

Sharon Lutheran Church is a community that strives to be:

Faith-filled

Rooted in God's Word

Loving

Connected to the community and world

Adaptive



January 2015

This New Year marks the 225th Anniversary for Sharon Lutheran Church. We plan to celebrate this milestone in a variety of ways throughout the year. Dinners, picnics, special worship and hymn events, and recitals are all on the planning table. Our opening event will be a walk through history and a congregation dinner to be held on January 24 beginning at 5 pm. Lowell Leitzel will be assisting in the facilitation of the living history activity.

Please note the invitation which follows and reserve Saturday, January 24th on your calendars.

You are cordially invited to a congregation dinner to kick off the celebration of the
225th Anniversary of Sharon Lutheran Church

Saturday, January 24, 2015

(snow date January 31, 2015)

from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

The Hospitality Team will be providing the ham and the drinks.
You will be providing the rest of the meal in the form of a potluck.
Look closely as the categories have been rotated.

If your last name begins with the letters:
A through H - bring a Side Dish (other than a "Salad")
I through P - bring a Dessert
Q through Z - bring any dish with the name "Salad" in it

Please RSVP

by signing up on the sheet on the desk outside of the church office
(Available after the New Year)

Pastor's Note

New years are for me a time when I tend to think about what has been experienced over the past year and what are hopes and dreams for the year to come. We have had some significant experiences together in 2014. I want to acknowledge your generosity that has allowed us to be a full partner in Meals for Seals as we lift up and support our school families with a weekly food distribution of 420 meals and 280 snacks. You contribute 60 meals and 40 snacks every week to this distribution. Some of you have volunteered to pack bags at Sharon. You may also be part of the distribution that happens in the elementary school each Friday. See me, if you would like to help in this way. Your generosity has also been seen in the funding of our mission endowment fund, which has reached a point, according to the bylaws, at which we are able to make our first distributions. A number of grant forms were received and grant awards have been authorized and approved totaling \$3000 for 2014. Your generosity has presented us with a moment of celebration as we have paid off the mortgage on the building renovation project.

We have had three staffing changes: Dr. Susan Hegberg has reduced her hours and responsibilities with us as she no longer accompanies the choir. Jenna Swartz has been hired to fulfill these accompanist duties. Robin Kunkel stepped out of her full time role with Education and Youth. Robin has filled a newly created part time youth coordinator position for 10 hours a week. Even with all of these changes, many of you have continued to volunteer and even take on more responsibilities. I am thankful to the ladies who are coordinating and facilitating the Sunday morning "Wee Worship." I am thankful to April Metzger, Judy Longacre, Nancy Martin, and Susie Weller for their continued work as the Christian Education Team with the Sunday school and children's discipleship. I certainly appreciated all their help in carrying out this past year's Advent Global Village. We had a chance to experience 5 different countries, a variety of activities, food and more. Of course, we can't forget our great ice cream makers! The team has also reviewed curriculum and planned out the Sunday morning sessions for the younger students through May.

We are in mission together and that mission is God's reconciliation of the world. The way we carry out that mission in this place and time continues to require adaptation, change, and new vision. As we begin this anniversary year, 2015, I am arranging, with the help of the mutual ministry team and personnel team, a series of focus groups and discussions around our next steps as a congregation. I am looking specifically at the areas of family ministry and visitation. I will be expecting to engage you in conversation about these things and other ministry areas that might present themselves in our discussions. Please watch for more information about gathering times and encourage each other to take part in this vital conversation.

Blessings to all of you in this New Year. May God's Spirit rest upon us and inspire us in those places that are calling us to new life.

God's Peace,
Pastor Doll

CONFIRMATION CORNER

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

February 6 & 7, 2015

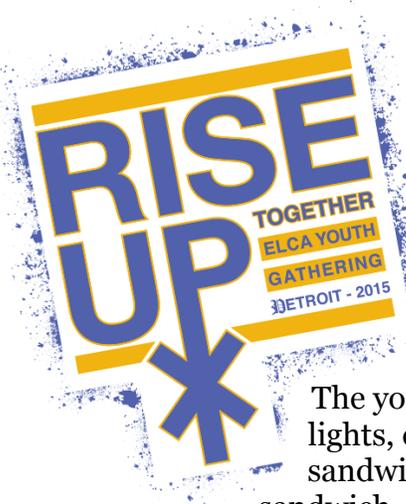
The confirmation class will be heading to Camp Mount Luther to be with other confirmation youth for a two day retreat. The theme is "Washed by the Water" in which we'll be diving into the topic of baptism through small group activities and large group gatherings. We begin on Friday night with a "Synod's Got Talent" talent show for any age participants. Then there is a full day of activities involving service, bible research and crafts. Each child is asked to pay a \$10.00 deposit and Sharon will cover the rest of the registration fee. We are also seeking a male and female volunteer to stay overnight with the group. Please contact Robin Kunkel to reserve your spot.

SERVICE AND ACTION DAY

January 11, 2015

The confirmation class will do a backwards day on January 11. During their morning session they will be doing service by helping the youth going to Detroit make sandwiches for the sandwich sale. Then they will play bible trivia for their Action Day that evening.

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING IN DETROIT



"Once boasting a population of 1.8 million, Detroit is now home to just over 700,000. It has known death and resurrection throughout its history and now sits at a critical and pivotal point. We believe Detroit will rise from the ashes of an economic disaster. We believe God is calling us to be the church together in this place." ELCA Gathering Director, Heidi Hagstrom

SANDWICH SALE FOR DETROIT Orders Due January 4!

The youth going to Detroit are planning a sandwich sale for January. After the lights, decorations and gifts are packed away, treat yourself to a ham and cheese sandwich to take to work on a cold winter day. You will get a ham and cheese sandwich, condiment and a small bag of chips for \$3.50 or 2 for \$7! Pick up and payment for the sandwiches is January 11 after late worship. Order forms will be posted on the Youth Bulletin board or contact Kathy Reiland at 374 2664 for extra forms to take to your work, club or gym. We would appreciate your support in any way you can give it. Thanks!

MAP MILES

Begins January 1 through July 14

The Map Miles fundraiser is returning by popular demand. It will begin on January 1 and run through July 14. The youth are getting closer to their goal of raising approximately \$800 per person attending the Gathering. To participate in the Map Miles program, you simply donate \$10 per mile towards their goal. You may put your donation in an envelope, mark it Map Miles and give it to either Carrie Dunn or Robin Kunkel. You can check out their progress in their journey to Detroit on the Youth bulletin board.

FUNDRAISER LUNCHEON

February 15 after late worship

Come and support the youth by coming to a luncheon in which all proceeds go towards the Detroit trip. Enjoy various dishes of freshly made entrees, side dishes and desserts as well as the fellowship with your Sharon family and friends. No need to reserve your place, just mark it on your calendars and let us prepare your Sunday lunch! If you have a passion to make your favorite dish to share, contact Robin Kunkel and she'll add it to the list.

From the Congregation Council

President—Jeff Whitman; Vice President—Eric Rowe; Secretary—Carolyn Sands;
Treasurer—Buzz Savidge; Susie Weller; Karen Bowen; Carol Harrison; Teresa Berger;
Lowell Leitzel

Council Action Items:

Approved the recommendation of the Mission Endowment Fund Team for grants of \$300.00 to Rejoicing Spirits, \$1,000.00 to Community Action Agency, \$500.00 to Kathryn's Kloset and \$1,200.00 to Sharon Emergency Fund.

Approved the appointment of Kermit Ritter and Bob Soper to additional three year terms on the Mission Endowment Fund Team.

From the Mission Endowment Fund Team

At their Nov. 24 meeting, it was reported that the MEF balance was \$62,014.54

The committee reviewed the calculation method for determining the amount of money to be distributed. The previous 3 years average of principle was \$50,000. The committee decided to distribute .5% of the 3 year average or \$2500 plus 10% of the current year income or \$500 or a total of \$3000 for 2014.

A subcommittee recommended grants to be distributed as follows:

Rejoicing Spirits Ministry \$300.00

A program that reaches out to enrich the spiritual lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Community Action Agency \$1,000.00

A program that will help each parent develop parenting health, education, and safety management skills that will prevent child abuse

Kathryn's Kloset \$500.00

From a warehouse in Baltimore, they collect, store, and distribute new and unused products from corporations to donate to church groups. Our distribution site is St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Shamokin Dam.

Sharon Emergency Fund \$1,200.00

For persons in our parish who are in spiritual and/or emotional need.

Total \$3,000.00

The recommendation was approved by the whole committee and the congregation council. With these first grants we rejoice as after 4 years, the MEF fund will be helping to enrich the people of God.



Notes of Thanks

Thank you very much for allowing my students to perform in the church. It is a wonderful experience for them.

Kay Hooper

Thank you so much, Pastor Doll, and all of Sharon Lutheran Church for the use of your church van for my youth group. I love that community churches can work together for the good of all God's children. Again, your trust and generosity are greatly appreciated.

Kelly Feiler



As of January 1, Paul Grimes is retired from being the Chairperson for the Property Team. We thank Paul for all

his hard work and dedication. We are deeply appreciative of all the time he has put into this building.

We are now in need of someone to take over this responsibility. Please talk to Pastor Doll if you are interested in helping out.

Master, Robert	1/3
McGrath, Thomas	1/4
Rowe Jr., Eric	1/5
Stuck, Phyllis	1/5
Black, Erik	1/8
Weller, Susan	1/9
Ettinger, Lewis	1/11
Ettinger, Norma	1/12
Sands, Richard	1/12
Hummel, Mary	1/13
Harnum, Don	1/14
Housley, Grace	1/14
Partica, Oscar	1/16
Reiland, Markie	1/16
App, Carole	1/18
Bohm, Kelley	1/19
Beaver, Dylan	1/20
Bilger, Michael	1/22
Leitzel, Lowell	1/22
Dillman, Gail	1/23
Scholl, Joshua	1/23
Aungst, Molly	1/25
Collins, John	1/27
Snyder, Madison	1/27
Mangels, Zachary	1/29
Bradford, Robert	1/30

We Remember in Prayer

Ingrid Albright, Douglas App, Rose Aucker, Betty Aungst, Brian Baldwin, Tom Beachell, Barbara Broadt, Amy Bush, Arline Callahan, Mike Carrol, JoAnn Costo, Jeanette Cook Diehl, Eleanor Dinius, Charles Engelbrecht, Betty Ettinger, Jayme Fedder, Irene Fladmark, Jim Gautsch Jr., Linda Gautsch, Grace Greiner, Tammie Hartland, Jeremy Hoffman, Karen Hoke, Grace Hollenbach, David Holmes, Jr., Sara Holmes, Valerie Holmes, Pat Hower, Martha Hummel, Mary Hummel, Mary Johnson, Ryan Keiser, Harvey Kreamer, Jr., Keith Landis, Shaydon Lindberg, Shirley Mayo, Doris Mull, Susan Mull, Kay Musser, Alyssa Oxenford, Elwood Partica, Tina Reichenbach, Ryan Riethmiller, Karen Ritter, Miles Schrader, Mary Seiler, Janet Skotedis, Tucker Small, Bill Starr, Robert Stetler, William Turbitt, David Weimer, Erma Weirick, Ken and Chris Whitebread, Jeremy Wolfe, Gary Wydell

January Worship Volunteers

	Greeters	Acolytes	Readers	Ushers	Cantor/CA	Altar Guild
Jan 4	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
	Jim and Carole App	Wyatt Metzger	Alma Pauling	Brian Pauling Paul Culbertson	Teresa Berger	Roseann Stetler (B)
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
	Nelson and Sue Kerstetter	Sean Dagle	Toby Skinner	Keith Kunkel Judy Longacre	Jeff Whitman Kathy Reiland Sue Starr	Carol Harrison Nancy Martin
Jan 11	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
	Terry and Judy Kissinger	Aaron Weirick	John Pendley	John and Roseann Stetler	Carol Black	Dawn Dunkelberger (B)
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
	Chris and Kathy Reiland	Jessica Beaver Elise Keeney	Deb Bernhisel	Bill and Pat Pinkowski	Bob Bradford Art Bowen Philip Riggs	Audrey Deckard Linda McMillin
Jan 18	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
	Matt and April Metzger	Vance Metzger	April Metzger	Brian Pauling Terry Kissinger	Theresa Kuster	Jackie Winey (B)
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
	Kermit and Darlene Ritter	Hannah Doll Sarah Pennay	Sue Starr	Craig Hoke Chris Lupolt	Dawn Doll Dave Deckard Doug Hassinger	Shirley Walter Jenny Ruth Partica
Jan 25	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
	Brian Pauling Dawn Dunkelberger	Courtney Kemberling	Diane Pauling	Jim and Carol Black	Chris Lupolt	Maureen Ries (B)
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
	Eric Rowe Shirley Rowe	Olivia Dunkle Madison Snyder	Carol Bradford	Bob and Vi Soper	Judd Williams Teresa Berger Eric Rowe	Vi Soper Shirley Rowe