

# Sharon Sharings

Monthly publication of Sharon Lutheran Church | Grand Forks, ND

May 2026

## Expectations, Wishes, and Hope

*"May is the month of expectation, the month of wishes, the month of hope." – Unknown*

The month of May is a time of endings and a time of beginnings. Another school year ends as summer vacation begins. Winter melts into spring and the snow disappears as tulips break through the ground and start to grow. When thinking about what to write in the May newsletter, I thought back to March when I wrote about how March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb. Then I read what Pastor Tawanda wrote in the April newsletter about April Showers, and I jokingly thought maybe I should keep the weather theme going for May. I googled May sayings and I came across the quote that I shared above. "May is the month of expectation, the month of wishes, the month of hope." It is unknown who said it but I think it's true.

Whether you are a student or someone who is looking forward to the summer and vacation or someone who is graduating and looking forward to the future. Or perhaps something else is ending for you and you are looking forward with hope. What are you wishing for? What are you hoping for?

I am looking forward to Vacation Bible School, and vacation time in August. And I am excited about the summer worship series that we are preparing for this summer. More information to come on that soon!

Whatever it is that you are wishing for and hoping for I hope it comes true! And if it doesn't, I remind you to place your hope in the source of true



hope, Jesus Christ. It's alright to hope for earthly things, but God doesn't promise that the weather will always be nice or that we will catch that large Wall-eye that we always wanted to catch or that the mosquitos will never be biting. God doesn't promise a perfect summer or a perfect life. But God does promise eternal life and an abundant life with Jesus. Our hope in Christ gives us a future and something to look forward to. Hope in Jesus gets us through the hot, mosquito infested hard times in life. The summer sun and the sounds of birds and the beautiful flowers remind us of that.

As you go about your summer and as you make plans and wishes for what it will be like. I hope that you know that God is with you and that we are still here as a church for you. You are always welcome for worship and all the other summer activities and ministries that go on at Sharon Lutheran Church.

Deacon Jamie Travers

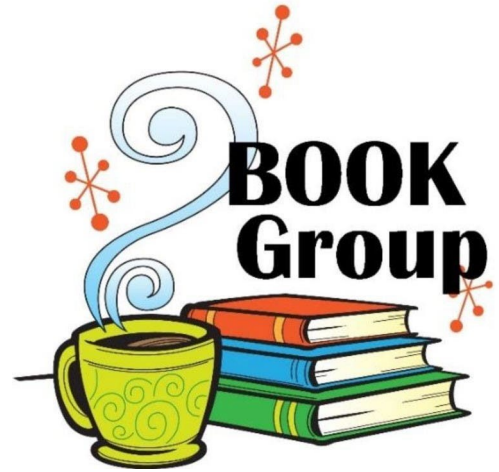
## Sharon Book Group

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)

**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.



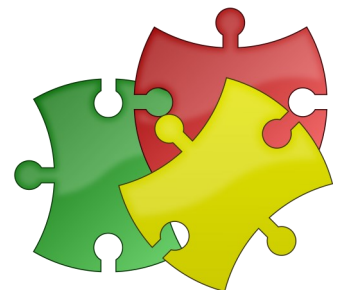
**Summer Read:**

**September 15**


### **A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles**

a beautifully transporting novel about a man who is ordered to spend the rest of his life inside a luxury hotel. In 1922, Count Alexander Rostov is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, and is sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov, an indomitable man of erudition and wit, has never worked a day in his life, and must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide him entry into a much larger world of emotional discovery.

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



# Sharon Lutheran WELCA Annual Meeting



Sharon Lutheran's WELCA will hold their annual meeting on Monday, May 11 at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. Please join us to hear updates, elect Board Members, and approve a budget for next year.



May's Noisy Offering  
will benefit ND Make-  
A-Wish

## 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

# BAPTISM

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, May 17 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 Deacon Jamie or Pastor Tawanda.*

## Golden Age Club Potluck

**Friday, May 8 at 12:00 pm**

Come join the Golden Age Club for the May potluck and celebration! We will gather in Celebration Hall for lunch, conversation, and good times!



# Faith Formation Ministries

May News

## 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 visit the tables in the narthex after worship for more information!



# Faith Formation Ministries

## Greetings and Encouragement to You All!

It is hard to believe that we are at 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. Have a great summer!

**Blessings and peace, Dave**

“May is the new December!” I am sure you have heard that phrase! Families seem to have SO much going on during the month of May. Church School ends at the beginning of May and we look ahead to VBS in June. I hope that this May will be a blessing to you as you make memories and mark milestones. Thank you very much for including Sharon Lutheran in your children’s lives. We LOVE having you here!

**May God Bless You, Heather**



### Important Dates:

**Friday, May 1:** Registration opens for Church School and Confirmation for the 2026/2027 Program Year

**Sunday, May 3:** LAST day of Church School; Spring Dinner fundraiser at 5:00 p.m. in Celebration Hall

**Wednesday, May 6:** LAST day of Wednesday Church School, 6th-9th Grade Confirmation instruction, 5G, and RAFT

**Friday, May 7:** 6th-12th Grade Lock-in begins at 7:00 p.m.

**Saturday, May 8:** 6th-12th Grade Lock-in ends at 7:00 a.m.

**Wednesday, May 27:** 7:00 pm VBS Volunteer Orientation in South Hall

**Sunday, May 31:** VBS Decorating, noon until complete

**Sunday, May 31:** 5 pm VBS Volunteer Orientation

**Monday, June 1:** Polar Expedition VBS from 6 pm to 8 pm

**Tuesday, June 2:** Polar Expedition VBS from 6 pm to 8 pm

**Wednesday, June 3:** Polar Expedition VBS from 6 pm to 8 pm

**Thursday, June 4:** Polar Expedition VBS from 6 pm to 8 pm



### We need LOTS of volunteers to make VBS happen!

Sign up to volunteer on our Signup Genius here: <https://bit.ly/3OaBOgn>

Those interested in volunteering can use our Signup Genius or contact Heather at [education@sharonlutheran.org](mailto:education@sharonlutheran.org) or sign up as a volunteer while registering their children for VBS OR can sign up on the clipboard on the VBS display table in the Narthex. Please communicate any questions that you may have! Thank you so much!



# Faith Formation Ministries

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

As our Church School year draws to a close, we want to thank you for a wonderful year together. Registration for the 2026/2027 program year should be live online on May 1. Please register as soon as you are able as this helps us greatly in our future planning endeavors. Also, be sure to join us for the best week of the summer by signing up for VBS, which is being held on June 1 through 4!

## **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 pm 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 have an end-of-the-year party at our normal time pm Sunday, May 3!

**6th-8th graders**, please note that 5G will conclude with an end-of-the-year party at our normal time (8:15-9:00 pm) on Wednesday, May 6.

We will have a Lock-In for all middle school and high school students from 7:00 pm on Friday, May 8 through 7:00 am on Saturday, May 9. The cost is \$25 per student, which covers all activities, meals, snacks, and other event costs. If you have not registered yet, please contact Dave as soon as possible, as space is limited!

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 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: [tinyurl.com/BibleCampScholarships](https://tinyurl.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!)

## **HIGH SCHOOL NEWS:**

RAFT (weekly fellowship program for high school students) will celebrate our year together with a bowling party at Red Ray Lanes from 7:00-9:00 pm on Wednesday, May 6.

## **Our VBS 2026 Amazon Wishlist is LIVE!**



Please use this link to shop for us. Your generosity helps us to make VBS extra special and memorable. Thank you so much! (Monetary donations marked as "VBS" can also be given to the office or

put into the offering plate. <https://bit.ly/463Y1Tb>



# May 2026

**May's Noisy Offering  
will benefit North  
Dakota Make-A-Wish**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Apr 26	27	28	29	30	May 1	2
<a href="#">9 AM Sanctuary Worship</a> <a href="#">10:30 AM Celebration H.</a> <a href="#">10:30 AM Church School</a> <a href="#">3:45 PM 3-4-5 Alive</a>	<a href="#">1 PM Hannah Circle</a> <a href="#">7 PM Deborah Circle</a>	<a href="#">8:30 AM Faithfully Fit</a> <a href="#">7 PM AI-Anon</a>	<a href="#">9:45 AM Bible Study</a> <a href="#">6 PM Church School</a> <a href="#">6 PM Worship</a> <a href="#">7 PM Choir Practice</a> <a href="#">7:15 PM Confirmation</a> <a href="#">8:15 PM R.A.F.T.</a> <a href="#">8:15 PM 5G</a>	<a href="#">8:30 AM Faithfully Fit</a> <a href="#">5 PM Narcotics Anonym</a>	<a href="#">12 PM AA Noontday</a> <a href="#">7 PM AI-Anon</a>	<a href="#">9 AM AA- Women Carry</a>
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<a href="#">9 AM Sanctuary Worship</a> <a href="#">10:30 AM Celebration H.</a> <a href="#">10:30 AM Church School</a> <a href="#">3:45 PM 3-4-5 Alive</a>	<a href="#">12 PM AA Noontday</a> <a href="#">8 PM AA Unity</a>	<a href="#">8:30 AM Faithfully Fit</a> <a href="#">9:30 AM Prayer Shawl M</a> <a href="#">5:30 PM Stewardship Te</a> <a href="#">6:30 PM Properties Team</a> <a href="#">7 PM AI-Anon</a>	<a href="#">9:45 AM Bible Study</a> <a href="#">12 PM AA Noontday</a> <a href="#">6 PM Church School</a> <a href="#">6 PM Worship</a> <a href="#">7 PM R.A.F.T. Bowling Pa</a> <a href="#">7 PM Choir Practice</a> <a href="#">7:15 PM Confirmation</a> <a href="#">8:15 PM 5G</a>	<a href="#">8:30 AM Faithfully Fit</a> <a href="#">9 AM Quilting</a> <a href="#">1 PM Sharon Cares</a> <a href="#">5 PM Narcotics Anonym</a> <a href="#">6:30 PM Community Cor</a> <a href="#">7 PM Young Adults</a> <a href="#">8 PM AA Unity</a>	<a href="#">12 PM AA Noontday</a> <a href="#">2 PM Golden Age</a> <a href="#">7 PM AI-Anon</a>	<a href="#">9 AM AA- Women Carry</a>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<a href="#">9 AM Sanctuary Worship</a> <a href="#">10:30 AM Celebration H.</a>	<a href="#">12 PM AA Noontday</a> <a href="#">7 PM WELCA - Annual Me</a> <a href="#">8 PM AA Unity</a>	<a href="#">8:30 AM Faithfully Fit</a> <a href="#">6 PM Ed Team</a> <a href="#">7 PM AI-Anon</a>	<a href="#">9:45 AM Bible Study</a> <a href="#">12 PM AA Noontday</a> <a href="#">6 PM Worship</a> <a href="#">7 PM Choir Practice</a> <a href="#">8:15 PM R.A.F.T.</a>	<a href="#">8:30 AM Faithfully Fit</a> <a href="#">5 PM RUMMAGE SALE - EA</a> <a href="#">5 PM Narcotics Anonym</a> <a href="#">5:30 PM Worship Team</a> <a href="#">8 PM AA Unity</a>	<a href="#">NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</a> <a href="#">7 AM Rummage Sale</a> <a href="#">12 PM AA Noontday</a> <a href="#">7 PM AI-Anon</a>	<a href="#">9 AM AA- Women Carry</a>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<a href="#">9 AM Sanctuary Worship</a> <a href="#">10:30 AM Celebration H.</a> <a href="#">4 PM Baptism Orientation</a>	<a href="#">12 PM AA Noontday</a> <a href="#">8 PM AA Unity</a>	<a href="#">8:30 AM Faithfully Fit</a> <a href="#">12 PM Service Providers fo</a> <a href="#">6 PM Church Council</a> <a href="#">7 PM AI-Anon</a>	<a href="#">9:45 AM Bible Study</a> <a href="#">12 PM AA Noontday</a> <a href="#">1:30 PM Rachel Circle</a> <a href="#">6 PM Worship</a> <a href="#">7 PM Choir Practice</a> <a href="#">8:15 PM R.A.F.T.</a>	<a href="#">8:30 AM Faithfully Fit</a> <a href="#">9 AM Quilting</a> <a href="#">1 PM Sarah Circle</a> <a href="#">5 PM Narcotics Anonym</a> <a href="#">7 PM Young Adults</a> <a href="#">8 PM AA Unity</a>	<a href="#">Office closes at noon</a> <a href="#">12 PM AA Noontday</a> <a href="#">7 PM AI-Anon</a>	<a href="#">9 AM AA- Women Carry</a>
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<a href="#">9 AM Sanctuary Worship</a> <a href="#">10:30 AM Celebration H.</a>	<a href="#">OFFICE CLOSED</a> <a href="#">12 PM AA Noontday</a> <a href="#">1 PM Hannah Circle</a> <a href="#">8 PM AA Unity</a>	<a href="#">7 PM AI-Anon</a>	<a href="#">9:45 AM Bible Study</a> <a href="#">12 PM AA Noontday</a> <a href="#">6 PM Worship</a> <a href="#">7 PM VBS Orientation</a>	<a href="#">5 PM Narcotics Anonym</a> <a href="#">8 PM AA Unity</a>	<a href="#">Office closes at noon</a> <a href="#">12 PM AA Noontday</a> <a href="#">7 PM AI-Anon</a>	<a href="#">9 AM AA- Women Carry</a>
	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>		<b>NOISY OFFERING</b>			
31	Jun 1	2	3	4	5	6
<a href="#">9 AM Worship - Sanctua</a> <a href="#">10:30 AM Worship - Cel</a> <a href="#">5 PM VBS Orientation</a>	<a href="#">12 PM AA Noontday</a> <a href="#">6 PM VBS</a> <a href="#">8 PM AA Unity</a>	<a href="#">9:30 AM Prayer Shawl M</a> <a href="#">5:30 PM Stewardship Te</a> <a href="#">6 PM VBS</a> <a href="#">7 PM AI-Anon</a>	<a href="#">9:45 AM Bible Study</a> <a href="#">12 PM AA Noontday</a> <a href="#">6 PM VBS</a> <a href="#">6 PM Worship - Celebra</a>	<a href="#">5 PM Narcotics Anonym</a> <a href="#">6 PM VBS</a> <a href="#">6:30 PM Community Cor</a> <a href="#">7 PM Young Adults</a> <a href="#">8 PM AA Unity</a>	<a href="#">Office closes at noon</a> <a href="#">12 PM AA Noontday</a> <a href="#">7 PM AI-Anon</a>	<a href="#">9 AM AA- Women Carry</a>
<b>NOISY OFFERING</b>						

JOIN SHARON LUTHERAN FOR A

# SPITFIRES

GRAND FORKS

SOFTBALL OUTING!



**SUNDAY, JUNE 21**

ALBRECHT FIELD | GAME TIME: 1:05 PM

INCLUDES:



**\$20**  
PER PERSON!

- HOT DOG OR BRAT +
- + CHIPS & DRINK +
- + GAME TICKET



**PAY IN CHURCH OFFICE BY JUNE 1**

# 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  
Thursday evening!

We are looking for volunteers to direct donators 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!

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Vacation Bible School registration is open!

Scan QR code below to REGISTER NOW!

A graphic for 'POLAR Expedition'. The word 'POLAR' is in large, blue, blocky letters with a white outline. Below it, 'Expedition' is in large, orange, blocky letters with a white outline. A blue banner below the text says 'Where Kids Discover Jesus' Love Is Cool!' in white text. A cartoon penguin wearing a red and green striped scarf stands on the right. The background is a polar scene with icebergs, a sun, and clouds. A QR code is located in the bottom left corner of the graphic.

# 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!



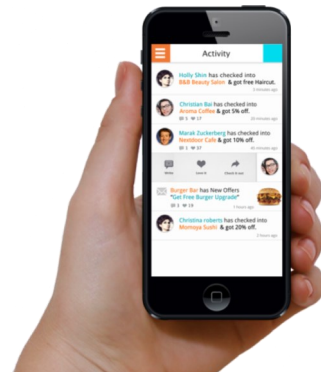
# Text to Give!

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.



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**

*The Church Office will be closing at noon on  
Fridays, beginning May 22.*

### **Worship Times**

#### **Sundays**

**9:00 am Sanctuary,  
10:30 Celebration Hall**

#### **Wednesdays**

**6:00 pm Celebration Hall**

## **SHARON LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

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

