

February

Celebrating Our Faith Journey 2026

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

*And now faith, hope, and love remain, and the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13
Valentine's greetings, Faith Journey family!*

February is a month in which greeting card companies and chocolatiers would like us all to think ooey, gooey, sentimental thoughts, and open our pocketbooks accordingly. And, while romantic love is certainly and important for human flourishing, it's not central to faith or trust in God's love for humankind.

Greek has three different words that can be translated as love. The first is eros, which is romantic love. The second is phileos, which is the love between siblings (brothers) or friends. The third is agape, which is selfless/self-sacrificing love; the kind of love we see most clearly shown in Jesus.

Our theme for the season of Lent, which begins on February 18th, is Near to the Heart of God. During the season of Lent, a large three-dimensional heart will adorn the center of the cross at the front of the sanctuary. Throughout the Lenten season, we will reflect together on the nature of God's love for us and the grace God shows us in Jesus.

Our Lenten midweek worship series is Keepers of the Truth and will focus on five themes from chapters 13-17 of John's gospel: Love, Hope, Friendship, Companionship, and Prayer.

Love to see you all soon!

God's peace,
Pastor Sue
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)



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 1st to February 8th, 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.

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

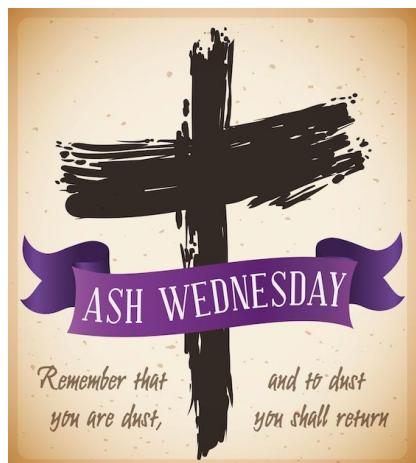
We will be competing with other congregations, including our Bell Choir friends at Community Presbyterian Church of West Fargo, & will keep track of donations. Whichever team collects the most will claim the traveling trophy on Super Bowl Sunday!

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.



Ash Wednesday is February 18th, 2026
There will be 2 services with both including the imposition of ashes & Holy Communion.

12noon & 6:30pm

(There will not be a meal served on Ash Wednesday)
Lenten Services will begin on February 25th. This year's theme is "Near to the Heart of God". The Youth of Faith Journey will be serving dinner each Wednesday night at 5:30pm. A sign-up board will be in the Narthex to donate food items for these meals. Any questions can be directed to Faith Formation Director, Maren Kramer.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



February Memory Café Schedule

Feb. 4th 1:00pm – Intergenerational Art Project with local artist Emily Brooks & Capstone Academy, Hope Lutheran Church, South Campus
Feb. 11th 1:00pm – Valentine's Party with Music from Ransom Notes Music, Hjemkomst Center, Moorhead
Feb. 18th – 1:00pm - Education: "Sleep & Brain Health" with Nicki Holzworth, OTR/L

Feb. 25th - 9:30am – Moving Ahead Life After Loss Support Group, 1122 1st Ave. N, Fargo

Feb. 25th – 1:00pm – Caregiver Café Support Group, 1122 1st Ave.

GriefShare: "Loss of a Spouse". The death of a spouse brings a unique kind of pain. People who are widowed haven't just lost a loved one – they've lost an entire lifestyle. Faith Journey Lutheran Church in West Fargo is offering "Loss of a Spouse", a 2-hour, stand-alone GriefShare seminar ministry to support grieving spouses. The seminar will be on **Thursday, February 19th at 6:30pm** in a downstairs classroom. For more information or to register, please contact Bonnie 701.318.0949 or Phyllis 701.239.6064



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 42nd, one & two-bedroom apartments offer full kitchens, spacious bathrooms & care services to meet your needs. For additional information, contact Joyce Linnerud Fowler, Senior Executive for Housing & Assisted Living, at 701.239.3439 or jlinnerud@bethanynd.org



National Giving Hearts Day is Thursday, February 12th. There are many local organizations that need funds to continue their work & ministry to those in our own community. There are many ways to give. One option is by going on-line to 'giving hearts day North Dakota', where you will find a list of options. With nationwide budget cuts, your donations are needed more than ever!

Please consider giving to those in our community that need your help.

February

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|---|--------|---|
| 1 Commissioning of Communication Deacons @ both services 9am Trad. Worship with Holy Communion 10am Launch SS 11am Cont. Worship with Holy Communion | 2 Groundhog Day 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 8pm AA | 3 10am Bible Study 6pm Cub Scout Pack 232 6:30pm Choir | 4 9am Piecemakers 9am Staff Meeting 6:15pm Compass Pizza 7pm Compass | 5 6:00pm Arts & Environment Team Planning Meeting 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice | | 6 9:30am More than Manna |
| 8 “Souper Bowl of Caring” All Day! 9am Trad. Worship with Holy Communion 10am Launch SS 11am Cont. Worship with Holy Communion 12:15pm Chili Cook Off 5:30pm Souper Bowl Party | 9 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 8pm AA | 10 10am Bible Study 5:30pm Landscaping Team Meeting 6pm Cub Scout Pack 232 6:30pm Choir | 11 9am Piecemakers 9am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Faith Formation Meeting 6:15pm Compass Pizza 7pm Compass | 12 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice  | | 13  |
| 15 9am Trad. Worship with Holy Communion 10am Launch SS 11am Cont. Worship with Holy Communion 4pm All Teams Meeting & Potluck |  16 Presidents' Day Office Closed 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 8pm AA | 17 10am Bible Study 6pm Cub Scout Pack 232 Blue & Gold Event 6:30pm Choir | 18  Ash Wednesday 9am Piecemakers 9am Staff Meeting 12noon Ash Wednesday Service 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service | 19 1pm Northern Plains Ethic Institute @ NDSU 5:30pm Worship Team Meeting in the Narthex 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice | | 20 9:30am More than Manna All Day Troop 213 100 th Anniversary 4pm Troop Banquet |
| 22 9am Trad. Worship with Holy Communion 10am Launch SS 11am Cont. Worship with Holy Communion | 23 5:30pm Church Council 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 8pm AA | 24 10am Bible Study 6pm Cub Scout Pack 232 6:30pm Choir | 25 9am Piecemakers 9am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Lenten Dinner 6:30pm Lenten Midweek Worship | 26 7am Kings Men @ Deaner's Diner 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice | | 27  |



Celebrating 100 Years of Faith, Scouting, and Service

In 2026, Scouting America Troop 213 celebrates a remarkable milestone: 100 years of Scouting in West Fargo. Since its founding in 1926, Troop 213 has been proud to call Faith Journey Lutheran Church its charter organization. We are deeply grateful for a century of support, encouragement, space, prayers, and partnership in ministry.

Scouting and faith share a common calling—to shape young people of character, integrity, and service. For generations, Troop 213 has helped youth grow into leaders grounded in values that reflect Christ's love for neighbor. Along the way, countless scouts, adult leaders, parents, and alumni from this congregation have been shaped by the scouting program, carrying those lessons into the church, community, and world.

To mark this once-in-a-century moment, Troop 213 will host three special anniversary events:

- 100th Anniversary Banquet – February 21, 2026
- Anniversary Fundraiser – May 2026 (date TBD)
- Public Anniversary Campout – June 6–7, 2026

We warmly invite the Faith Journey congregation to join us for these events. Make plans to attend the 100th Anniversary Banquet on February 21, 2026. Tickets are \$25 per person, and each attendee will receive a commemorative 100th Anniversary patch.

We especially hope to reconnect with Troop 213 alumni and anyone with a Scouting connection. Come celebrate a century of shared ministry—and help launch the next 100 years.

*Given in loving memory & in honor of members & friends of
Faith Journey Lutheran Church*

| <u>In Memory of:</u> | <u>Given by:</u> | <u>Given to:</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Jerry Roth (4) | James Roth | General Fund |
| Tim Buchholz | Rodney & Sharon Gillund | Facility Enhancement – sign |
| Daniel Mangin | Judy Dallmann | Facility Enhancement – sign |
| Arnold, Ida & Jerry Roth | James Roth | General Fund |
| Daniel Mangin | Verna Mangin | General Fund |
| Daniel Mangin | Doris Rost | Facility Enhancement – sign |
| Daniel Mangin | Verna Mangin | Facility Enhancement – sign |
| Daniel Mangin | Verna Mangin | Piecemakers |
| Daniel Mangin | Don & Corrine Anderson | Piecemakers |
| Daniel Mangin | Kathy Knutson | Piecemakers |
| Daniel Mangin | Verna Mangin | Kings Men |
| Daniel Mangin | Paul & Shelly Rice | Kings Men |



In honor of:

Roger & Mary Jean Olson's Anniversary Joan Whaley Faith Foundation

Given by:

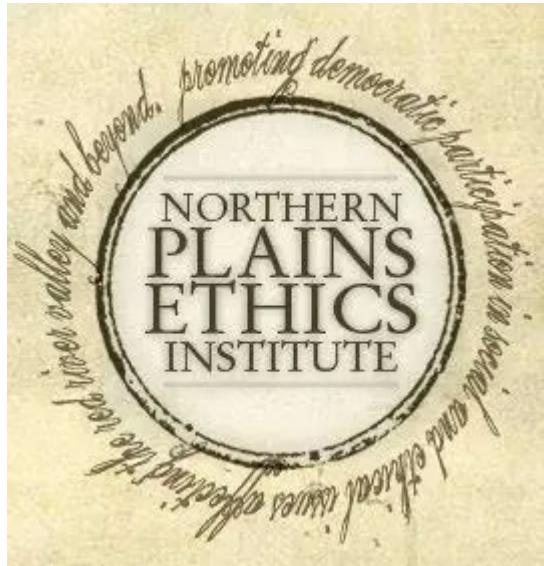
Given to:

Laid in the arms of Jesus were the following members & friends of Faith Journey Lutheran Church

Heaven needed
another angel



| | | |
|---------------|------------|------------|
| Gary Scholand | 12/23/2025 | Non-member |
| Daniel Mangin | 12/24/2025 | Member |
| Jerold Roth | 12/16/2025 | Non-member |



The Northern Plains Ethics Institute (NPEI) at North Dakota State University announces its upcoming Noon Luncheon event on Thursday, February 19, 2026, featuring distinguished historian of science Edward B. (Ted) Davis. His presentation, titled "Why Christianity is Good for Science," examines the relationship between Christian thought & scientific inquiry.

Event Details: Thursday, February 19, 2026

Time: Noon – 1pm

Speaker: Ted Davis

Topic: "Why Christianity is Good for Science"

Location: NDSU Memorial Union's Prairie Rose or at <https://ndsu.zoom.us/s97579815780>

Talk Overview: A vocal group of contemporary scientists & commentators-often labeled "New Atheists" – portray science & Christianity as fundamentally opposed. In this talk, Davis challenges that assumption.

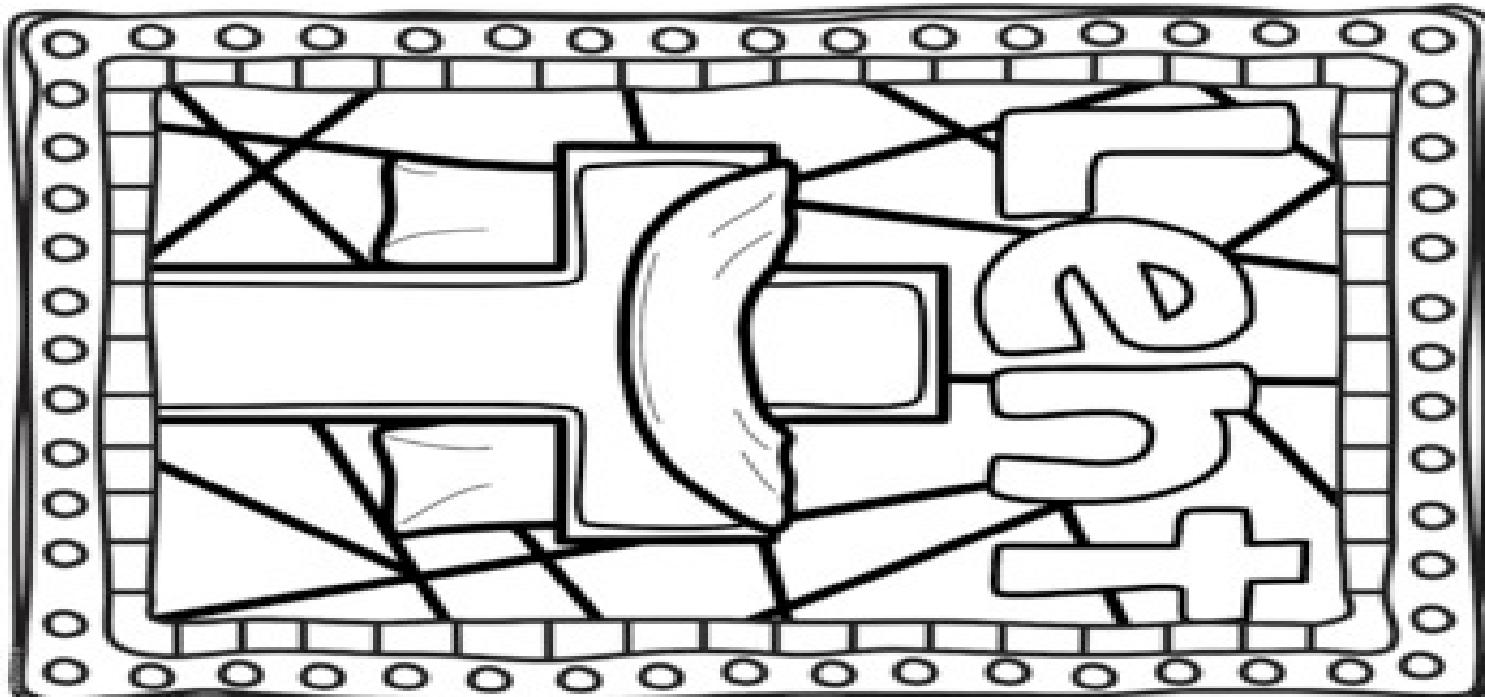
Drawing on the history & philosophy of science, he argues that Christian theological ideas, particularly the doctrine of creation, historically supported scientific curiosity & provided motivation for investigating nature.

About the speaker: Edward B. (Ted) Davis is Professor Emeritus of the History of Science at Messiah University, Affiliate Fellow in the Department of the History of Science, Technology, & Medicine at the University of Oklahoma, & a Fellow of the International Society for Science & Religion. He studied physics at Drexel University before completing a Ph.D. in the history & philosophy of science at Indiana University. Davis taught courses on the history of science from Plato to Newton, Darwin & evolution, Galileo, the human dimensions of science, & the origins controversy in America. His lectures on "The Scientific Revolution: Its Classical & Christian History" are available from ClassicalU. His research has appeared on BBC Radio, & he has advised exhibits at the National Museum of American History & the Museum of the Bible.

His latest book, Protestant Modernist Pamphlets: Science & Religion in the Scopes Era, was published in 2024 by Johns Hopkins University Press. Davis has lectured internationally, speaking at nearly 100 institutions on 5 continents.

About the Northern Plains Ethics Institute

The Northern Plains Ethics Institute at NDSU promotes democratic engagement & public dialogue on ethical issues affecting the Northern Plains & beyond. Through public programming, lectures, & community partnerships, NPEI fosters thoughtful discussion across disciplines & perspectives.



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 Gulland, 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*

Facebook: *faithjourneyWF*

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

Church Office Hours: **Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 4:00pm**

Friday – 9:00am – 12noon



The Church Council is always looking for new members. We meet once a month and are responsible for overseeing the church's mission, administration, and spiritual life, ensuring that all activities align with the church's vision and goals.

We would love to have you join us! Talk to one of the council members for more information. Council meetings are open to all members, and if you would like to see what we do before making a commitment, please feel free to join us at an upcoming meeting.

