



Sharon Lutheran Church  
1720 S 20th St  
Grand Forks, ND 58201



# SAVE THE DATE

## November 6, 2022

Join us for worship Sunday, November 6 at 9:00 a.m. for our joint worship service, celebrating our 100th (plus two!) anniversary! Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth will be here to celebrate with us, AND we will have a special installation service for Pastor Tawanda. We will gather after worship for a catered meal as well. After our meal, we will hold our Annual Meeting in Celebration Hall (scheduled to begin at 10:45 a.m.)! It's going to be a full Sunday! Watch your inbox and upcoming bulletins for more details! It will be a glorious day, and we want to share it with you!

### 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)  
Dir. High School Youth, Young Adults.....Steve DeKrey (sdekrey@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

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

October 2022



# Sharon Sharings

Monthly Newsletter of Sharon Lutheran Church

1720 South 20th Street, Grand Forks ND | www.sharonlutheran.org | 701-772-3122

## Harvest Time: Gratitude for God's Generosity

Walking down the hallways at church, you may have noticed some posters and signs about our congregation's Stewardship Campaign. The Stewardship Team has an exciting plan that they will announce soon in their own way, but the posters in the hallway caught my attention such that I thought it would be interesting to consider stewardship from a different perspective.

This perspective comes from my own childhood growing up in a different culture.

When I was growing up, we had a different name for Stewardship. Stewardship in the sense that we have it now, has taken a somewhat negative connotation. Some of you will hear it as a plea for your hard earned money, which is true because the church indeed survives on your giving and I would be lying if I said anything else. But, I also think that explaining Stewardship the way we've done before takes away the hard work that a lot of you earnestly put in to get to where you are today.

Now, I'm not about to go into an apologetic for "prosperity gospel." That is a false gospel.

Here, we emphasize that everything belongs to God and by deduction, all that we have essentially belongs to God. This means that we are caretakers or stewards of what God has given to us. Hence the name Stewardship. But, I think this neglects an important aspect of the relationship we have with God.

God gives to us freely, with no expectation of payment; with no strings attached. God also gives to us, not because we deserve or because of merit, but out of the abundance of God's own love for us. In the Lutheran Church, we call this grace. We are who we are and have what we have because of God's grace. Which leads me into what I led with above from my childhood.

Instead of having a "Stewardship Campaign" in my childhood church, we celebrated the festival of Harvest. It coincided with the seasonal time when farmers would harvest their crops from the fields. Then they would bring portions of their yield to the church in thanksgiving to God. You see, for the farmers, being able to harvest was a miracle as it depended mostly on things they had no control over like rain and sunlight. Having a harvest was because of God's grace.

And, it wasn't just the farmers celebrating this festival of harvest. Everyone else considered their accomplishments and successes. And as people of faith they would also consider how God was involved in those accomplishments. Faith tells us that our lives and wellbeing are because of the grace of God. Grace that sets us free and claims us as God's own children.

Harvest, then, became a time of Thanksgiving as we celebrated our accomplishments in light of God's grace.

What would that look like here for you? If you consider Stewardship as Thanksgiving, how would you approach it? What are you thankful for in this last year? What are your accomplishments and successes?

I invite to make a list of the things you accomplished and/or are grateful for. Then, ask yourself how you can share a little bit of them and invite others to celebrate with you. Giving money is an easy way of doing this, but I invite you to be creative with your Thanksgiving. Consider sharing stories, meals, talents, or even your time. If we take this invitation seriously, I believe we can make this season's Stewardship Campaign special.

Happy Harvest - Pastor Tawanda Murinda

## Fall Stewardship Campaign ends on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5th

Thank you for your ongoing support for this congregation and the Church as a whole. You are the Church!

The Fall Stewardship effort began September 18<sup>th</sup> and will wrap up with Commitment Days on Sunday October 2nd and Wednesday the 5th of October. This is a good time to reassess what your family's financial support of Sharon will be. Our theme for this year will be "Race Into Sharon in 2022". We will strive for at least 500 pledge cards turned in. Watching worship services online? Just mail in your pledge form (found elsewhere in this newsletter) or drop it off in the church office. Please also consider the "Direct Deposit Program" as well through a form

found elsewhere in this newsletter

Our three-week campaign is formed around a racing theme and key relationships. The practice of stewardship invites us to look in three different directions: DOWN, IN and OUT.

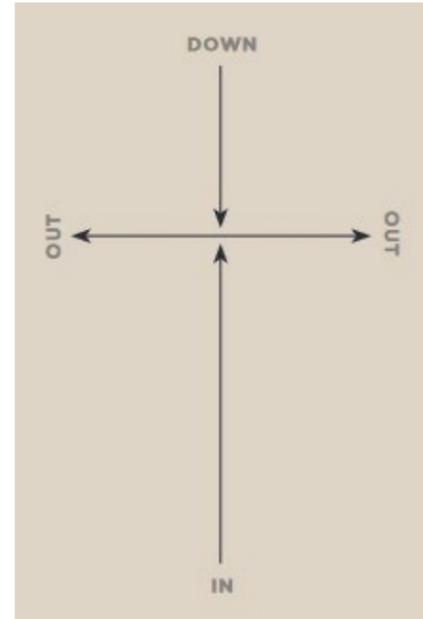
We begin by looking at how God reaches down to us and has provided for us.

We then look in to discover all that God has entrusted to our care.

We end by looking out to understand the needs of our neighbors.

When we practice stewardship in this way, we are making the sign of the cross. God makes the first vertical line DOWN; we follow by moving IN to the center and then reach OUT to our neighbors on

either side both near and far. As we form a cross with our lives and through our faith, we are marked with the cross of Christ forever.



## We Ask You to Race into Sharon!

We hope to see a good turnout during our campaign and that means at least 500 families completing an estimate of giving for the next year. We invite each of you to take a die cast car and race against others on a track that we will have available on Commitment Sunday (10/2) and Wednesday (10/5). See you there! Winning cars (and everyone else) can grab a treat.

## Have you ever...

Have you ever considered teaching church school, but weren't sure you the "teacher type?" Have you ever considered teaching church school, but wanted to attend worship to hear the Bible teachings yourself? Have you ever considered teaching church school, but felt you didn't know enough about the Bible? **HAVE WE GOT AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU!**

Our Sunday church school is exploring a different format this year. We will begin each session with all classes together, led by a designated adult or team. Once the story has been introduced, the students will break into

smaller groups, usually by age or grade, to activate their faith through games, crafts, discussion, or other activities.

This is where our volunteers come in. As the students meet in smaller groups, they need leaders to guide them. These leaders do not need to commit to every week, nor do they need to have a lot of experience—just love for children and a willingness to learn with them. This is a great opportunity for some intergenerational relationship building.

If you could spare a Sunday morning periodically this year, please contact Cheryl at [education@sharonlutheran.org](mailto:education@sharonlutheran.org), or call the church office at 701-772-3122, OR just join us one Sunday morning and check us out. Let's show our kids how much we all care!



## Join us for Church Together Sunday on October 9

We welcome **Deacon Tara Ulrich** from the Tri-County Parish (McVilke-Kloten-Hannaford-Grace City-McHenry-First Presbyterian,

Cooperstown) and **Pastor Brooke Phelps** from First Lutheran in Hoople, who will be preaching at Sharon Lutheran October 9.

Deacon Tara will be in the Sanctuary, Pastor Brooke will be in Celebration Hall.

Pastor Karen will be at First Lutheran in Hoople that Sunday, and Pastor Tawanda will be preaching at Kloten and McVilke parishes. Our Deacon Jamie will be here at Sharon to preside over communion at the 9:00 Sanctuary service that day.





## Sharon Lutheran Church Flu Vaccination Clinic

Wednesday Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Sunday Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022

8:30 AM – 12 PM

Family members are encouraged to come!

**Please Bring Your Insurance Card!**

(A scanned copy or picture of the card is also acceptable)

**Medicare, Railroad Medicare, and  
Medicaid accepted (no co-pay)**

### We File Insurance!!!

We accept insurance from:

Aetna  
Blue Cross Blue Shield (any state)  
EPNI: Employer Provider Network  
Cigna  
Health Cost Solution (America's PPO)  
Health EZ  
Health Partners  
Humana  
Medica  
Medicaid  
Medicare Part B (no co-pay)  
Medicare Supplements  
Medicare Advantage  
Preferred One  
Railroad Medicare  
Sanford Health  
TRICARE, Tricare 4 Life  
UCare/MHCP  
United Health Group  
Vaccines for Children (VFC)

We provide free vaccine and low-cost vaccine administration for eligible children including uninsured, underinsured, Native American and Alaska Native.

### **Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine booster information:**

The FDA has authorized the Pfizer Bi-Valent vaccine (12+) and the Moderna Bi-Valent vaccine (18+) for use as a single booster dose for individuals at least 2 months following their previous dose of Covid vaccine.

The Monovalent COVID-19 vaccines are no longer authorized as booster doses for individuals 12+

**Novavax has been authorized as a 2-dose primary series. No booster has been authorized yet.**

For more information on boosters please visit the CDC website.

### The 2022- 2023 available flu vaccines include:

- Influenza Quadrivalent injections for ages 6 months and over, including **High Dose Quadrivalent** for seniors
  - FluMist for ages 2-49 years old
  - Pfizer Bivalent Booster for 12 and older

### Other Vaccines That Will Be Available:

- Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine 18 years and older (pediatric available by special request)
- Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine 12 years and older (pediatric available by special request)
- Novavax Covid-19 Vaccine (Available by special request)
- Shingrix for ages 50+. 2 dose series
- Tdap tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough (Available by special request)

Questions? Call WelCore Health at (701) 330-4216

# Faith Formation Ministries

October 2022 News

## It's not too late to register for church school or Confirmation!

Our program year is off to a great start! If you have not joined us yet, we invite you to come and explore what Jesus has taught us.

You may register online at [www.sharonlutheran.org/eventreg](http://www.sharonlutheran.org/eventreg).

Church school is for those children turning 3 years old by July 31, 2022, through 5th graders. Confirmation registration is for students in 6th-10th grade. Eleventh graders will be confirmed this fall, but they do not need to register.

For more information about registration or ways you can help, please contact:

Cheryl ([education@sharonlutheran.org](mailto:education@sharonlutheran.org)) for Lambs-5th grade,

Dave ([dberger@sharonlutheran.org](mailto:dberger@sharonlutheran.org)) for 6th-8th grades,

or Steve ([sdekrey@sharonlutheran.org](mailto:sdekrey@sharonlutheran.org)) for 9th-11th grades

## REGISTRATION



## Upcoming Dates to remember

**Sunday, October 2:** 3-4-5 Alive begins (3:45 - 4:45 p.m. in the lower level); 3rd Grade Bible Event at 5:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, October 5:** CROP Walk for all 6th-9th grade students; please meet in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, October 9:** 3rd Graders receive their Bibles during worship.

**Tuesday, October 11:** 6:00 p.m. Education and Youth Teams meet in Celebration Hall.

**Wednesday, October 12:** 3rd Graders receive their Bibles during worship.

**Sunday, October 16:** Lambs Milestone Ministry 3:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, October 19:** No regular church school, Confirmation classes, or youth activities; 6th Grade Milestone Ministry for students and their parents/guardians at 7:15 p.m.

**Sunday, October 23:** No church school; Confirmation for 11th Graders

**Wednesday, October 26:** Confirmation for 11th Graders



# October 2022

## Greetings and Encouragement to you all!

It has been so good to see everyone back for Confirmation class and Youth Group! Thank you so much for trying some new things with us this school year. For 9<sup>th</sup> Graders we have parents attending class with their students, and they have been learning together, which has been great to see. Last month they even wrote their own version of the 95 theses for the current church, and we had some awesome discussion. 10<sup>th</sup> Graders have their mentors and are getting ready to pick which Sharon University Classes they will be attending this fall and winter. We are excited to bring these educational opportunities not to just the students but the entire congregation. If you are wondering what I'm talking about, please come see me! 11<sup>th</sup> grade students had their Confirmation retreat on October 2<sup>nd</sup> where we met as a large group and shared a meal. Parents and students spent time with our staff, our Pastors and Deacon discussing what Confirmation means to them. Our 11<sup>th</sup> graders will be affirming their baptism on Sunday October 23<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday October 26<sup>th</sup>. We hope you can join them in this celebration! For young adults we are in full swing with opportunities to meet up. We have book studies, campfire gatherings planned, and of course God Talk on Tap at Half Brothers the first Thursday of every month. If you are between the ages of 18-39ish please come see me for more information! - **Steve**

The last few weeks have been so exciting - getting to see all of you and start a new year together! I feel so fortunate to be able to gather with all of you each week and talk about a God who loves us, sees us, knows us, and notices us. I look forward to growing in faith with all of you over these next few weeks and months! --**Dave**

Well, we're off and running. Maybe that's not the best way to put it as many of us feel like we're running all the time—to school, to practice, to games, to church, to family activities, to \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank). The theme for our Sharon Lutheran Church program year is "Grounded in Faith; Growing in Faith; Forward in Faith", based on Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Our "subtheme" in church school is "I am the vine and you are the branches" from John 15:5. This passage is a reminder to stay connected to God. If we are not connected to God, it is difficult to move "Forward in Faith". So my hope is that, as we run from place to place and activity to activity, we are able to set aside time to consider all that God has done, is doing, and will do for us. May we grow together in FAITH so that we may respond to His unconditional love. --**Grace and Peace, Cheryl**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 <b>CEREAL SUNDAY SHARON 500 SUNDAY</b> 9:00 am Worship (Celebration Hall and Sanctuary) 10:23 am Endowment Giving presentation 10:30 am Worship (Celebration Hall) 3:45 pm 3-4-5 Alive!	3	4 8:30 am Faithfully Fit Forever 9:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:15 pm Fellowship Team 7:00 pm Sharon Book Group	5 <b>SHARON 500 WEDNESDAY</b> 9:45 am Bible Study – South Hall 6:00 pm Worship— Celebration Hall 7:15 pm 6-8 Gr Confirmation 7:15 pm 9th Gr Confirmation 8:15 pm 5G & Re-New	6 8:30 am Faithfully Fit Forever 9:00 am Quilting 6:30 pm Lay Ministry 7:30 pm Church Fellowship	7 2:00 pm Golden Age	8
9 <b>Church Together Sunday</b> 9:00 am Worship (Celebration Hall and Sanctuary) 10:23 am L.I.F.T.—Rose of Sharon Lounge 10:30 am Worship (Celebration Hall) 3:45 pm 3-4-5 Alive! 6:00 pm New Member Orientation	10 4:00 PM Hannah Circle 5:15 pm Evangelism Team 5:30 om Stewardship Team	11 8:30 am Faithfully Fit Forever 9:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 pm Youth/Ed Teams	12 9:45 am Bible Study – South Hall 5:30-7:30 pm Flu/ Covid Booster Shot Clinic 6:00 pm Worship— Celebration Hall 7:15 pm Gr 6-8 Confirmation	13 8:30 am Faithfully Fit Forever 9:00am Quilting 1:00pm Sharon Cares 6:00 pm Centennial Committee	14 2:00 pm Golden Age <b>NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	15
16 <b>NEW MEMBER SUNDAY BIBLE MILESTONE DURING WORSHIP</b> 8:30 AM—NOON Flu/ Covid Booster Shot Clinic 9:00 am Worship (Celebration Hall and Sanctuary) 10:23 am L.I.F.T.—Rose of Sharon Lounge 10:30 am Worship (Celebration Hall) 3:00 pm Lambs Milestone 3:45 pm 3-4-5 Alive! 4:00 pm Welcome to Baptism Class	17 5:30 pm Public Relations Team	18 8:30 am Faithfully Fit Forever 9:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 pm Church Council	19 <b>NEW MEMBER WEDNESDAY</b> 9:45 am Bible Study—South Hall 1:30 pm Rachel Circle 1:30 pm Sarah Circle 6:00 pm Worship— Celebration Hall 7:15 pm Gr 6-8 Confirmation	20 8:30 am Faithfully Fit Forever	21	22
23 <b>CONFIRMATION SUNDAY</b> 9:00 am Worship (Celebration Hall and Sanctuary) 10:23 am L.I.F.T.—Rose of Sharon Lounge 10:30 am Worship (Celebration Hall) 3:45 pm 3-4-5 Alive!	24	25 8:30am Faithfully Fit Forever 9:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:30 pm GF Conference gathering at Calvary Lutheran	26 <b>CONFIRMATION WEDNESDAY NOISY OFFERING</b> 9:45 am Bible Study—South Hall 6:00 pm Worship— Celebration Hall 7:15 pm Gr 6-8 Confirmation	27 8:30 am Faithfully Fit Forever 9:30 am Quilting	28	29
30 <b>REFORMATION SUNDAY NOISY OFFERING</b> 9:00 am Worship (Celebration Hall and Sanctuary) 10:23 am L.I.F.T.—Rose of Sharon Lounge 10:30 am Worship (Celebration Hall) 3:45 pm 3-4-5 Alive!	31 5:30 pm Trunk or Treat—North parking lot			<b>Looking ahead: Our Annual Meeting will take place November 6, beginning at 10:45 a.m. in Celebration Hall</b>		

## Stewardship & Endowment Giving presentation scheduled for October 2

Have you ever wondered about giving to the endowment fund here at Sharon Lutheran? The perfect opportunity to have your questions answered is Sunday, October 2 at 10:23 am in the Rose of Sharon Lounge!

Sharon Lutheran member Deanna Carlson Zink from the UND Alumni Association & Foundation will provide the answers to all your questions. Pick up a cup of coffee and join us! Brought to you by the Sharon Lutheran Stewardship Team.

## We need your help!

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!

# Cereal Sunday—October 2

Join us for a fun morning of food & sharing in between worship services. All households are invited and encouraged to bring 2 boxes/bags of cereal on Sunday, October 2. One box of cereal will be given to the St. Joseph Food Pantry and the other box of cereal will be served during the fellowship time from 10:00-11:00. Make sure to stop by South Hall and have fun trying cereal! We will provide the bowls, spoons and different kinds of milk.



## Join us for Trunk or Treat

**Monday, October 31, 5:30-6:30**

Here is an opportunity to be involved in this fun outreach event. If you would like to bring your car and hand out candy, please talk to Deacon Jamie. If you are not able to bring your car, but would like to help, you can donate candy in the church office by Sunday morning of October 30. If you have children or grandchildren bring them by Sharon's north parking lot between 5:30-6:30 on October 31.



## Golden Age Club to meet October 14

Anyone 65 and older (or younger) is invited to join the Golden Age Club for their monthly gatherings. They will meet on Friday, October 14 at 2:00 in South Hall for devotions, a short program with coffee, desert and fellowship. The program will be music by Maury Finney.

### Please let us know!

If you, a family member, or a friend from Sharon Lutheran is in the hospital, please call the office and let us know so a Pastor or Deacon can give them a phone call. The hospital does not notify the church of members admitted, so your assistance is greatly appreciated.

**Thank you!**

## Upper Elementary & Middle School News

If you have not yet registered for 2022-2023 church school or 6th-10th grade Confirmation, you can find the registration link on the Sharon Lutheran website at <http://www.sharonlutheran.org/eventreg>

### Milestone Ministries

**Lambs**—On Sunday, October 16, at 3:00 p.m. our Lambs will celebrate their ministry milestone, “My Lutheran Church”. We will be breaking down the mission statement of Sharon Lutheran Church: By God’s Grace, Created to Worship, Called to Teach, Committed to Serve. We will do that by talking briefly about the parts of worship, taking a walking tour throughout our worship spaces and other parts of our building, and then serving by creating some worship aids for young people in our church. Each Lamb will receive their Spark Story Bible on that day.

**THIRD GRADE** Bible Event for students and their parents/guardians on Sunday, October 2nd at 5:00 p.m. in South Hall! Students will receive their NRSV Student Bibles in worship on Sunday, October

9th (all services) and on Wednesday, October 12th at 6:00 p.m.

**SIXTH GRADE** “Ten Commandments” event for all sixth graders and their parents/guardians on Wednesday, October 19th at 7:15 p.m. in Celebration Hall.

**Upcoming Milestone Ministries (watch for more information in future newsletters)**

**November**—Two-and Three-Year-Olds “Prayer Pillows”

**Wednesday, January 4th** - Seventh Grade “The Lord’s Prayer”

**January**—King’s Kids “Baptism”

**Wednesday, February 15th** - Eighth Grade “The Apostles’ Creed”

**February**—Kindergarten “The Ten Commandments”

**March**—First Grade “The Lord’s Prayer”

**April**—Second Grade “The Apostles Creed”

**Ash Wednesday, February 22nd** - Fourth Grade “Gospel of Mark”

**During Lent** – Fifth Grade “Communion Conversations”

## High School News

**Confirmation Registration** - All families who will have 9th grade and 10th grade students in the fall should have them registered for Confirmation. You can find the registration link on the Sharon Lutheran website at <http://www.sharonlutheran.org/eventreg>

**9th Grade confirmation is in need of adult leaders.** Please let Steve know if that is something you are able to volunteer for 9th Grade Confirmation runs Wednesdays from 7:15pm-8:15pm.

**Students entering 10th grade** - At this point you hopefully have picked out a mentor and met with them in September. Sharon University Classes will begin this October. Please watch your emails for class options, dates and times.

**Students entering 11th grade** - Our 11th grade Confirmation retreat takes place on Sunday October 2nd from 5pm-8pm. During this time you will have some small group time to get to know our church staff. You will be turning in your faith statements, and we will take the group photo at 6:30. Please make every effort to attend.

**Confirmation Days are Sunday October 23rd and Wednesday October 26th.** If you have not yet made a confirmation stole, please make sure you find time to come get that completed.

**ReNew** - ReNew is our High School Youth Group for grades 9-12 and will resume regular Wednesday meetings on September 14th at 8:15pm. We are looking for volunteers to be present during this time. If you are a young adult between the ages of 21-35 please contact Steve to be a part of this.

