



1720 South 20th St
Grand Forks, ND 58201

701-772-3122
www.sharonlutheran.org

Church offices will be closed on Monday, January 1

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

Sharon Lutheran Staff

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Sanctuary Choir Director.....Jack Boyer
Custodian.....Dan Kuzel
Office.....office@sharonlutheran.org

**Church Office Hours
Monday - Friday 8:30am to 5:00pm**

This month:

- Movie Roundtable
January 7
- Baptism Orientation
January 21

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**GOT
STOCK?**

Join us for in-person
worship!

Sunday morning at
9:00 in the Sanctuary
and Celebration Hall
and 10:30 am in
Celebration Hall

Wednesday evenings
in Celebration Hall
beginning at 6:00 pm

**GET
STOCK!**

Sharon Sharings

Monthly publication of Sharon
Lutheran Church | Grand Forks, ND

January 2024

New Year's Greetings

Blessed 2024! The new year will bring changes for Sharon Lutheran. The Congregation Council has been working on a new staffing structure as recommended by the Unstuck Group consultant. The size of the Sharon Lutheran staff will be reduced, including moving from three called clergy to two called clergy. The faith formation staff will be reduced and become part of the discipleship staff, moving from three full-time positions to two full-time positions. These changes will help to achieve the financial goal of keeping staff compensation at less than 65% of the total congregational annual income from offerings to the general fund. The members of Sharon Lutheran will be given the responsibility of doing ministry that previously has been done by staff members. Please prayerfully consider how you might be called by God to share your time and energy in the ministry of the good news of Jesus here at Sharon Lutheran.

The council has voted to extend Pastor Tawanda Murinda's term call through June 30, 2024. The congregation will need to form a call committee to extend a call to Pastor Tawanda in order for him to continue



to serve with Sharon Lutheran after that time.

The Transition Team has completed their work and is preparing the Ministry Site Profile for the Lead Minister position for the Congregation Council to approve. The council has confirmed with the synod that a Minister of Word and Service, known in the ELCA as a deacon, is eligible to serve as a lead minister. Sharon Lutheran will need to revise its constitution to call a Minister of Word and Service as its lead minister. This work has begun. A call committee will also need to be elected for the lead minister position. The council hopes that one call committee will be sufficient for both the lead and associate minister positions. The call committee will interview and recommend a candidate for each position to the council. The council will agree on compensation

Greetings—continued on Page 2



**Interim
Administrative
Pastor Karen
Young Trenne**

Greetings—continued from Page 1

tion packages with the candidates, then the congregation will vote on the candidates and compensation packages at a congregational meeting. Please hold the Sharon Lutheran Council and leadership in your prayers during this time of transition.

As we look to this exciting future for Sharon Lutheran, let us take the words of Hebrews to heart, “Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who

has promised is faithful.²⁴ And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds,²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Happy New Year!

Pastor Karen Young Trenne



All congregation members across the Eastern North Dakota Synod are invited to participate in a synod-wide Scripture read! Together, we will dwell in the words and stories of the book of Acts.

Each day, you are encouraged to read one chapter of Acts, and every Sunday afternoon we will gather via Zoom from 2:00-3:30 for conversation with Dr. Eric Barreto, Professor of New Testament at Princeton Seminary. This event kicks off with an introductory Zoom session on January 7, and our reading schedule begins January 8. We hope you'll consider joining us!

Learn more at www.eandsynod.org/events/exploring-acts

Zoom Meeting ID: 898 7923 8361

Zoom Meeting Schedule:

- January 7, 2:00-3:30 (Introduction)
- January 14, 2:00-3:30
- January 21, 2:00-3:30
- January 28, 2:00-3:30
- February 4, 2:00-3:30 (Wrap-up)

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING 2024



The SOUPER Bowl will be held on Sunday, February 11. The Community Connections Team is sponsoring our own SHARON LUTHERAN SOUPER BOWL to collect cans of soup and other non-perishable food items for the St. Joseph's Food Pantry.

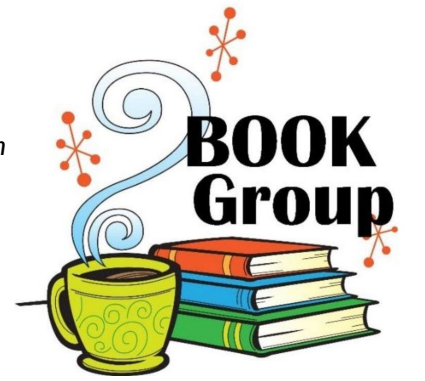
So INTERCEPT an empty brown bag from an usher or at the Souper Bowl table in the narthex (or bring your own bag) filled with food items to help those in our community who suffer from hunger. We will be starting the collections on Sunday, January 14th. Make a FIRST DOWN by bringing your food items and placing them on or by the table or by making a cash donation in an envelope (on the Souper Bowl table). Place your envelope with the check in a collection plate or take it to the office. Let's see how many TOUCHDOWNS we can score by getting your donations to Sharon by Souper Bowl Sunday or the

following Wednesday.

Let's see if we can beat last year's donation of 441 pounds of food and \$392.00 in cash given to St. Joseph's. Help us SCORE against hunger as you put your faith into motion and help us MAKE THE EXTRA POINT by beating last year's donation. Thank you for helping those people who struggle with hunger in our community.

Reading Schedule:

- January 7: Introductory Zoom (no assigned reading)
- January 8: Acts 1
- January 9: Acts 2
- January 10: Acts 3
- January 11: Acts 4
- January 12: Acts 5
- January 13: Acts 6
- January 14: Acts 7 & Zoom Conversation
- January 15: Acts 8
- January 16: Acts 9
- January 17: Acts 10
- January 18: Acts 11
- January 19: Acts 12
- January 20: Acts 13
- January 21: Acts 14 & Zoom Conversation
- January 22: Acts 15
- January 23: Acts 16
- January 24: Acts 17
- January 25: Acts 18
- January 26: Acts 19
- January 27: Acts 20
- January 28: Acts 21 & Zoom Conversation
- January 29: Acts 22
- January 30: Acts 23
- January 31: Acts 24
- February 1: Acts 25
- February 2: Acts 26
- February 3: Acts 27
- February 4: Acts 28 & Zoom Conversation



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

January 16: Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro From her place in the store, Klara, an Artificial Friend with outstanding observational qualities, watches carefully the behavior of those who come in to browse, and of those who pass on the street outside. She remains hopeful that a customer will soon choose her, but when the possibility emerges that her circumstances may change forever, Klara is warned not to invest too much in the promises of humans. In *Klara and the Sun*, Kazuo Ishiguro looks at our rapidly changing modern world through the eyes of an unforgettable narrator to explore a fundamental question: what does it mean to love?

February 20: Silas Marner by George Eliot *Silas Marner: The Weaver of Raveloe* is the third novel by George Eliot, published in 1861. An outwardly simple tale of a linen weaver, it is notable for its strong realism and its sophisticated treatment of a variety of issues ranging from religion to industrialization to community.

Please join the Women of Sharon for a Snowflake Tea and Hot Chocolate event

On January 8, at 7 pm, the Women of Sharon will be hosting a Snowflake Tea (hot chocolate will also be provided). We want to invite women of all ages! (And children are more than welcome, too!) We will be starting a SECRET SISTER prayer partner exchange at his event.

Those that attend are encouraged to put their name in and to draw a name. The person that you draw will be the person that you pray for over the next few months. We will then reveal whose name we had at a WELCA event on April 8th and you will find out who has been praying for you! This is similar to a secret sister/secret Santa type of event, but does NOT include gifts...only your prayers for your Secret Sister.

Prayers won't have to be anything fancy or big. Somedays it may just be a prayer that the person has a safe drive to work or around town as we all know how our roads can be during these winter and spring months. We hope that this will strengthen everyone's relationship with God and Jesus as we pray for each other. Come join us for fellowship, treats, and a game or two on January 8th and draw a name. If you can NOT attend this event, but still want a Secret Sister, please sign up at the Welcome Center on Wednesday, January 3rd and on Sunday, January 6th or call Mary Adams at 701-739-5520. If you have any further questions, please TEXT Emilie DeKrey at 701-388-8355 or Jasmine Hurley at 218-791-3218.



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

January 2024

<p>7 Baptism of Our Lord 9:00 am Worship—Sanctuary & CH 10:30 am Worship—CH 10:30 am Church School 3:45 pm 3-4-5 Alive! 7:00 pm Sharon University—Movie Roundtable</p>	<p>1 OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY NEW YEAR</p>	<p>2 5:30 pm Stewardship Team</p>	<p>3 9:45 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Church School 7:15 pm 7th Grade Milestone Ministry</p>	<p>4 8:30 am Faithfully Fit 6:30 pm Community Connections Team</p>	<p>5 2:00 pm Golden Age</p>	<p>6 9:00 am AA-Women Carrying the Message 8:00 pm AA Unity</p>
<p>14 2 Epiphany 9:00 am Worship—Sanctuary & CH 10:30 am Worship—CH 10:30 am Church School 2:00 pm Esther Circle 3:45 pm 3-4-5 Alive!</p>	<p>15 12:00 pm AA Noonday 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 8:00 pm AA Unity NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p>16 8:30 am Faithfully Fit 1:00 pm Mary Circle 5:00 pm OA 6:00 pm Church Council 7:00 pm Book Club 7:30 pm AA Primary Purpose 8:00 pm Al Anon Primary Purpose</p>	<p>17 9:45 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Noonday 1:30 pm Rachel Circle 1:30 pm Sarah Circle 6:00 pm Church School 6:00 pm Worship—CH 7:15 pm Gr-6-8 Confirmation</p>	<p>18 8:30 am Faithfully Fit 8:00 pm AA Unity</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 9:00 am AA-Women Carrying the Message 8:00 pm AA Unity</p>
<p>21 3 Epiphany 9:00 am Worship—Sanctuary (No CH service) 10:30 am Worship—CH 10:30 am Church School 3:00 pm King's Kids Milestone Ministry 3:45 pm 3-4-5 Alive! 4:00 pm Baptism Orientation</p>	<p>22 12:00 pm AA Noonday 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 8:00 pm AA Unity</p>	<p>23 8:30 am Faithfully Fit 5:00 pm OA 8:00 pm AA Primary Purpose 8:00 pm Al Anon Primary Purpose</p>	<p>24 9:45 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Noonday 6:00 pm Church School 6:00 pm Worship—CH 7:15 pm Gr-6-8 Confirmation</p>	<p>25 8:30 am Faithfully Fit 9:00 am Quilting 8:00 pm AA Unity</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 9:00 am AA-Women Carrying the Message 8:00 pm AA Unity</p>
<p>28 4 Epiphany YOUTH STOCK CALLING NIGHT 9:00 am Worship—Sanctuary & CH 10:30 am Worship—CH 10:30 am Church School 2:00 pm Esther Circle 3:45 pm 3-4-5 Alive! NOISY OFFERING</p>	<p>29 12:00 pm AA Noonday 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 8:00 pm AA Unity</p>	<p>30 8:30 am Faithfully Fit 8:00 pm AA Primary Purpose 8:00 pm Al Anon Primary Purpose</p>	<p>31 9:45 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Church School 6:00 pm Worship—CH Gr-6-8 Confirmation NOISY OFFERING</p>			

Join us for Financial Peace University

Sharon Lutheran will be offering Ramsey Solution's Financial Peace University Class here at the church beginning January 7, 2024.

It's some of the most practical stuff out there and the most fun you'll ever have learning about money. Each weekly session starts with Dave Ramsey teaching on video and is followed by a powerful small group discussion.

You'll see that you are DEFINITELY not alone if you're one of the nearly seven out of ten Americans who live

paycheck to paycheck. And even if you're one of the few who isn't struggling, you'll still benefit from this powerful material.

It teaches you how to apply biblical principles to the way you handle money and how to start truly managing all of the resources God has given you. This class breaks the process down into easy steps that will help no matter where you are. You've just got to take it!

We will be having a FREE class

preview at 12:30 pm on January 7; we'll meet in South Hall (inside Door 2) and you don't want to miss it.

If you want to get signed up now, just use the site listed below (<https://www.fpu.com/F60C7A>) to buy your materials (\$80 per family unit.)

If you have further questions, please talk with Pastor Karen (pastorkaren@sharonlutheran.org) or Brent Jiran (brentjiran@gmail.com).

Under the Stars with God

What? Family Lock-in
When? Friday, February 2nd
 5:00PM-9:00PM
Where? Sharon Lutheran Church

Revenue	November Actual 2023-2024	YTD Actual 2023-2024
Current Ministry Gifts	\$74,391	\$336,163
Loose/Misc. Offering Gifts	\$1,257	\$6,460
Operating Fund Memorial Gifts	\$-	\$-
Church School, Confirmation & VBS	\$-	\$7,500
Benevolence Gifts	\$282	\$3,512
Other Gifts and Donations	\$2,169	\$16,940
2021-2022 Total	\$78,099	\$370,575

	November Actual 2023-2024	YTD Actual 2023-2024
Operating Expenses	\$75,733	\$373,330
Mortgage Debt Reduction	\$4,361	\$21,240
Total Expenses	\$80,094	\$394,570
Revenue Exceeding Expenses	\$(1,995)	\$(23,995)

November Designated gifts received:

Capital Campaign-GIFT	\$345
Noisy Offering-Properties Roof repair	\$479
Operating Reserves	\$250
Fellowship Donations	\$262
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$18
Undesignated Memorials	\$380
Higher Ground Donations	\$175
Choir Fund Donations	\$310
Faith Formation Donations	\$25
Church School Offerings	\$229
Confirmation Offerings	\$4
TOTAL:	\$2,477

Memorials:

In memory of...

Ruth Omdahl: Mark & Sharla Thompson;

Fern Bunde: Ardell Bunde, Jennifer Martinson, Yvonne Nelson, Bev Walsh, Bonny & Gary Grosz.

Donate

Text to Give!

Sharon Lutheran is now accepting 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.

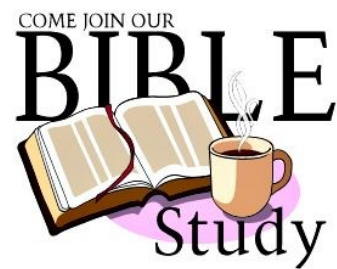
Sharon Lutheran has been informed of the death of Ila Corcoran, the mother of David Corcoran, whom our library is named after, has died. Our condolences to her family and friends.

We need your updated contact info!

We **need** to stay connected! Do you have a new cell phone, or have disconnected your landline? Maybe you have a new email address, or maybe you have moved? **Please** call the church office at (701)772-3122 and update this information. Thank you!

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

"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, January 21 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 Pastors or Deacon.

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.

Women of Sharon Corner

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

Hannah Circle (Gather magazine Bible & Service Projects) meets the **SECOND MONDAY** of each month at 4:00 pm at Sharon in the Rose of Sharon Lounge. Contact Karen Axvig at 701-610-1056

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

Sarah Circle (Gather magazine Bible Study) meets the **THIRD**

WEDNESDAY of each month at 1:30 pm at Sharon in South Hall. Contact Jeanne Sollom at 218-779-8646

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

Esther Circle (brand new circle; will be a book/Bible Study) Meeting dates will vary. Text Emilie DeKrey at 701-388-8355.

New and still unnamed Circle (Gather Bible Study OR what members would choose) will meet in

the **EVENINGS** at Sharon, as yet to be determined! Contact Heather Peters at 701-429-7087

Monthly **WELCA** Board Meetings are held the **SECOND MONDAY** of each month in the Rose of Sharon Lounge and **ALL** women are welcome to attend to give their input. Our December Board Meeting is December 11 at 7 pm.

The next Women of Sharon **EVENT** for all women will be held on January 8, 2024. Hope to see you there!

Faith Formation Ministries January News

GOT STOCK? GET STOCK!

It is time once again for our service opportunities. Youth Stock fundraiser. Have you been wondering what it means when you hear people talk about Youth Stock? Your investment in Youth Stock helps support Faith Formation Ministries at Sharon Lutheran. Some of those ministries are: summer mission trips for middle school and high school students, weekly programs for 12th graders (3-4-5 Alive, 5G, and Re:New), Bible studies, special events, Castaway retreats, scholarships, camperships, and a variety of listening ears, and your financial support.

We hope you appreciate this fundraiser because instead of buying a product, you are investing directly in our students and changing lives. Your Youth Stock donation helps provide faith-centered opportunities for our youth to gather, serve, learn, and grow together. Thank you for your continued assistance throughout the year. We are grateful for your prayers, your support.

Youth Stock sells for \$15 a share, but feel free to donate any amount you wish! Throughout this month, we hope you will visit the Youth Stock table or grab a Youth Stock envelope as you enter or leave worship and purchase stock to support these young people. If you don't get the chance to stop by, a student from Sharon will be calling you on Sunday, January 28th. Thank you for your support!

GOT STOCK?

GET STOCK!

It's never too late to register for church school or Confirmation. You may register your child(ren) through the website, www.sharonlutheran.org, Events/Event Registration. We offer church school on Sundays and Wednesdays for children 3 years old (by July 31, 2023) through 5th grade. Confirmation instruction for 6th-9th graders takes place on Wednesdays from 7:15—8:15 pm.

UPPER ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

3rd, 4th, and 5th graders, please join us for 3-4-5 Alive! Each Sunday afternoon from 3:45—4:45 pm in the Living Room (lower level youth room) at Sharon! There is no cost or registration for this program, and friends in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade are always welcome! We will resume on January 7th and also meet on January 14th, 21st, and 28th.

6th, 7th, and 8th graders, please join us for 5G every Wednesday night that Confirmation instruction is in the building! We meet from 8:15—9:00p, in the lower level. There is no cost or registration for this program, and friends in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade are always welcome! 5G will resume on Wednesday, January 10th and also meet on January 17th, 24th, and 31st.

Dates to remember:

Wed., Jan. 3: 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Church School resumes. (Service Project); 7:15 p.m. Milestone Ministry event ("The Lord's Prayer") for all 7th grade students and their parents/guardians

Sun., Jan. 7: 10:30 a.m. Sunday Church School resumes; 3-4-5 Alive re-

sumes
Wed., Jan. 10: 7:15 p.m. 6th-8th grade Confirmation instruction resumes

Sun., Jan. 21: 3:00 p.m. King's Kids Milestone Ministry Holy Baptism

Faith Formation Ministries

KING'S KIDS MILESTONE MINISTRY

We are excited to invite you and your King's Kid to their ministry milestone event this January.

Each grade level explores a different part of what it means to be a Christian. Our King's Kids have the opportunity to learn more about Holy Baptism.



Holy Baptism is a sacrament of the ELCA Lutheran Church. We hope that all children will grow in their understanding of what it means to be baptized and to be a Child of God.

We are offering this Milestone Ministry on Sunday, January 21, at 3:00 p.m. in South Hall here at Sharon. We ask that at least one adult be with your King's Kid.

We look forward to seeing all of our King's Kids families on January 21!

If you have questions or concerns about this information, please contact Cheryl.

Talk with any member of the Faith Formation Ministries Team to see how YOU can volunteer with our youth this year!



Greetings and Encouragement to You All!

I have been so impressed with the great conversations we have had so far this year - about Baptism, hunger, the Apostles' Creed, Holy Communion, and our mental health. I appreciate your presence here every week as we learn more about ourselves, our community, and our God! AND remember, if you've got something coming up - a game, a performance, a concert, a competition, or a presentation, please let me know and I'll make every effort to be there! --Dave

Have you made any New Year's Resolutions? Many of us, including me, find that making resolutions is easy, but KEEPING resolutions is another story. However, there is one resolution that is easy to keep. Whether we want to eat better, get organized, exercise more, or any number of goals, and whether or not we are able to keep these resolutions, we know that God is there to guide us, to forgive us, and to renew us. As he cheers us on, let us resolve to cheer him on as well and thank Him every day for the blessings we have.

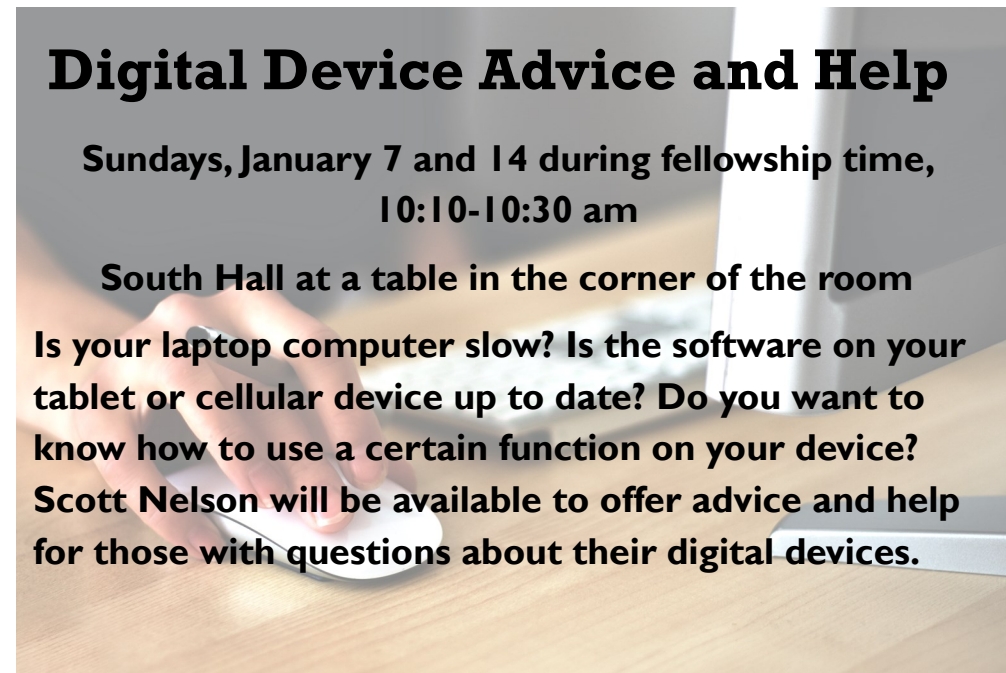
Psalms 98:1-3 Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! **Grace and Peace—Cheryl**

Digital Device Advice and Help

Sundays, January 7 and 14 during fellowship time, 10:10-10:30 am

South Hall at a table in the corner of the room

Is your laptop computer slow? Is the software on your tablet or cellular device up to date? Do you want to know how to use a certain function on your device? Scott Nelson will be available to offer advice and help for those with questions about their digital devices.



According to the Grand Forks Salvation Army, Sharon Lutheran's kettle shift on December 2 raised \$1,172.52 for Salvation Army programs and services. Thank you to all who donated and to those who rang the bell!

ATTENTION

**Golden Age
2:00 pm**

January 12

Come join the Golden Age Club for a program provided by Northland Rescue Mission. Devotions and dessert will also be served. All are welcome in South Hall on January 12th!

Sharon University continues!

There is one more Sharon University course this semester (details below). Watch for more information about the second semester coming soon! We are excited to be offering unique and fun learning opportunities to all learners in grades 10 and up!

Movie Roundtable
with Deacon Jamie Travers

Come join Deacon Jamie for a movie night! **Once a month on the first Sunday of each month** at 7pm, Jamie will be showing a movie of his choosing and then hosting a short discussion time after.

The movies will engage us as people of faith on many different topics. So grab some popcorn and snacks and settle in for some great films!

January 7: *Christopher Robin*—**Christopher Robin** is a 2018 American live-action/animated fantasy comedy drama film, inspired by the children's book series *Winnie-the-Pooh* by A. A. Milne and E. H. Shepard, and is a live-action/CGI follow-up to the Disney franchise of the same name. The story follows Christopher Robin, now an adult, who has lost his sense of imagination, only to be reunited with his childhood friend Winnie the Pooh, who he must escort back to the Hundred Acre Wood.