

Sharon Sharings

Monthly publication of Sharon
Lutheran Church | Grand Forks, ND

July 2023

This month:

- Office closed July 4
- Outdoor Worship July 5
- FM RedHawks Outing July 15

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Join us for in-person worship!

Sunday morning at 9:00 in the Sanctuary and Celebration Hall and 10:30 am in Celebration Hall

Wednesday evenings in Celebration Hall beginning at 6:00 pm

Construction Season is here!

I have a new respect for road construction workers and the dangers they face from drivers not heading the construction signs. As many of you know, the intersection at 17th Ave and 20th St has been closed for construction. The first day of closure happened to coincide with our first day of Vacation Bible School. As families were dropping their children off for our 6:00 start time, vehicles were driving through our parking lot at street speeds of 25-35 mph, even though a detour was clearing indicated around 25th Street and 20th Ave S. The next day, both Deacon Jamie and Pastor Tawanda's wife, Bethany, were almost in car crashes with speeding drivers in our lot. We asked for help from the city engineer. Opp construction put up barricades and more signs for our safety. After these

were installed, I watched a driver use a handicapped parking space, sidewalk, and lawn to drive around the barricade. WOW!



I have to think the drivers using our lot as a shortcut around the construction believed they were doing no harm, but their sense of entitlement has been astounding. The cones set up during VBS were simply run over by one pick-up truck driver. The barri-

Construction—continued on Page 2

Directories are HERE!

If you had a photo taken for the church directory, please come to the church and pick up your complimentary copy!



If you did not have your photo taken and would still like a copy of the directory, we do have a few extras available for purchase, \$15 each.



**Interim
Administrative
Pastor Karen
Young Trenne**

**"I wonder at
our sense of
entitlement..."**

Construction—continued from Page 1

ades have been moved during the night multiple times, leaving a mess of sand for us to clean up. It seems as if the drivers' saving time is a higher value to them than the safety of those using our parking lot and the respect for this lot being private property.

I find myself reflecting on the signs that God has given us for our safety and the safety of others: the ten commandments, Jesus' great commandment, the command to forgive, the golden rule. When have we disregarded these rules, rationalizing our



reasons for doing so that no one is getting hurt? I wonder at our sense of entitlement, that our lives be comfortable and joy filled, maybe at the expense of someone else? Surely the devil wants to tempt us into thinking that these rules are for someone else.

reasons for doing so that no one is getting hurt? I wonder at our sense of entitlement, that our lives be comfortable and joy filled, maybe at the expense of

God's kingdom is always under construction. There are times when the direction and path that we have been using is no longer available to us and we need to be open to a new route and way forward. Let's trust that when God's directions tell us to slow down, go another way, or to turn around altogether, that we may not be able to see the hazard ahead. Let's trust that God is caring for us and our neighbors. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."



Happy road construction season!

Items needed for Lutheran World Relief School Kits

It's that time of year to start collecting school supplies for Lutheran World Relief.

The following items are needed
for 1 school kit:

- 1 drawstring bag
- 1 box of crayons 16 or 24 count
- 4 – 70 sheet notebooks
- 1 – pencil sharpener
- 1 – 30 centimeter ruler
- 1 – blunt scissors
- 5 - unsharpened #2 pencils
- 5 – black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 – 2 ½" eraser

These items can be left in the Community Connections Carts.

Thank you from the Community Connections Team.



Interim Updates

Our congregational annual meeting was attended by 51 people. We passed a deficit budget anticipating that changes will need to be made in staffing. The church council has contracted with The Unstuck Group, a church consulting company. This consultation will focus on our staffing structure moving into the future. The mission and ministry of the congregation will be the focus of the project. The Snapshot meetings were attended by 59 people plus the 8 leaders of the meetings. The information we gathered at these meetings will be used during our consultation.

The bench mark for staffing is one program staff member for every 75 in worship. Program staff are clergy, youth, education, and music staff. Our current average worship attendance in person is 335 and our program staff is 6.5 full time positions, making our staffing structure one for every 52 in worship. The recommendation from The Unstuck Group will be

tailored to our congregation. They may recommend a structure slightly different than the bench mark.

The information from the Snapshot meetings and the recommendation from The Unstuck Group will guide the personnel committee and the church council in moving toward a staffing structure that fits the mission and ministry of this congregation. This will also guide the Transition Team in preparing our Ministry Site Profile for the call for a new administrative pastor.

Feel free to contact me or any member of the church council with your questions and concerns. Please hold Sharon Lutheran Church and all of our staff members in your prayers during this time of reflection and consultation.

Pastor Karen

Pastor Tawanda and his wife Bethany are having a baby!

Please join us in celebrating at an **open house** congregational shower on **Sunday, July 23** from 6:30—8:00 pm in South Hall.

Bethany and Pastor Tawanda are registered at Target:
<https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/babymurinda>

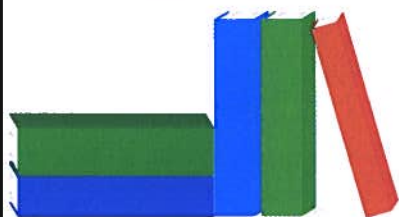


The Somethings - 20's & 30's MINISTRY

Sharon's young adult ministry is done in partnership with
ELCA congregations in the Grand Forks area.

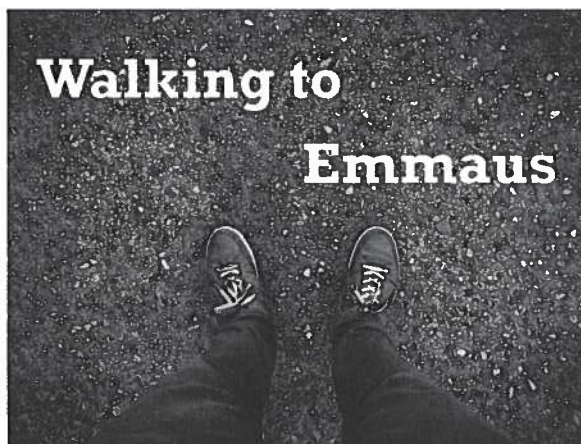
Stay tuned to the Grand Forks Somethings social media pages for information on any young adult gatherings that may happen this summer. Better yet, stop in and chat with Pastor Tawanda and Steve. We love the opportunity to keep connected!

Library Help Wanted



A few years ago, a group of Sharon members coordinated efforts to refresh the library and to create a children's library. We are looking for individuals who would be willing to help keep up with the week to week, month to month simple tasks such as reshelving books, dusting as needed, and preparing new book arrivals for use. If this sounds like something you would like to do—on your schedule when the building is open—please contact the church office at 701-772-3122 or email education@sharonlutheran.org.

Walking to Emmaus



A weekly lunch, Bible and Walking Group for all ages. We will meet each Thursday at noon at Columbia Mall Food Court. Once the weather warms up, we will move outside. You can bring your own lunch if you want, or purchase one at the mall, or don't bring one at all! Deacon Jamie will provide a short devotion while we eat and then we will walk. You can walk as far and as long as you want.

By God's Grace... We are :
Created to Worship, Called to
Teach,
Committed to Serve.



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

Faith Formation Ministries

July News

THANK YOU!

WE APPRECIATE ALL WHO HELPED with Maker Fun Factory Vacation Bible School! To our decorators, our donors, our volunteers, our staff, and our Education Team, we say THANK YOU!

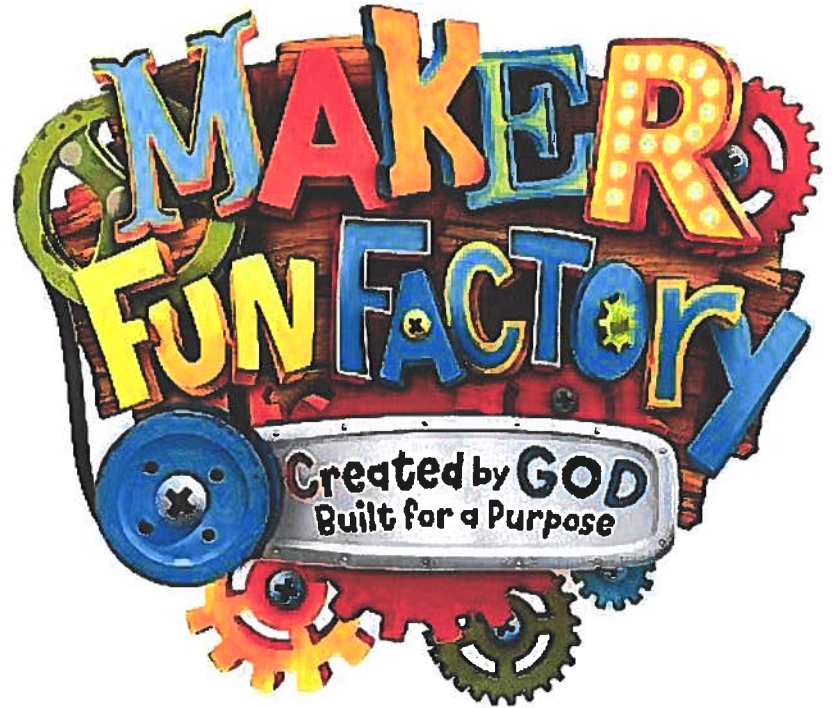
God made you. WOW, God!

God is for you. WOW, God!

God is always with you. WOW, God!

God will always love you. WOW, God!

Kids and adults, along with our resident robot P139 and his animal friends, explored these themes through Bible adventures, crafts, snacks, games, and music. We had the opportunity to share our music with the congregation at outdoor worship, and we experimented with crystals, spin art, and more in crafts. We built s'mores and marshmallow and pretzel creations for snacks, and ran relay races, used the parachute, and built structures from cardboard pieces during games. And these were just a few of the many gears turning throughout the first full week of June! THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN ANY WAY!



Mission Trip to Milwaukee complete

Our middle school and high school students had an amazing experience on their mission trip to Milwaukee, Wisconsin last month. We hope that you followed along with us on our journey through the "Sharon Lutheran Faith Formation Ministries" group on Facebook, and we have many more stories, photos, and memories to share with all of you!

UPPER ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

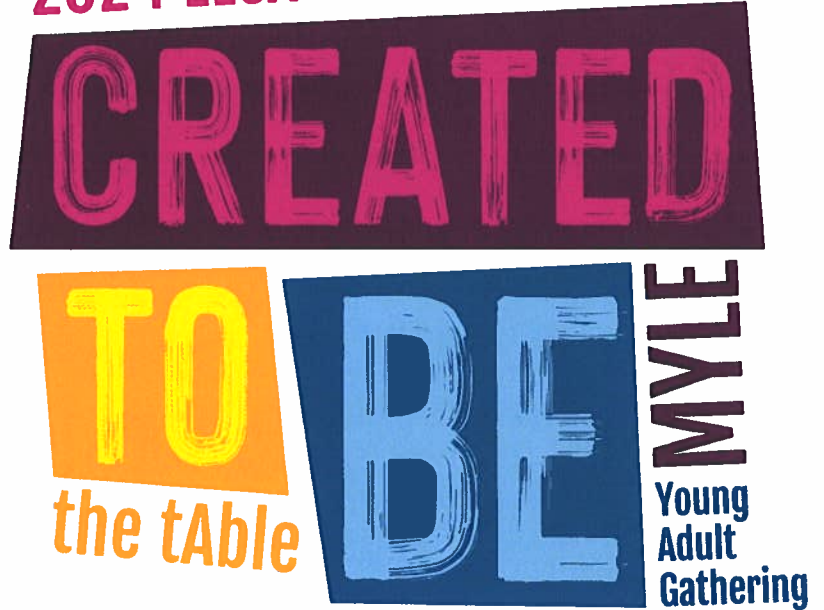
Regular 6th-8th grade Confirmation instruction and 5G (weekly middle school fellowship) will resume in September. 3-4-5 Alive (weekly upper elementary fellowship) will resume in October. Thank you to our students, their parents and guardians, and all of our volunteers for a great year of learning and fun. Have a great summer, and we'll see you in the fall!

Faith Formation Ministries

High School News

If you are a student that will be in grades 9-12 this coming fall, please make plans to join us for the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 16-24, 2024! Contact Steve for more information!

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering



GREETINGS AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO YOU ALL!

Hi there! If you have any students who might be interested in summer Bible camps, we happen to have two great ones right here in our Synod. I'll be spending the week at Park River Bible camp the week of July 16th-21st for their grade 4-6 adventure camp, and I'll be at Red Willow the week of July 23rd-28th for their senior high amp camp for grades 9-12. Summer Bible camps are a huge part of forming faith in our young people. If you are interested please let me know so that I can help you get registered. I'd love to see some Sharon campers this summer! --Steve

With Vacation Bible School and the mission trip to Milwaukee, Wisconsin in the rear view mirror, I want to take this opportunity to give thanks. I appreciate seeing all our students every week, and I enjoy getting to know them and their families as we learn how to follow Jesus together. I wish you all a summer filled with relaxation and blessed time with family and friends. May you use some of your free time to fill your cup in whatever way is most meaningful to you, and may you give grace to others and to yourself when you simply want to rest. Thank you for a great year! --Dave

In July we celebrate Independence Day—our country's freedom and our individual freedoms granted by the Constitution. We can also contemplate the freedom we receive through Jesus Christ when we surrender our concerns to Him.

2 Corinthians 3:17 "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."

May the Spirit of the Lord be with you throughout the summer, so that you have the freedom to love, live, and enjoy life to its fullest.

Grace and Peace—Cheryl

Summary of the 2023 Synod Assembly

On June 3-4, 2023, the Eastern North Dakota Synod, ELCA gathered together at the Holiday Inn in Fargo, ND for the thirty-sixth annual Synod Assembly under the theme of "Equip." There were a total of 293 people in attendance (176 Lay Voting Members; 85 Rostered Minister Voting Members; 32 Visitors).

The business items included hearing reports from officers, adopting the 2025 Synod Mission Plan (budget), election of a new Synod Vice President (Dr. Elna Solvang), elections for Synod Council positions and committees, and adopting four resolutions (some were amended). Participants also heard the State of the Synod from Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth and State of the ELCA from our churchwide representative, Rev. La-mont Wells. We had two uplifting worship services with an emphasis on our Outdoor Ministries and Campus Ministries at Opening Worship and installation of our Synod Vice President at Closing Worship.

There were three workshop sessions with a total of ten different options. Three Equip Experiences included learning about and practicing FAITH5 with Pr. Amy Kippen, a Hand-Stretching Exercise by our Portico Representative, and Lectio Divina with Bishop Tessa. Rostered Ministers and Congregations celebrating significant anniversaries were acknowledged, along with naming the congregations that have experienced Holy Closure in the past year.

A "Food for All Block Party" was held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Saturday evening where financial gifts and food donations were collected for food ministries across the synod. A total of \$3550 was raised.

Outdoor Worship scheduled for Wednesday, July 5 beginning at 6:00 pm



"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" on Sunday, July 16 at 4pm in the church lounge. Please enter through door #1.

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 one of the pastors.

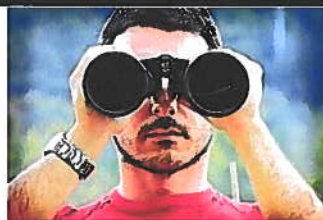
Sponsors are welcome too, in addition to parents.

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 Pastors or Deacon.

**Watch for
2023-24
Church
School registration
info coming soon!**



2023 Summer Stewardship continues!

This year, we are going to Shoot for the Moon, beginning with a Countdown to Ignition. As usual, we have a certain Gravity of our Situation, and we shoot to raise the summer dollars to reach our goal.

We'll have three stages to ascend to the moon. The first stage is *Liftoff*, taking us to \$2,000

The second stage is *Escaping Gravity*, taking us to \$4,000

The third and final stage, *Reaching the Moon*, brings us to a total of \$6,000



All gifts over and above your regular giving will be matched by the IGNITE Challenge. Watch Mission Control in the narthex to track our progress. Grab a rocket envelope and help us give Summer Stewardship a *boost*!

Sharon Lutheran Leadership

Church Properties Team.....	Mary Adams & Fawn Behrens-Smith
Community Connections Team.....	Karen Nygaard & Diane Volden
Education Team.....	Nick Krump
Endowment Committee.....	JT Anderson
Evangelism Team.....	Connley & Sheila Anderson
Fellowship Team.....	Marsha Johnson
Lay Ministry Team.....	Linda Butler
Personnel Committee.....	Peter Tunseth
Public Relations Team	Kerry Heid & Kyle Ellingson
Stewardship Team.....	Steve Moser
Youth Team.....	Stephanie Magenau

Church Council:

Executive Director: Jeff Larson **Assistant Director:** Steve Erlandson **Treasurer:** Traci LaDouceur
At Large: Audrey Kasprowicz, Shawn Senescall, Kristine Sande, and Peter Tunseth

Amount needed in Operating Revenue each month per approved 2022-2023 is \$88,917

Revenue	May Actual 2022-2023	YTD Actual 2022-2023
Current Ministry Gifts	\$81,481	\$787,925
Loose/Misc. Offering Gifts	\$1,504	\$16,310
Operating Fund Memorial Gifts	\$-	\$-
Church School, Confirmation & VBS Registrations	\$450	\$8,490
Benevolence Gifts	\$401	\$9,862
Other Gifts and Donations	\$3,834	\$33,091
2021-2022 Total	\$87,670	\$855,678

	May Actual 2022-2023	YTD Actual 2022-2023
Operating Expenses	\$70,213	\$846,847
Mortgage Debt Reduction	\$-	\$44,347
Total Expenses	\$70,213	\$891,194
Revenue Exceeding Expenses	\$17,457	\$(35,516)

May Designated gifts received:

Capital Campaign-GIFT	\$468
Noisy Offering-Lutheran Disaster Response	\$321
Operating Reserves	\$250
Building & Grounds	\$10,270
Higher Ground Memorials	\$150
Choir Fund Memorials	\$150
Fellowship Donations	\$238
Undesignated Memorials	\$690
Hands Up Program	\$200
Lefse Donations	\$185
Quilters Donations	\$20
Faith Formation Donations	\$25
Confirmation Donations	\$100
Total:	\$13,067



Text to Give!

Sharon Lutheran is now accepting 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.

Memorials:

In memory of...

Gary Swanson: Gloria Hauge;
Shanna Kaufman: Gloria Hauge;

New American Families Need Your Help!

The Global Friends Coalition is receiving New American families once again! There are many opportunities to help. Volunteers are needed to mentor each family unit. These families will need mentors for:

- English tutoring
- Grocery shopping
- Learning how to use their appliances
- Arranging transportation to healthcare appointments and classes
- Learning how to use the public transportation system
- Learning how to get help in emergencies
- Answering other questions about their new home



The following is a list of Welcome Boxes needed for each family. You may donate any item from any of these boxes. Items should be new or in excellent condition if used. Donations may be placed in the west entrance hall close to the donation center.

Living Room Box

Sofa
Lamps
Light bulbs
Vacuum cleaner
Paper, note pads, and envelopes
Pens and pencils
Scissors

Kitchen Box 1

Flatware set
Dinnerware set
Sauce pan
Large pot
Frying pan
Baking dish
Cutting board

Kitchen Box 2

Table
Chairs
Fire extinguisher
Spatulas
Wooden spoons
Kitchen knives
Serving utensils
Can opener

Miscellaneous Box

Dish clothes and towels
Oven mitts
Waste baskets
All purpose cleaner
Cleaning rags
Dish soap and dishwasher detergent
Sponges
Paper towels
Trash bags
Broom and dust pan
Mop and bucket
Laundry detergent

Bedroom Box

(1 per married couple or single adult and 1 per child in each family)

Queen, Full, or Twin bed, including mattress, box spring, and bed frame
New pillow(s)
Mattress pad
Sheet set
Pillow cases
Blanket
Alarm clock

Bathroom Box

(1 per bathroom, some large families may have two bathrooms)

Shower curtain and liner
Shower curtain rings
Towels
Hand towels
Wash clothes
Hand soap
Bathroom cleaner

Hygiene Box

Shampoo and conditioner
Soap or body wash
Razors
Deodorant
Feminine hygiene products
Hair brush and combs
Tooth brushes and tooth paste
Tissues
Toilet paper
Nail clipper

First Aid Box

Digital thermometer
Bandages
Antibiotic cream or ointment
Pain relief medicine
Upset stomach relief medicine
Allergy relief medicine

Tool Box

Hammer
Screw driver
Pliers
Measuring tape
Power strip
Extension cord

Baby Box

Diapers
Wipes
Bottles
Sippy cups
Blankets
Pacifiers
Crib
Crib sheets
Formula
Baby food

Winter Box

(1 per person)

Warm coat
Gloves or mittens
Hat
Scarf
Warm socks

School Box


(1 per student)

Backpack
Notebooks
Pencils
Pens
Crayons
Markers
Colored pencils
Folders
3-ring Binder
Erasers
Glue sticks
Blunt scissors
Ruler

July's Noisy Offering will benefit Lutheran
World Relief School Kits

July 2023

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

						1
2 5th Sunday of Pentecost 9:00 am Worship—CH 10:30 am Worship—CH	3	4  OFFICE CLOSED FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY	5 6:00 pm OUTDOOR WORSHIP	6 12:00 pm Walking to Emmaus	7 OFFICE CLOSES AT NOON	8
9 6th Sunday of Pentecost 9:00 am Worship—Sanctuary 10:30 am Worship—Sanctuary	10 4:00 pm Hannah Circle	11 6:30 pm Properties Team	12 6:00 pm Worship— Sanctuary	13	14 OFFICE CLOSES AT NOON	15 6:00 pm FM RedHawks outing
16 7th Sunday of Pentecost 9:00 am Worship—CH & Sanctuary 10:30 am Worship—CH	17 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	18 1:00 pm Mary Circle	19 1:30 pm Rachel Circle 6:00 pm Worship—CH	20 12:00 pm Walking to Emmaus	21 OFFICE CLOSES AT NOON	22
23 8th Sunday of Pentecost 9:00 am Worship—CH & Sanctuary 10:30 am Worship—CH 4:00 pm Baptism Orientation 6:30 pm Baby Shower for Baby Murinda	24	25	26 6:00 pm Worship—CH NOISY OFFERING	27 12:00 pm Walking to Emmaus	28 OFFICE CLOSES AT NOON	29
30 9th Sunday of Pentecost 9:00 am Worship—CH & Sanctuary 10:30 am Worship—CH NOISY OFFERING	31					



1720 South 20th St
Grand Forks, ND 58201

701-772-3122
www.sharonlutheran.org

Join us for Outdoor Worship July 5 at 6:00 pm

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

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 - Thursday 8:30am to 5:00pm
Friday 8:00am to Noon