

## Stories of Faith and Hope

**3/12 Family Love**—  
“Hold Us Together” -  
*Pastor Tawanda*

**3/19 Persevering Faith**— “My Life Flows on in Endless Song” -  
*Dave Berger*

**3/26 Calling**— “You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore” - *Deacon Jamie*

**4/2 Community Action**— “Do Something” - *Carol Hagen & Rod Gigstad*

**4/9 Grief and Hope**—  
“One Day (When We All Get to Heaven)” -  
*Matt Dahlen*

**Join us for in-person worship!**

**Sunday mornings at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary, and 10:30 am in Celebration Hall.**

**Wednesday evenings in Celebration Hall beginning at 6:00 pm**

**Out of town for the weekend?**

**Join us on YouTube each Sunday.**

# Sharon Sharings

Monthly publication of Sharon  
Lutheran Church | Grand Forks, ND

March 2025

## Stories of Faith and Hope

What is your story? Stories are all around us. Each day is a new story or another chapter in our life story. We all have stories to tell. They don't have to be long or dramatic. What is your faith story? How has God been active or silent in your life? The Bible is full of people's faith stories and God's story. As

Christians, we are a part of God's story, and it is a story that we are called to share. Amidst the ups and downs of life, what are the ways that your life and faith flow on in endless song? How does your faith and hope in Christ pull you through, and get you involved in God's story? Can you refrain from singing? From living a life of faith and sharing your story?

Sometimes our stories are ones of perseverance, sometimes stories of family love, sometimes they are call stories. Sometimes our story is a call to action and at other times a story of grief and hope. During this upcoming season of Lent on Wednesdays from March 12<sup>th</sup> through April 9<sup>th</sup> we will be sharing these kinds of faith stories. Stories are not just written or



spoken. Stories can be told in music and art. Stories can be lived out in daily life. Our weekly themes will be based off familiar beloved songs, both old and new.

Each Wednesday we will be inviting members of our congregation to share their stories of faith and hope to inspire us in our own journeys of faith. I invite you to come and hear stories of faith in Scripture, in Song and from fellow church members. If you want to share a part of your story, we will also have opportunities for you to do so.



**Lead Rostered Minister  
Jamie Travers**

Deacon Jamie Travers

# Transfiguration Day Jazz

**Sunday, March 2 at both worship services**

We have assembled a Sharon Lutheran Jazz Combo, which will be playing at both worship services on Transfiguration Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. On the following Wednesday we begin the season of Lent, which is a solemn Christian religious observance in the liturgical year in preparation for Easter. We invite you to join us for worship!



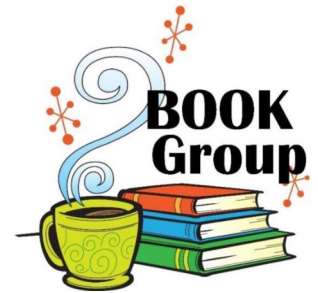
## Please notify church of hospitalizations

Due to HIPAA laws, our 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!

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

## 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](mailto:gigstad@gmail.com)*



**March 18, 2025**

**The Sicilian Inheritance** By Joe Piazza

Sara Marsala barely knows who she is anymore after the failure of her business and marriage. On top of that, her beloved great-aunt Rosie passes away, leaving Sara bereft with grief. But Aunt Rosie's death also opens an escape from her life and a window into the past by way of a plane ticket to Sicily, a deed to a possibly valuable plot of land, and a bombshell family secret. Rosie believes Sara's great-grandmother Serafina, the family matriarch who was left behind while her husband worked in America, didn't die of illness as family lore has it . . . she was murdered.

**April 15, 2025**

**Heaven and Earth Grocery Store** By James McBride

In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new housing development, the last thing they expected to uncover was a human skeleton. Who the skeleton was and how it got buried there were just two of the long-held secrets that had been kept for decades by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side, sharing ambitions and sorrows.

# Women of Sharon

The Women of Sharon invite you to join one of our Circles and/or attend our monthly WELCA Board meetings.

**Hannah Circle** (Bible Study & Service Projects) meets the SECOND Monday of each month at 4:00 pm at SLC in the Lounge. **Karen Axvig, 701-610-1056**

**Mary Circle** (Gather magazine Bible Study) meets the THIRD Tuesday of each month at 1:00pm in a

member's home. Contact: **Ruth Thorson, 701-775-2706**

**Sarah Circle** (Gather magazine Bible Study) meets the THIRD THURSDAY of each month at 1:30 pm at SLC in the lounge. Contact: **Jeannie Sollom, 218-779-8646**

**Rachel Circle** (Gather magazine Bible Study) meets the THIRD Wednesday of each month at 1:30 pm in the lounge. Contact: **Yvonne Nel-**

**son 701-746-9272**

**Esther Circle** (Book/Bible study format) Meeting dates will vary, text Emilie for info. Contact: **Emilie DeKrey 701-388-8355**

**Deborah Circle** (Currently focusing on studying women of the Bible) meets the LAST Monday of each month at 7:00pm at SLC in the Lounge. Contact: **Heather Peters, 701-429-7087**



**Do you have a Cricut die cut machine that you don't use that you would consider donating to Sharon? Do you have one that you would not mind lending to us? Or are you willing to cut shapes for us as we prepare for VBS over the next few weeks and months? Please contact Heather at [education@sharonlutheran.org](mailto:education@sharonlutheran.org) or at 701-429-7087 if you can help.**

**We need your updated contact info!**

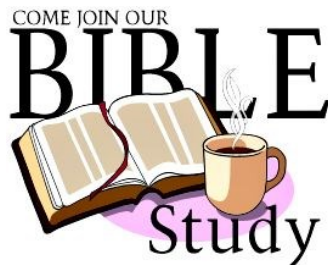
*We need to stay connected!  
We want to be able to keep you updated on church activities!*

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!

# 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](mailto:jtravers@sharonlutheran.org)**



Do you have **LARGE** jungle-themed stuffed animals that you would be willing to lend to Sharon as we prepare to go on a jungle-themed adventure for VBS? Please contact Heather Peters or any member of the Ed Team if you can help!

## "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, March 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](mailto:office@sharonlutheran.org); or speak to one of the Rostered Ministers.**

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

## March News

**GOT  
STOCK?  
GET  
STOCK!**

Thank you for supporting our Youth Stock campaign! Your Youth Stock donation helps provide faith-centered opportunities for our youth to gather, serve, learn, and grow together. Thank you for your continued assistance throughout the year. We are grateful for your prayers, your listening ears, and your financial support.

### Church School (Preschool through 5th grade):

We have been in a long stretch of weeks of Church School with no “breaks” and are so impressed with your attendance. Thank you for coming to our children’s and youth programming here at Sharon. Please watch the bulletins and emails as always for updates and also reminders of upcoming days off over Spring Break.

### Upper Elementary & Middle School:

3rd, 4th, and 5th graders, please join us for 3-4-5 Alive each Sunday afternoon from 3:45—4:45 pm in the Living Room (lower level youth room) at Sharon! There is no cost or registration for this program, and friends in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade are always welcome! We will meet on March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th.

5G (weekly fellowship program for 6th-9th graders will resume on Wednesday, April 23rd (after Easter). We will also meet on April 30th, May 7th, and May 14th. Also, please watch for more information about a lock-in on Friday, May 9th!

### High School:

R.A.F.T.—High School youth meet for fun, fellowship, and faith conversations every Wednesday night at 7:15 pm in The Lighthouse. Friends in high school are welcome!

## **Milestone Ministries in March and April!**

Wednesday, March 5th: 4th Grade (“Gospel of Mark”) at 7:15 pm

Wednesday, March 19th: 7th Grade (“Lord’s Prayer”) at 7:15 pm

Wednesday, March 26th: 8th Grade (“Apostles’ Creed”) at 7:15 pm

Wednesday, April 2nd: 6th Grade (“Ten Commandments”) at 7:15 pm

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**5th graders and families, please watch for information about our special Communion Conversations, and plan to join us for our Communion Celebration at all worship services on Maundy Thursday, April 17th!**

# Faith Formation Ministries

## Greetings and Encouragement to You All!

It is hard to believe that we are already talking about the season of Lent and looking forward to Easter. It has been so much fun learning, serving, and growing alongside all of you! As always, please let me know when you have a concert, game, festival, competition, showcase, or other type of performance, and I will do my best to be there! **Blessings and peace, Dave**

With March arriving, we are nearing the end of the long winter months. Our school aged students will be looking forward to some time off from school (and Church School!) over Spring Break. I hope that this is a time of some renewal for you all. As Lent arrives, we remember too that the hope of spring and with it the promise of Easter is almost here! **May God Bless You, Heather**

### IMPORTANT DATES:

**Wednesday, March 5:** NO Church School (Ash Wednesday) Families are encouraged to attend our Ash Wednesday Services together; 4th Grade Milestone Ministry ("Gospel of Mark") at 7:15 pm

**Sunday, March 9:** NO Church School (Spring Break)

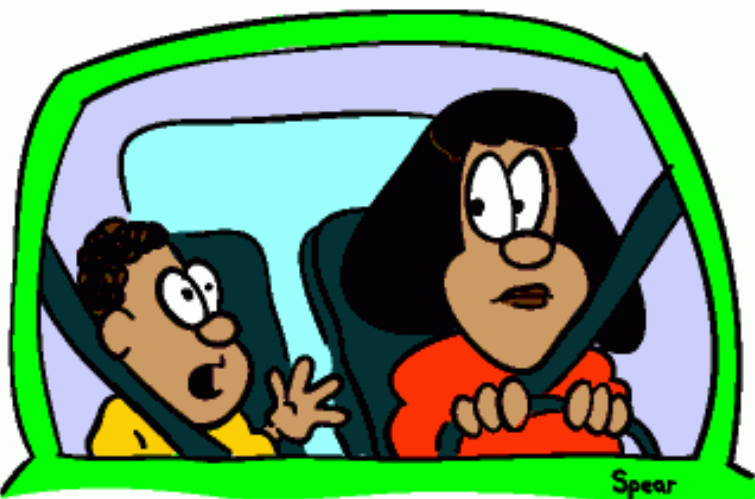
**Wednesday, March 12:** NO Church School (Spring Break)

**Wednesday, March 19:** 7th Grade Milestone Ministry ("The Lord's Prayer") at 7:15 pm

**Wednesday, March 26:** 8th Grade Milestone Ministry ("The Apostles' Creed") at 7:15 pm

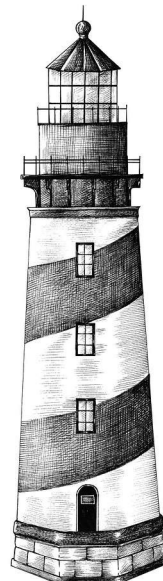
**Wednesday, April 2:** 6th Grade Milestone Ministry ("The Ten Commandments") at 7:15 pm

## SPEARTOONS



"Bobby's family isn't doing their laundry anymore. He said they were giving up something for lint."

© 1999 Kevin Spear Email: kevispear@aol.com  
Web: <http://members.aol.com/kevispear>



### R.A.F.T.

High School youth meet for fun, fellowship, and faith conversations every Wednesday night at 7:15 pm in The Lighthouse. Friends in high school are welcome!

# VBS is coming!

It may seem like it will take **FOREVER** for summer to get here, but it truly **WILL** be here before you know it. And you know what that means, right? **VBS at Sharon!** Our 2025 theme is **Baobab Blast** and we will be going on a safari! **Save the dates now: VBS is June 2 - 5 from 6pm to 8pm.**

**How can you help now? We are looking for people who would like to help with the planning and decor because our staff and our Education Team is already thinking about VBS. We need YOU to make our VBS even more awesome. Please contact Heather Peters at 701-429-7087 for details on how you can help.**

**We are also asking for cash donations to help pay some of the VBS expenses. Mark these donations for VBS so that the office knows your intention. Many of you like to shop our Amazon wish list each year and we may create one closer to the time, but have decided that we would like to be purchasing needed supplies over the next few months in order to be well prepared and your cash donations will help us have more freedom as to where we make these purchases. Thank you for your support!**



## Transportation Opportunity

**Do you or someone you know need a ride to church? The Sharon Cares Team has made arrangements with Grand Forks Taxi to provide transportation to and from church on Sunday mornings. If interested, please call the church office (701-772-3122) and get further details.**

## **Golden Age Club Friday, March 14 at 2:00**

All are welcome to join us for Golden Age in March, where Sue Kerr will be sharing a program about our pipe organ. There will also be devotions, fellowship, and dessert.



Sharon Lutheran will only lend out tables and chairs that are stored in the garage. Those who borrow items from the garage should check in with the office staff before taking them from the property and also check in with the staff when they return the items. Thank you all for your cooperation!

## **Let our light so shine!**

**Look for the poster in the narthex!**

The Properties Team is having a fundraiser to upgrade the canister lighting in our building. Each light costs \$150. If you wish to brighten our church home, gifts can be designated to Property Team Lighting. For every \$150 raised, a light will be added to the chandelier. Our goal is to raise enough money to purchase 70 lights.

## **2025 LENTEN PROJECT**

Red River Valley Community Action is a program that serves low-income individuals, families, senior-citizens, and others in crisis situations. The Community Connections Team has chosen the Red River Valley Community Action for its 2025 Lenten Project. The Team is asking for donations of cleaning supplies, paper goods, brooms, mops, or trash cans. These items can be left at Sharon's Donation cart.

Thank you.

Community Connections Team





**Amount needed in Operating Revenue each month per ap-**

Revenue	January Actual 2024-2025	YTD Actual 2024-2025
Current Ministry Gifts	\$73,002	\$500,640
Loose/Misc. Offering Gifts	\$846	\$9,277
Operating Fund Memorial	\$-	\$-
Church School, Confirma-	\$50	\$7,050
Benevolence Gifts	\$280	\$5,208
Other Gifts and Donations	\$3,161	\$22,564
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$77,339</b>	<b>\$544,739</b>

	January Actual 2024-2025	YTD Actual 2024-2025
Operating Expenses	\$72,749	\$456,948
Mortgage Debt Reduction	\$-	\$-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$72,749</b>	<b>\$456,948</b>

Revenue Exceeding                      \$4,590                      \$87,791

January Designated gifts received:

Operating Reserves	\$250
Noisy Offering-Feed My Starving Children	\$487
Fellowship Donations	\$247
Building & Grounds Donations	\$4,114
Higher Ground Memorials	\$150
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$174
Sharon Cares Memorials	\$70
Undesignated Memorials	\$493
Choir Fund Memorials	\$150
Bathroom Update	\$97
Organ repair	\$60
Souper Bowl-St. Joseph's Food Bank	\$100
Faith Formation	\$25
Operating Reserve interest	\$64
Church School Offering	\$149

TOTAL: \$6,630

**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 Sharon|720, (One word!) hit send. You will receive a message to click to complete your gift to Sharon Lutheran Church.



March's Noisy Offering will benefit **Red River Children's Advocacy Center**



## LOVE FEAST 2025



Members of Sharon Lutheran Church will be serving lasagna, Texas toast, salad, and dessert for approximately 225 people on March 25th at the Zion Methodist Church Love Feast. The Love Feast is an evening of community fellowship that meets at Zion the last Tuesday of the each month (except December) from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Many guests attending the Love Feast meal live alone and often eat alone. The Love Feast gives them an opportunity to socialize and visit with others.

This year guests can sit and eat at the church or they can have a take-out meal. If you would like to volunteer, please use Sign – Up Genius or use the sign-up

sheets at the Welcome Center. If you have any questions, please contact Jeannie Sollom at 772-8376.

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## 2025 Lenten Soup-er Meals

*“A warm bowl of soup is a remedy for both body and spirit.”*

*Served from 5:15-6:30 pm each week.*

Menu (subject to change!):

**March 5: Vegetable Beef**

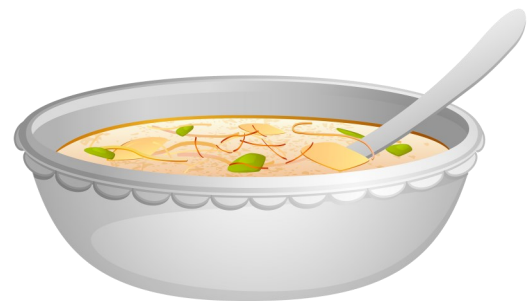
**March 12: Chicken Noodle**

**March 19: Midwest Ham Chowder**

**March 26: Knoephla**

**April 2: Chili Cook-Off**

**April 9: Chicken Wild Rice**



Also, there will be a gluten-free vegan option each week.

Servers are needed each week as well as volunteers to bring desserts each week!

**Watch for sign-up in the narthex.**

Freewill donations appreciated in support of the Feed My Starving Children

Call Mary Adams 701-739-5520 with questions

# March 2025

**SUN**

**MON**

**TUE**

**WED**

**THU**

**FRI**

**SAT**

						<p>1 7:00 am All Agfes Ski Trip 9:00 am AA-Women Carrying the Message 8:00 pm AA Unity</p>
<p>2 9:00 am Worship—Sanctuary 10:30 am Worship—Celebration Hall 10:30 am Church School 3:45 pm 3-4-5 Alive!</p> 	<p>3 12:00 pm AA Noonday 6:15 pm Fellowship Team 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 8:00 pm AA Unity</p>	<p>4 8:30 am Faithfully Fit 9:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:00 pm OA 5:30 pm Stewardship Team 7:00 pm Al Anon Primary Purpose 8:00 AA Primary Purpose</p>	<p>5 9:45 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Noonday 5:15 pm Worship—Sanctuary 6:00 pm Worship—CH 7:15 pm Mentor Meeting 7:15 pm 4th Grade Milestone Ministry</p> 	<p>6 8:30 am Faithfully Fit 5:00 pm NA 6:30 pm Community Connections 8:00 pm AA Unity</p>	<p>7 9:30 am New American Sewing Class 12:00 pm AA Serenity 7:00 pm Al-Anon TGIF</p>	<p>8 9:00 am AA-Women Carrying the Message 8:00 pm AA Unity</p>
<p>9 9:00 am Worship—Sanctuary 10:30 am Worship—Celebration Hall 3:45 pm 3-4-5 Alive!</p>	<p>10 12:00 pm AA Noonday 8:00 pm AA Unity 4:00 pm Hannah Circle 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm WELCA Board Meeting—Rose of Sharon Lounge</p>	<p>11 8:30 am Faithfully Fit 5:00 pm OA 6:00 pm Youth/Ed Teams 6:30 pm Properties Team 7:00 pm Al Anon Primary Purpose 8:00 pm AA Primary Purpose</p>	<p>12 9:45 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Noonday 5:15 pm Worship—Sanctuary 6:00 pm Worship—CH</p>	<p>13 8:30 am Faithfully Fit 9:00 am Quilters 1:00 pm Sharon Cares 5:00 pm NA 5:30 pm Lay Ministry Team 8:00 pm AA Unity</p>	<p>14 9:30 am New American Sewing Class 12:00 pm AA Serenity 2:00 pm Golden Age Club 7:00 pm Al-Anon TGIF</p>	<p>15 <b>Steve DeKrey Ordination</b> 9:00 am AA-Women Carrying the Message 8:00 pm AA Unity</p> <p><b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b></p>
<p>16 9:00 am Worship—Sanctuary 10:30 am Worship—Celebration Hall 10:30 am Church School 3:45 pm 3-4-5 Alive! 4:00 pm Welcome to Baptism Class</p>	<p>17 12:00 pm AA Noonday 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 8:00 pm AA Unity</p> 	<p>18 1:00 pm Mary Circle 5:00 pm OA 6:00 pm Church Council 7:00 pm Al Anon Primary Purpose 8:00 pm AA Primary Purpose</p>	<p>19 9:45 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Noonday 1:30 pm Rachel Circle 5:15 pm Worship—Sanctuary 6:00 pm Worship—CH 6:00 pm Church School 7:15 pm 7th Grade Milestone Ministry</p>	<p>20 8:30 am Faithfully Fit 1:30 pm Sarah Circle 5:00 pm NA 8:00 pm AA Unity</p>	<p>21 12:00 pm AA Serenity 7:00 pm Al-Anon TGIF</p>	<p>22 9:00 am AA-Women Carrying the Message 8:00 pm AA Unity</p>
<p>23 9:00 am Worship—Sanctuary 10:30 am Worship—CH 10:30 am Church School 3:45 pm 3-4-5 Alive! 6:30 pm 5th Grade Communion Conversations</p>	<p>24 12:00 pm AA Noonday 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 8:00 pm AA Unity</p>	<p>25 8:30 am Faithfully Fit 5:00 pm OA 7:00 pm Al Anon Primary Purpose 8:00 pm AA Primary Purpose</p>	<p>26 9:45 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Noonday 5:15 pm Worship—Sanctuary 6:00 pm Worship—CH 6:00 pm Church School 7:15 pm 8th Grade Milestone Ministry</p> <p><b>NOISY OFFERING</b></p>	<p>27 8:30 am Faithfully Fit 9:00 am Quilters 4:30 pm GCCC 5:00 pm NA 8:00 pm AA Unity</p>	<p>28 12:00 pm AA Serenity 7:00 pm Al-Anon TGIF</p>	<p>29 9:00 am AA-Women Carrying the Message 8:00 pm AA Unity</p>
<p>30 9:00 am Worship—Sanctuary 10:30 am Worship—CH 10:30 am Church School 3:45 pm 3-4-5 Alive! 6:30 pm 5th Grade Communion Conversations</p> <p><b>NOISY OFFERING</b></p>	<p>31 12:00 pm AA Noonday 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Deborah Circle 8:00 pm AA Unity</p>	<p><b>March's Noisy Offering will benefit Red River Children's Advocacy Center</b></p>				



1720 South 20th St  
Grand Forks, ND 58201

701-772-3122  
[www.sharonlutheran.org](http://www.sharonlutheran.org)

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

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**May 16  
Rummage Sale**



**Join us for Midweek Lenten Worship**

Ash Wednesday, March 5

Through Wednesday, April 6

5:15 pm in the Sanctuary

6:00 pm in Celebration Hall

**Church Office Hours  
Monday - Friday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm**