

Sharon Sharings

Monthly publication of Sharon Lutheran Church | Grand Forks, ND

July 2026

BACK TO SCHOOL?

While you will receive this newsletter at the beginning of August, I am writing to you in mid-July and it feels very strange to be thinking about school already. But such is life and time, they move on! I am busy getting things ready for my kids as we count down the days to the start of the school year.

At our church here, we have had a life-giving summer. From Vacation Bible School, to mission trips, soccer-themed stewardship activities, picnics, Praise & Graze, Block Party, and great worship! I am in awe at all the wonderful ways that the Holy Spirit is active at Sharon. Our church is an oasis in a challenging world.

Which is why I want to invite you to look forward to and participate in our ministries this Fall. I can claim that our church is life-giving, but you won't understand what that means unless you get yourself involved. Studies continuously show that the people who get the most out of church/religion are the ones who actively participate. So here is an invitation and an update of things happening here at Sharon.

Some of the things that are happening next month at Sharon:

- Weekly Worship: 9:00 am in the Sanctuary and 10:30 am in Celebration Hall starting on September 13th. Wednesdays remain at 6:00 pm in Celebration Hall
- The Backpack Program: packing resumes on September 13th while donations will be accepted starting in mid-August.
- Church School & Confirmation: registration is currently open. Meetings will begin on September 16th and 20th. Volunteers are needed for various opportunities.
- Youth Fellowship: 5G and RAFT resume mid-August
- God's Work Our Hands: our citywide fellow-



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ship, worship, and service event is scheduled for September 23rd.

- And more: look out for updates on WELCA meetings, Circles, Quilting, Faithfully Fit Forever, Bible Studies, Book Club, etc.

While abundance is not a sign of vitality, I hope that it is an encouragement for you to join in and get involved. God is doing amazing things at Sharon and you are part of it already.

I hope you enjoy these remaining days of summer. I look forward to connecting with you soon.

Pastor Tawanda

LIBRARY OPPORTUNITIES FOR KIDS AND ADULTS!

Kids:

We've begun the last summer month before school begins again. It can get hot, and many of the kids' activities have finished up. What can you do on a hot, summer day?



Play, Swim, Go to the Library? Did you know that Sharon Lutheran Church has a library with lots of great books to read here or take home for as long as you like? Come and explore the SLC Children's Library when the office is open (8:30 am-5:00 pm Monday-Thursday; 8:30 am-12:00 pm Friday) or before and after worship on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. We have books for toddlers through young adults, and it's free!

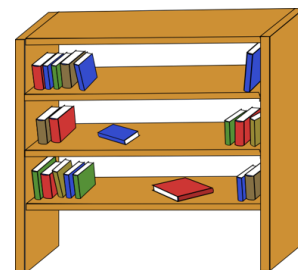
Adults: You, too, can explore the adult and chil-

dren's libraries of Sharon Lutheran Church (see times listed above). There is no check out, just take home what you want and bring it back when you can.

ADULTS, WE HAVE A SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU!

We invite you to volunteer as a Library Caretaker—choose a month or two and help us keep our libraries organized. There are three levels of help we need. Level A—put away returned books and lightly clean shelves and table surfaces. Level B—tasks from Level A plus labeling and preparing newly donated books for the shelves. Level C—tasks from Levels A and B plus periodically checking books for those that have reached their life expectancy or perhaps are too damaged to remain in the libraries.

Training is available for all volunteer levels. For answers to your questions or to volunteer, please contact Cheryl Nyhlen, cnyhl123@gmail.com, or Heather Peters, hpeters@sharonlutheran.org.



Red Willow Bible Camp Quilt Auction

Support Red Willow Bible Camp—one of our synod's camps—by attending the annual auction on Saturday, August 22. Live Auction begins at 12:30 pm. More info available at <https://www.redwillowministries.com/quilt-auction>, or purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win this beautiful quilt pictured at right.



Support Global Refuge

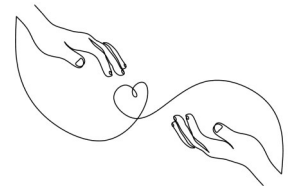
Global Refuge, one of the ministries supported by the ELCA, continues its commitment to the work of welcoming immigrants and refugees. Learn more about the work of Global Refuge at <https://www.globalrefuge.org/>



August's Noisy Offering will benefit Shipping costs for the LWR Kits

Women of Sharon Updates

Many of our Circles take the summer months off. Please inquire with the church office for contact info for these groups. The WELCA Board will meet again in September.



Faith Formation Ministries

August News

It is hard to believe that it is already August, and that means that school is just around the corner! It also means that we are gearing up for another program year at Sharon, and we need your help!

Please register your students for church school

and Confirmation as soon as possible, as it definitely helps our planning. Also, please prayerfully consider volunteering your time to help with these important and impactful programs. Thank you!

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS:

2026/2027 Church School and Confirmation Registration is OPEN!

All Lambs (3 years old by July 31st) through 9th graders should register. Please use this link: <https://bit.ly/426Kyb0>

“Early” registration helps us so much in our planning process over the summer. **REGISTER NOW!** We also need committed volunteers to teach Church School. Please contact Heather at education@sharonlutheran.org with any questions.

UPPER ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS:

Middle school families, please mark your calendars and plan to join us for our 6th-8th Grade Confirmation Student/Parent Orientation Night on Wednesday, September 9th at 7:15 p.m. Confirmation instruction will begin on Wednesday, September 16th. 3-4-5 Alive! (weekly fellowship program for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders) will begin on Sunday, October 4th.

6th-10th grade students and their families should mark their calendars and plan to join us from Friday, September 25th through Sunday, September 27th at the Eastern North Dakota Synod Retreat at Castaway Club!

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS:

Please note that 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 2026-27 9th through 12th graders and their families should plan to attend a special informational meeting about the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9th.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

2026/2027 Church School and Confirmation Registration is open NOW. Our program will start again in September.

Greetings & Encouragement to You All!

We are excited to welcome you back next month, and we also can't wait to hear about everything you saw, did, and learned this summer.

Blessings and peace, Dave

When August gets here every year, I always want time to slow down just a bit as the days of summer seem to just fly by! Please try to relish these summer days together while also looking forward to the exciting new beginnings of September!

May God Bless You! - Heather

Community Connections Team collecting supplies for Lutheran World Relief school kits

For the months of July and August, Community Connections team will be collecting school supplies for LWR school kits. Each kit needs the following:

- 4 – notebooks
- 5 – #2 pencils
- 5 – black or blue pens
- 1 – eraser
- 1 – box crayons either 16 or 24 count
- 1 – pencil sharpener
- 1 – 30 centimeter ruler
- 1 – pair of blunt scissors
- 1 – drawstring backpack style cloth bag

Items can be left in a tote under the TV by South Hall.

Thank you from the Community Connections team.

“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, August 16 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.

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

June Designated gifts received:

Revenue	June Actual 2025-2026	YTD Actual 2025-2026
Current Ministry Gifts	\$55,810	\$813,453
Loose/Misc. Offering Gifts	\$1,158	\$18,881
Operating Fund Memorial Gifts	\$-	\$20
Church School, Confirmation & VBS Registrations	\$350	\$9,760
Benevolence Gifts	\$256	\$9,017
Other Gifts and Donations	\$2,359	\$32,310
Total	\$59,933	\$883,442

Noisy Offering-Circle of Friends	\$297
Backpack Program	\$50
Fellowship Donations	\$207
Higher Ground Memorials	\$150
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$476
Undesignated Memorials	\$95
Choir Fund Memorials	\$150
Bathroom Remodel	\$200
Faith Formation	\$75
	\$1,700

	June Actual 2025-2026	YTD Actual 2025-2026
Operating Expenses	\$82,103	\$848,632
Mortgage Debt Reduction	\$1,098	\$13,979
Total Expenses	\$83,202	\$862,611

Revenue Exceeding Expenses	\$(23,268)	\$20,830
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**Sharon Lutheran:
By God's Grace...Created to
Worship, Called to Teach,
Committed to Serve**

GOAL



EXCEEDED!

We have exceeded our \$5,000 goal for Summer Stewardship 2026! Here is the final tally:

Team Jamie	\$4,576
Team Tawanda	\$4,224.02
Total	\$8,800.02

The Stewardship Team expresses our thanks for your generous response to our Summer Stewardship Drive 2026. We appreciate your support!

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!*

Praise & Graze Gathering – Wednesday, August 19, 6:00 p.m.

Join us for an evening of worship, Holy Communion, and a dessert potluck at Sharon Lutheran Church.

Our theme, "**Taste and See the Sweet Grace of God**," reminds us of God's abundant grace and the feast to come.

This relaxed, one-hour gathering is for all ages. Invite a friend, bring a favorite dessert to share if you'd like, or simply come as you are. If you are able please drop your dessert off at Sharon before 5:30 on August 19.



Come hungry for grace... and dessert! Everyone is welcome.

August 2026

**August's Noisy
Offering will
benefit Shipping
costs for LWR kits**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jul 26 9 AM Worship - Celebra↻ 10:30 AM Worship - Cel↻	27 1 PM Hannah Circle ↻	28	29 6 PM Worship - Celebra↻	30 5:30 PM Block Party	31 Office closes at noon ↻	Aug 1
2 9 AM Worship - Sanctua↻ 10:30 AM Worship - San↻	3	4 5:30 PM Stewardship Tex↻	5 6 PM Worship - Celebra↻	6 6:30 PM Community Cor↻ 7 PM Young Adults ↻	7 Office closes at noon ↻	8
9 9 AM Worship - Celebra↻ 10:30 AM Worship - Cel↻	10 6 PM Ed Team	11 6 PM Properties Team ↻	12 6 PM Worship - Celebra↻	13 5:30 PM Worship Team ↻	14 Office closes at noon ↻	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE↻
16 9 AM Worship - Sanctua↻ 10:30 AM Worship - San↻ 4 PM Baptism Orientation	17	18 6 PM Church Council ↻	19 6 PM Praise & Graze Wo↻	20 1 PM Sarah Circle ↻ 7 PM Young Adults ↻	21 Office closes at noon ↻	22
23 9 AM Worship - Celebra↻ 10:30 AM Worship - Cel↻	24 1 PM Hannah Circle ↻	25	26 9:45 AM Bible Study ↻ 6 PM Worship - Celebra↻	27	28 Office closes at noon ↻	29
			NOISY OFFERING			
30 9 AM Worship - Sanctua↻ 10:30 AM Worship - San↻	31	Sep 1 5:30 PM Stewardship Tex↻	2 9:45 AM Bible Study ↻ 6 PM Worship - Celebra↻	3 6:30 PM Community Cor↻	4 Office closes at noon ↻	5
NOISY OFFERING						



1720 South 20th St
Grand Forks, ND 58201

701-772-3122
www.sharonlutheran.org

By God's Grace...
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Church Office Hours

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

Worship Times

Sundays

9:00 am & 10:30 am

Wednesdays

6:00 pm Celebration Hall

