

# Sharon Sharings

Monthly publication of Sharon Lutheran Church | Grand Forks, ND

April 2026

## April Showers

April this year begins with Holy Week. This sacred week ends with Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. Both are somber moments in the lives of Christians. But they are such vital anchors for our faith. I invite you to begin the month reflecting on the incredible story of God's selfless love and grace.

It is easy for the weight of the world to pull us away. News of violence, conflict, and devastating loss surround us. We may wonder: how do we proclaim the "good news" when our world seems to be collapsing under its own brokenness? When innocent lives are lost and nations retaliate in anger, we may feel entirely defeated by the surrounding pain.

But Holy Week aggressively points us back to the cross. Holy Week reminds us that the passion of Christ is, in its rawest form, a story of profound suffering. By all worldly measures, it looks like a week of defeat. Yet at the end of it, we stand, united in worship, to call that Friday "Good."

We call it Good Friday because it is the ultimate turning point of hope.

The cross was meant to be an instrument of pain and finality, but God transformed it into a brilliant beacon of life and salvation. God turned a place of profound darkness into an eternal wellspring of hope. Even when evil and tragedy seem overwhelming, we run to the cross because it proves that darkness does not have the final word. There, we find Jesus Christ, who meets our deepest despair with grace upon grace.

In a world filled with heartbreaking headlines, the cross stands as our unshakeable assurance. We do not need to fear the shadows trying to consume us, for Christ is the light that no darkness can ever overcome. Sin is forgiven. Death has lost its sting. Out of the ultimate tragedy, Jesus offers us life, and life in abundance.



As we hold tightly to this hope this month, I am reminded of the powerful words of Archbishop Desmond Tutu:

Goodness is stronger than evil,

Love is stronger than hate,

Light is stronger than darkness,

Life is stronger than death,

Victory is ours through God who loves us.

May you have a blessed Holy Week. May it usher a month of grace upon grace. May Easter remind you of new life. And may the month of April be a Spring of overflowing goodness.

April showers bring May flowers.

Pastor Tawanda Murinda

**Register for Vacation Bible School  
beginning April 1!**

<http://bit.ly/477pfc9>

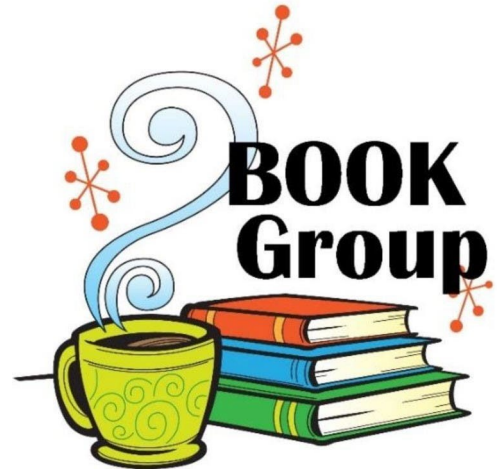
## Sharon Book Group

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)

### April 21

#### **The Plot by Jean Hanff Korelitz**

The Plot is a psychologically suspenseful novel about a story too good not to steal, and the writer who steals it. Jacob Finch Bonner was once a promising young novelist with a respectably published first book. Today, he's teaching in a third-rate MFA program and struggling to maintain what's left of his self-respect; he hasn't written—let alone published—anything decent in years. When Evan Parker, his most arrogant student, announces he doesn't need Jake's help because the plot of his book in progress is a sure thing, Jake is prepared to dismiss the boast as typical amateur narcissism. But then . . . he hears the plot.



### May 19

#### **The Little Liar by Mitch Albom**

Mitch Albom returns with a powerful novel that moves from a coastal Greek city during the Holocaust, to America, where the intertwined lives of three survivors are forever changed by the perils of deception and the grace of redemption. Eleven-year-old Nico Krispis never told a lie. When the Nazi's invade his home in Salonika, Greece, the trustworthy boy is discovered by a German officer, who offers him a chance to save his family. All Nico has to do is convince his fellow Jewish residents to board trains heading to "new homes" where they are promised jobs and safety. Unaware that this is all a cruel ruse, the innocent boy goes to the station platform every day and reassures the passengers that the journey is safe. But when the final train is at the station, Nico sees his family being loaded into a large boxcar crowded with other neighbors. Only after it is too late does Nico discover that he helped send the people he loved—and all the others—to their doom at Auschwitz.

**FEED MY  
STARVING  
CHILDREN**



### **2026 Feed My Starving Children** **Mobile Pack Event**

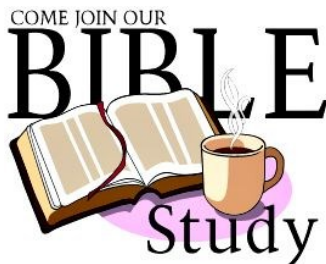
Sharon Lutheran Church is again working with area churches to host the event on **April 25**. Watch future bulletins for more information. Sign up sheets are in the narthex. Packers are asked to bring a non-perishable food item. All food will go to the St. Joe's Food Pantry.

# 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.

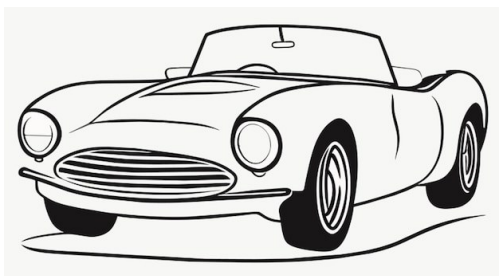
The Bible Study goes on all year long with some breaks now and then. People are welcome to participate on whichever Wednesdays work for them.

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)**



## Golden Age Club Friday, April 10 at 2:00 pm

Come join the Golden Age Club for a tour of the Rydell Toy Shop. We will



meet at the Toy Shop (1900 S Washington St) at 2:00. The tour will last about an hour and a half. We will not be having lunch that day. In May, we will have our end-of-the year potluck.

## "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, April 19 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.*



April's Noisy Offering will benefit Sharon's Hand Up Ministry

# Faith Formation Ministries

## April News

### VBS Updates

REGISTER NOW!

We are seeking donations of small white Styrofoam coolers for our Polar Expedition VBS theme. They can be dropped off in the church office at any time.

Will you and your family help us create a winter wonderland (In June!)? We are asking people to cut out paper snowflakes from basic white paper and donate them to VBS for our décor. We need lots and lots of snowflakes to make our summer time VBS to feel polar! Please bring any snowflakes that you make to the church office. THANK YOU!



OUR VBS 2026 AMAZON WISHLIST

IS LIVE! Please use this link to shop for us. Several of you have already asked about this, and we appreciate your generosity. Items will be added over the coming months. <https://bit.ly/463YITb>

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

As the Church School year is winding down (where does the time go?) I want to thank you for your involvement. We will have Church School in April and then our final days for the program year will be Sunday, May 3 and Wednesday, May 6. VBS Registration opens up on April 1st and then on May 1st, we will open registration for the 2026-27 Church School and Confirmation program year.

### UPPER ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS:

**3rd, 4th, and 5th graders**, please join us for 3-4-5 Alive each Sunday afternoon from 3:45-4:45 p.m. 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 meet on Sunday, April 19th and Sunday, April 26th. Also, please plan to join us for an end-of-the-year party at our normal time on Sunday, May 3rd!

**6th-8th graders**, please note that 5G will resume on Wednesday, April 8th and conclude with an end-of-the-year party on Wednesday, May 6th. We will have a lock-in for all middle school and high school students from 7:00 p, on Friday, May 8th through 7:00 am Saturday, May 9th. Please register by Wednesday, April 29th. The cost is \$25 per student, which covers all activities, meals, snacks, and other event costs. Space is limited!

### HIGH SCHOOL NEWS:

RAFT will meet from 8:15—9:15 pm each Wednesday in April. We will celebrate our year together with a bowling party at Red Ray Lanes from 7:00-9:00 pm on Wednesday, May 6th.

# Faith Formation Ministries

## Greetings and Encouragement to You All!

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of our program year. It has been so much fun learning, serving, and growing alongside all of you! As always, please let me know when you have a concert, game, festival, competition, showcase, or other type of performance, and I will do my best to be there!

**Blessings and peace, Dave**

April is one of my favorite months. Since we live in ND and MN, I know it may not exactly be spring yet, but we know it is on the way! I hope you and you family have a joyous Easter Season. Please be sure to ask your children about their Church School lessons on Holy Week, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday—and most importantly, continue the conversation at home!

**May God Bless You, Heather**

## Going to Bible Camp this summer?

Please contact Dave Berger or follow the link below if you have one or more students attending an ELCA Bible Camp this summer. We have scholarships available, and we may be able to help you coordinate transportation with other Sharon families. Funds are limited, so please submit your information as soon as possible! Thank you!

Sharon Lutheran Summer 2026 ELCA Bible Camp Participant Link: [tiinyurl.com/BibleCampScholarships](https://tiinyurl.com/BibleCampScholarships)

(Sharon members, if you would like to support kids attending Bible Camp, please know that you can make a Youth Stock donation at any time!)



## Faith Formation Important Dates:

**Wednesday, April 1st:** (Holy Wednesday) NO Church School

**Thursday, April 2:** (Maundy Thursday) 5th Grade Communion Celebration at 6:00 pm worship in Celebration Hall

**Sunday, April 5th: (Easter Sunday) NO CHURCH SCHOOL**

**Wednesday, April 8th:** 6th-9th Grade Confirmation instruction, 5G, and RAFT resume

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

Revenue	February Actual 2025-2026	YTD Actual 2025-2026
Current Ministry Gifts	\$69,514.45	\$548,545.88
Loose/Misc. Offering Gifts	\$1,070.51	\$14,323.62
Operating Fund Memorial Gifts	\$0.00	\$20.00
Church School, Confirmation & VBS Registrations	\$-	\$6,900.00
Benevolence Gifts	\$3,888.00	\$7,974.00
Other Gifts and Donations	\$2,242.55	\$23,043.93
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$76,715.51</b>	<b>\$600,807.43</b>

	February Actual 2025-2026	YTD Actual 2025-2026
Operating Expenses	\$74,023.64	\$558,065.39
Mortgage Debt Reduction	\$1,081.43	\$8,824.68
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$75,105.07</b>	<b>\$566,890.07</b>

Revenue Exceeding Expenses	\$1,610.44	\$33,917.36
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**February Designated gifts received:**

Noisy Offering-Love Feast	\$501.45
Building & Grounds-Properties	\$10,000.00
Backpack Program	\$200.00
Fellowship Donations	\$270.26
Higher Ground Memorials	\$150.00
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$572.00
Undesignated Memorials	\$25.00
Lenten Fellowship Meal	\$431.00
Choir Fund Memorials	\$150.00
Flowers	\$110.00
Golden Age	\$100.00
Pancakes for Projectors	\$1,200.70
Projectors	\$20,865.00
Souper Bowl-St. Joseph's Food Bank	\$340.00
Faith Formation	\$25.00
Church School Benevolences	\$114.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$35,054.41</b>



# Road Trip!

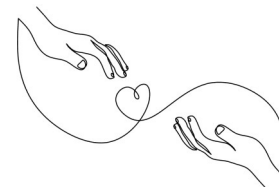
Meal, trivia, silent auction and raffle to support our Summer 2026 trips to Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Winston-Salem, North Carolina

**Sunday, May 3rd at 5:00 pm in Celebration Hall**

We will be serving classic road trip favorites—burgers and hot dogs, onion rings, French fries, and ice cream floats.

Please watch for more information in the Narthex beginning after worship on Wednesday, April 8th!

# Women of Sharon Updates



**Women of Sharon (Sharon Lutheran's WELCA unit) is seeking new Board members. There are positions opening in June of this year. These positions will be on the ballot at our Annual WELCA meeting in May. If you are interested in learning more about this, please contact Heather Peters at 701-429-7087 and we will get you more information. Our nominating committee will soon begin the work of filling these positions on our WELCA Board.**

The Women of Sharon invite you to join one of our circles and/or attend our monthly WELCA Board meetings. The March WELCA Board meeting will be held on Monday, March 9 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 Solom, 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.

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!

*We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You, because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world*

## HOLY WEEK

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Palm Sunday (March 29):**  
9 AM • 10:30 AM (Sanctuary)

**Maundy Thursday (April 2):**  
6 PM (Celeb. Hall)

**Good Friday (April 3):**  
12 PM (Sanctuary)  
6 PM (Sanctuary)

**Easter Sunday (April 5):**  
8:30 AM • 9:45 AM • 11 AM (Celeb. Hall)  
9:00 AM • 10:30 AM (Sanctuary)

**Sharon Lutheran Church**

# April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mar 29 NO 3-4-5 ALIVE 9 AM Palm Sunday Worsh 10:30 AM Church School 10:30 AM Palm Sunday V	30 7 PM Deborah Circle	31 8:30 AM Faithfully Fit	Apr 1 9:45 AM Bible Study 6 PM NO CHURCH SCH 7 PM Choir Practice	2 8:30 AM Faithfully Fit 6 PM Communion Celebra 6 PM Maundy Thursday W 6:30 PM Community Cor	3 12 PM Good Friday Worshi 6 PM Good Friday Worship	4
5 8:30 AM Easter Worship 9 AM Sanctuary Worsh 9:45 AM Easter Worship 10:30 AM Easter Worship 10:30 AM NO CHURCH 11 AM Easter Worship	6 OFFICE CLOSED	7 8:30 AM Faithfully Fit 9:30 AM Prayer Shawl M	8 9:45 AM Bible Study 6 PM Church School 6 PM Worship 7 PM Choir Practice 7:15 PM Confirmation 8:15 PM R.A.F.T. 8:15 PM 5G	9 8:30 AM Faithfully Fit 9 AM Quilting 1 PM Sharon Cares 5:30 PM Worship Team 7 PM Young Adults	10 2 PM Golden Age	11
12 9 AM Sanctuary Worsh 10:30 AM Celebration H 10:30 AM Church School	13 7 PM WELCA	14 8:30 AM Faithfully Fit 1 PM Lillian Elsinga 5:30 PM Stewardship Team 6:30 PM Properties Team	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9:45 AM Bible Study 1:30 PM Rachel Circle 6 PM Church School 6 PM Worship 7 PM Choir Practice 7:15 PM Confirmation 8:15 PM R.A.F.T. 8:15 PM 5G	16 8:30 AM Faithfully Fit 1 PM Sarah Circle 6 PM Youth Team	17	18
19 9 AM Sanctuary Worsh 10:30 AM Celebration H 10:30 AM Church School 3:45 PM 3-4-5 Alive	20	21 8:30 AM Faithfully Fit 1 PM Mary Circle 6 PM Church Council 6 PM Ed Team	22 9:45 AM Bible Study 6 PM Church School 6 PM Worship 7 PM Choir Practice 7:15 PM Confirmation 8:15 PM R.A.F.T. 8:15 PM 5G	23 8:30 AM Faithfully Fit 9 AM Quilting 7 PM Young Adults	24	25
26 9 AM Sanctuary Worsh 10:30 AM Celebration H 10:30 AM Church School 3:45 PM 3-4-5 Alive	27 1 PM Hannah Circle 7 PM Deborah Circle	28 8:30 AM Faithfully Fit	29 9:45 AM Bible Study 6 PM Church School 6 PM Worship 7 PM Choir Practice 7:15 PM Confirmation 8:15 PM R.A.F.T. 8:15 PM 5G	30 8:30 AM Faithfully Fit	May 1	2 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>April's Noisy Offering will benefit Sharon's Hand Up Ministry</b></p>

NOISY OFFERING

NOISY OFFERING



**SHARON DAY  
WITH THE  
GF SPITFIRES  
JUNE 21 AT  
ALBRECHT  
FIELD IN  
GRAND  
FORKS**

Watch for more information in the coming weeks and join us for a fun day at the ballpark with the Grand Forks Spitfires Softball team as they take on the La Crosse (WI) Steam!

**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:**

Soup (must have pull-open top)

Fruit Cups

Ravioli (canned)

Miscellaneous snacks (no gummies)

A Decorated Table Event  
& Online Quilt Auction

11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
**AROUND  
OUR TABLE**

Saturday, April 18 at  
Calvary Lutheran  
Church Fellowship Hall  
1405 S. 9th St., Grand Forks, ND

- Donate a Quilt or Quilted Item
- Host a Decorated Table
- Purchase a Seat for Brunch

Contact for more info:  
Kayla Gust | 701.787.7989  
kgust@valleyseniorliving.org

**Purchase Tickets**

Scan the QR code  
or visit our website:  
valleyseniorliving.org



# Join in the fun and volunteer to help at the Rummage Sale!

*Volunteers are able to shop and make purchases before the sale begins on Friday!*

We are looking for volunteers to direct donors to the appropriate room for their donations at drop-off, set up of the sale, pricing items and working Thursday night and all day Friday of the sale.

We will need volunteers for the following times:

Sunday, May 10: 5 pm until we have the tables and basic set up complete

Monday, May 11: 10 AM - 6 PM

Tuesday, May 12: 10 AM - 7 PM

Wednesday, May 13: 10 AM - 7 PM

Thursday, May 14: 10 AM - 5 PM for set-up.  
5-8:30 PM for the Early Bird

Friday, May 15: 6:30 AM until approximately 7 PM

Watch for sign-up sheets at the Welcome Center and on Sign-up Genius! The Rummage Sale proceeds are used to maintain and improve Our Sharon Lutheran Church Home. Please volunteer to be part of this fun endeavor!

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

## Polar Expedition

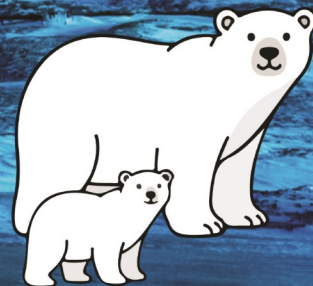
JUNE 1-4, 2026

6:00PM-8:00PM

Registration opening in April!

INTERESTED IN HELPING PLAN VBS?  
SEE AN EDUCATION TEAM MEMBER!

Save  
THE  
Date



# Calling all kids who like to read or listen to great stories!



First—a reminder that we have a children’s library with LOTS of books for toddlers through high school. You can read them here at Sharon or take them home (no need to check them out). The library is open any time you are in the building!

Second (and most importantly)—we are looking for a few Library Ambassadors. “What’s that?” you ask. Your job as a Library Ambassador is to read books or have them read to you! After you’ve read a book, we’ll ask for a short “review” of what you read. That means we’ll guide you with a few questions and then ask if you would recommend the book to others. We will share these reviews with anyone who receives our Sharon Sharings Newsletter each month.



“Ok, I’m interested, what do I do?” Glad you asked! For more information or to “apply” for this opportunity you can share your name with the church office by phone or email, or contact Cheryl Nyhlen ([cnyhl123@gmail.com](mailto:cnyhl123@gmail.com)) or Heather Peters ([hpeters@sharonlutheran.org](mailto:hpeters@sharonlutheran.org)) We look forward to hearing about your reading adventures!



# 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.



## The **SPRING** Sharon Lutheran Church Rummage Sale will be here soon!

**Thursday, May 14, 5-8 PM** is the Early Bird Sale with a **\$5 entry fee.**

**Friday, May 15, 7AM - 3 PM** is the regular sale.

**So start packing up all your treasures and get ready to volunteer!**

Here is some information that you should know:

There are 3 days that you can drop off your donations at the church:

Monday, May 11, 10 am - 5 pm

Tuesday, May 12, 10 am - 7 pm

Wednesday, May 13, 10 am - 6 pm

You will be asked to place your items in the appropriate rooms by category so consider dividing up your items accordingly.

We are **accepting** donations of kitchen items, knick knacks, linens, gently-used clothing, toys, games, books, *small* furniture items, and *small* appliances in working condition.

If you have large furniture you would like to donate, please talk to a rummage sale team member to see if we can accept your item.

We are **unable to accept** computers and electronics, TVs, large appliances, pianos (electric keyboards are fine), large exercise equipment, infant car seats and cribs, home-recorded videos, mattresses and clothing that is dirty, stained or has “unfashionable” holes.

# Sharon Cares Member Spotlight

*Since 2019, the Sharon Cares Team has been striving to maintain our connections and contacts to our homebound members and members who have difficulty attending our church itself. We now want to bring those members back to you, their church family, by way of a new endeavor called Sharon Cares Member Spotlight.*

*In our Sharon Cares Member Spotlight, we will periodically share the story of one of our congregation members.*

Our first member to be in the Spotlight is Avis Fjestad!

Avis Schluchter was born on Sept. 3, 1941, to William and Thelma Schluchter. She grew up on her parents' farm near Cavalier, ND, with her two older brothers, Deloren (Del) and Keith. She enjoyed her life on the farm and has fond memories of gardening and biking and especially fond memories of her family's love of music. Her whole family was talented...Del sang and Keith played piano. Avis also was musically talented and was an accompanist for all the choral groups in high school. Because of this, Avis got out of taking physical education in high school!

Avis attended school in Cavalier. After graduation, she attended one year at Concordia College before transferring to Westmar College in Le Mars, Iowa. It was in Iowa that she met Corbin Tindall, who would later become her husband. Avis graduated with a BS in Music with majors in Organ and Voice. Her family's talent and love of music were well represented in Avis!

Upon graduating from college, Avis taught for two years in Iowa and then in Crookston. She moved to Crookston so she was able to



better help plan for her future wedding in Cavalier to Corbin. Avis and Corbin were married in 1965. They moved back to Iowa, where Corbin farmed with his family.

In 1969, world events impacted Avis and Corbin. Corbin was sent to Vietnam. Before he left, he talked to Avis's father, Bill, and told him, "I won't be back." Bill, Avis's father, awoke in the middle of the night in 1969 with the premonition that "Corbin is in trouble." Sadly, this proved to be true. Corbin died in Vietnam in 1969, leaving Avis alone and pregnant with their son, Brian.

In 1970, one of Avis' brothers got married. Avis played organ for the wedding, and Leon Fjestad, who is known to many of us at Sharon, sang at the wedding. As Avis describes it, that was her first introduction to her future

husband. But they didn't start dating then. On Dec 31, 1970, Avis' brother and sister-in-law planned a New Year's Eve celebration. They invited Avis, who agreed to come if they would find a "date" for her. Avis's date was Leon Fjestad, who had given up a \$20 ticket to another New Year's celebration so that he could attend this party with Avis. Upon arriving at Avis's home, Leon knocked on the door. The door was promptly opened up by Avis's young son, Brian. Leon immediately scooped young Brian up in his arms, endearing him to Avis. Leon and Avis attended the New Year's Party to celebrate the New Year of 1971. Their relationship progressed and they were married on Sept 5, 1971, in Fargo at the Methodist Church.

Shortly after Avis and Leon were married, they made the decision to move to Leon's hometown of Dahlen. While in Dahlen, Leon farmed on the family farm. Avis and Leon also drove buses for the schools. The school buses were parked on their farm, and they would take off in the morning to pick up the children to go to both Petersburg and Tolna Schools. Avis also cooked for the schools and was a substitute teacher. Avis continued to use her musical talents to accompany various choirs in the community and was the organist at the Dahlen Lutheran church for 14 years. Avis and Leon added to their family when their daughter, Becky, and later son Dan were born.

After moving to Grand Forks in 2001, Avis

and Leon made the decision to join Sharon Lutheran Church. Their son Dan was already a member at Sharon, and they found that Sharon was friendly and a place where they could share their talents. Avis and Leon both sang in choir led by Carol Geiszler. Avis joined a Circle. Leon was on the Board of Church Properties and was in charge of snow removal. Pastor Ray Seigle was the lead pastor when they joined. Avis notes that Deacon Jamie's mother was one of Leon's teachers in grade school. Leon passed away on Jan 13, 2022.

Avis now lives at Wheatland Terrace. She is active and well known there, and as we talked with her for this article, she was greeted by multiple people. She is active on the Resident Council and Community Culture Boards. She participates in the Fit and Fun class and exercises on the NuStep. She plays Bingo and attends church services. She enjoys visits from her family, who include sons Brian and wife Tracy, Dan and wife Cheri, and her daughter, Becky Vakoc (Robert), along with the visits from eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren!

Sharon Lutheran Church has been fortunate to have Avis as a valued member of our fellowship. We express our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support and contributions. Your presence has enriched our community, and we are truly grateful to have you as part of our church family.

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





1720 South 20th St  
Grand Forks, ND 58201

701-772-3122  
www.sharonlutheran.org

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**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

**\*\*See inside for Holy Week and Easter  
Sunday Worship Schedule\*\***

## SHARON LUTHERAN CHURCH

Early Bird Sale - Thursday, May 14  
5-8PM - \$5 Entry Fee

Regular Sale - Friday, May 15  
7AM-3PM

