

Sharon Sharings

Monthly publication of Sharon Lutheran Church | Grand Forks, ND

August 2025

Summer: A time to slow down

This is my first summer as a parent of three. At the beginning of the season, I thought that summer would bring a slowing down of life, but the reality is that my summer has been busy. From vacations to outdoor gatherings and endless to-do lists. With the kids not in school, my wife and I have to make plans for them daily and it is quite taxing.

I'm sure a lot of you can resonate with this. And so, it is fitting that I offer this invitation to you and to myself, to consider how beneath the surface of this bustling season lies an opportunity to slow down, breathe deeply, and reconnect with our spiritual selves.

Just as nature takes a moment to flourish in the warmth and light of summer, so too can we find renewed energy and clarity by intentionally pausing. The longer days offer more daylight hours, which can be seen not just as more time for tasks, but as an extended window for quiet contemplation and spiritual nourishment.

Consider the gentle rhythm of summer. The sun rises earlier, inviting us to greet the day with gratitude. The warmth encourages us to spend more time outdoors, whether in a quiet garden, by a tranquil body of water, or simply observing the beauty of creation from our window. These moments are perfect for spiritual connection.

And so, in a world that constantly urges us to move faster and do more, summer extends a gentle invitation to do less and simply be. It is a season made for reflection, for listening, and for deepening our connection to God.

Let this summer be a sacred time, a season not just for adventures, but for an internal journey of spiritual renewal. Embrace the warmth, the light, and the quiet moments, and allow them to draw you closer to the heart of your spirituality.

I invite you to begin here with this reading of Psalm 46 (The Message)

¹⁻³ God is a safe place to hide,
ready to help when we need him.
We stand fearless at the cliff-edge
of doom,

courageous in seastorm and
earthquake,
Before the rush and roar of oceans,
the tremors that shift mountains.

Jacob-wrestling God fights
for us,

God-of-Angel-Armies protects
us.

⁴⁻⁶ River fountains splash joy, cooling God's city,
this sacred haunt of the Most High.

God lives here, the streets are safe,

God at your service from crack of dawn.

Godless nations rant and rave, kings and kingdoms
threaten,

but Earth does anything he says.

⁷ Jacob-wrestling God fights for us,
God-of-Angel-Armies protects us.

⁸⁻¹⁰ Attention, all! See the marvels of God!

He plants flowers and trees all over the earth,
Bans war from pole to pole,

breaks all the weapons across his knee.

"Step out of the traffic! Take a long,
loving look at me, your High God,
above politics, above everything."

¹¹ Jacob-wrestling God fights for us,
God-of-Angel-Armies protects us.



**Associate
Rostered
Minister
Tawanda
Murinda**

Pastor Tawanda Murinda

Lefse help needed

As summer winds down, of course thoughts of lefse come to mind. As the season starts right after Labor Day, we need to prepare during the summer. The Women of Sharon use the monies made from the sale of lefse and other bazaar sales as our main fundraiser; actually, it's our **ONLY** fundraiser. It takes many people working together to make the bazaar successful.

It does take a village to make the process run smoothly. There is a need this year for new chairpersons. **WITHOUT AT LEAST ONE MORE CHAIRPERSON, WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HAVE LEFSE THIS YEAR!**

If you are interested in helping, please reach out to Mary Adams at 701-739-5520.

Summer Stewardship 2025

In many African cultures, the Baobab is seen as a source of life, providing food, shelter, medicine, and even water. Like the Baobab Tree, the church is a gathering place for all of God's children and a place of shelter, comfort, support and community. At church we gather for community around Jesus Christ. We gather for communion. During these summer months, please help us sustain the ministry and gathering space at Sharon Lutheran.

We will use a depiction of the tree provided for Vacation Bible School (in the narthex). We will measure our progress toward our goal by providing water colored (blue) indicators as we reach \$1,000 levels of the goal (\$8,000). This symbolic tree also provides a guide as we provide contributions to Sharon Lutheran to support our programming during the summer months. Our drive will end on August 24.

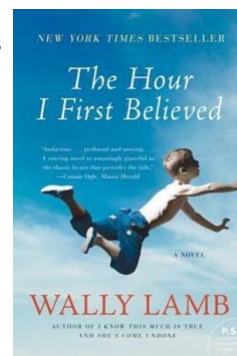
Sharon Book Group

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

Summer Read for September 2025

The Hour I First Believed by Wally Lamb

In *The Hour I First Believed*, Lamb travels well beyond his earlier work and embodies in his fiction myth, psychology, family history stretching back many generations, and the questions of faith that lie at the heart of everyday life. The result is an extraordinary tour de force, at once a meditation on the human condition and an unflinching yet compassionate evocation of character.



When forty-seven-year-old high school teacher Caelum Quirk and his younger wife, Maureen, a school nurse, move to Littleton, Colorado, they both get jobs at Columbine High School. In April 1999, Caelum returns home to Three Rivers, Connecticut, to be with his aunt who has just had a stroke. But Maureen finds herself in the school library at Columbine, cowering in a cabinet and expecting to be killed, as two vengeful students go on a carefully premeditated, murderous rampage.

Women of Sharon Corner

The Women of Sharon invite you to join one of our Circles and/or our WELCA Board Meetings. Please note that WELCA does not plan to have Board Meetings over the summer months. Many of our Circles also "take the summer off" from meeting. If you have any questions about our Circles, please contact Heather Peters at 701-429-7087 and she will provide you with all needed contact information.

Sharon Lutheran to participate in Backpack Program

Starting this fall, our church has partnered with Northlands Rescue Mission in their Backpack Program to provide children in low-income families with extra food during the school year. We have adopted Ben Franklin Elementary School and we will provide meals for the whole school-year.

Soon, we will start a collection of food items that we will pack monthly on the second Sunday of each month. The first packing event will be on September 14.

We invite you to join us by donating the following items:

- Ramen Noodles

- Macaroni & Cheese
- Juice Boxes/
Pouches
- Instant Oatmeal
(nut-free)
- Applesauce/Fruit
Cups

•Fruit Snacks
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.



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.



Our nursery needs some TLC

We have a nursery just waiting for some love and care. With the cooperation of the Properties and Worship Ministries Teams, we are planning to remodel the nursery and breastfeeding areas throughout this summer. But we need your input and help! If you are interested in planning what the nursery will look like, deciding what supplies, toys, or equipment the nursery will have, or want to help with the actual work involved or help with the purchase of these items, please contact : Mary Adams mka@gra.midco.net (701-739-5520), Rod Gigstad gigstad@gmail.com (701-39-5677), or Cheryl Nyhlen cnyhl123@gmail.com (218-779-0247).

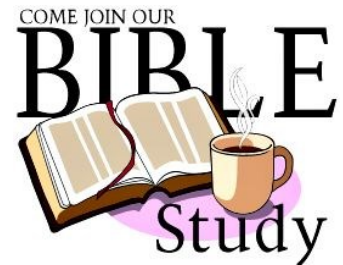
Please notify church of hospitalizations

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!



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**

"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 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; 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

August News

2025 Middle School Mission Trip to Duluth, Minnesota

Back in June, ten middle school students and three adult leaders from Sharon Lutheran Church spent a week in Duluth with an organization called YouthWorks. During the week, they served with community partners such as Benedictine Health Services, Bayshore Care Center, Churches United Food Bank, Damiano Center, Duluth Parks & Recreation, Duluth Stream Corps, and Valley Youth Center. They also participated in a prayer walk, heard from a community member about Duluth's strengths and challenges, and explored the area, including visits to Park Point Beach, Canal Park, and Enger Tower. After checking out of the housing site, the group traveled to the Twin Cities to pack meals for Feed My Starving Children, enjoy a time of recreation at Dave & Busters, and gather for a final night of fellowship and worship before returning home.



This experience was centered around the theme of "Dust." In Jesus' time, there was a saying: "Be covered in the dust of your rabbi." Disciples were expected to follow their teacher's footsteps so closely that they'd be covered in the dust that was kicked up. These trip participants definitely learned to follow Jesus closely, and they are covered in dust. Please ask them about their experiences, and listen for more stories in the weeks to come!

CHURCH SCHOOL (Preschool through 5th grade)

NOW is the time to register your children for next year's Church School/Confirmation program. Classes will begin around the middle of September and we will share more details soon. Registration for the 2025/26 program year is now open! See <https://bit.ly/3ZuIXsY>

We need YOU. We need Church School teachers and assistants for both Sundays and Wednesdays. This program is run by volunteers and we can't do it without you! We make it easy to teach because we do all the prep work for you. Our Church School volunteers make a huge impact in the lives of our church's children. Please contact Heather Peters at 701-429-7087 or at education@sharonlutheran.org.

UPPER ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL:

3-4-5 Alive and 5G have concluded for this program year. We will resume these ministries in the fall. Thank you for your participation! Please contact Dave Berger or go to the link below if you have one or more students attending an ELCA Bible Camp this summer. We have scholarships available, and we also 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! Please see 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:

R.A.F.T.—has concluded for this program year. We will resume high school ministries in the fall. Please watch for more information!

Faith Formation Ministries

Greetings and Encouragement to You All!

It is hard to believe that we are past the midway point of summer and that school will be here soon. In just a few short weeks, we will be talking about getting back into the routines and rhythms of the school year. I hope you all are enjoying all that the warm weather and long nights have to offer, and I can't wait to hear about all of your adventures!

Blessings and peace, Dave

Happy August! I hope you and your families are enjoying the summer months. They always go by far too quickly, don't they? I hope you can squeeze out more fun summer memories before Back to School season is upon us again. Please register your children for Church School soon, because we really look forward to seeing them this fall!

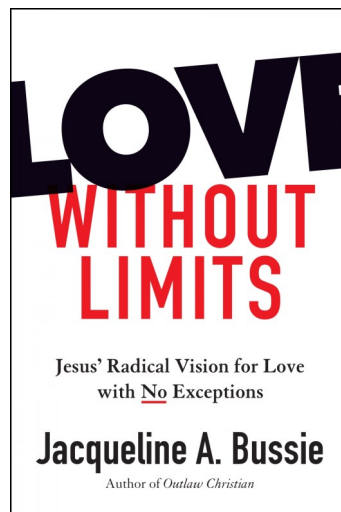
May God Bless You, Heather

Stewardship Team to host book discussion

The Stewardship Team will be hosting a book discussion around Love Without Limits by Jacqueline Busse. The discussion will be held on 9/30/25 at Sharon in the South Hall from 6:00p – 7:30p.

We are looking forward to bringing together all of our congregation for this as stewardship is more than just money. Stewardship is also about our community and bringing everyone together and how we can help out in ways that aren't always financial.

Prior to this, we will be ordering copies of the book. If you would like to get in on the bulk order, books will be \$15 per copy, and we will be ordering



paperback copies only. **Please complete the sign-up genius form no later than 8/8/25.** Payments can be made directly to the office prior to ordering. We will also collect orders at the welcome center on a sign up sheet. All orders should be paid for through check or cash in advance. We want to know about the book order and whether or not you can attend the September 30th event. **We plan to have the copies available no later than the first**

week of September to allow time to read prior to September 30th.

Amount needed in Operating Revenue each month per**June Designated gifts received:**

Revenue	June Actual 2024-2025	YTD Actual 2024-2025
Current Ministry Gifts	\$54,669	\$811,590
Loose/Misc. Offering Gifts	\$794	\$16,535
Operating Fund Memorial	\$1,010	\$1,010
Church School, Confirmation	\$595	\$9,540
Benevolence Gifts	\$330	\$8,546
Other Gifts and Donations	\$3,625	\$36,521
Total	\$61,023	\$883,742

Noisy Offering-Youth Summer Lunch Program	\$338
Fellowship Donations	\$273
Higher Ground Memorials	\$150
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$57
Sharon Cares Donations	\$20
Undesignated Memorials	\$200
Choir Fund Memorials	\$565
Bathroom Update	\$100
Canister Lights	\$1,706
Lutheran World Relief	\$40
St. Joseph's Food Bank	\$215
Faith Formation	\$25
Operating Reserve interest	\$102

	June Actual 2024-2025	YTD Actual 2024-2025
Operating Expenses	\$83,893	\$816,189
Mortgage Debt Reduction	\$11,263	\$14,494
Total Expenses	\$95,156	\$830,683

Revenue Exceeding \$(34,133) \$53,059

TOTAL: \$3,791



**August Noisy
Offering will
benefit Ben
Franklin Back-
pack Program**

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!

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!

News from the Properties Team!!



Many wonderful things have happened:

We are incredibly grateful to a **member** of Sharon who also gave the Properties Board a gift of

\$5,000.00.

A **\$700.00** grant was given from the **Sharon Endowment Fund.**

A generous grant was also from the following:

The Board of the **Walter and Barbara (Reishus) Pederson Lutheran Foundation** awarded our church **\$4,500.00** to apply toward the church hallway and room lighting project.

These funds were used to update the lighting in the following areas: entryways, hallways, and office area. The Celebration Hall kitchen and lower-level youth room will also be upgraded with new LED lighting.

Properties received another gift of **\$10,000.00**. The Properties Team made the decision to have the ceilings of the Sanctuary and Celebration Hall painted.

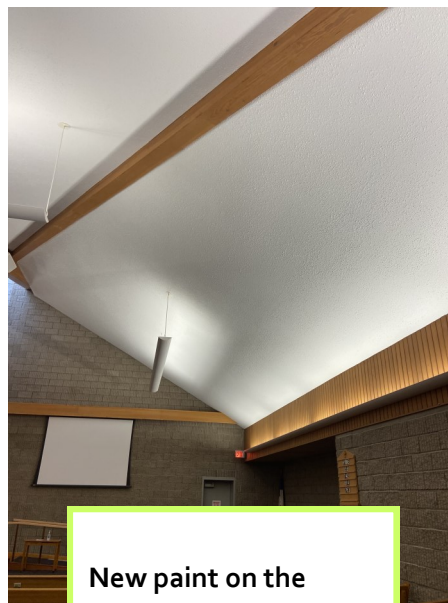
The roof had been replaced so what better time to repair and repaint! This was done with the gift and monies from our rummage sale.

We are nearing our fundraising goal to replace the canister lights! Thank you to all who contributed or are planning to contribute!!!

There are a few things to get done such as painting of the Nursery and replacing the remaining classroom lights. Hopefully, we can get these projects completed before fall! Thank you all for your gifts and helping hands as we work to make our worship and gathering spaces more welcoming!



New lighting in the
education hallway



New paint on the
Sanctuary ceiling



New lighting in hallway
near Door 1

August 2025

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

					1 12:00 pm AA Serenity 7:00 pm Al-Anon TGIF	2 9:00 am AA-Women Carrying the Message 8:00 pm AA Unity
3 9:00 am Worship— Celebration Hall 10:30 am Worship— Celebration Hall	4 12:00 pm AA Noonday 8:00 pm AA Unity	5 5:00 pm OA 5:30 pm Stewardship Team 7:00 pm Al Anon Primary Purpose 8:00 pm AA Primary Purpose	6 9:45 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Noonday 6:00 pm Worship—CH	7 5:00 pm NA 5:30 pm Worship Team 8:00 pm AA Unity	8 12:00 pm AA Serenity 7:00 pm Al-Anon TGIF	9 9:00 am AA-Women Carrying the Message 8:00 pm AA Unity
10 9:00 am Worship— Sanctuary 10:30 am Worship— Sanctuary	11 12:00 pm AA Noonday 8:00 pm AA Unity	12 5:00 pm OA 6:00 pm Properties Team 7:00 pm Al Anon Primary Purpose 8:00 pm AA Primary Purpose	13 9:45 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Noonday 6:00 pm Worship— Sanctuary	14 1:00 pm Sharon Cares 5:00 pm NA 6:30 pm Community Connections 8:00 pm AA Unity	15 12:00 pm AA Serenity 7:00 pm Al-Anon TGIF NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 9:00 am AA-Women Carrying the Message 8:00 pm AA Unity
17 9:00 am Worship— Celebration Hall 10:30 am Worship— Celebration Hall 4:00 pm Baptism Orienta- tion	18 12:00 pm AA Noonday 8:00 pm AA Unity	19 5:00 pm OA 6:00 pm Church Council 7:00 pm Al Anon Primary Purpose 8:00 pm AA Primary Purpose	20 9:45 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Noonday 6:00 pm Worship—CH	21 1:00 pm Sarah Circle 5:00 pm NA 8:00 pm AA Unity	22 12:00 pm AA Serenity 7:00 pm Al-Anon TGIF	23 9:00 am AA-Women Carrying the Message 8:00 pm AA Unity
24 9:00 am Worship— Sanctuary 10:30 am Worship— Sanctuary	25 12:00 pm AA Noonday 8:00 pm AA Unity	26	27 9:45 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Noonday 6:00 pm Worship— Sanctuary NOISY OFFERING	28 5:00 pm NA 8:00 pm AA Unity	29 12:00 pm AA Serenity 7:00 pm Al-Anon TGIF	30 9:00 am AA-Women Carrying the Message 8:00 pm AA Unity
31 9:00 am Worship— Celebration Hall 10:30 am Worship— Celebration Hall NOISY OFFERING						



**August's Noisy Offering
will benefit Ben Franklin
Backpack Program**



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

<p>Church Office Hours Monday - Thursday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Friday 8:30 am to Noon</p>
