

Sharon Sharings

Monthly publication of Sharon Lutheran Church | Grand Forks, ND

November 2025

The Impact of My Stewardship

“Once upon a time...” or “I remember when...” or “In a galaxy far, far away...” Have you ever heard or told a story with that kind of beginning? In the middle of October we held our fall congregational meeting, and our annual church report was published for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. This year our leadership shared stories of impact or outcome stories in the annual report. If you haven’t read the report, I encourage you to do so. It is interesting and inspiring to hear about what God has been up to in our congregation.

In November our Stewardship Team is hosting the fall stewardship campaign, but this year it’s not about money. Stewardship is so much more than that. The Stewardship campaign this year is about stories. Stories about what God is up to and the im-



**Lead
Rostered
Minister
Jamie Travers**

pact that it has had on people. The stories are not about something going on in a galaxy far, far away, but right here in our community.

Members of our congregation will be sharing stories about how the ministry of Sharon Lutheran Church through worship, teaching and serving has impacted them or how being involved in that ministry has impacted them. You will also be invited and encour-

aged to share stories of how the ministry of Sharon Lutheran or your involvement in that ministry has impacted you. Join us in November as we give thanks to God for the “Impact of Your Stewardship”!

Deacon Jamie Travers

Sharon Lutheran Bazaar

Saturday, November 1st

9 am-Noon

Baked goods world-famous lefse!

WORKERS NEEDED DAY OF BAZAAR!

Please sign up in the narthex.

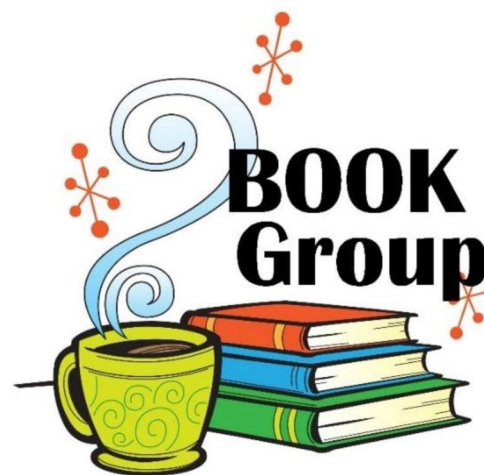
Sharon Book Group

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

November 18

A Calamity of Souls by David Baldacci

Set in the tumultuous year of 1968 in southern Virginia, a racially-charged murder case sets a duo of white and Black lawyers against a deeply unfair system as they work to defend their wrongfully-accused Black defendants in this courtroom drama from #1 New York Times bestselling author David Baldacci.



December 16

The Box in the Attic by Jim Lies

Eighteen-year-old Billy Beck and his friends were enjoying the good life in Brushwood, North Dakota. It was the summer of 1961. Baseball games, hanging out at Phil's Malt Shop, fishing, drive-in movies, and small-town activities dominated their summer. Billy and his friends all had part-time jobs. However, their jobs failed to put a damper on their last summer of carefree fun before they would graduate from high school the next spring -- life was good. Billy's life changed and became more complicated with the arrival of Anneliese, the mystery girl from Washington, D.C. Billy had never met anyone like her. And then there were the relics from World War II that Billy and Anneliese discovered -- items that would change their lives forever!

The Impact of My Stewardship

We will be having a three-week stewardship program in November where members of our congregation will be sharing stories of how the ministry stated in our mission statement or their involvement in that ministry has had an impact on their life.

Our first week will cover committed to serve and with **Julie Hill and Karen Axvig** sharing a story on Nov 2nd & 5th. On Nov 9th, **Emilie DeKrey** will share a story related to "called to teach". On Nov 12th, **Kari Olson** will share a story on "called to teach". On Nov 16th & 19th, **Roxanne Gessler** will share a story related to "created to worship".

Each week the entire congregation will be invited to fill out a card sharing a story about how the ministry of Sharon Lutheran has had an impact on them. During the Nov 16th and 19th services, we will collect a form that combines the forms that we have used in the past, My Ministry and Estimate of Giving, into one form. The new form is going to be My Stewardship. We will be collecting those by Nov 26th.

WELCA Presents
**Whimsical
Candy Christmas**

Step into a sweet wonderland of peppermint swirls and holiday cheer! Join us for an afternoon tea filled with festive treats, warm laughter, and the magic of Christmas.

This family friendly event will feature a variety of warm beverages and holiday treats inspired by the season, perfect for celebrating fellowship & joy!

Sunday, Dec. 14
2-4:00 pm in South Hall

Volunteers wanted

Would you like to help keep our Church Libraries neat? We are looking for volunteers to do some general upkeep (putting books back, possible light dusting, etc.—NOT big reorganizing projects.) This might even be a great opportunity for students who need volunteer hours! Training will be provided and what we are asking of you is pretty easy. Help would be appreciated! Contact the Church Office or Heather Peters if you are interested in helping us out with this. 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." Our next scheduled gathering is planned for Sunday, November 23 at 4:00 pm.

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 Deacon Jamie or Pastor Tawanda.

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 Rostered Ministers.

Faith Formation Ministries

November News

School is in session!

Sharon University returns November 19

Please join us for Sharon University on Wednesday, November 19! We will gather in Celebration Hall at 7:15 pm for instructions. 6th-12th grade students and adults will then choose which topic or conversation is most interesting to them and head to that classroom! All sessions will conclude by 8:15 pm.

If you have an interest in presenting on a topic or facilitating a conversation on this date, please connect with Deacon Jamie, Pastor Tawanda, or Dave Berger.



CHURCH SCHOOL (Preschool through 5th grade) NEWS

Look for information SOON about our Church School Christmas Programs!

UPPER ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS:

3-4-5 Alive! (weekly fellowship program for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders) meets on Sundays from 3:45-4:45 pm in the Living Room (lower level youth room). We will not have 3-4-5 Alive on Sunday, November 30 (Thanksgiving weekend). There is no cost or registration, and friends in third, fourth, or fifth grade are always welcome!

5G (weekly fellowship program for 6th-8th graders) will meet from 8:15-9:00 pm (right after Confirmation instruction) on November 5 and 12, but we will not meet on November 19 (Sharon University Night) or on November 26 (Thanksgiving Eve).

R.A.F.T.

RAFT will meet in the Lighthouse at our regular time (8:15—9:15 pm) on November 5 and 12. On November 19, we will participate in Sharon University (info above), and we will not meet on November 26 (Thanksgiving Eve).

We hope to see you there!



Faith Formation Ministries

Greetings and Encouragement to You All!

It is hard to believe that the holidays are fast approaching! It has been so good to see all of you here each week as we learn, grow, and serve together. Wishing you all the best for a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration filled with family, friends, and gratitude!

Blessings and peace, Dave

Greetings, families. By now, we are getting in the groove of fall activities...both here at church and at school and beyond. We are so thankful to have you here with us and want you to know that you are all a very important part of our church family here at Sharon. Happy Fall!

May God Bless You, Heather

Faith Formation Important Dates:

Sunday, November 16th: "Pre-Lambs" Prayer Pillow Event (RSVP requested, please contact education@sharonlutheran.org with any questions)

Wednesday, November 19th: Prayer Pillows presented in Celebration Worship at 6:00 p.m.; Sharon University for 6th-12th grade students and adults from 7:15-8:15 p.m.; no 5G or RAFT

Sunday, November 23rd: Prayer Pillows presented in Worship at 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary and 10:30 a.m. in Celebration Hall

Tuesday, November 25th: 6:00 p.m. Celebration Worship and ice cream social; wreaths and other items are available for pickup in the west entrance

Wednesday, November 26th: NO Celebration Worship, Church School, 6th-9th grade Confirmation instruction, 5G, or RAFT (Thanksgiving Break)

Sunday, November 30th: NO Church School or 3-4-5 Alive! (Thanksgiving Break); wreaths and other items are available for pickup in the west entrance



Yehiel Curry was installed as the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA this past month.

ELCA Presiding Bishop Installed

On October 4, 2025, Yehiel Curry was installed as Presiding Bishop of our churchwide organization—the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Bishop Curry was elected during the ELCA Churchwide Assembly last summer.

Before his election as Presiding Bishop, he had

served as bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. Bishop Curry succeeds Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, who served as ELCA's presiding bishop for twelve years. Read more about Bishop Curry at <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2025/10/answering-the-call/>.

Lutheran Disaster Response helps people globally

During 2024, Lutheran Disaster Response was at work in 53 countries around the world and in 36 states and territories of the United States. Gifts to LDR help people rebuild their lives and homes after devastating hurricanes, tornadoes, conflicts, and severe storms.

Your gifts make it possible for this church to provide fast and effective support to communities in need, whenever and wherever a disaster may strike. You may choose to designate your gift to a specific disaster or give where the need is greatest; make your choice known at the time of your donation. If you decide to give to a specific disaster, your gift will

be used 100 percent for that disaster unless more funds are received than what is needed to fully fund a specific disaster response. If this happens, your gift will be used to address a similar effort.

For more information about LDR's ministry: <https://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response>



Amount needed in Operating Revenue each month per approved 2025-2026 is \$77,334

Revenue	September Actual 2025-2026	YTD Actual 2025-2026
Current Ministry Gifts	\$54,388	\$176,335
Loose/Misc. Offering Gifts	\$1,338	\$3,020
Operating Fund Memorial Gifts	\$-	\$20
Church School, Confirmation & VBS Registrations	\$2,550	\$6,350
Benevolence Gifts	\$274	\$2,739
Other Gifts and Donations	\$2,828	\$11,816
Total	\$61,378	\$200,279

	September Actual 2025-2026	YTD Actual 2025-2026
Operating Expenses	\$63,900	\$198,214
Mortgage Debt Reduction	\$1,050	\$3,181
Total Expenses	\$64,950	\$201,395
 Revenue Exceeding Expenses	 \$(3,572)	 \$(1,116)

September Designated gifts received:

Noisy Offering-Sharon Lutheran's Faith Formation	\$446
Building & Grounds-Properties	\$5,000
Backpack Program	\$1,570
Fellowship Donations	\$258
Higher Ground Memorials	\$150
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$58
Undesignated Memorials	\$64
Choir Fund Memorials	\$150
Bathroom Update	\$100
Lighting Project	\$2,500
Church School Offerings	\$55
Faith Formation	\$35

TOTAL: \$10,386

**November's
Noisy Offering
will benefit
Lutheran
Disaster
Response**



Sharon Lutheran's Backpack Program

On the second Sunday of each month, we will collect food items for Ben Franklin Elementary School to provide meals for the whole school-year.

You can drop these at the church in the boxes marked for the Backpack Program. For questions, please contact the Community Connections Team or Pastor Tawanda.

A list of items that are needed are:

Ravioli (must have pull-open top)

Soup (must have pull-open top)

Mac & Cheese (Easy Mac or Velveeta Cups)

Juice Boxes/Capri Sun



**People new to Sharon in
the last 2 years...**

**Join us on Tuesday,
November 4 at 6pm**

Learn more about:

What happens at Sharon

How to get involved

Meet with Clergy

Invitation to become official members

Golden Age Club Friday, November 14 at 2:00 pm

Come join us in November for fellowship, devotions, desert and a great program about the Eastern North Dakota Honor Flight that was taken recently to Washington DC. Sharon members will be sharing stories from their participation in the Honor Flight program.



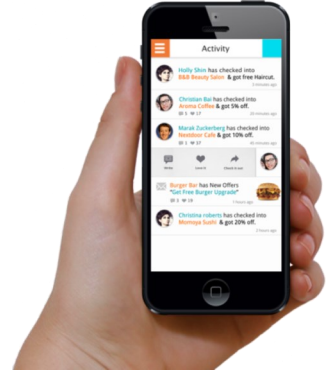
Text to Give!

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.

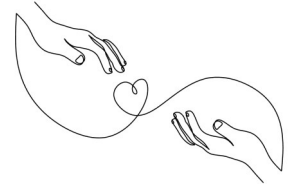
You can make a weekly offering or respond to a specific need in seconds.

Just text to 73256, hit next, type Sharon 1720, (One word!) hit send.

You will receive a message to click to complete your gift to Sharon Lutheran Church.



Women of Sharon Corner



The Women of Sharon invite you to join one of our circles and/or attend our monthly WELCA Board meetings. The November WELCA Board meeting will be held on Monday, November 10 at 7:00 pm in the Rose of Sharon Lounge. All are welcome to attend!

Hannah Circle

Meets the **FOURTH Monday** of each month at 1:00 pm at SLC in the Lounge. Contact Karen Axvig, 701-610-1056

Mary Circle

Meets the **THIRD Tuesday** of each month at 1:00 pm in a member's home. Contact Ruth Thorson, 701-775-2706

Sarah Circle

Meets the **THIRD Thursday** of each month at

1:00 at SLC in the Lounge. Contact Jeannie Sollom, 218-779-8646

Rachel Circle

Meets the **THIRD Wednesday** of each month at 1:30 pm at SLC in the Lounge. Contact the Church Office, 701-772-3122

Deborah Circle

Meets the **LAST Monday** of the month at 7:00 pm at SLC in the Lounge. Contact Heather Peters, 701-429-7087.



All Ages Welcome!

Crafts!

Painting!

Leffe!

Christmas Adventure

December 7, 2025

3:00pm-5:00pm



Sharon Lutheran
Church Celebration
Hall

November 2025

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

*For information on
AA Meetings held at Sharon
Lutheran, please see
aanorthdakota.org*

1
9:00—Noon Fall Bazaar
9:00 am AA-Women
Carrying the Message
8:00 pm AA Unity

2 9:00 am Worship— Sanctuary 10:30 am Worship— Celebration Hall 10:30 am Church School 3:45 pm 3-4-5 Alive!	3 12:00 pm AA Noonday 4:00 pm Hannah Circle 6:00 pm Fellowship Team 8:00 pm AA Unity	4 8:30 am Faithfully Fit 9:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:00 pm OA 5:30 pm Stewardship Team 6:00 pm Next Steps 7:00 pm Al Anon Primary Purpose 8:00 pm AA Primary Purpose	5 9:45 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Noonday 6:00 pm Worship—CH 6:00 pm Church School 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:15 pm 6-9 gr Confir- mation 8:15 pm 5G 8:15 pm RAFT	6 8:30 am Faithfully Fit 9:00 am Quilting 1:00 pm Sharon Cares 5:00 pm NA 5:30 pm Worship Team 8:00 pm AA Unity	7 12:00 pm AA Serenity 7:00 pm Al-Anon TGIF	8 9:00 am AA-Women Carrying the Message 8:00 pm AA Unity
9 9:00 am Worship— Sanctuary BACKPACK PACKING DAY 10:30 am Worship— Celebration Hall 10:30 am Church School 3:45 pm 3-4-5 Alive!	10 12:00 pm AA Noonday 8:00 pm AA Unity 7:00 PM WELCA Board Meeting—Rose of Sharon Lounge	11 8:30 am Faithfully Fit 1:00 pm Mary Circle 5:00 pm OA 7:00 pm Al Anon Primary Purpose 7:00 pm Education Team 8:00 pm AA Primary Purpose	12 9:45 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Noonday 1:30 pm Rachel Circle 6:00 pm Worship— Sanctuary 6:00 pm Church School 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:15 pm 6-9 gr Confir- mation 8:15 pm 5G 8:15 pm RAFT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	13 8:30 am Faithfully Fit 1:00 pm Sarah Circle 5:00 pm NA 8:00 pm AA Unity	14 12:00 pm AA Serenity 2:00 pm Golden Age 7:00 pm Al-Anon TGIF	15 9:00 am AA-Women Carrying the Message 8:00 pm AA Unity
16 9:00 am Worship— Sanctuary 10:30 am Worship— Celebration Hall 10:30 am Church School 3:45 pm 3-4-5 Alive! 4:00 pm Baptism Orienta- tion	17 12:00 pm AA Noonday 8:00 pm AA Unity	18 8:30 am Faithfully Fit 5:00 pm OA 6:00 pm Church Council 7:00 pm Al Anon Primary Purpose 8:00 pm AA Primary Purpose	19 9:45 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Noonday 6:00 pm Worship— Sanctuary 6:00 pm Church School 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:15 pm 6-9 gr Confir- mation 8:15 pm 5G 8:15 pm RAFT	20 8:30 am Faithfully Fit 1:00 pm Sarah Circle 5:00 pm NA 8:00 pm AA Unity	21 12:00 pm AA Serenity 7:00 pm Al-Anon TGIF	22 9:00 am AA-Women Carrying the Message 8:00 pm AA Unity
23 9:00 am Worship— Sanctuary 10:30 am Worship— Celebration Hall 3:45 pm 3-4-5 Alive!	24 12:00 pm AA Noonday 1:00 pm Hannah Circle 7:00 pm Deborah Circle 8:00 pm AA Unity	25 8:30 am Faithfully Fit 5:00 pm OA 6:00 pm Worship 7:00 pm Al Anon Primary Purpose 8:00 pm AA Primary Purpose NOISY OFFERING	26 9:45 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Noonday NO CHURCH SCHOOL NO WORSHIP 7:00 pm Choir Practice	27 5:00 pm NA 8:00 pm AA Unity OFFICE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	28 12:00 pm AA Serenity 7:00 pm Al-Anon TGIF	29 9:00 am AA-Women Carrying the Message 8:00 pm AA Unity
30 9:00 am Worship— Sanctuary 10:30 am Worship— Celebration Hall NOISY OFFERING	November Noisy Offering will benefit Lutheran Disaster Response					



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



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

Worship Times
Sundays 9:00 am Sanctuary, 10:30 Celebration Hall
Wednesdays 6:00 pm Celebration Hall