

# Sharon Sharings

Monthly publication of Sharon Lutheran Church | Grand Forks, ND

September 2025

## This is “My Church!”

When you read that title what did you think? What came to mind? I am proud to say that Sharon Lutheran is “my” church. But I am even more proud to say that Sharon Lutheran is “our” church and most importantly “God’s” church. I don’t own the church. I am just a part of it. A participant in this faith family of God’s that we call Sharon Lutheran. I think of you all as my Sharon family. And it is good to be back with you again after a month sabbatical in July. I thank you for that time of study, relaxation and renewal! As my Sharon family, you were in my thoughts and prayers.

A couple of years ago we did a PR campaign entitled “I Love My Church”. It was not about bragging about our church. It was about boasting about God as Paul says in Galatians and Ephesians.

*“May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world.” Galatians 6:14 (NRSV)*

*“<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup> not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.” Ephesians 2:8-10 (NRSV)*

It is about boasting of God’s work and God’s love. It is also about sharing our love and how God is working through us. We all need to tell outcome stories. We should tell stories of God at work in our church and through us. Let others know of what God has done for us and others through us.

Earlier this summer two new young members of our congregation, who after being baptized one Sunday were happily and excitedly showing their cousins around “their” church. They were glad to tell the story and to share “their” church with others. Thank you, young members of the Sharon family! I am glad that you and your family joined us, and I am glad that you love your church! We love you!



**Lead  
Rostered  
Minister  
Jamie Travers**

I wonder Sharon Family, both long time members and new members, when was the last time that you happily shared with others that this is “your” church and invited others to know of God’s love in Jesus Christ?

Deacon Jamie Travers



**Meet our new  
Choir Director!  
—Page 2**

**Noisy Offering will be  
taken on Sept. 17 & 21**

# Meet our new Choir Director, Kétina François!

Kétina François is thrilled to join Sharon Lutheran Church as Choir Director. A lifelong lover of both music and faith, Kétina is a super senior at the University of North Dakota, where she is completing degrees in Music Education, Spanish, and Global Studies.



music in historic churches and cathedrals across the city.

At UND, she has served as President of the Concert Choir, as well as the university chapter of SNATS. A recipient of the National Gilman Scholarship and a UND “Leader in Action,” Kétina

Her musical journey has taken her from serving as Assistant Conductor for UND’s Allegro and Vivo choirs to directing elementary choirs in Bismarck, assisting with the BPS orchestra program, and teaching voice, piano, and double bass at Popplers Music. In Fall 2024, Kétina studied abroad in Salamanca, Spain, where she sang with the Coro de la Pietà, performing sacred

brings strong leadership skills, a heart for inclusion, and a passion for music ministry.

She believes music is a powerful expression of faith—uniting voices, lifting hearts, and drawing people closer to God.

## Sharon Book Group

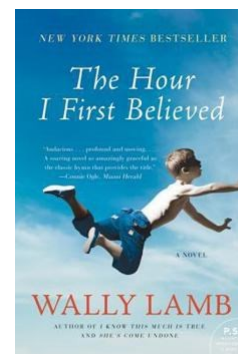
Sharon Lutheran’s Book Group will meet at 7:00 pm on the dates below in the Sharon Library and via Zoom  
For more information on each meeting, please contact Rod Gigstad at [gigstad@gmail.com](mailto:gigstad@gmail.com)

**September 16, 2025**

### **The Hour I First Believed** by Wally Lamb

In *The Hour I First Believed*, Lamb travels well beyond his earlier work and embodies in his fiction myth, psychology, family history stretching back many generations, and the questions of faith that lie at the heart of everyday life. The result is an extraordinary tour de force, at once meditation on the human condition and an unflinching yet compassionate evocation of character.

When forty-seven-year-old high school teacher Caelum Quirk and his younger wife, Maureen, a school nurse, move to Littleton, Colorado, they both get jobs at Columbine High School. In April 1999, Caelum returns home to Three Rivers, Connecticut, to be with his aunt who has just had a stroke. But Maureen finds herself in the school library at Columbine, cowering in a cabinet and expecting to be killed, as two vengeful students go on a carefully premeditated, murderous rampage.



## Sharon Lutheran to participate in Backpack Program

Starting this fall, our church has committed to provide children in low-income families with extra food during the school year. We have adopted Ben Franklin Elementary School and we will provide meals for the whole school-year.

Soon, we will start a collection of food items that we will pack monthly on the second Sunday of each month. The first packing event will be on September 14.

We invite you to join us by donating the following items:

- Ramen Noodles
- Macaroni & Cheese

- Juice Boxes/Pouches
- Instant Oatmeal (nut-free)
- Applesauce/Fruit Cups
- Fruit Snacks

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.



### 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.



### Golden Age Club Friday, September 12 at 2:00 pm

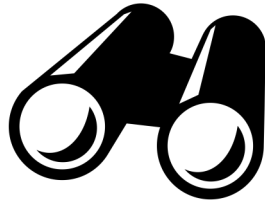
All are welcome to join us for fellowship, dessert, and a short program. The program will be announced in worship once we know what it will be. The planning team is working on this year's programs. If you have any suggestions, please let them or Deacon Jamie know.





## Looking for Quilters!

Looking for quilters!  
Everyone is welcome.  
Quilting starts on Thursday, September 11 at 9:00 am.



We will meet the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, September through May. Hope to see you there!

If you have any questions, please call Jeannie Sollom at 218-779-8646.

Our free puzzle exchange is still available for your enjoyment! Come take a look near the Welcome Center!



## 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](mailto: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, September 21 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](mailto: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

## September News

**Register  
Now!**

## The 2025-2026 Program Year for Church School and Confirmation is almost here!

**Our Kickoff Night for Wednesday Church School and Confirmation is Wednesday, September 17. Kickoff Day for Sunday Church School is Sunday, September 21.**

Please register your student(s) NOW. All 3 year olds through 9th graders need to register. We are busy making class lists, securing enough volunteers, and preparing lessons and supplies. We greatly appreciate you registering your children as soon as possible. Please email [education@sharonlutheran.org](mailto:education@sharonlutheran.org) with any questions you may have. Please use the following link to register: <http://www.sharonlutheran.org/event-registration>

### CHURCH SCHOOL (Preschool through 5th grade)

We need YOU. We need Church School teachers and assistants for both Sundays and Wednesdays. This program is run by volunteers and we can't do it without you! We make it easy to teach because we do all the prep work for you. Our Church School volunteers make a huge impact in the lives of our church's children. Please contact Heather Peters at 701-429-7087 or at [education@sharonlutheran.org](mailto:education@sharonlutheran.org).

Our Lambs will have a special event during their Church School classes on Sunday, October 12 and Wednesday, October 15. Parents will be invited to attend class with their Lambs for this event. Then, Lambs will be presented with Spark Story Bibles during the Worship Services on Sunday, October 19 and on Wednesday, October 22. More details will be shared with Lambs Parents closer to these dates.

### Important Church School Dates:

Church School Teacher Orientation: Wednesday, September 10 at 6:00 pm in South Hall (please plan to attend one session)

Church School Teacher Orientation: Sunday, September 14 at 4:00 pm in South Hall (please plan to attend one session)

First day of Wednesday Church School: Wednesday, September 17 at 6:00 pm

First day of Sunday Church School: Sunday, September 21 at 10:30 am

### UPPER ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL:

We look forward to welcoming students and families back this month! Here is some important information for the first few weeks of our program year:

Wednesday, September 10 at 7:15 pm: 6th-9th Grade Confirmation Orientation

Wednesday, September 17: First night of 6th-9th Grade Confirmation Instruction (7:15-8:15 pm) and 5G (8:15-9:00 pm); registration deadline for 6th-10th Grade Castaway Retreat

Wednesday, September 24: "God's Work, Our Hands" event in Town Square (5:30-7:00 pm) **NO ACTIVITIES AT SHARON LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Friday, September 26—Sunday, September 28: 6th-10th Grade Castaway Retreat (the registration deadline for this event is Wednesday, September 17. The form can be found elsewhere in this newsletter)

Sunday, October 5: First day of 3-4-5 Alive! (3:45-4:45 pm); 10th Grade Confirmation Event (4:00-6:00 pm); 3rd Grade Bible Family Fun Night (5:00-6:30 pm)

Sunday, October 12 and Wednesday, October 15: Bibles are presented to 3rd Graders at all worship services.

# Faith Formation Ministries

## Greetings and Encouragement to You All!

Fall is upon us, and that means that it's time to begin gathering on a more regular basis in worship, in fellowship, and in times of learning and instruction. We are excited to see you all again, and we can't wait to hear all about your summer adventures!

**Blessings and peace, Dave**

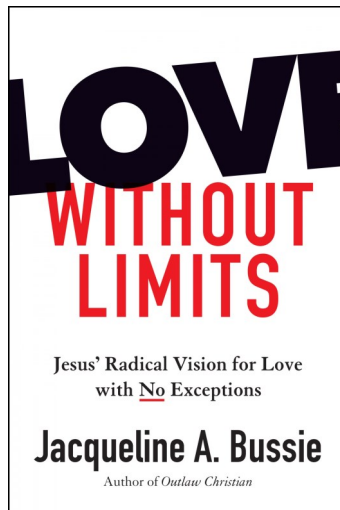
Back to school time is here! By the time you read this newsletter, most families will either already be back to school or going back very soon. This is a busy time of the year, but also a good time to get back into a routine. We hope that you will make Sharon an important part of this routine. Register your children now! We can't wait to see you all!

**May God Bless You, Heather**

## Stewardship Team to host book discussion

The Stewardship Team will be hosting a book discussion around *Love Without Limits* by Jacqueline Busse. The discussion will be held on 9/30/25 at Sharon in the South Hall from 6:00p – 7:30p.

We are looking forward to bringing together all of our congregation for this as stewardship is more than just money. Stewardship is also about our community and bringing everyone together and how we can help



out in ways that aren't always financial.

For those of you who pre-ordered the book, they are available in the church office during church office hours, or speak with Deacon Jamie or Pastor Tawanda on Sunday mornings.

We do have a couple of extra copies available in the office for \$15.

<b>Castaway Club</b> This fall retreat is for all youth in grades 6-10. Held at Castaway Club near Detroit Lakes, the retreat will include great food, games, music, worship, time spent in God's beautiful creation, and exploration of our theme: "DO GOOD BETTER"	<b>6th-10th Grade:</b> <b>Friday, September 26th</b> <b>at 4:30 p.m.</b> through <b>Sunday, September 28th</b> <b>at 3:00 pm.</b>	<b>Sign up TODAY for this awesome, faith-filled weekend by registering with your full payment by September 17th.</b>  <b>Thank you!!</b>
	<b>Cost: \$180</b> <b>*Financial assistance available*</b>	
	<b><i>Sign-up deadline: Wednesday, September 17th</i></b>	

All trip info/forms, a covenant, and a packing list will be mailed directly to you.

**2025 Castaway Club 6th-10th Grade Retreat Registration**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt size: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt size: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt size: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt size: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents/Guardians: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Text (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_ Text (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I/we have an interest in serving as adult leader(s) for the Castaway Retreat.  
 Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

*Retreat cost includes a \$184 retreat fee plus the cost of transportation and adult leader registration.*

*The full cost of the retreat is over \$260/participant and is supplemented by youth stock.*

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

Revenue	July Actual 2025-2026	YTD Actual 2025-2026
Current Ministry Gifts	\$58,596	\$58,596
Loose/Misc. Offering Gifts	\$686	\$686
Operating Fund Memorial Gifts	\$20	\$20
Church School, Confirmation & VBS Registrations	\$700	\$700
Benevolence Gifts	\$2,116	\$2,116
Other Gifts and Donations	\$4,251	\$4,251
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$66,369</b>	<b>\$66,369</b>

**July Designated gifts received:**

Building & Grounds Donations	\$10,732
Noisy Offering-Global Friends	\$258
Fellowship Donations	\$206
Higher Ground Memorials	\$150
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$45
Undesignated Memorials	\$170
Choir Fund Memorials	\$200
Block Party Donation	\$500
Bathroom Update	\$100
Backpack Program	\$1,000
Faith Formation	\$25

**TOTAL: \$13,386**

	July Actual 2025-2026	YTD Actual 2025-2026
Operating Expenses	\$68,633	\$68,633
Mortgage Debt Reduction	\$1,067	\$1,067
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$69,700</b>	<b>\$69,700</b>
 Revenue Exceeding Expenses	 \$(3,330)	 \$(3,330)



**September  
Noisy Offering  
will benefit  
Sharon's Faith  
Formation  
Ministries**

## We need your updated contact info!

*We **need** to stay connected! We want to be able to keep you updated on church activities!*

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!

If you or someone you know is sick, in the hospital or facing challenges, please let us know.

We want to include you in our prayers, and the Prayers of the People during worship if you would like to be included in them.

**We are here for you!**



*Join us for worship!*

*Our Fall Schedule begins September 7:*

*Sundays: 9:00 am Sanctuary*

*10:30 am Celebration Hall*

*Wednesdays: 6:00 pm Celebration Hall*



*Sharon Lutheran Church*

*Fall Bazaar*

*Saturday, November 1*

*Watch for more info!*

**Sharon Lutheran:**

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



## 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 September WELCA Board meeting will be held on Monday, September 8 at 7:00 pm in the Rose of Sharon Lounge. All are welcome to attend!

**Hannah Circle:** (Bible study & service projects) meets the **SECOND MONDAY** of each month at Sharon Lutheran in the Rose of Sharon Lounge. Contact Karen, 701-610-1056

**Mary Circle:** (Gather Magazine Bible Study) meets the **THIRD TUESDAY** of each month in a member's home. Contact Ruth, 701-775-2706

**Sarah Circle:** (Gather Magazine Bible Study) meets the **THIRD THURSDAY** of each month at 1:30 pm at Sharon Lutheran in the Rose of Sharon Lounge Contact Jeanne, 218-779-8646

**Rachel Circle:** (Gather Magazine Bible Study) meets the **THIRD WEDNESDAY** of each month at 1:30 pm at Sharon Lutheran in the Rose of Sharon Lounge. Contact Yvonne, 701-746-9272

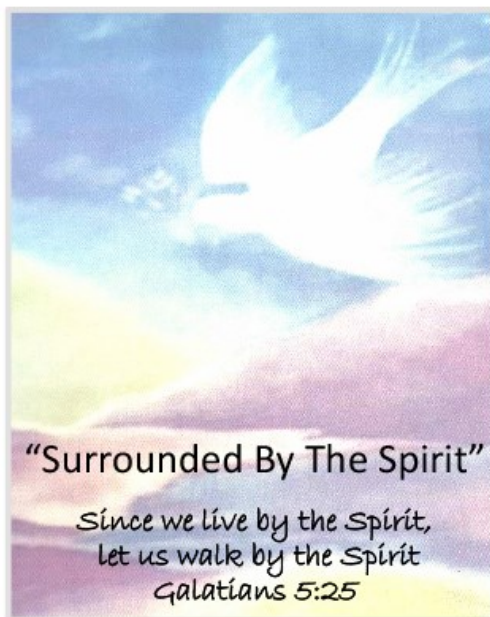
**Esther Circle:** (Book/Bible Study format) meeting dates vary; text Emilie at 701-388-8355

**Deborah Circle:** (Currently focusing on studying women of the Bible) meets the **LAST MONDAY** of each month at 7:00 pm at Sharon Lutheran in the Rose of Sharon Lounge. Contact Heather, 701-429-7087



## Eastern ND Synodical Women's Organization

Annual Fall Convention  
Saturday September 13, 2025



**St Olaf Lutheran Church, Devils Lake, ND**

Registration 8:15am

Opening 9am

**Keynote Speaker Prairie Rose Seminole**

Meal Reservation Due by Aug. 30th ~ \$20

Contact Jeanne Wobbema 701-230-8745

mrs wob@gmail.com

or register online <https://eandwelca.net>

### **In-kind Offering**

Hope Center, Devils Lake—Personal Care Products

Prison Ministry—Yarn

# September 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b> 12:00 pm AA Noonday 8:00 pm AA Unity  <b>LABOR DAY—OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:00 pm OA 5:30 pm Stewardship Team 7:00 pm Al Anon Primary Purpose 8:00 pm AA Primary Purpose	<b>3</b> 9:45 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Noonday 6:00 pm Worship—CH	<b>4</b> 4:00 pm Community Connections Team 5:00 pm NA 5:30 pm Worship Team 8:00 pm AA Unity	<b>5</b> 12:00 pm AA Serenity 7:00 pm Al-Anon TGIF	<b>6</b> 9:00 am AA-Women Carrying the Message 8:00 pm AA Unity
<b>7</b> 9:00 am Worship— Sanctuary 10:30 am Worship— Celebration Hall	<b>8</b> 12:00 pm AA Noonday 4:00 pm Hannah Circle 8:00 pm AA Unity 7:00 PM WELCA Board Meeting—Rose of Sharon Lounge	<b>9</b> 5:00 pm OA 6:00 pm Ed Team 6:30 pm Properties Team 7:00 pm Al Anon Primary Purpose 8:00 pm AA Primary Purpose	<b>10</b> 9:45 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Noonday 6:00 pm Worship—CH 6:00 pm Church School Teacher Orientation 7:15 pm 6-9 gr Confir- mation Orientation	<b>11</b> 1:00 pm Sharon Cares 5:00 pm NA 5:30 pm Worship Team 8:00 pm AA Unity	<b>12</b> 12:00 pm AA Serenity 2:00 pm Golden Age 7:00 pm Al-Anon TGIF	<b>13</b> 9:00 am AA-Women Carrying the Message 8:00 pm AA Unity
<b>14</b> 9:00 am Worship— Sanctuary 10:30 am Worship— Celebration Hall 4:00 pm Church School Teacher Orientation	<b>15</b> 12:00 pm AA Noonday 8:00 pm AA Unity  <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	<b>16</b> 1:00 pm Mary Circle 5:00 pm OA 6:00 pm Church Council 7:00 pm Al Anon Primary Purpose 8:00 pm AA Primary Purpose	<b>17</b> 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 7:15 pm 6-9 gr Confir- mation 8:15 pm 5G  <b>NOISY OFFERING</b>	<b>18</b> 1:00 pm Sarah Circle 5:00 pm NA 8:00 pm AA Unity	<b>19</b> 12:00 pm AA Serenity 7:00 pm Al-Anon TGIF	<b>20</b> 9:00 am AA-Women Carrying the Message 8:00 pm AA Unity
<b>21</b> Sanctuary 10:30 am Worship— Celebration Hall 10:30 am Church School 4:00 pm Baptism Orien- tation  <b>NOISY OFFERING</b>	<b>22</b> 12:00 pm AA Noonday 8:00 pm AA Unity	<b>23</b> 5:00 pm OA 7:00 pm Al Anon Primary Purpose 8:00 pm AA Primary Purpose	<b>24</b> 9:45 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Noonday <b>God's Work, Our Hands - Town Square NO EVENING ACTIVI- TIES IN BUILDING</b>	<b>25</b> 1:00 pm Sarah Circle 5:00 pm NA 8:00 pm AA Unity	<b>26</b> 12:00 pm AA Serenity 7:00 pm Al-Anon TGIF  <b>CASTAWAY RETREAT</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00 am AA-Women Carrying the Message 8:00 pm AA Unity
<b>28</b> 9:00 am Worship— Sanctuary 10:30 am Worship— Celebration Hall  <b>CASTAWAY RETREAT</b>	<b>29</b> 12:00 pm AA Noonday 7:00 pm Deborah Circle 8:00 pm AA Unity	<b>30</b> 5:00 pm OA 6:00 pm Stewardship Book Discussion 7:00 pm Al Anon Primary Purpose 8:00 pm AA Primary Purpose				



**September Noisy Offering  
will benefit Sharon's Faith  
Formation Ministries**

*For information on  
AA Meetings held at Sharon Lutheran, please  
see [aanorthdakota.org](http://aanorthdakota.org)*



1720 South 20th St  
Grand Forks, ND 58201

701-772-3122  
[www.sharonlutheran.org](http://www.sharonlutheran.org)

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

*It's Lefse making time!*



*Contact the church office for  
more information*

**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**