Sharon Sharings

Monthly publication of Sharon Lutheran Church | Grand Forks, ND

November 2026

A Season of Gratitude:

Seeing God in the Ordinary

We often think of November as a season of gratitude, with the Thanksgiving holiday coming up at the end of the month. And so, we often ask each other, "What are you thankful for?". We tend to list the major things like family, health, jobs, shelter, vacation, etc. In November we also give thanks on All Saints Day for those who have passed away this year. On Veteran's Day we give thanks to all the Veterans who served our country. We also have family gatherings and meals with friends where we give thanks for all the food that we can stuff into our stomachs.



But I want to invite you to slow down, take a breath and notice the many ways God is at work in our everyday lives. What are the small things that we are thankful for? What are the everyday blessings that we just take for granted? Some of the everyday blessings we sometimes overlook are a shared meal, a helping hand, a kind word or a familiar face in worship. Perhaps that smile and caring conversation that you had with someone. What are those other little daily blessings?

"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever."
— Psalm 107:1

God's love is grand in Jesus Christ, through his life, death and resurrection. But God's love is also small but just as powerful each and every day. God's love is steadfast and it endures with all of us forever. So, take some time to pause and notice the many ways both big and small that God is active in the world and in your life each day. Then give thanks to the Lord.

I invite you to join us at Sharon Lutheran on Tuesday, November 24 for a Thanksgiving Worship Service as we give thanks to God for all those blessings.

Deacon Jamie Travers,
Lead Rostered Minister

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.

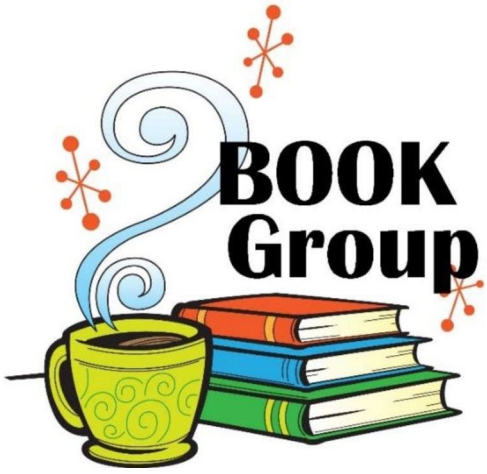
We are happy to be able to meet in person in South Hall. An online option will also continue, so people can join in person or online. The online link is e-mailed out on Mondays. **If you don't already receive that link and would like to, please let Deacon Jamie know. His email is: jtravers@sharonlutheran.org**

Sharon 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

November 17

***Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt**



After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium, mopping floors and tidying up. Keeping busy has always helped her cope, which she's been doing since her eighteen-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat in Puget Sound over thirty years ago. Tova becomes acquainted with curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium. Marcellus knows more than anyone can imagine but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors--until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova.

December 15

A Marriage in Dog Years by Nancy Balbirer

When Nancy Balbirer learns her beloved eleven-year-old beagle has kidney failure, she's devastated. She and her husband had gotten Ira as a puppy—a wedding gift to each other, and their first foray into "parenthood." Now, her dog is terminal, her marriage is on life support, and Nancy is desperate to save them both (whether they want it or not). In a single year, she loses her two best friends, but Nancy's life is about to take yet another unexpected turn. With humor and heart, Nancy Balbirer shares her story of relationships, loss, and canine friendship in this illuminating memoir about the lengths people will go to keep love alive…and the power of finally letting go.

Faith Formation Ministries

November News

WREATH SALES!



Sharon students and their families will be selling wreaths and other decorative items through November 4th to support next summer's trips (middle school mission trip to Rapid City, South Dakota and high school ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, Minnesota). Please stop by the wreath sales table in the Narthex or contact the church office SOON to order your items! Items will be available for-pick up just before the Thanksgiving holiday. Thank you for your support!

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS:

It's already that time of year again where we are planning ahead to the Church School Christmas programs! We will be doing a program called **"The Amazing Story of Christmas."** We will be sending home a sheet in November asking you and your student your preference for parts. Wednesday kids will have their practice on Saturday morning, December 12th, with their Christmas Program on Wednesday, December 16th. Sunday kids will have their practice on Saturday morning, December 19th, with their Christmas Program on Sunday, December 20th.

UPPER ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL:

3-4-5 Alive! (weekly fellowship program for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders) meets on Sundays from 3:45-4:45 pm in the living room (lower level youth room). There is no cost or registration, and friends in third, fourth, or fifth grade are always welcome! This month, we will meet on November 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd, but we will not meet on November 29th due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

5G (weekly fellowship program for 6th-8th graders) will meet from 8:15 -9:00 pm (right after Confirmation instruction) on Wednesday, November 4th and Wednesday, November 18th. We will not meet on November 11th (Veterans Day) or November 25th (Thanksgiving Eve).

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS:

RAFT (weekly Wednesday fellowship program for 9th-12th graders) will meet in the Lighthouse (main level youth room) at 8:15 pm on November 4th and November 18th.

Greetings and encouragement to you all!

It is hard to believe that the holidays are fast approaching! It has been so good to see all of you here each week as we learn, grow, and serve together. Wishing you all the best for a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration filled with family, friends, and gratitude! **Blessings and peace, Dave**

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and then the busy holiday season will be in full swing. I encourage you to take time as a family to talk about all that your have to Thank God for - not just during this season, all year long. Talk about the ways that God provides for you and discuss the many things that happen each day that we should all be so very thankful for! **May God Bless You! - Heather**

Faith Formation Ministries October News

Important Upcoming Church School Dates:



Sunday, October 25th: 10th Grade Affirmation of Baptism (the Rite of Confirmation) at 9:00 am (Sanctuary) and 10:30 am (Celebration Hall); **NO CHURCH SCHOOL**

Wednesday, October 28th: 10th Grade Affirmation of Baptism (the Rite of Confirmation) at 6:00; NO CHURCH SCHOOL, 6TH-9TH GRADE CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION, 5G, OR RAFT

Wednesday, November 11th: NO CHURCH SCHOOL, 6TH-9TH GRADE CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION, 5G, OR RAFT (Veterans Day holiday)

Wednesday, November 25th: NO CHURCH SCHOOL, 6TH-9TH GRADE CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION, 5G, OR RAFT (Thanksgiving Eve)

Sunday, November 29th: NO CHURCH SCHOOL or 3-4-5 Alive (Thanksgiving weekend)

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Monday,
December 21
10:00 am - 6 pm
(One-hour shifts)

At Scheels Main Entrance

Volunteer on Signup Genius!





Golden Age Club – Friday, November 13, 2:00 pm

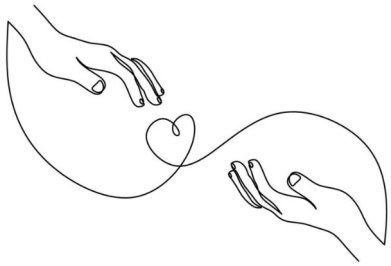
Come join the Golden Age Club for their November gathering at Sharon Lutheran Church. The program will be presented by the Empire Arts Center. They will talk about the history of the Empire Arts Center and about their current season of shows and events. There will also be some special music. Ginny Hutton and Deacon Jamie Travers, who have both performed in shows at the Empire, will be sharing their vocal talents by singing some showtunes.

Sharon LUTHERAN CHURCH

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.





Sharon Lutheran Church WELCA Circles

The WELCA Board will meet on Monday, November 2nd at 7 pm in the Rose of Sharon Lounge. All are welcome!

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 1:00 pm at SLC in the Lounge. Contact Jeannie Sollom, 218-779-8646

Rachel Circle meets the THIRD Wednesday of each month at 1:00 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

"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, November 15 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.

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!

Amount needed in Operating Revenue each month per approved 2026-2027 is $79,667

Revenue	September Actual 2026-2027	YTD Actual 2026-2027
Current Ministry Gifts	$50,827	$175,557
Loose/Misc. Offering Gifts	$1,542	$3,858
Operating Fund Memorial Gifts	$-	$-
Church School, Confirmation & VBS Registrations	$2,350	$6,200
Benevolence Gifts	$266	$808
Other Gifts and Donations	$1,147	$8,426
Total	$56,132	$194,849

	September Actual 2026-2027	YTD Actual 2026-2027
Operating Expenses	$66,631	$199,837
Mortgage Debt Reduction	$1,190	$3,643
Total Expenses	$67,820	$203,480
Revenue Exceeding Expenses	$(11,688)	$(8,631)

September Designated gifts received:

Noisy Offering-Christus Rex	$704
Buildings & Grounds	$10
Backpack Program	$170
Fellowship Donations	$281
Higher Ground Memorials	$150
Thrivent Choice Dollars	$31
Choir Fund Memorials	$150
Bathroom Remodel	$200
Projector	$25
Faith Formation	$25
Church School Offerings	$96
TOTAL:	$1,842

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

November 2026

November's Noisy Offering will benefit North Country Food Bank

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 1 10:30 CH Baptism - Hadley 9 AM Worship - Sanctua 10:30 AM Church School 10:30 AM Worship - Cele 3:45 PM 3-4-5 Alive	2 6 PM Cub Scouts 6:30 PM GCCC 7 PM WELCA Board Mee	3 8:30 AM Faithfully Fit 5:30 PM Stewardship Tea	4 9:45 AM Bible Study 6 PM Church School 6 PM Worship 7:15 PM Grades 6-8 & G 8:15 PM RAFT 8:15 PM 5G	5 8:30 AM Faithfully Fit 6:30 PM Community Cor	6 5:30 PM Hess-Dahlen Wed	7
8 10:30 CH Baptism - Creden 9 AM Worship - Sanctua 10:30 AM Church School 10:30 AM Worship - Cele 3:45 PM 3-4-5 Alive	9 6 PM Cub Scouts 6 PM Ed Team	10 8:30 AM Faithfully Fit 1 PM Lillian Elsinga 6 PM Properties Team	11 9:45 AM Bible Study 6 PM Worship 6 PM No Church School 7:15 PM Grades 6-8 & G 8:15 PM 5G	12 8:30 AM Faithfully Fit 9 AM Quilting 1 PM Sharon Cares	13	14
15 10:30 CH Baptism - Taytum NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9 AM Worship - Sanctua 10:30 AM Church School 10:30 AM Worship - Cele 3:45 PM 3-4-5 Alive 4 PM Baptism Orientation	16 6 PM Cub Scouts 6:30 PM GCCC 7 PM Deborah Circle	17 8:30 AM Faithfully Fit 6 PM Church Council	18 9:45 AM Bible Study 1:30 PM Rachel Circle 6 PM Church School 6 PM Worship 7:15 PM Grades 6-8 & G 8:15 PM 5G	19 8:30 AM Faithfully Fit 1 PM Sarah Circle	20	21
22 10:30 CH Baptism- Harriso 9 AM Worship - Sanctua 10:30 AM Church School 10:30 AM Worship - Cele 3:45 PM 3-4-5 Alive	23 1 PM Hannah Circle 6 PM Cub Scouts 7 PM Deborah Circle	24 8:30 AM Faithfully Fit	25 9:45 AM Bible Study 6 PM Worship 6 PM No Church School 7:15 PM Grades 6-8 & G 8:15 PM 5G	26 OFFICE CLOSED 8:30 AM Faithfully Fit 9 AM Quilting	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28
29 10:30 CH Baptism - Beckha 9 AM Worship - Sanctua 10:30 AM Church School 10:30 AM Worship - Cele 3:45 PM 3-4-5 Alive NOISY OFFERING	30 6 PM Cub Scouts 7 PM Deborah Circle	Dec 1 8:30 AM Faithfully Fit 5:30 PM Stewardship Tea	2 9:45 AM Bible Study 6 PM Church School 6 PM Worship 7:15 PM Grades 6-8 & G 8:15 PM RAFT 8:15 PM 5G NOISY OFFERING	3 8:30 AM Faithfully Fit 6:30 PM Community Cor	4	5

1720 South 20th St
Grand Forks, ND 58201

701-772-3122
www.sharonlutheran.org

By God's Grace…
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Sharon Lutheran Bazaar

Please bring baked good donations to the church by November 6 at 3 pm or before 8 am Saturday the 7th!

Saturday, November 7th 9 am-Noon

Baked goods, world-famous lefse!

WORKERS NEEDED DAY OF BAZAAR!

Church Office Hours

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

Office will be CLOSED Thursday & Friday, November 26 &27 for Thanksgiving.

Worship Times

Sundays
9:00 am Sanctuary
10:30 am Celebration Hall

Wednesdays
6:00 pm Celebration Hall