



Sharon Sharings

Monthly publication of Sharon Lutheran Church | Grand Forks, ND

September 2026

Fall Kickoff:

Worship • Learn • Serve • Belong

As summer gives way to autumn, September offers us the opportunity to begin again. New routines return, students head back to school, and our congregation comes together to begin another season of worship, learning, serving and fellowship.

This month we look forward to gathering for something **NEW**. A Church Potluck Picnic—a wonderful chance to reconnect with familiar friends, welcome new faces, and enjoy good food and conversation. Throughout Scripture, meals remind us of God's generous love and the joy of sharing life together. On Sunday, September 20th after the 10:30 service everyone is invited to a potluck picnic. We hope to set up outside underneath our new tent. If the weather doesn't cooperate we will gather inside.

September also marks the beginning of Church School and Confirmation. We give thanks for our children, youth, teachers, mentors, and families as they grow together in faith. Learning about God's love is a lifelong journey, and every generation has something to share. There will also be opportunities for adults to learn together and for people to share and help others to grow in faith. If you would like to volunteer with our Faith Formation Ministries, please talk to Heather Peters and Dave Berger.

September also means serving. There will be many opportunities to serve in God's name. From Lefse making to Church School. And also, the third annual Greater Grand Forks ELCA God's Work Our Hands Day on Wednesday, September 23 in downtown Grand Forks. Come make a difference in other people's lives and it will also make a difference in your own.

As we celebrate Back to Church this fall, we extend a heartfelt invitation to everyone. Whether you've been here every week or it's been some time since you've joined us, you are welcome. Invite a friend, a neighbor, or a family member to worship with you. There is always room at God's table. On Sunday, September 6 we go back to our school year calendar of 9:00 worship in the Sanctuary and 10:30 worship in Celebration Hall weekly.

May this new season be filled with renewed faith, meaningful friendships, and opportunities to serve Christ together. We look forward to seeing you this September!



Deacon Jamie Travers

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

September 15

A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles

a beautifully transporting novel about a man who is ordered to spend the rest of his life inside a luxury hotel. In 1922, Count Alexander Rostov is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, and is sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov, an indomitable man of erudition and wit, has never worked a day in his life, and must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide him entry into a much larger world of emotional discovery.

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!

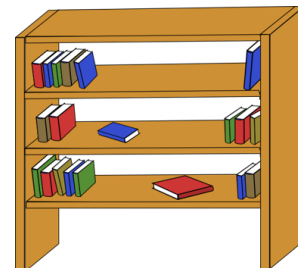
Adults: You, too, can explore the adult and chil-

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.



September News

The 2026/2027 Program Year for Church School and Confirmation is almost here! Register now!

Our kickoff Night for Wednesday Church School and Confirmation is Wednesday, September 16. Our Kickoff Day for Sunday Church School is Sunday, September 20.

Please register your student(s) NOW. All Lambs through 9th Graders need to register. We are busy making lists, securing enough volunteers, and preparing lessons and supplies. We greatly appreciate you registering your student(s) as soon as possible. Please email education@sharonlutheran.org with any questions that you may have. A registration link is below.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS:

2026/2027 Church School and Confirmation Registration:

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

REGISTER NOW! Class lists are being made and we need to plan for enough volunteers; your online registration is crucial!

We also need committed volunteers to teach Church School. Please contact Heather at education@sharonlutheran.org with any questions.

At the time of the writing of this newsletter, we are quite short on Wednesday Church School Volunteers and still have a few needs on Sunday, too. Without enough parents volunteering to teach Church School, we would not be able to offer all grade levels on both days. Please consider helping us out so that we can have another successful year. Thank you!

UPPER ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS:

We look forward to welcoming students and families back this month! Here is some important information for the first few weeks of our program year:

Wednesday, September 9th at 7:15 p.m.: 6th-9th grade Confirmation Orientation

Wednesday, September 16th: First night of 6th-9th grade Confirmation instruction (7:15-8:15 p.m.) and 5G (8:15-9:00 p.m.); registration deadline

for 6th-10th grade Castaway retreat

Wednesday, September 23rd: "God's Work, Our Hands" event in Town Square (5:30-7:00 p.m.); no activities at Sharon Lutheran Church

Friday, September 25th - Sunday, September 27th: 6th-10th grade Castaway retreat (the registration deadline for this event is Wednesday, September 16th)

Sunday, September 27th: Middle School Mission Trip informational meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Celebration Hall

Sunday, October 4th: First day of 3-4-5 Alive! (3:45-4:45 p.m.); 3rd Grade Bible Family Fun Night (5:00-6:30 p.m.)

Sunday, October 11th and Wednesday, October 14th: Bibles are presented to 3rd graders at all worship services

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS:

RAFT (weekly fellowship program for 9th-12th graders) will begin on Wednesday, September 26th at 8:15 pm in the Lighthouse (main level youth room).

Please note that the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering will take place from Monday, June 28th through Friday, July 2nd in Minneapolis, MN. The theme is "Imagine More..." All 2026-2027 9th through 12th graders and their families should plan to attend a special informational meeting about the Gathering on Wednesday, September 9th in Celebration Hall. Time will be announced shortly.

Faith Formation Ministries

September News

Important Upcoming Church School Dates:

Wednesday, September 9th, 6 pm: Church School Volunteer Orientation

Sunday, September 13th, 4 pm: Church School Volunteer Orientation

Wednesday, September 16: First Night of Wednesday Church School

Sunday, September 20: First Day of Sunday Church School

Wednesday, September 23: NO CHURCH SCHOOL



Greetings and encouragement to you all!

Welcome back! We can't wait to hear about everything you saw, did, and learned this summer!

Blessings and peace, Dave

Welcome back to weekly Church School. We can't wait to see you!

May God Bless You! - Heather

Sharon Lutheran Church WELCA Circles

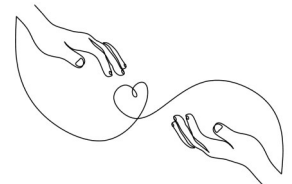
The WELCA Board will meet again in October. WELCA is NOT having a meeting in September.

Hannah Circle meets the FOURTH Monday of each month at 1:00 pm at SLC in the Lounge. Contact Karen Axvig, 701-610-1056

Sarah Circle meets the THIRD Thursday of each month at 1:30 pm at SLC in the Lounge. Contact Jeannie Sollom, 218-779-8646

Rachel Circle meets the THIRD Wednesday of each month at 1:30 pm at SLC in the Lounge. Contact Yvonne Nelson, 701-746-9272

Deborah Circle meets the LAST Monday of the month at 7:00 pm at SLC in the Lounge. Contact Heather Peters, 701-429-7087



September's Noisy Offering will benefit Christus Rex

Castaway Club This fall retreat is for all youth in grades 6-10. Held at Castaway Club near Detroit Lakes, the retreat will include great food, games, music, worship, time spent in God's beautiful creation, and exploration of our theme: "IMAGINE MORE"	6th-10th Grade: Friday, September 25th at 4:30 p.m. through Sunday, September 27th at 3:00 pm.	Sign up TODAY for this awesome, faith-filled weekend by registering with your full payment by September 16th. Thank you!!
	Cost: \$185 *Financial assistance available*	
	<i>Sign-up deadline: Wednesday, September 16th</i>	

All trip info/forms, a covenant, and a packing list will be mailed directly to you.

2026 Castaway Club 6th-10th Grade Retreat Registration

Name: _____ Grade: _____ T-shirt size: _____

Name: _____ Grade: _____ T-shirt size: _____

Name: _____ Grade: _____ T-shirt size: _____

Name: _____ Grade: _____ T-shirt size: _____

Parents/Guardians: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Phone: _____

Text (Y/N) _____ Text (Y/N) _____

E-mail: _____

E-mail: _____

_____ I/we have an interest in serving as adult leader(s) for the Castaway Retreat.
 Name(s): _____

Retreat cost includes a \$191 retreat fee plus the cost of transportation and adult leader registration.

The full cost of the retreat is over \$260/participant and is supplemented by youth stock.

“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, September 20 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 Deacon Jamie or Pastor Tawanda.



Autumn kick-off Invitation: Sharon’s Sanctuary Choir is meeting on Wednesday, Sept 9th at 6 pm in the Choir Room. We welcome interested singers to join us for a light supper and then, please stay for choir practice!

Our friendly bunch of members sing in parts (SATB); there’s a closet full of unclaimed choir robes and an awesome director, Ketina Francois and she is ready to GO!

Practices are typically from 7 to 8 on Wednesdays, and at 8:15 on Sunday mornings to prepare for the 9 am service.

Regular attendance is appreciated, though not mandatory. If possible, just let Ketina know, as it helps her determine which anthems are feasible.

Amount needed in Operating Revenue each month per

Revenue	July Actual 2026-2027	YTD Actual 2026-2027
Current Ministry Gifts	\$66,331	\$66,331
Loose/Misc. Offering Gifts	\$1,155	\$1,155
Operating Fund Memorial	\$-	\$-
Church School, Confirmation	\$400	\$400
Benevolence Gifts	\$284	\$284
Other Gifts and Donations	\$6,243	\$6,243
Total	\$74,413	\$74,413

	July Actual 2026-2027	YTD Actual 2026-2027
Operating Expenses	\$66,671	\$66,671
Mortgage Debt Reduction	\$1,251	\$1,251
Total Expenses	\$67,922	\$67,922

Revenue Exceeding Ex- \$6,491 \$6,491

July Designated gifts received:

Noisy Offering-ND Make a Wish	\$320
Properties	\$1,000
Fellowship Donations	\$175
Higher Ground Memorials	\$150
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$643
Sharon Cares	\$40
Undesignated Memorials	\$50
Choir Fund Memorials	\$150
Bathroom Remodel	\$350
Projector	\$25
Faith Formation	\$45

TOTAL: \$2,948

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

CALLING ALL QUILTERS!

Sharon Lutheran
Lefse Project/Fellowship
2026



Please consider
donating a pound
of butter!

Lefse Making Schedule

Sept. 13, 14, 15
Sept. 20, 21, 22
Sept. 27, 28, 29
Oct. 4, 5, 6

Potato peeling begins
Sundays @ 12:00pm (exception 9/20 @ 2pm)
Mondays @ 7:00am

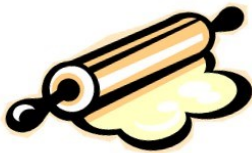
Mondays and Tuesdays
Patty Making Only @ 7:30a.m.

Lefse Making every Mon. & Tues. @ 8:30am
beginning Sept. 14th

Bazaar Sat. Nov. 7, 2026

We are so excited to be able to gather once
again! Looking forward to our time of
fellowship.

Lefse Chair:
Mary Adams, 701-739-5520



Quilting starts on
**Thursday, September
10 at 9:00 am. We will
meet the second and
fourth Thursdays of
each month. If you
have any questions,
contact Jeanne Sollom
at 218-779-8646.**

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!

Faithfully Fit Forever returns!

Class will be starting on Thursday, September 17 in the lower level activity area. We will meet on Thursday's only until lefse season is done on October 6th. Starting on October 13th, class will be on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 8:30am-9:30am.

We will be using the Bone Builders format which is a static exercise which is mostly done by sitting or standing by a chair. We use hand weights which the church supplies. You can also use leg weights but these must be your own. The program includes warmups, endurance, balance, strength, and flexibility, plus a cool down. This program is FREE to both men and women.

People from other churches are welcome to join us. Sherryl Weisenberger is the leader of Faithfully Fit Forever with the help of Karen Axvig and Karen Nelson.

You can sign up at class or by contacting Sherryl at 701-739-0087. Come and join us while we get fit and have a little fun!

September 2026

**September's Noisy
Offering will
benefit Christus
Rex**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug 30 9 AM Worship - Sanctuary 10:30 AM Worship - Sanctuary	31	Sep 1 5:30 PM Stewardship Team	2 9:45 AM Bible Study 6 PM Worship - Celebration	3 6:30 PM Community Connection	4 Office closes at noon	5
6 9 AM Worship - Sanctuary 10:30 AM Worship - Celebration	7	8 6 PM Properties Team	9 9:45 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 6 PM Church School Volunteer 6 PM Worship	10 1 PM Sharon Cares 5:30 PM Worship Team	11	12
13 9 AM Worship - Sanctuary 10:30 AM Worship - Celebration 12 PM Lefse Making 4 PM Church School Volunteer	14 7 AM Lefse Making 6 PM Ed Team	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7:30 AM Lefse Making 6 PM Church Council	16 9:45 AM Bible Study 1:30 PM Rachel Circle 6 PM 1st Session of Church 6 PM Worship 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	17 8:30 AM Faithfully Fit 1 PM Sarah Circle 6 PM Church Council	18	19 4 PM Gader-Shea Wedding
20 9 AM Worship - Sanctuary 10 AM Flu Shot Clinic 10:30 AM 1st Session of Church 10:30 AM Worship - Celebration 11:30 AM Church Potluck Fellowship 2 PM Lefse	21 7 AM Lefse Making 6:30 PM GCCC	22 7:30 AM Lefse Making 1 PM Lillian Elsinga	23 9:45 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Greater Grand For 6 PM Worship 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	24 8:30 AM Faithfully Fit	25	26
27 9 AM Worship - Sanctuary 10:30 AM Worship - Celebration 12 PM Lefse Making	28 7 AM Lefse Making 1 PM Hannah Circle 7 PM Deborah Circle	29 7:30 AM Lefse Making	30 9:45 AM Bible Study 6 PM Worship 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	Oct 1 8:30 AM Faithfully Fit 6:30 PM Community Connection	2	3
NOISY OFFERING			NOISY OFFERING			

Greater Grand Forks Area
ELCA Churches Present

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

Community Service & Learning Event

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

September 23 • Grand Forks Town Square

5:30–7:00 PM

5:30–6:15 PM | Eat + Serve

6:15–7:00 PM | Music + Community

FILL THE
TRUCK 

Bring nonperishable
food items to donate to
St. Joe's Food Shelf

EAT 

everyone's welcome

PACK 

food kits for neighbors

ACT 

learn about food justice
in our area

CONNECT 

music & community



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



GOD'S WORK.
OUR HANDS.





Sharon Lutheran Church **Flu Vaccination Clinic**

Sunday Sept. 20th, 2026
10 AM – 12 PM

Family members are encouraged to come!

Please Bring Your Insurance Card

(A scanned copy or picture of the card is also acceptable)

**Medicare, Railroad Medicare, and
Medicaid accepted (no co-pay for Flu Shots)**

We File Insurance

We accept insurance from:

Aetna

Allied Benefit System

Blue Cross Blue Shield (any state)

Cigna

GEHA

Health Partners

Humana

Medica

Medicaid

Medicare Part B (no co-pay)

Medicare Supplements

Medicare Advantage

Preferred One

Railroad Medicare

Sanford Health

TRICARE, Tricare 4 Life

UCare/MHCP

UMR

United Health Group

Vaccines for Children (VFC)

We provide free vaccine and low-cost vaccine administration for eligible children including uninsured, underinsured, Native American and Alaska Native.

The 2025- 2026 available vaccines include:

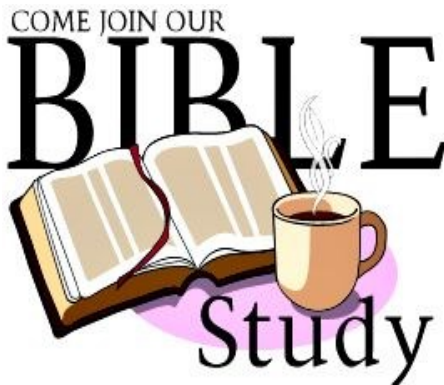
- **Influenza Trivalent** injections for ages 6 months and over, including **High Dose Trivalent** for 65+
- **FluMist** for ages 2-49 years old
- **Moderna Covid** for ages 12+

Available by Special Request

- **Shingrix** for ages 50+. 2 dose series
- **Tdap** tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough
- **MMR** measles, mumps, rubella for 12m+
- **Prevnar** pneumonia
- **RSV** for ages 60+

Questions? Call WelCore Health at (701) 330-4216

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**

Sharon Lutheran's Backpack Program returns

We are now accepting donations again for Ben Franklin Elementary School to provide children in low-income families with extra food during the whole school year. We will pack monthly on the second Sunday of each month. The first packing event will be on September 13th. We invite you to join us by donating the following items:



- Ramen Noodles, Macaroni & Cheese, Juice Boxes (no Capri/Kool Aid pouches)
- Instant Oatmeal Packets (nut-free), Applesauce/Fruit Cups (no fruit snacks)
- Soup (must have pull-open top), Ravioli (canned and with pull-open top),
- Small Bags of Potato Chips

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.

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.

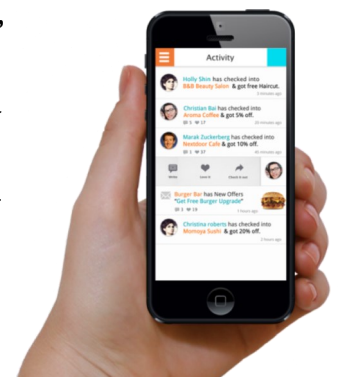
We are here for you!

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.





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

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm
Office will be closed Monday,
September 7 for Labor Day.

Worship Times

Sundays

9:00 am Sanctuary
10:30 am Celebration Hall

Wednesdays

6:00 pm Celebration Hall