

Stories of Faith and Hope

4/2 Community Action— “Do Something”
- Carol Hagen & Rod
Gigstad

4/9 Grief and Hope—
“One Day (When We
All Get to Heaven)”-
Matt Dahlen

**Join us for
in-person
worship!**

**Sunday mornings
at 9:00 am in the
Sanctuary, and
10:30 am in
Celebration Hall.**

**Wednesday
evenings in
Celebration Hall
beginning at 6:00
pm**

**Out of town for
the weekend?**

**Join us on
YouTube each
Sunday.**

Sharon Sharings

Monthly publication of Sharon
Lutheran Church | Grand Forks, ND

April 2025

Hope & Easter

With Easter upon us, I've been thinking a lot about hope. Hope is this beacon that guides us through difficult times. It is like a lighthouse on a stormy sea, casting its light and directing ships to a safe harbor. Hope represents the unwavering belief that a brighter future is possible, and gives us the strength to navigate our present challenges.

A song that has been inspiring hope in me lately, is a rendition of Psalm 107 by Wendell Kimbrough called Oh Give Thanks. The chorus of the song is below:

*Oh give thanks to the LORD for His
love endures forever!*

*We were wandering and lost, and our
Father brought us home*

*To a safe dwelling place, to a feast of
joy and laughter*

*Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is
good!*

Whenever I listen to the song, I
can't help but feel hopeful. The song

reminds me that
even if I feel lost or
even when I am in
a difficult place,
God is faithful and
his love is enduring.
It is a call for us to
give thanks to go
through it all.

This April, what
are you thankful
for? Where are you
finding hope? Spring
is upon us and the
plants are blooming. The grass is turn-
ing green again. The birds are flying
north and children are playing outside.
Hope is around us and there is plenty
to be thankful for.

Lastly, Easter is coming! The mes-
sage this year is the same as it has al-
ways been: Jesus Christ is risen, and he
is risen indeed! Alleluia!

~Pastor Tawanda Murinda



**Associate
Rostered
Minister
Tawanda
Murinda**

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 13

9:00 am Sanctuary
10:15 am Palm Sunday Parade (NEW!)
10:30 am Celebration Hall

Wednesday, April 16

No worship service

Maundy Thursday, April 17

6:00 pm Celebration Hall

Good Friday, April 18

12:00 pm Sanctuary
6:00 pm Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 20

8:30 am Celebration Hall
9:00 am Sanctuary
9:45 am Celebration Hall
10:30 am Sanctuary
11:00 am Celebration Hall

Please notify church of hospitalizations

Due to HIPAA laws, Deacon Jamie and Pastor Tawanda do not know when a member is in the hospital unless someone notifies the church. Gone are the days when the pastor could call or stop by the hospital and ask which of the church's members had been admitted. Family and friends should notify the church (with the family's permission) and tell us. Thank you!



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 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

April 15, 2025

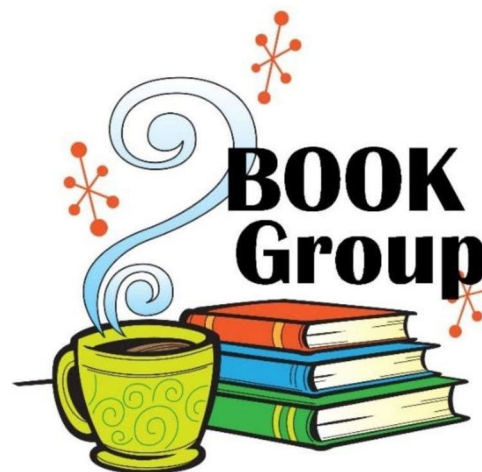
Heaven and Earth Grocery Store By James McBride

In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new housing development, the last thing they expected to uncover was a human skeleton. Who the skeleton was and how it got buried there were just two of the long-held secrets that had been kept for decades by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side, sharing ambitions and sorrows.

May 20, 2025

The Anxious Generation By Jonathan Haidt

In *The Anxious Generation*, social psychologist Jonathan Haidt lays out the facts about the epidemic of teen mental illness that hit many countries at the same time. He then investigates the nature of childhood, including why children need play and independent exploration to mature into competent, thriving adults. Haidt shows how the "play-based childhood" began to decline in the 1980s, and how it was finally wiped out by the arrival of the "phone-based childhood" in the early 2010s. He presents more than a dozen mechanisms by which this "great rewiring of childhood" has interfered with children's social and neurological development, covering everything from sleep deprivation to attention fragmentation, addiction, loneliness, social contagion, social comparison, and perfectionism. He explains why social media damages girls more than boys and why boys have been withdrawing from the real world into the virtual world, with disastrous consequences for themselves, their families, and their societies.



Women of Sharon

The Women of Sharon invite you to join one of our Circles and/or attend our monthly WELCA Board meetings.

Hannah Circle (Bible Study & Service Projects) meets the SECOND Monday of each month at 4:00 pm at SLC in the Lounge. **Karen Axvig, 701-610-1056**

Mary Circle (Gather magazine Bible Study) meets the THIRD Tuesday of each month at 1:00pm in a

member's home. Contact: **Ruth Thorson, 701-775-2706**

Sarah Circle (Gather magazine Bible Study) meets the THIRD THURSDAY of each month at 1:30 pm at SLC in the lounge. Contact: **Jeannie Sollom, 218-779-8646**

Rachel Circle (Gather magazine Bible Study) meets the THIRD Wednesday of each month at 1:30 pm in the lounge. Contact: **Yvonne Nel-**

son 701-746-9272

Esther Circle (Book/Bible study format) Meeting dates will vary, text Emilie for info. Contact: **Emilie DeKrey 701-388-8355**

Deborah Circle (Currently focusing on studying women of the Bible) meets the LAST Monday of each month at 7:00pm at SLC in the Lounge. Contact: **Heather Peters, 701-429-7087**

Our **April WELCA Board Meeting** will be held at 7 pm on Monday, April 14 in the Rose of Sharon Lounge. All are welcome to attend!

Our **Annual WELCA Business Meeting** will be held on Monday, May 12 in the Sanctuary. Please attend as we vote on the budget for the following year and discuss other important topics.

Are you interested in being on the WELCA Board? We currently are asking any interested parties to contact Karen Axvig or Marsha Johnson about this opportunity. If you are interested in running for any Board position, we would love to give you more information!



Sunshine Hospitality Home

At Sunshine Hospitality Home, they believe it is in challenging times like these that the power of hospitality and generosity is needed most of all. Whether the guests are traveling now or in the future, their

team is ready to welcome them with the warmth and compassionate care they deserve on their journey of health.

Sunshine Hospitality Home staff are available to support patients during this time to offer hospitality services and coordinate reservations with in-town hotel partners who offer reduced rates when our Home is full.

Altru's Sunshine Hospitality Home is a place of comfort, compassion and convenience for pa-

tients and their families who must travel for healthcare needs. Comfortable and homelike, the Home allows individuals to stay close to their loved ones to assist with care, rehabilitation, home care teaching and support. It is conveniently situated west of Altru's Columbia Road campus across from Sertoma Park.

(Courtesy of Sunshine Hospitality Home)

This month's Noisy Offering recipient

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**



Do you have **LARGE** jungle-themed stuffed animals that you would be willing to lend to Sharon as we prepare to go on a jungle-themed adventure for VBS? Please contact Heather Peters or any member of the Ed Team if you can help!

"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 27 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 one of the Rostered Ministers.

Faith Formation Ministries **April News**

Ope. We Have a Dinner!



(Meal, Silent Auction, and Raffle to support the middle school mission trip to Duluth, MN)

Sunday, May 4 at 5:00 pm in Celebration Hall

Please watch for more information in the Narthex this month, and make plans to compete in one of three contests:

Best Hot Dish

Best Salad

Best Bars

CHURCH SCHOOL (Preschool through 5th grade)

It is hard to believe that we are already in the final few weeks of Church School, but soon we will be on break for summer. **We are ending Church School a week earlier than originally planned.** The last day of Sunday Church School will be Sunday, May 4 and the last day of Wednesday Church School will be Wednesday, May 7. More details on an End of Year Party to come!

UPPER ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL:

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 meet on April 6, 13, and 27, but we will not meet on Easter Sunday, April 20.

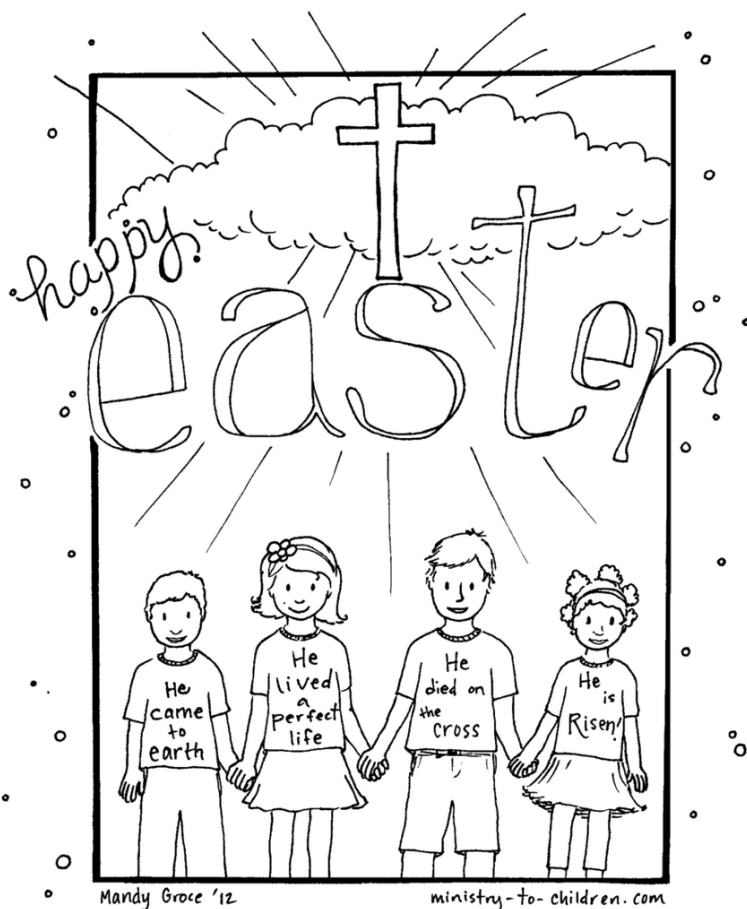
5G (weekly fellowship program for 6th-9th graders) will resume on Wednesday, April 30 and celebrate with an end-of-the-year party on May 7. Please watch for more information about a lock-in on Friday, May 9!

Faith Formation Ministries

Greetings and Encouragement to You All!

It is hard to believe that we are already midway through the season of Lent and counting down the days until Easter. It has been so much fun learning, serving, and growing alongside all of you this year! 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 here! I am always excited when spring is here. With the month of April, comes Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Please take time to make this a meaningful Lenten and Easter season with your children as you teach them about what Jesus did for each of us!! **May God Bless You, Heather**



IMPORTANT DATES:

Wednesday, April 2: 6th Grade Milestone Ministry ("The Ten Commandments") at 7:15 pm

Palm Sunday, April 13: NO Church School

Holy Wednesday, April 16: NO Church School

Maundy Thursday, April 17: 5th Grade Communion Celebration at 12:00 pm and 6:00 pm worship services in Celebration Hall

Easter Sunday, April 20: No Church School

Wednesday, April 23: Student/Parent/Guardian public forum on "Healthy Relationships" at 7:15 pm in the Sanctuary; no 5G

Sunday, May 4: Last week of Sunday Church School

Sunday, May 4: "Ope, We Have a Dinner" (meal, silent auction, and raffle) at 5 pm

Wednesday, May 7: Last week of Wednesday Church School, 6th-9th grade Confirmation Instruction, 5G, and RAFT

Friday, May 7: Middle School lock-in begins at 7:00 pm

Saturday, May 10: Middle School lock-in ends at 7:00 am

VBS is almost here!

VBS is coming! Our 2025 theme is Baobab Blast and we will be going on a safari! Save the dates now: VBS is June 2-5 from 6-8 pm.

VBS REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!! Register on our website today. Please contact us with any questions!

How can you help NOW? We are looking for people who would like to help with the planning and décor because our staff and our Education Team is already thinking about VBS. We need YOU to make our VBS even more awesome. Please contact Heather Peters at 701-429-7087 for details on how you can help.

We are also asking for cash donations to help pay some of the VBS expenses. Mark these donations for VBS so the office knows your intention. Many of you like to shop our Amazon wish list each year and we may create one closer to the time, but have decided that we would like to be purchasing over the next few months in order to be well prepared and your cash donations will help us have more freedom as to where we make these purchases. Thank you for your support!

Do you have LARGE jungle themed stuffed animals that you would be willing to lend to Sharon as we prepare to go on a jungle themed adventure for VBS? Please contact Heather Peters or any member of the Ed Team if you can help!

Come join us for a Palm Sunday Parade, April 13 at 10:15! Worship will be at the normal time of 9:00 and 10:30, but there will be an optional celebrational Palm Sunday Parade outside (if the weather is nice) which will lead into the 10:30 service. If you prefer to come for the 9:00 service, you can still join us for the parade. We will gather outside door #1 or if the weather doesn't cooperate, we will gather in the Sanctuary.



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

Golden Age Club

Friday, April 11 at 2:00

Come join us on Friday, April 11 at 2:00 pm for fellowship, devotions and dessert. Lillian Elsinga will be presenting the program in April.

Let our light so shine!

Look for the poster in the narthex!

The Properties Team is having a fundraiser to upgrade the canister lighting in our building. Each light costs \$150. If you wish to brighten our church home, gifts can be designated to Property Team Lighting. For every \$150 raised, a light will be added to the chandelier.

You do not have to give increments of \$150! Every dollar counts! Our goal is to raise enough money to purchase 70 lights. At the time of publication, we have raised enough money to purchase 30 lights.

If you'd like to see what the new canister lights will look like, please stop by the north bathrooms (near Door 4). There are three new lights above the water fountain.

Amount needed in Operating Revenue each month per approved 2024-2025 is \$77,334

Revenue	February Actual 2024-2025	YTD Actual 2024-2025
Current Ministry Gifts	\$51,788	\$552,428
Loose/Misc. Offering Gifts	\$1,152	\$10,428
Operating Fund Memorial Gifts	\$-	\$-
Church School, Confirmation & VBS Registrations	\$120	\$7,170
Benevolence Gifts	\$284	\$5,492
Other Gifts and Donations	\$3,270	\$25,835
Total	\$56,614	\$601,353

	February Actual 2024-2025	YTD Actual 2024-2025
Operating Expenses	\$69,768	\$526,716
Mortgage Debt Reduction	\$-	\$20,092
Total Expenses	\$69,768	\$546,808

Revenue Exceeding Expenses	\$(13,154)	\$54,545
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February Designated gifts received:

Operating Reserves	\$250
Noisy Offering-Love Feast	\$397
Fellowship Donations	\$224
Higher Ground Memorials	\$150
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$917
Sharon Cares Memorials	\$40
Undesignated Memorials	\$518
Choir Fund Memorials	\$150
Bathroom Update	\$97
Canister Lights	\$2,925
Souper Bowl-St. Joseph's Food Bank	\$30
Faith Formation	\$25
Operating Reserve interest	\$58
Church School Offering	\$185

TOTAL: \$5,966

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 Sharon | 720, (One word!) hit send. You will receive a message to click to complete your gift to Sharon Lutheran Church.

**April's Noisy
Offering will
benefit
Sunshine
House**





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

NEW HOURS THIS YEAR:

Thursday, May 15, 6-8 PM is the **Early Bird Sale** with a **\$5 entry fee.**

Friday, May 16, 7AM - 4 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:

Monday, May 12, 10 am - 5 pm

Tuesday, May 13, 10 am - 7 pm

Wednesday, May 14, 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.

Lenten Soup-er Meals

"A warm bowl of soup is a remedy for both body and spirit."

Served from 5:15-6:30 pm each week.

Menu (subject to change!):

April 2: Chili Cook-Off

April 9: Chicken Wild Rice

Also, there will be a gluten-free vegan option each week.

Servers are needed each week as well as volunteers to bring desserts each week!

Watch for sign-up in the narthex.

Freewill donations appreciated in support of the Feed My Starving Children

Call Mary Adams 701-739-5520 with questions

April 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
April's Noisy Offering will benefit Sunshine Hospitality House		1 8:30 am Faithfully Fit 9:30 am Prayer Shawl 5:00 pm OA 5:30 pm Stewardship Team, 7:00 pm Al Anon Primary Purpose 8:00 AA Primary Purpose	2 9:45 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Noonday 5:15 pm Worship—Sanctuary 6:00 pm Worship—CH 6:00 pm Church School 7:15 pm 6th Grade Milestone Ministry	3 8:30 am Faithfully Fit 5:00 pm NA 6:30 pm Community Connections Team 8:00 pm AA Unity	4 12:00 pm AA Serenity 7:00 pm Al-Anon TGIF	5 9:00 am AA-Women Carrying the Message 8:00 pm AA Unity
	6 9:00 am Worship—Sanctuary 10:30 am Worship—Celebration Hall 10:30 am Church School 3:45 pm 3-4-5 Alive!	7 12:00 pm AA Noonday 8:00 pm AA Unity 6:15 pm Fellowship Team 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	8 8:30 am Faithfully Fit 5:00 pm OA 6:00 pm Youth/Ed Teams 7:00 pm Al Anon Primary Purpose 8:00 pm AA Primary Purpose	9 9:45 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Noonday 5:15 pm Worship—Sanctuary 6:00 pm Worship—CH 6:00 pm Church School	10 8:30 am Faithfully Fit 9:00 am Quilters 1:00 pm Sharon Cares 5:00 pm NA 5:30 pm Worship Ministries Team 8:00 pm AA Unity	11 12:00 pm AA Serenity 2:00 pm Golden Age Club 7:00 pm Al-Anon TGIF
	12 9:00 am AA-Women Carrying the Message 8:00 pm AA Unity	13 Palm Sunday 9:00 am Worship—Sanctuary 10:15 am Palm Sunday Parade (NEW) 10:30 am Worship—Celebration Hall NO CHURCH SCHOOL 3:45 pm 3-4-5 Alive!	14 12:00 pm AA Noonday 4:00 pm Hannah Circle 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm WELCA Board 8:00 pm AA Unity	15 1:00 pm Mary Circle 5:00 pm OA 6:00 pm Properties Team 7:00 pm Al Anon Primary Purpose 8:00 pm AA Primary Purpose NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 9:45 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Noonday 1:30 pm Rachel Circle NO WORSHIP SERVICE NO CHURCH SCHOOL	17 Maundy Thursday 8:30 am Faithfully Fit 1:30 pm Sarah Circle 5:00 pm NA 6:00 pm Worship—CH 8:00 pm AA Unity
	18 Good Friday 12:00 pm AA Serenity 12:00 pm Worship—Sanctuary 6:00 pm Worship—Sanctuary 7:00 pm Al-Anon TGIF	19 9:00 am AA-Women Carrying the Message 8:00 pm AA Unity	20 Easter Sunday 8:30 am Worship—CH 9:00 am Worship—Sanctuary 9:45 am Worship—CH 10:30 am Worship—Sanctuary 11:00 am Worship—CH NO CHURCH SCHOOL	21 12:00 pm AA Noonday 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 8:00 pm AA Unity OFFICE CLOSED	22 8:30 am Faithfully Fit 5:00 pm OA 6:00 pm Church Council 7:00 pm Al Anon Primary Purpose 8:00 pm AA Primary Purpose	23 9:45 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Noonday 6:00 pm Worship—CH 6:00 pm Church School 7:15 pm Gr. 6-9 Confirmation 8:15 pm RAFT 8:15 pm 5G NOISY OFFERING
	24 8:30 am Faithfully Fit 9:00 am Quilters 4:30 pm GCCC 5:00 pm NA 8:00 pm AA Unity	25 12:00 pm AA Serenity 7:00 pm Al-Anon TGIF	26 9:00 am AA-Women Carrying the Message 8:00 pm AA Unity	27 Affirmation of Baptism Sunday 9:00 am Worship—Sanctuary 10:30 am Worship—CH 10:30 am Church School 4:00 pm Baptism Orientation NOISY OFFERING	28 12:00 pm AA Noonday 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Deborah Circle 8:00 pm AA Unity	29 8:30 AM Faithfully Fit 5:00 pm OA 7:00 pm Al Anon Primary Purpose 8:00 pm AA Primary Purpose





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



HAPPY
Easter

Church Office Hours
Monday - Friday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm
Church Office will be closed on April 21.