



Celebrating Our Faith Journey 2025

A monthly publication of Faith Journey Lutheran Church West Fargo, ND

Advent greetings Faith Journey family,

Our theme this Advent and Christmas season is "Prepare the Way for Immanuel" claiming the hopeful promise that God is, indeed, WITH US. No matter what! In ALL circumstances.

We'll be adding an evening "Blue Christmas" service at 6:30 pm on Sunday the 21st of December. Observing "Blue Christmas" provides a quieter time and space to ponder the mysterious accompaniment of God even when we aren't feeling particularly shiny and bright.

I'm excited about our midweek Advent worship theme "Labor and Deliver Classes with Mary and Joseph. In the worship texts, music and reflections we will be placing ourselves in the shoes of young prospective parents faced with unexpected challenges, just like Mary and Joseph were as they were preparing to welcome their little one, our Savior, Jesus. In his Christmas sermons Martin Luther often reflected on the need to welcome the "Christ Child among us". Our young people will have significant leadership roles at these midweek 6:30 pm services on December 3rd, 10th, and 17th as greeters, ushers, readers and acolytes. They will also be serving a Taco in a Bag dinner at 5:30 pm as a fundraiser for future youth activities.

Please plan on coming out to support our youth and take part in these unique worship experiences.

In hopeful anticipation of Immanuel!

God's peace, Pastor Sue

Sue Koesterman, Pastor
Faith Journey Lutheran Church, ELCA
127 2nd Ave E
West Fargo, ND 58078
skoesterman@growinfaith.org
701-282-3309 (main office)
701-515-7762 (direct)
701-951-8911 (mobile)



UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

December Memory Café Schedule

Dec. 3rd – 7th Annual Intergenerational Community Service Project:

“90 Blankets in 90 Minutes”, Hope Lutheran South Campus

Dec. 10th – Education: Why Neuro Testing is Important & What are the Benefits? With Dr. Bess Martin, Hjerkomst Center, Moorhead

Dec. 17th – Christmas Concert with Sarah Morrau & Rebekka DeVries, Hope Lutheran South, Fargo



Faith Journey Lutheran Church offers GriefShare, which is a support group designed for individuals experiencing grief. It provides a safe and welcoming environment where participants can share their feelings and learn about the grieving process over a 13-week program. GriefShare is part of a larger ministry that serves over 20,000 churches worldwide, offering resources and support to help people navigate their grief journey.

Watch for upcoming 2026 dates.



Contact Bonnie Swanson at:
701.318.0949
Or Phyllis Olson at:
701.239.6064 for more information.

DID YOU KNOW...

...that representatives of Bethany sponsoring congregations formed the Bethany Auxiliary in 1964. Since then, these dedicated volunteers have provided countless hours of time and energy to conduct a variety of special fundraising events, assist at resident activities and help around Bethany. Their efforts have generated thousands of dollars that have purchased items and services to enrich the quality of life for residents at Bethany Retirement Living. To find out how you can be a part of the Bethany Auxiliary, contact Brianne at banderson@bethanynd.org or call 701.239.3246.



Bethany Fargo, ND
retirement living



Join Dakota Vocal Union for an unforgettable Christmas season! Enjoy an evening at the mall filled with festive harmonies and joyful spirit on Dec 9 @ 6PM in the fountain wing. Bring your friends and family for music that will warm your heart and put you in the Christmas mood Dec 14 @ 3PM here at Faith Journey. You can even stay after for some Christmas goodies in the fellowship hall. Fill your Christmas season with Dakota Vocal Union!



The Annual Christmas Coffee & Tea will be on Saturday, December 6th at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us for Christmas meditation, muffins & music.

The speaker will be Amanda Vivier, spiritual leader for The Way, formerly Native American Christian Ministry. Amanda will speak about her own spiritual journey & the intersections of Indigenous Spiritual Practice & Christianity as she has experienced them in her life & in the life of her community. Amanda is an engaging speaker with a unique story & insights on the life of faith to share.

A free will offering will be accepted for The Way

Guests are always welcome!

If you would like to help with setup, cleanup, or baking muffins, a sign-up sheet is on the information desk.

**If you're sick,
please stay HOME**



Don't let a respiratory illness get in the way of your holiday.

Strengthen your immune system this winter and make it easier to fight flu, pneumococcal pneumonia, RSV, and COVID-19. Whether your holiday plans are about family and friends, food and fellowship, it's important to receive recommended vaccinations. Vaccines are a key part of any health routine and help to train and strengthen your immune response against certain respiratory illnesses.

Certain vaccines like flu, pneumococcal pneumonia, RSV, and COVID-19 become more important as we reach our 50s, 60s, and beyond, especially for those with certain health conditions. It is not too late to get your 2025 vaccines, so visit your healthcare provider and find out which vaccines are right for you.

Cough? Fever? Stay home and watch worship on one of our streaming platforms!

YouTube & Facebook:

FaithJourneyLutheranChurchWestFargo

Church Website: growinfaith.org



For 98 years the Concordia Christmas Concert has presented the story of Christ's birth through music, visual art, & the spoken word. In its history, over 1 million people have attended. Tickets are on sale to experience the region's grandest musical tradition performed by nearly 350 student musicians. "Welcome All Wonders!" will feature 3 choirs & a 90-piece symphony orchestra & will be performed in front of a magnificent 140' wide mural. Concert dates are Dec. 5, 6 & 7. For tickets, visit ConcordiaChristmas.com

It's time for Xtra Blessings! We are more than halfway to our goal with over four weeks to go. To be counted for 2025, your gifts need to be received no later than December 31. We will tithe 10% to an organization selected by the congregation, 30% will go towards the outdoor electronic reader board and 60% will go to our general fund. Thank you all for your gifts to our X-Tra Blessings emphasis. Questions can be directed at Darrell Costain



THE FARGO-MOORHEAD GAY MEN'S CHORUS PRESENTS

Peace on Earth

DECEMBER 13, 2025 | 4PM

Faith+Journey Lutheran Church
127 2nd Ave E, West Fargo

FREE WILL DINNER TO FOLLOW!

TICKETS



\$15 Presale
\$18 at the door
\$12 Children 12 & Under (PRESALE ONLY)

SPONSORED IN PART BY



FARGO-MOORHEAD
GAY MEN'S
CHORUS



We are honored to be hosting the Fargo Moorhead Gay Men's Chorus on December 13th at 4pm! Bring your family and friends for an unforgettable evening of music to celebrate the Christmas Season! Goodies will be served following the concert.



There is NO Compass for the month of December. The Compass Youth are to be in the Church Kitchen by 4:30pm to help with the Taco in a Bag dinner that is being served, as well as assisting with the Advent Services by Ushering, Reading, Greeting or Serving. All Compass Youth & their parents are asked to participate. All questions should be directed to Maren Kramer at mkramer@growinfaith.org

ATTENTION YOUTH & ADULTS: There are exciting activities & events being planned for the future! Please watch your email, the newsletter & bulletins for updates!





DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Nov. Advent NO Launch 9am Trad. Worship with Holy Communion 11am Cont. Worship with Holy Communion	1 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 8pm AA	2 10am Bible Study 6pm Cub Scout Pack 232 6:30pm Choir	3 9am Piecemakers 5:30pm Advent Supper 6:30pm Advent Service NO Compass	4	5	6 9am Christmas Tea
7 Commissioning of Communion Deacons @ both services 9am Trad. Worship with Holy Communion 10am Launch Christmas Program Practice 11am Cont. Worship with Holy Communion 4pm Cub Scout Pack #232 4pm Fargo-Moorhead Gay Men's Chorus-Tech Rehearsal	8 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 6:30pm Fargo Moorhead Gay Men's Chorus Small Group Rehearsal 8pm AA	9 10am Bible Study 6pm Cub Scout Pack 232 5:30pm Landscaping Team Meeting 6pm Cub Scout Pack 232 6:30pm Choir	10 9am Piecemakers 11am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Advent Supper 6:30pm Advent Service NO Compass	11	12	13 11am Fargo Moorhead Gay Men's Chorus set-up 4pm Fargo Moorhead Gay Men's Chorus Holiday Concert 6pm Fargo Moorhead Gay Men's Chorus Free Will Dinner
14 9am Trad. Worship with Holy Communion 10am Launch Christmas Program Practice 11am Cont. Worship with Holy Communion 4pm Cub Scout Pack #232 1:30pm Dakota Vocal Union-Christmas Concert set-up 3pm Dakota Vocal Union Christmas Concert	15 5:50pm Church Council Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 8pm AA	16 10am Bible Study 6:30pm Choir	17 9am Piecemakers 11am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Advent Supper 6:30pm Advent Service NO Compass	18	19	20
21 9am Launch Christmas Program Prep 10am Worship with Launch Christmas Program and Holy Communion 11am Fellowship 6:30pm Blue Christmas Service	22 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 8pm AA	23 10am Bible Study 6:30pm Choir	24 Church Office Closed 3pm Cont. Christmas Eve Service 6:30pm Trad. Christmas Eve Service NO Compass	25 Church Office Closed 10am Christmas Day Traditional Service	26 Church Office Closed	27
28 NO Launch 9am Trad. Worship with Holy Communion 11am Cont. Worship with Holy Communion	29 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 8pm AA	30 10am Bible Study	31 9am Piecemakers 11am Staff Meeting NO Compass	1 Church Office Closed	2 Church Office Closed	3

For the past several years, we have used Push Pay to process automatic donations. Starting September 23, 2025, we have canceled those accounts and are moving to a new platform called Zeffy. Zeffy will be our only platform for donations and payments.

Zeffy is a free platform that helps nonprofits like ours save on costs. If you would like to continue supporting the church, please log in through the website or use the QR code listed below to set up your donation.



Just a reminder as a free service, there are a few limitations to be aware of:

- Zeffy is a free platform that operates on donations. When making your donation, you can choose whether or not to donate to Zeffy. Please double-check to ensure your choice is correct.
- Currently, we can only able to set up one-time, monthly, and yearly donations. Zeffy is working on enabling recurring payments for weekly donations, but until then, you will need to make your weekly donations manually.
- When signing up for recurring payments, you cannot choose the date. It will always be on the day you sign up. For example, if you sign up on the 10th, your monthly payment will always be on the 10th.
- Once you set up a recurring payment, the donation amount will remain the same for each subsequent payment. If you choose not to donate to Zeffy, each recurring payment after that will not include a donation to Zeffy.
- If you need assistance setting up your Zeffy account, please contact Katie or Heather in the church office.



<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/faith-journey-lutheran-church-giving>

In Memory of:

Lilah Jondahl

Given by:

Doris Rost
Marlene Batterberry
Fred & Paula Kaufman
Eileen Lund
Sharon & Willis Schacher
Rachel & Larry Thorson
Helen Thompson
Lorna Haug
Shelley Rice
Judy Dallmann
James Roth
Nathan & Danielle Borchardt
Fred & Paula Kaufman
Rachel & Larry Thorson
Dianne Hyndman
James Roth
Marlene Batterberry

Given for:

Facility Enhancement
Facility Enhancement
Rachel CT Bible Camp Fund
Piecemakers
Piecemakers
Piecemakers
Piecemakers
Piecemakers
Piecemakers
Piecemakers
General Fund
General Fund
General Fund
Care & Share
General Fund
General Fund
General Fund



Arnold & Ida Roth
Daniel Borchardt
Carol Schmidt

My deceased Veteran
Otto Evenrud
Dean Lykken

In Honor of:

Jenean Baumann

Given by:

Elaine Martel

Given for:

Caring Ministry

Deaths

Lilah Jondahl 10/22/2025
Timothy Buchholz 11/18/2025



WHO & HOW TO CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Faith Journey Lutheran Church

WIFI Guest: Faith-Guest

Password: FaithJourney

Ministers: All members of Faith Journey Lutheran Church

Pastor: Sue Koesterman - skoesterman@growinfaith.org

Parish Business Manager: Katie Berg - kberg@growinfaith.org

Faith Formation Director: Maren Kramer - mkramer@growinfaith.org

Executive Asst. for Finance & HR: Heather Reimer - hreimer@growinfaith.org

Creative Worship Coordinator: Jane Whaley - jwhaley@growinfaith.org

Contemporary Worship Coordinator: Jamie Thompson

Church Council President: Ali Farstad – Olson

Church Council Vice President: Dan Knudsvig

Church Council Secretary: Katie Berg

Church Council Members: Trina Smaaladen, Brenda Jo Guillard, Sue Kofstad, Ginny Jesser, Stephanie Rieniets, Jolanda Anderson, Susan Kaufman

Worship Sunday 9:00am Traditional *(September – May)*

11:00am Contemporary *(September – May)*

10:00am - Rotating Traditional & Contemporary May - August

Launch Family Sunday School for 4 years - Grade 5

Sunday, 10:00am - Fellowship Hall (During the school year)

Compass Confirmation for Grades 6 - 8

Wednesdays, 7:00pm - Worship Center (During the school year)

Find us on our Website: www.growinfaith.org

Instagram: [faithjourneyWF](https://www.instagram.com/faithjourneyWF)

Facebook: [faithjourneyWF](https://www.facebook.com/faithjourneyWF)

Send bulletin and newsletter information to: Jolanda Anderson - jolandaanderson@gmail.com



Christmas Schedule of Events

Wednesdays 5:30pm Advent Dinner

3rd, 10th & 17th 6:30pm Advent Service

Saturday 6th 9:00am Christmas Tea

Saturday 13th 4:00pm Peace on Earth Fargo Moorhead Gay Men's Chorus Concert

5:00pm Freewill Dinner

Sunday 14th 1:30pm Community Christmas Concert Dakota Vocal Union Concert

Sunday 21st 10:00am Launch Christmas Program including the choir

11:00am Fellowship

6:30pm Blue Christmas Service

Christmas Eve Wednesday, Dec. 24th 3:00pm Contemporary Christmas Eve Worship Service

6:30pm Traditional Christmas Eve Worship Service

Christmas Day Thursday, Dec. 25th 10:00am Christmas Day Worship Service