

Sharon Sharings

Monthly publication of Sharon Lutheran Church | Grand Forks, ND

October 2026

Find Your Place

When I came to Sharon, in 2022, we were in the middle of an outreach campaign called “I Love My Church.” Deacon Jamie was asking people to share what they loved about Sharon. This year, I have been drawn to the idea of church as a place of belonging. As I think about the membership of our church, I am curious how people have found their way to Sharon and why they have stayed.

I am a strong advocate for welcome and belonging. I think Sharon offers that to everyone, and I would like more people to experience it too. So, I have a request for you this month of October.

Firstly, I invite you to join us for worship this month. Secondly, I also encourage you to invite a friend. When you invite someone, I want you to consider sharing with them why you love Sharon. Why is Sharon “your place”? Why do you keep coming back?

I’ve been a pastor here – coming on 5 years – in March! I thought I would share with you why Sharon is my place.

1. Sharon has allowed me to find my “pastoral identity.” I know who I am as a pastor and what my calling is. I can freely and fully express myself here in ways that I could not before.

2. My family is welcome and loved at Sharon. I don’t have to worry about my wife being asked to fit a “traditional role” that she doesn’t feel called to. I know that my 3 year-old can run and shout and play and be a kid here. I know that my 10, almost 11, year-old is encouraged to participate in worship in ways that she wants to. And I know that my 14-year-old has a youth group that allows him to make friends and express his faith in ways that he wants.

3. Sharon is committed to service. One of the core values of our congregation is community service. Our church is present and active in this community in ways that make me proud and fill my cup. We love our neighbors and we help as many people as we can.



Find Your Place
—continued on Page 2

Find Your Place
—continued from front page

4. Worship is life-giving here. I love Deacon Jamie's pragmatic sermons. I appreciate how he translates faith to life in the world. I also love the music: from Sue and Carolyn creating reverberating music in the Sanctuary to Rox and Higher Ground singing their hearts out in the Celebration Hall. I know that I am refreshed almost every Sunday here.

5. And finally, God and God's people are central to what we do here at Sharon. The Gospel is

proclaimed and taught here. And Jesus' love is made abundantly real all the time.

What are your whys? I hope you can invite others and share with them why Sharon is Your Place.

Blessings,

Pastor Tawanda

Sharon Book Group

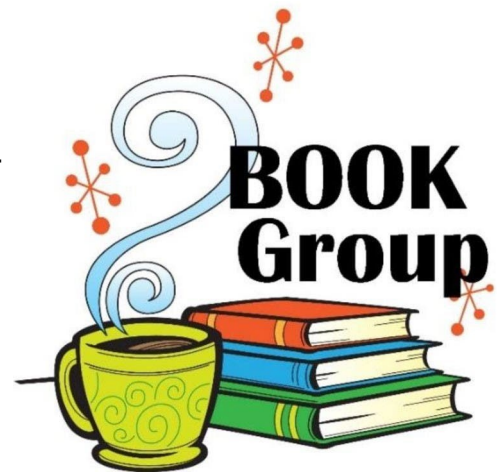
Sharon Lutheran's Book Group will meet at 7:00 pm on the dates below in the Sharon Library and via Zoom
For more information on each meeting, please contact Rod Gigstad at gigstad@gmail.com

October 20

***The Women in the Castle* by Jessica Shattuck**

Three women, haunted by the past and the secrets they hold

Set at the end of World War II, in a crumbling Bavarian castle that once played host to all of German high society, a powerful and propulsive story of three widows whose lives and fates become intertwined—an affecting, shocking, and ultimately redemptive novel from the author of the *New York Times* Notable Book *The Hazards of Good Breeding*.



November 17

***Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt**

After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium, mopping floors and tidying up. Keeping busy has always helped her cope, which she's been doing since her eighteen-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat in Puget Sound over thirty years ago. Tova becomes acquainted with curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium. Marcellus knows more than anyone can imagine but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors--until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova.

October News

WREATH SALES!

Sharon students and their families will be selling wreaths and other decorative items from Wednesday, October 7th through Wednesday, October 28th to support next summer's trips (middle school mission trip and high school ELCA Youth Gathering). Please stop by the wreath sales table in the Narthex after worship services all month long to order your items! Items will be available to pick up just before the Thanksgiving holiday. Thank you for your support!



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS:

2026/2027 Church School and Confirmation Registration:

Our 2026/2027 Program Year has begun!

All Lambs (three years old by July 31) through 9th graders should register. Please use this link: <https://bit.ly/426Kyb0>

REGISTER NOW! It is crucial that we have all students registered online to ensure we have updated contact information, any potential allergies, and other important information.

**UPPER ELEMENTARY
& MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS:**

3-4-5 Alive! (weekly fellowship program for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders) will begin on Sunday, October 4th! We meet on Sundays from 3:45-4:45 pm in the Living Room (lower level youth room), there is no cost or registration, and friends in third, fourth, or fifth grade are always welcome!

5G (weekly fellowship program for 6th-8th grad-

ers) will meet from 8:15-9:00 pm (right after Confirmation instruction) on October 7th, 14th, and 21st. (We will not meet on October 28th, since that night is set aside for Affirmation of Baptism for our 10th grade students.) Please join us!

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS:

RAFT (weekly Wednesday fellowship program for 9th-12th graders) will meet in the Lighthouse (main level youth room) at 8:15 pm on October 7th, 14th, and 21st. Please join us!

The 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering will take place from Monday, June 28th through Friday, July 2nd in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The theme is "Imagine more...". All 2026-2027 9th through 12th graders and their families should have already received important dates and registration information via email. **Please note that the sign-up deadline is Wednesday, October 21st!**

Greetings and encouragement to you all!

We are well into our second month of instruction, programs, and activities, focusing on the three pillars of Learning, Connecting, and Serving. I wonder if you could tell me one thing you have learned, one person you have connected to, and one way you have served this fall? **Blessings and peace, Dave**

"I am so glad I live in a world where there are Octo-

bers." is a favorite quote of mine. These words were spoken by the fictional character Anne Shirley of Anne of Green Gables fame, but they are right true to me, as well. This is a lovely time of year and I hope you and your families are doing well. We are so glad to have you in our building and participating in our Program Year. **May God Bless You! - Heather**

Faith Formation Ministries

October News

Important Upcoming Church School Dates:

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

Sunday, October 11th: Bibles are presented to 3rd graders at all worship services (9:00 am and 10:30 am); Lambs (and parents/guardians) Milestone Ministry during Church School at 10:30 am

Wednesday, October 14th: Lambs (and parents/guardians) Milestone Ministry during Church School at 6:00 pm; Bibles are presented to 3rd graders 6:00 pm worship in Celebration Hall

Sunday, October 18th: Lambs Bibles presented during Celebration Hall worship at 10:30 am

Wednesday, October 21st: Lambs Bibles presented during Celebration Hall worship at 6:00 pm

Sunday, October 25th: 10th Grade Affirmation of Baptism (the Rite of Confirmation) at 9:00 am (Sanctuary) and 10:30 am (Celebration Hall); **NO CHURCH SCHOOL**

Wednesday, October 28th: 10th Grade Affirmation of Baptism (the Rite of Confirmation) at 6:00; **NO CHURCH SCHOOL, 6TH-9TH GRADE CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION, 5G, OR RAFT**



at

Sharon Lutheran Church WELCA Circles

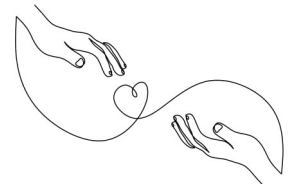
The WELCA Board will meet on Monday, October 5th at 7 pm in the Rose of Sharon Lounge. All are welcome!

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

Sarah Circle meets the THIRD Thursday of each month at 1:00 pm 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 Yvonne Nelson, 701-746-9272

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



October's
Noisy Offering
will benefit Lu-
theran Disas-
ter Response

Fall Congregational Meeting Sunday, October 11 at 9:00

Come join us for our fall congregational meeting with breakfast at 9:00 am on Sunday, October 11. That morning there will be one joint worship service together at 10:30. **There will be no worship at 9:00. Just the meeting and breakfast.** Church School will take place at 10:30 as usual. Annual reports will be available to pick up at the Welcome Center and Church Office.



Golden Age Club – Friday, October 9, 2:45 pm

NOTE TIME AND LOCATION CHANGE!

Join the Golden Age Club for a fun tour of the Ralph Engelstad Arena on Friday, October 9 at 2:45 pm. We will meet at the Ralph Engelstad Arena and not at Sharon Lutheran. Please note of the change of time to 2:45. Bob Kerr will be leading the tour and there is no charge for this event. Thanks Bob!



*trunk
-or-
treat*



Trunk or Treat, Sunday, October 25 from 3:00-5:00

Come join us for fall fun! Our Trunk or Treat event is a great opportunity to bring your vehicle and decorate it if you wish and to hand out treats. It's also a fun opportunity to wear a costume. If you would like to donate treats, please bring them to the church office by October 23. Calvary Lutheran Church will also be hosting a Trunk or Treat event at the same time, so visit both churches.

"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, October 18 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 Deacon Jamie or Pastor Tawanda.

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!

Amount needed in Operating Revenue each month per approved 2026-2027 is \$79,667

Revenue	August Actual 2026-2027	YTD Actual 2026-2027
Current Ministry Gifts	\$58,399	\$124,730
Loose/Misc. Offering Gifts	\$1,160	\$2,315
Operating Fund Memorial Gifts	\$-	\$-
Church School, Confirmation & VBS Registrations	\$3,450	\$3,850
Benevolence Gifts	\$258	\$542
Other Gifts and Donations	\$1,037	\$7,279
Total	\$64,304	\$138,717

August Designated gifts received:

Noisy Offering-Lutheran World Relief-Shipping Kits	\$425
Backpack Program	\$700
Fellowship Donations	\$287
Higher Ground Memorials	\$150
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$753
Choir Fund Memorials	\$150
Bathroom Remodel	\$200
Global Friends	\$20
Lutheran Disaster Response-Nepal	\$7
Projector	\$25
Faith Formation	\$55

TOTAL: \$2,772

	August Actual 2026-2027	YTD Actual 2026-2027
Operating Expenses	\$69,992	\$136,663
Mortgage Debt Reduction	\$1,202	\$2,453
Total Expenses	\$71,195	\$139,116

Revenue Exceeding Expenses	\$(6,891)	\$(400)
----------------------------	-----------	---------

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

Sharon Lutheran
Lefse Project/Fellowship
2026



Please consider
donating a pound
of butter!

**Lefse Making
Schedule**

Sept. 13, 14, 15
Sept. 20, 21, 22
Sept. 27, 28, 29
Oct. 4, 5, 6

Potato peeling begins
Sundays @ 12:00pm (**exception 9/20 @ 2pm**)
Mondays @ 7:00am

Mondays and Tuesdays
Patty Making Only @ 7:30a.m.

Lefse Making every Mon. & Tues. @ 8:30am
beginning Sept. 14th

Bazaar Sat. Nov. 7, 2026

We are so excited to be able to gather once
again! Looking forward to our time of
fellowship.

Lefse Chair:
Mary Adams, 701-739-5520



We lost a week in September, so
we're adding a week in October! Oc-
tober 11, 12, and 13th!

As the workers are getting older, we
need help with set up on Sundays and
takedown on Tuesday. Please consider
helping out! Contact Mary at 701-739
-5520

The deadline for submissions to the monthly Sharon Sharings is 5:00 pm on the
15th **of each month.** *Anything submitted past the deadline is not guaranteed to be
published.* **Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!**

Sharon Lutheran Bazaar!

Saturday, Nov. 7th—9:00am to 12:00pm

We need YOU to help make it a success!

To make our bazaar successful, we are asking **ALL FAMILIES** to contribute baked
goods. All monies raised from the bake sale will go towards Church Property im-
provements!

Volunteers are also needed the day of the event. Watch for signup
sheets and other signage in the narthex in October.
Contact Mary with any questions at 701-739-5520.

October 2026

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sep 27	28	29	30	Oct 1	2	3
9 AM Worship - Sanctua 10:30 AM Church School 10:30 AM Worship - Cel 12 PM Lefse Making 6:30 PM Middle School Mi	7 AM Lefse Making 1 PM Hannah Circle 7 PM Deborah Circle	7:30 AM Lefse Making	9:45 AM Bible Study 6 PM Church School 6 PM Worship 7:15 PM Grades 6-9 Con 8:15 PM RAFT 8:15 PM 5G	8:30 AM Faithfully Fit 1 PM Sharon Cares 6:30 PM Community Cor 7 PM Young Adults		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9 AM Worship - Sanctua 10:30 AM Church School 10:30 AM Worship - Cel 12 PM Lefse Making 3:45 PM 3-4-5 Alive 5 PM 3rd Grade Bible Fun	7 AM Lefse Making 7 PM WELCA Board Me	7:30 AM Lefse Making 5:30 PM Stewardship Te	9:45 AM Bible Study 6 PM Church School 6 PM Worship 7:15 PM Grades 6-9 Con 8:15 PM RAFT 8:15 PM 5G	8:30 AM Faithfully Fit 9 AM Quilting 1 PM Sharon Cares 5 PM GCCC	2:45 PM Golden Age Club	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9 AM 3rd Grade Bible Pres 10:30 AM 3rd Grade Bible 10:30 AM Church School 10:30 AM Worship - Cel 3:45 PM 3-4-5 Alive	6 PM Ed Team	8:30 AM Faithfully Fit 6 PM Properties Team	9:45 AM Bible Study 6 PM 3rd Grade Bible Pres 6 PM Church School 6 PM Worship 7:15 PM Grades 6-9 Con 8:15 PM RAFT 8:15 PM 5G	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 8:30 AM Faithfully Fit 1 PM Sarah Circle 7 PM Young Adults		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9 AM Worship - Sanctua 10:30 AM Church School 10:30 AM Lambs Bibles Pre 10:30 AM Worship - Cel 11:30 AM Rox 3:45 PM 3-4-5 Alive	6:30 PM GCCC 7 PM Deborah Circle	8:30 AM Faithfully Fit 6 PM Church Council	9:45 AM Bible Study 1:30 PM Rachel Circle 6 PM Church School 6 PM Lambs Bibles Present 6 PM Worship 7:15 PM Grades 6-9 Con 8:15 PM RAFT 8:15 PM 5G	8:30 AM Faithfully Fit 9 AM Quilting 6 PM North Star Quilters G		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10:30 CH Baptism - Arlie Je 9 AM Worship - Sanctua 10:30 AM Worship - Cel 10:30 AM No Church Scho 3:45 PM 3-4-5 Alive	1 PM Hannah Circle 7 PM Deborah Circle	8:30 AM Faithfully Fit	9:45 AM Bible Study 6 PM Worship 6 PM No Church School 7:15 PM Grades 6-9 Con 8:15 PM RAFT 8:15 PM 5G	8:30 AM Faithfully Fit 5 PM GCCC 7 PM Young Adults		
NOISY OFFERING			NOISY OFFERING			

Sharon Cares Member Spotlight

Since 2019, the Sharon Cares Team has been striving to maintain our connections and contacts to our home-bound 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.

We recently had the pleasure of visiting with Bev Kinzler and are excited to share her story with you all!

Bev Kinzler, was born Beverly Irene Ahlert, on May 17, 1931, in Ballantine MT, a small rural town just northeast of Billings, MT. Her family first lived in Clintonville, WI where her father worked at an auto factory, and then later moved to Cleveland, ND when her dad took over her grandpa's farm after her grandpa retired. Bev was baptized at St. John's Lutheran Church in Jamestown, ND on 8/22/31. Bev's parents farmed in Cleveland until the 1970's.

Bev is the oldest of four children. Her youngest brother, Jeff, lives near Alvarado, Texas, and her younger sister, Julie (Larry) Mayse, lives in Michigan. Her brother LeRoy, who was two and a half years younger than Bev, died in 2020.

In her early adult years, Bev taught in a country school near Medina, ND. She had 11 students in her classroom, ranging from the early grades up through 6th grade. Bev aspired to be a nurse and through teaching, she was able to afford the tuition for nursing school. She enrolled in the Nursing Program at Sisters of St. Joseph School of Nursing in Fargo. It was here that she met Bernell Bachmeier, who became her roommate and lifelong best friend! Bev graduated in 1953. Her first job after graduation was at St. John's in Fargo and then later at St. Luke's.

Bev met her future husband, Ray, in January of 1954 through a friend. She was 22 and Ray was 25. Ray had just returned from the Korean Conflict. They were married at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead, MN on August 7, 1954. Ray was in management and worked for the Straus Clothing Store, which had stores in both Fargo and Grand Forks.

After moving to Grand Forks, Bev continued



working as a nurse at Valley Memorial Home which at that time was located on Almonte Ave. Bev and Ray joined University Lutheran Church in 1957. In 1963, Bev and Ray built a house on the south side of town and Sharon Lutheran was a new church that was closer to their home, so they began going to Sharon. The congregation gathered for worship at Ben Franklin School until the new church building was completed. At that time, Rev. Harold Vold was the pastor. Bev was involved in Circle and Ray was on the Church Council and they both taught church school for many years.

Bev worked for 32 years, only taking 6 years off to have a family. Bev and Ray had 5 kids in 6 years! Their oldest, Debra, lives in Manhattan, NY. She has been on staff at the Manhattan School of Music and is the Vice President of the Naumburg Foundation.

Kinzler

—continued on Page 2

Kinzler**—continued from front page**

Their daughter, Susan, is a Dietician living in Newtown, Pennsylvania. Daughter Lori, (married to Ray) of Aitkin, MN, worked for Boston Scientific and has 4 children. Son John, (married to Tammy), lives here in Grand Forks. They had 3 children, Michal, Madison, and Matthew (deceased.) And their youngest, Tim, works in advertising in Brooklyn, NY, is married and enjoys traveling. Bev and Ray have 6 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren!

After Bev retired from nursing, she worked as a preschool teacher at Sunflake Pre-School for 30 years!

Bev and Ray were married for 63 years! They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family at Gull Lake in Brainerd, MN. Ray passed away 9 years ago.

Bev enjoys several hobbies such as sewing, em-

broidery, cross stitching and making things such as dolls and crafts.

She has fond memories of her grandparents. When she was about 2 years old in Cleveland, ND, she remembered her grandpa teaching her how to dance, specifically, the polka!

Reflecting, Bev says her life has been very full! She's lived through the Great Depression, 2 floods and a tornado (Fargo). She says she wouldn't change anything. She feels very blessed!

Sharon Lutheran Church has been very fortunate to have Bev as a valued member of our congregation. We express our deepest gratitude for her unwavering support and contributions. Her presence has enriched our community, and we are truly grateful to have her as part of our church family!

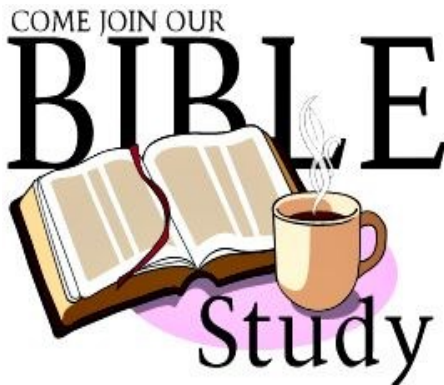


Meet others from Sharon Lutheran at the Lincoln Park parking lot at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, October 4, for a group effort clean-up of our adopted portion of the Greenway.

Sturdy shoes and work gloves are recommended.

Children under 16 should be accompanied by an adult.

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**

Sharon Lutheran's Backpack Program returns

We are now accepting donations again for Ben Franklin Elementary School to provide children in low-income families with extra food during the whole school year. We will pack monthly on the second Sunday of each month. The first packing event will be on September 13th. We invite you to join us by donating the following items:



- Ramen Noodles, Macaroni & Cheese, Juice Boxes (no Capri/Kool Aid pouches)
- Instant Oatmeal Packets (nut-free), Applesauce/Fruit Cups (no fruit snacks)
- Soup (must have pull-open top), Ravioli (canned and with pull-open top),
- Small Bags of Potato Chips

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.

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.

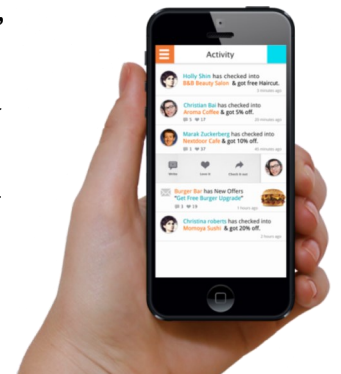
We are here for you!

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.





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 am Celebration Hall

Wednesdays

6:00 pm Celebration Hall