

# JANUARY

## Celebrating Our Faith Journey 2026

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

*Happy New Year, Faith Journey family!*

*At this time of year, people often make New Year's resolutions. We resolve to eat better, lose weight, exercise more often etc.*

*We seldom make resolutions related to our spiritual health.*

*I've got a New Year's Resolution challenge for you. Resolve to do one thing every day to promote and improve your spiritual health. Perhaps you might add a daily devotion or commit to setting aside 15 minutes of quiet time to meditate on scripture. Perhaps you might keep a gratitude journal in 2026 and keep a written record of the blessings you have received.*

*Whatever it is you decide to do, I feel confident that if you resolve to spend as much time and care on your spiritual health as you do on your physical health, you will feel more connected to God each day of 2026.*

*In gratitude and faith,*

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



# Join us for the 2026 SOUPER BOWL OF CARING!!

We are challenging our congregation to collect money & soup to donate to the FM Emergency Food Pantry.

## THE KICKOFF

The challenge runs from January 1<sup>st</sup> to February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026! There will be many ways to participate. You can bring cans of soup (one point per can), soup mixes (one point per mix), or monetary donations (one point per dollar). There will be a collection display in the narthex throughout the challenge. The Community Impact Team have approved directing our noisy offerings in the month of January toward the Souper Bowl of Caring.



## ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026, we will also have a Soup Lunch, funded by Thrivent Financial Action Team. This is the date of our Annual Meeting & all are encouraged to attend. A free-will donation will be collected.

## BCE (BELL CHOIR EAST) VS. BCW (BELL CHOIR WEST)

We will be competing with other congregations, including our Bell Choir friends at Community Presbyterian Church of West Fargo, & will keep track of donations. Whichever team collects the most will claim the traveling trophy on Super Bowl Sunday!

## SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Faith Journey Lutheran Church will host a family friendly Super Bowl Watch Party in our Fellowship Hall! Complete with food, friends & football! The big game (and commercials) will be on the big screen, but there will also be board games, puzzles, & movies for those that don't watch football. Bring your favorite appetizers (and the recipes) to services, & we can use the church kitchen to prepare them. Instead of having to clean your house for company, you can join the party at Faith Journey!

## ARE YOU ONE OF FAITH JOURNEY'S BIGGEST FANS?

Sound like fun? You can help! Contact Brenda Jo (218.779.2095) & RSVP to get your **\*\*free\*\*** VIP tickets to any of or all the SOUPER BOWL OF CARING events.

**Christmas Eve 2025**





# UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



## January Memory Café Schedule

Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> 1:00-2:30pm

Ring in the New Year with Moorhead Jazz and Visions for 2026 Hope Lutheran Church South Campus

Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> - 9:30-2:30pm **Registration is requested**

Flourishing Forward: Dementia Workshop with Mayo Clinic's Angela Lunde Dakota Medical Foundation Hope Lutheran South Campus

Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> - 1:00-2:30pm

Vinyl Listening & Party & Annual Bring & Brag Hope Lutheran South Campus

Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> - 9:30-11:30am

Moving Ahead: Life After Loss 1122 1<sup>st</sup> Ave N. Fargo

Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> - 1:00-2:30pm Caregiver Café 1122 1<sup>st</sup> Ave N 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.



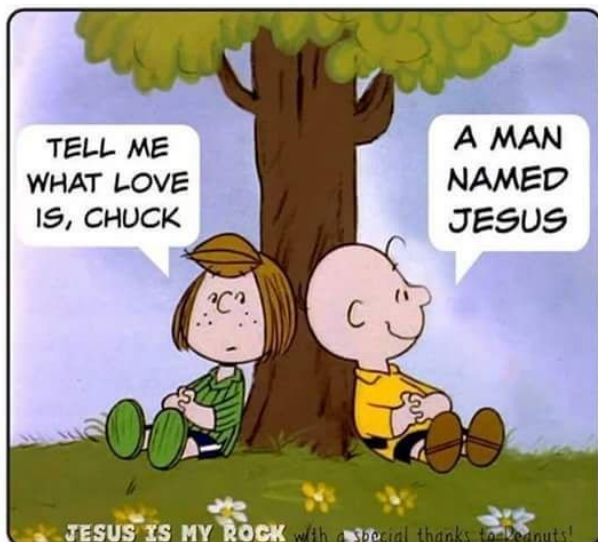
## Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026 12:00pm

Faith Journey Lutheran Church's Annual Meeting is coming up very soon!

As we prepare materials for this meeting, we ask that all reports be submitted **NO later** than **Friday, January 16, 2026**, allowing sufficient time to compile, review, & prepare the full Annual reports prior to the meeting. All reports should be submitted to Katie Berg, either in person or by email to [kberg@growinfaith.org](mailto:kberg@growinfaith.org)

Thank you for your timely cooperation & support!

Sincerely,  
Katie Berg  
Church Administrator



# January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> <b>Happy New Year!</b> <b>Church office closed</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Church office closed</b>	<b>3</b> 2pm Memorial Service for Gary A. Scholand
<b>4</b> Commissioning of Communion Deacons @ both services 9am Trad. Worship with Holy Communion 10am Launch SS 11am Cont. Worship with Holy Communion 4pm Cub Scout Pack #232	<b>5</b> 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 8pm AA	<b>6</b> 10am Bible Study 6pm Cub Scout Pack 232 6:30pm Choir	<b>7</b> 9am Piecemakers 11am Staff Meeting 7pm Compass	<b>8</b> 10am Visitation for Daniel J. Mangin 11am Memorial Service for Daniel J. Mangin 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9am Trad. Worship with Holy Communion 10am Launch SS 11am Cont. Worship with Holy Communion 4pm Cub Scout Pack #232 12:15pm Senior Youth Pizza	<b>12</b> 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 8pm AA	<b>13</b> 5:30pm Landscaping Team Meeting 10am Bible Study 6pm Cub Scout Pack 232 6:30pm Choir	<b>14</b> 9am Piecemakers 11am Staff Meeting 7pm Compass	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9:30am Dakota Vocal Union practice
<b>18</b> 9am Trad. Worship with Holy Communion 10am Launch SS 11am Cont. Worship with Holy Communion 4pm Cub Scout Pack #232	<b>19</b> <b>Church office closed/Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b> 5:30pm Church Council Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 8pm AA	<b>20</b> 10am Bible Study 6pm Cub Scout Pack 232 6:30pm Choir	<b>21</b> 9am Piecemakers 11am Staff Meeting 7pm Compass	<b>22</b> 7am Kings Men @ Deaner's Diner 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9am Trad. Worship with Holy Communion 10am Launch SS 11am Cont. Worship with Holy Communion 12pm Annual Meeting 4pm Cub Scout Pack #232 <b>Deadline for February Newsletter</b>	<b>26</b> 4pm Faith Foundation Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 8pm AA	<b>27</b> 10am Bible Study 6pm Cub Scout Pack 232 6:30pm Choir	<b>28</b> 9am Piecemakers 11am Staff Meeting 6:15pm Compass Pizza 7pm Compass	<b>29</b> 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice	<b>30</b> 6pm Cub Scout Pack #232 Pinewood Derby Setup	<b>31</b> 9am Cub Scout Pack #232 Pinewood Derby Event

*In  
Loving Memory*



**In Memory of:**

Tim Buchholz

Edna Skiple

Ida Roth  
Martin Evenrue  
Kay Merdoff

**Given by:**

Phyllis Olson  
Rachel & Larry Thorson  
Willie & Sharon Schacher  
Judy Dallman  
Kathy Knutson  
Steven Wingad  
Jerry & Ellen Liddle  
Bonnie Christl  
Doris Rost  
Eileen Lund  
Fred & Paula Kaufman  
Ilene Landby, Belle Gerald,  
Jolanda & Carole & Families  
James Roth  
James Roth  
Bonnie Swanson

**Given for:**

Piecemakers  
  
Kings Men  
General Fund  
  
Facility Enhancement-Sign  
  
Faith Journey Youth  
General Fund  
  
Facility Enhancement-Sign

**Deaths**

Carolyn Simonson

12/09/2025

**DID YOU KNOW...**

...that Bethany Retirement Living offers a wide variety of Assisted Living options. At Bethany on University, studio & one-bedroom apartments in Bethany Towers provide the flexibility to select your meal plan, participate in a multitude of activities & customize your care plan to exactly the services you need. At Bethany Gables at Bethany on 42<sup>nd</sup>, one & two bedroom apartments offer full kitchens, spacious bathrooms & care services to meet your needs. For additional information, contact Joyce

Lilinnerud Fowler, Senior  
Executive for Housing &  
Assisted Living, at  
701.239.3439 or  
jlinnerud@bethanynd.org



**Bethany** Fargo, ND  
*retirement living*



**PIZZA**  
**PARTY**

**ATTENTION ALL SR. HIGH YOUTH  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 11<sup>TH</sup> IS JUST FOR  
YOU! BE HERE AT 12:15PM FOR  
PIZZA & TO TALK ABOUT PLANS FOR  
SR. HIGH YOUTH AT FAITH JOURNEY  
LUTHERAN CHURCH IN 2026!**

# 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](mailto:skoesterman@growinfaith.org)

Parish Business Manager: Katie Berg - [kberg@growinfaith.org](mailto:kberg@growinfaith.org)

Faith Formation Director: Maren Kramer - [mkramer@growinfaith.org](mailto:mkramer@growinfaith.org)

Executive Asst. for Finance & HR: Heather Reimer - [hreimer@growinfaith.org](mailto:hreimer@growinfaith.org)

Creative Worship Coordinator: Jane Whaley - [jwhaley@growinfaith.org](mailto: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 Guiland, 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

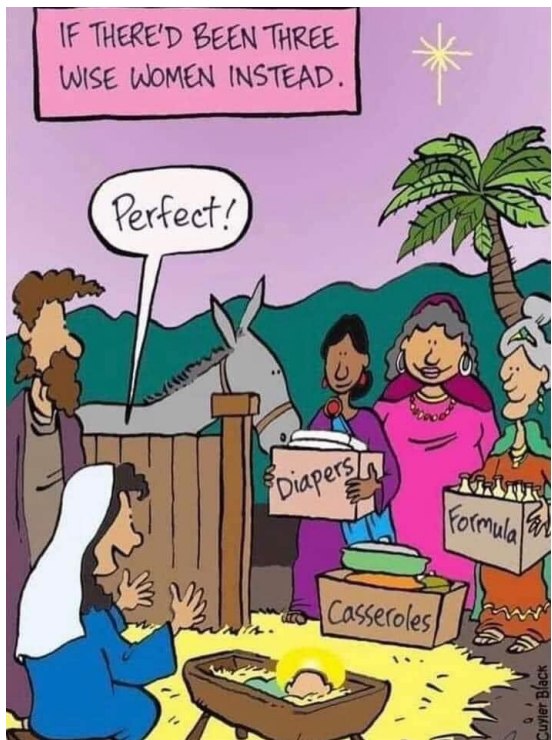
Wednesdays, 7:00pm - Worship Center (During the school year)

Find us on our Website: [www.growinfaith.org](http://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](mailto:jolandaanderson@gmail.com)



Thank you to everyone that supported this year's Advent theme, "Labor & Delivery with Mary & Joseph" by donating baby items to be delivered to young moms in our area. Your donations will have a huge impact on those in need & you are greatly appreciated!