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Noonday 6:00 pm Outdoor Worship	6 9:00 am Quilting 6:30 pm Community Connections Team 8:00 pm AA Unity	7 OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON	8 9:00 am AA-Women Carrying the Message 9:00 am WELCA Synodical Meeting 8:00 pm AA Unity
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL						
9 3rd Sun. of Pentecost 9:00 & 10:30 am Worship—Sanctuary 11:30 am Handbells	10 12:00 pm AA Noonday 4:00 pm Hannah Circle 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 8:00 pm AA Unity	11 5:00 pm OA 6:30 pm Properties Team 7:30 pm AA Primary Purpose 8:00 pm AI Anon Primary Purpose	12 9:45 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Noonday 6:00 pm Worship—CH	13 1:00 pm Sharon Cares 8:00 pm AA Unity	14 OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON	15 9:00 am AA-Women Carrying the Message 8:00 pm AA Unity
16 4th Sun. of Pentecost 9:00 & 10:30 am Worship—CH 11:30 am Handbells 4:00 pm Baptism Orientation	17 12:00 pm AA Noonday 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 8:00 pm AA Unity NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	18 1:00 pm Mary Circle 5:00 pm OA 6:00 pm Church Council 8:00 pm AA Primary Purpose 8:00 pm AI Anon Primary Purpose	19 9:45 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Noonday 6:00 pm Worship—CH	20 9:00 am Quilting 7:00 pm WELCA Board Meeting 8:00 pm AA Unity	21 OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON	22 9:00 am AA-Women Carrying the Message 11:00 am Ila Corcoran Funeral 8:00 pm AA Unity 3:30 pm Huspeck/Aafedt Wedding
23 5th Sun. of Pentecost 9:00 & 10:30 am Worship—Sanctuary 11:30 am Handbells	24 12:00 pm AA Noonday 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Deborah Circle 8:00 pm AA Unity	25 8:00 pm AA Primary Purpose 8:00 pm AI Anon Primary Purpose	26 9:45 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Noonday 6:00 pm Worship—CH NOISY OFFERING	27	28 OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON 4:00 pm Sannes/Henning Wedding	29 Sharon Lutheran at the RedHawks
30 6th Sun. of Pentecost 9:00 & 10:30 am Worship—CH 11:30 am Handbells NOISY OFFERING	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>For information on AA Meetings held at Sharon Lutheran, please see aa.northdakota.org</i></p>					

Sharon Lutheran Council Members

Executive Director: Jeff Larson; **Assistant Director:** Steve Erlandson; **Treasurer:** Traci LaDouceur;
At Large: Audrey Kasprovicz, Shawn Senescall, Kristine Sande, and Peter Tunseth

RUMMAGE SALE RECAP

We are happy to report the Sharon Lutheran Church Rummage Sale was a HUGE success!

Thanks to all who participated, including (but not limited to):

- all who donated items
- all who worked at the sale throughout the week
- our church staff who facilitated the physical set-up and arranged the church schedule to accommodate the sale
- the Hannah Circle who fed customers and workers on the day of the sale
- those who brought food to nourish the workers during the week
- the Red River Football team who was instrumental in the set-up and tear-down of the Rummage Sale
- Steve Adams who obtained extra tables from the KEM Tem-



Several of our Rummage Sale volunteers before the big sale.

ple and and a trailer from Crary Real Estate to deliver our leftovers to St Joseph's

- Larry and Marilyn Adsem who provided moving carts for transporting items
- the Rummage Sale Planning Team.

We all worked hard and had fun and fellowship! And the great news is that our early totals show that we raised approximately **\$14,000** to benefit our church home!



Text to Give!

DID YOU KNOW? Sharon Lutheran can accept offerings and donations through Text Giving. Giving to the church via a text is fast, easy, and versatile. You can make a weekly offering or respond to a specific need in seconds. Just text to 73256, hit next, type Sharon1720, (One word!) hit send. You will receive a message to click to complete your gift to Sharon Lutheran Church.



We want to say thank you to both Cheryl Nyhlen and Pastor Karen Young Trenne who will both be retiring in the month of June. Both of these wonderful ladies have blessed us with their talents and ministry for a number of years.

Cheryl will be retiring on June 7. A retirement party was held for her in May.

Pastor Karen's last day at Sharon will be Sunday, June 30th. A thank you and retirement party will be held for Pastor Karen after worship on Wednesday, June 26 and Sunday, June 30.

Please join us in saying thanks to both Cheryl and Pastor Karen.



Cheryl Nyhlen



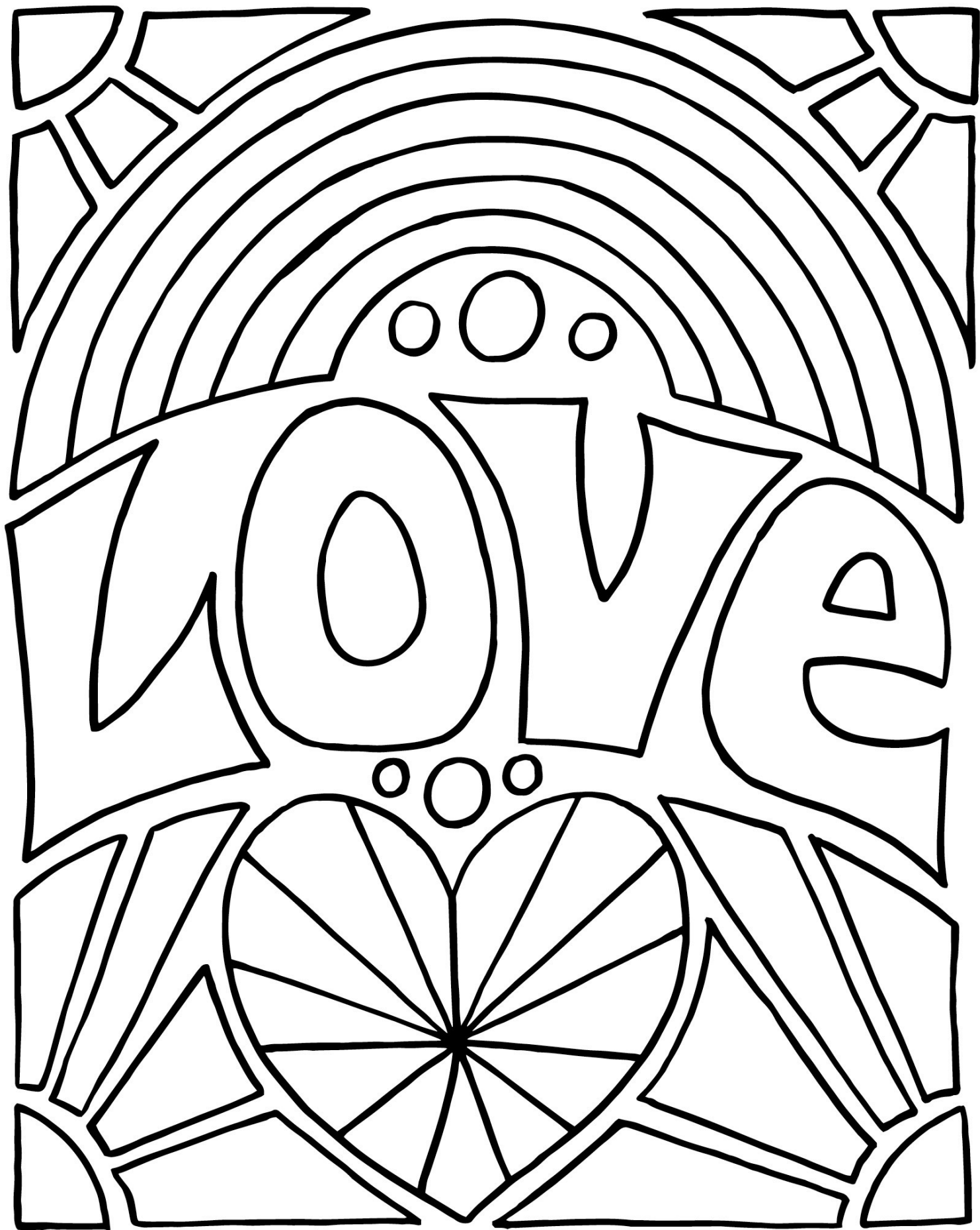
Pastor Karen

New Summer Worship: Created to Be

Here is our summer worship schedule for May 26 through September 1. Sunday Worship will be at 9:00 and 10:30 as usual, but will alternate each Sunday between the Sanctuary and Celebration Hall.



The new worship being planned will very familiar and innovative at the same time. Wednesday worship will continue to be at 6:00 pm each week in Celebration Hall. We are so glad you came to check it out!





1720 South 20th St
Grand Forks, ND 58201

701-772-3122
www.sharonlutheran.org

By God's Grace...
Created to Worship, Called to Teach, Committed to Serve

Sharon Lutheran Staff

Interim Administrative Pastor Karen Young Trenne.....(pastorkaren@sharonlutheran.org)
Deacon Jamie Travers(jtravers@sharonlutheran.org)
Associate Pastor Tawanda Murinda.....(tmurinda@sharonlutheran.org)
Office Manager..... Missy Thompson (mthompson@sharonlutheran.org)
Administrative & Media Assistant.....Barb Jorgenson (bjorgenson@sharonlutheran.org)
Finance Manager.....Stephanie Leighton (sleighton@sharonlutheran.org)
Dir. Elementary, Middle School, Youth Music.....David Berger (dberger@sharonlutheran.org)
Director of Christian Education.....Cheryl Nyhlen (education@sharonlutheran.org)
Education & Youth Assistant.....Heather Peters (hpeters@sharonlutheran.org)
Director of Music Ministries.....Roxanne Gessler (rgessler@sharonlutheran.org)
Organist.....Sue Kerr & Carolyn Tunseth
Sanctuary Choir Director.....Jack Boyer
Custodian.....Dan Kuzel
Office.....office@sharonlutheran.org

<p>Church Office Hours Monday - Thursday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Friday 8:30 am—Noon</p>
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