



1720 South 20th St
Grand Forks, ND 58201

701-772-3122
www.sharonlutheran.org

Join us for Outdoor Worship June 7 at 6:00 pm

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

Sharon Lutheran Staff

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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

This month:

- Outdoor Worship June 7
- Congregational Meeting June 14
- Dress Like Dad Day June 18

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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

Sharon Sharings

Monthly publication of Sharon Lutheran Church | Grand Forks, ND

June 2023

Stewardship and Martin Luther's Catechisms

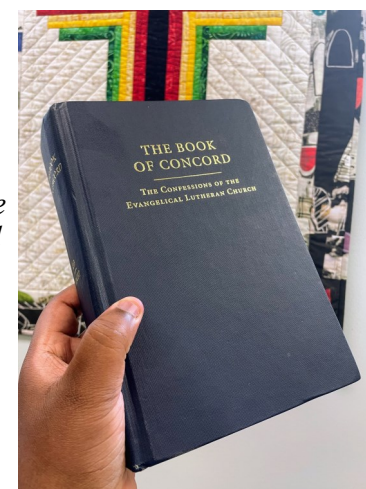
You may have seen or heard about the Ignite Challenge - an invitation to consider increasing your offerings to help the church catch up to the needs of the budget. Soon, the Stewardship Team will launch the Summer Stewardship Campaign. And so, amidst all this talk about giving and money, I dived into my old Book of Concord to see what Martin Luther had to say about this subject.

The Book of Concord (see picture) is a collection of writings by 16th Century reformers, most notably Martin Luther and Philip Melancthon. These writings form the foundation of Lutheran Doctrine. Included in the Book of Concord are Martin Luther's Small and Large Catechisms which I

am using for this article. Those of you who went through Confirmation a

generation or two ago remember having to memorize the Small Catechism!

Martin Luther's Catechisms



Stewardship—continued on Page 2

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Wednesday, June 14 | 7:00 pm

Budget!

Ice Cream!

Elections!

SEE YOU THERE!

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

					1 12:00 pm Walking to Emmaus	2 OFFICE CLOSES AT NOON	3
4 Holy Trinity Sunday 9:00 am Worship—CH & Sanctuary 10:30 am Worship—CH NOON—Decorate for VBS 5:00 pm—VBS Volunteer Orientation	5 6:00-8:00 pm VBS	6 9:30 am Prayer Shawl Group 5:30 pm Stewardship Team 6:00-8:00 pm VBS	7 9:45 am Bible Study 6:00-8:00 pm VBS 6:00 pm OUTDOOR WORSHIP	8 12:00 pm Walking to Emmaus 1:00 pm Sharon Cares 5:30 pm Lay Ministry Team 6:00-8:00 pm VBS 6:30 pm Community Connections Team	9 OFFICE CLOSES AT NOON 12:00 pm Golden Age Potluck	10	
11 Second Sunday of Pentecost 9:00 am Worship—CH & Sanctuary 10:30 am Worship—CH	12 4:00 pm Hannah Circle 6:15 pm Fellowship Team	13 6:30 pm Properties Team	14 9:45 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Worship—CH 7:00 pm Congregational Meeting	15 12:00 pm Walking to Emmaus NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 OFFICE CLOSES AT NOON	17	
18 Third Sunday of Pentecost Father's Day Dress Like Dad Day! 9:00 am Worship—CH & Sanctuary 10:30 am Worship—CH	19 5:30 pm Evangelism/ Public Relations Team	20 1:00 pm Mary Circle 5:00 Northlands Rescue Mission Cookout 6:00 pm Church Council	21 9:45 am Bible Study 1:30 pm Rachel Circle 6:00 pm Worship—CH	22 12:00 pm Walking to Emmaus	23 OFFICE CLOSES AT NOON	24 Kane/ Carroll Wedding	
25 Fourth Sunday of Pentecost 9:00 am Worship—CH & Sanctuary 10:30 am Worship—CH 4:00 pm Baptism Orientation NOISY OFFERING	26	27	28 9:45 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Worship—CH NOISY OFFERING	29 12:00 pm Walking to Emmaus	30 OFFICE CLOSES AT NOON		



Associate
Pastor
Tawanda
Murinda

“...use what
we possess in
ways that
thank and
praise God.”

Stewardship—continued from Page 1

help us to see the connection between our faith and our daily lives. Most importantly, they show us how God has called us into community - with God, others, and what God has given and done for us. This community of relationships is what stewardship is; the relationship we have with who we are and what we possess. But it has to come from a place of understanding that what we have comes from God.

Luther explains that the Apostle’s Creed shows us who God is and what God does for us. God creates (First Article), God redeems (Second Article), and God sustains (Third Article). In explaining these articles, Luther explains how generous our God is. God has given us gifts in creation, gifts in redemption, and gifts in sustenance by the Holy Spirit. Everything that we have is from God. What is ours, actually belongs to God.

In explaining the Ten Commandments, Luther explains how trust in God comes first before everything else. In God we find life, goodness, and help. The commandments show

us God’s will for humankind which can be summarized in loving God and loving others (the greatest commandment - love God and love your neighbors). We do this by devoting our lives and possessions to service to God and to others. We also do this through the relationships God has given us in the world and in the Church that God has gathered us into (that “holy catholic church”).

Our response to all of this then, is to use what we possess in ways that thank and praise God. Luther writes, “...because everything we possess, and everything in heaven and on earth besides, is daily given, sustained and protected by God, it inevitably follows that we are in duty bound to love, praise, and thank [God] without ceasing, and, in short, to devote all these things to [God’s] service, as [God] has required and enjoined in the Ten Commandments” (Book of Concord - The Large Catechism, p. 433).

Pastor Tawanda Murinda

Golden Age Club Potluck Friday, June 9

The Golden Age Club will be wrapping up the year before taking a break for the summer with a potluck meal in Celebration Hall at 12:00 noon on June 9.

We will also have devotions, conversation, entertainment, and play some beloved Game Show games. Come join us for a fun afternoon!



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

Sharon Sharings

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Annual Cookout planned for June 20



Our annual cookout at the Northlands Rescue Mission has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 20th with serving to begin at 5:00 pm. Volunteers will be needed to help setup and serve the meal, and donations of salads, bars, and watermelon will also be appreciated.

Sign-up sheets and additional details are located on Signup Genius and at the Welcome Center. Thanks for helping us to make this this a successful event!

~Community Connections Team

Dress Like Your Dad Day, Sunday, June 18

June 18th is Father's Day, so this year, just like we celebrated Mother's Day with a "Dapper Day", we are going to celebrate Father's Day with a "Dress Like Your Dad Day". Which means, you can wear the same outfit, shirt or color as your dad, or wear what your dad wants you to wear or dress like your dad does for church or work. Or maybe you wear one of dad's ties or hats. It really means to wear whatever best represents your father to worship on June 18th.

Just like on Mother's Day there will be FREE FUN photos

for all households and free candy celebrate dad and worship our for all men! Come join in the fun, Heavenly Father!



The Somethings - 20's & 30's MINISTRY

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

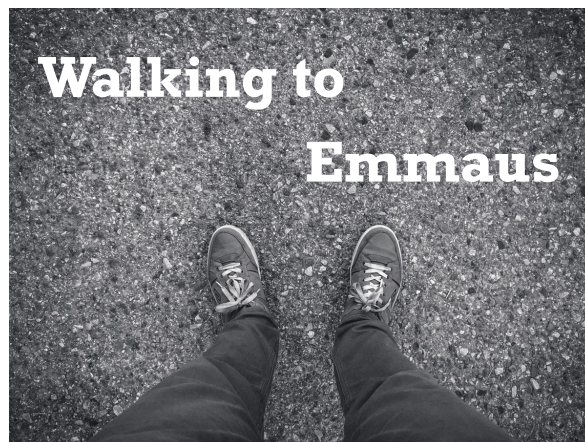
Stay tuned to the Grand Forks Somethings social media pages for information on any young adult gatherings that may happen this summer. Better yet, stop in and chat with Pastor Tawanda and Steve. We love the opportunity to keep connected!

Join us for in- person worship

Sunday Morning 9:00
in the Sanctuary and
Celebration Hall
and 10:30 in Celebra-
tion Hall

Wednesday Evenings
in
Celebration Hall 6:00

Worship will also be
available online on our
website:
www.sharonlutheran.org



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 :
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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: jtrav-ers@sharonlutheran.org



As you may know, Pastor Tawanda and his wife Bethany are expecting a baby in August! The Lay Ministry and Fellowship Teams are planning a baby shower for them on Sunday, July 23, at 6:30 p.m. in South Hall.

More details about the shower will be coming as we get closer to the date. Watch the newsletter and weekly announcements for that information and plan to join in the celebration!



Take me out to the Ball Game!

Sharon Lutheran's Fellowship Team is organizing a trip to see the Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks play the Sioux City (Iowa) Explorers Friday, July 15, 6:00 p.m. Newman Outdoor Field, Fargo
\$12.50 per person group tickets. Watch for more details!



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

Revenue	April Actual 2022-2023	YTD Actual 2022-2023
Current Ministry Gifts	\$94,841	\$706,444
Loose/Misc. Offering Gifts	\$2,926	\$14,807
Operating Fund Memorial Gifts	\$-	\$-
Church School, Confirmation & VBS Registra- tions	\$550	\$8,040
Benevolence Gifts	\$534	\$9,461
Other Gifts and Donations	\$2,321	\$29,256
2021-2022 Total	\$101,172	\$768,008

	April Actual 2022-2023	YTD Actual 2022-2023
Operating Expenses	\$81,882	\$776,633
Mortgage Debt Reduction	\$-	\$44,347
Total Expenses	\$81,882	\$820,980

Revenue Exceeding Expenses	\$19,290	\$(52,972)
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April Designated gifts received:	
Capital Campaign-GIFT	\$1,143
Noisy Offering-Love In Action	\$425
Operating Reserves	\$200
Building & Grounds	\$150
Sharon Cares Donations	\$340
Higher Ground Memorials	\$150
Choir Fund Memorials	\$175
Fellowship Donations	\$225
Undesignated Memorials	\$885
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$1,169
Easter Flowers	\$350
Coffee Maker	\$125
Lefsa Memorial	\$20
Wednesday Fellowship Meal-Lenten Meal	\$546
Faith Formation Donations	\$30
Church School Donations	\$237
Total:	\$6,170



Text to Give!

Sharon Lutheran is now accept-
ing 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 re-
spond to a specific need in sec-
onds. Just text to 73256, hit
next, type Sharon1720, (One
word!) hit send. You will re-
ceive a message to click to com-
plete your gift to Sharon Lu-
theran Church.

Memorials:

In memory of...

Gary Swanson: Bob & Sue Kerr, Gary & Renae Huseby, Pete & Carolyn Tunseth, Larry & Ramona Halvorson, Norm & Lisa Enerson, Schawnn Deckser & Fred Galinas, Dale & Jeannie Sollom,;

David Moen: Kathy Smiley, Gary & Renae Huseby, Claudia Cleveland, Ardell & Fern Bunde, Loretta Wittmer, Donna Mattson;

Shirley Christian: Terry Fontaine, Rich & Karen Axxvig, Dale & Jeannie Sollom, Yvonne Nelson, Ruth Thorson, Bev Walsh, Marie Cole, Inez Knain, Larry & Ramona Halvorson, Janet Bjornstad, Vicki Ronkowski, Marshal & Carol Guntzburger, Eugene & Kathleen Johnson, Pete & Carolyn Tunseth;

Jewel Moen: Gary & Renae Huseby;
SuEllen Bateman: Rich & Karen Axxvig;

Faith Formation Ministries May News

Gear Up for Maker Fun

Factory Vacation Bible School!

June 5-8, 2023

Monday, June 5– Thursday, June
8 6-8:00 pm each night

Ages 3 years to 5th grade

Registration is open until June 4th for 3-
year-olds through current 5th graders!
Please visit sharonlutheran.org, click on
“events,” and choose “Event Registration.”
Click on the “Register Here” button under
“Vacation Bible School 2023.”

Click the SignUp Genius link from the
Sharon website to **VOLUNTEER FOR
VBS** (sixth grade through adult.) OR—text
or call Cheryl at 218-779-0247 or email [edu-
cation@sharonlutheran.org](mailto:education@sharonlutheran.org) for more infor-
mation. If you would like to **HELP WITH
DECORATIONS** prior to the VBS dates,
please let us know that too!



Thank you!

Thank you so much for all of the ways
that you supported “The Best WURST Din-
ner Ever!” With your help, we met and sur-
passed our fundraising goals, and we are
now turning our attention to the final prep-
arations for our middle school/high school
mission trip to Milwaukee, Wisconsin (June
11—17). We will share updates from our
journey in the “Sharon Lutheran Faith For-
mation Ministries” group on Facebook. We
appreciate your prayers and encourage-
ment!

Important Dates

June 5-8: Vaca-
tion Bible School
6:00-8:00 pm

June 11-17: Mid-
dle School/High
School mission
trip to Milwaukee,
Wisconsin

UPPER ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Regular 6th-8th grade Confir-
mation instruction and 5G (weekly
middle school fellowship) will re-
sume in September. 3-4-5 Alive
(weekly upper elementary fellow-
ship) 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 sum-
mer, and we’ll see you in the fall!

Faith Formation Ministries

GREETINGS AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO YOU ALL!

And that's it! Our Confirmation year is over! It really does seem that those last few weeks after Easter Sunday fly by. I want to give a big thanks to all the people who make this happen every year, especially our adult leaders who show up and walk alongside the students. This is truly a call that our congregation has, and it is the fulfillment of the promises we make to our young people at baptism. As we head into the summer months, please remember that our church doors are still open and we are still here for our youth. They can pop in anytime, call, or text. Just because confirmation and the youth group aren't meeting doesn't mean I won't make time for them. Blessings to all of you as you enjoy the nice weather, and the time away from school. Know that I pray for all of our young people and that God goes with them wherever they are. If I don't see you this summer, I look forward to seeing you again this fall! --Steve

As we wind down another program year with Vacation Bible School and the mission trip to Milwaukee, 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

Summer is just around the corner, but we've experienced the

summer weather already. I hope that you have found time to participate in Vacation Bible School, as a student or as a volunteer. It is guaranteed fast-paced fun with something for all—a little music, a little craft, a little story, a little science, a little physical activity, a little exploration—you get the picture—so picture yourself in the mix for a week of BIG enjoyment. And after that, may your summer begin restfully. May it be a true season of recreation for you all.

Grace and Peace—Cheryl

High School News

Thank you to all of our students in grades 9-12, their parents, guardians, and all of our adult volunteers for helping make this Confirmation year fantastic! We can't do it without you!

2023 Summer Stewardship is here!

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 Kasproicz, Shawn Senescall, Kristine Sande, and Peter Tunseth

Flat Jesus Instructions for Church Leaders:

Just as Flat Stanley has helped children with literacy and geography, Flat Jesus helps children stay plugged into their faith throughout the summer months—giving families a unique opportunity to continually engage in their faith development all summer long!



Guidelines

This summer, bring Flat Jesus with you on your adventures—to the park, your camping trip, and even the pool! Where will your journeys take you and your Flat Jesus?

How to use Flat Jesus:

1. Print Flat Jesus on a double-sided piece of paper, one for each child (set your printer to "center" for best results!)
2. Plan a day for your students to color and cut out their personal Flat Jesus
3. Laminate and give to your students to take with them on their summer adventures

1. Take a picture of yourself with Flat Jesus.
2. Tag Sharon on social media.
3. Use #FlatJesus, or send your photo to

jtravers5@sharonlutheran.org

4. You can also use
#I love My church Sharon

Update on Sharon Lutheran's Ignite Challenge

Lead donors in our congregation have offered to match **EVERY DOLLAR** given over and above your traditional giving, up to \$30,000. Funds raised through the Ignite Challenge, whether it be \$5 or \$5,000, will help Sharon Lutheran to continue our staff's ability to lead the ministries of the church. **Every offering gift matters!**

As of May 23, seventeen members have given one-time additional amounts, totaling \$3,730; eleven members have increased their giving weekly or monthly, totaling \$8,965.

How can you help?

- 1) You can start or increase your direct giving by filling out the direct giving form or go online: www.sharonlutheran.org/giving-1
- 2) Increase your offering over last year's giving via check or cash, using your offering envelopes
- 3) If you have not given in the past, all offerings will be included.



Thank you to all of our Rummage Sale volunteers!

Thank you to all who helped to make the Sharon Lutheran Church Rummage Sale a Big Success!

We had a wonderful group of volunteers! They worked hard all week to set-up, organize and price items. And then our volunteers worked on Friday, May 19 to sell everything, box up leftover items to give to charity and clean up the church!

It was hard work but fun fellowship! And we are happy to announce that we were able to raise \$10,127! This money will likely go towards replacing our aging and leaking roof or additional needed repairs of our church building.

Again, a BIG Thank you to all who participated!!!!



Outdoor Worship scheduled for Wednesday, June 7 beginning at 6:00 pm



Faith in Film



As September is fast approaching, it's time to think about Faith in Film. We're trying to get ideas of movies and dates that will work for most people. Please let Vicki Lindberg know if you might be interested by calling her at 701-757-0928 or emailing her at vlindberg@midco.net. We also will get together after each movie for some good fellowship.



Disbursement of Church School Offering 2022-2023

- \$100 ELCA Good Gifts/Greatest Need
- \$100 St. Jude's
- \$100 Humane Society (Circle of Friends Grand Forks)
- \$200 Altru to benefit children and teens in need
- \$200 Sharon Lutheran Properties Team
- \$200 Sharon Lutheran Helping Hands

In addition, we used our offering to support four service projects:

- EGF Meals on Wheels, bags of fruit
- Thank you "survival kits" for snow plow drivers in Grand Forks
- Flower pots and plants to give to someone to tell them that we care, and that Jesus loves them
- Bird feeders to take care of God's creation



"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, June 24 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.