



# ***Celebrating Our Faith Journey 2026***

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

*Can we get "real" for a minute?*

*Like "really real"? Authentic. Not made up. Not airbrushed. Not in our Sunday best, but maybe at our Saturday worst?*

*The broader culture from mainstream media, to politics, to advertisements, to influencers, to social media, to work interactions, to social interactions, to family interactions is filled with artifice. Artificiality versus reality. Artificial sweeteners, artificial preservatives, artificial colors, artificial intelligence....*

*In the midst of this Jesus calls us to be real. To have the courage to trust that God loves us for who we are, not who we want others to think we are, not who we wish we were, not who we hope to be when we lose twenty pounds, get a better job, buy a nicer house, wear the right clothes, say the right words.....*

*Here's the "real real". God loves sinners. God loves sinners (us) so much that God chose to put on our realness: flesh and skin and bones. Be born helpless and dependent on others, grow and change, endure skinned knees, loose teeth, puberty and pimples. Find friends, endure loss, laugh, cry, teach, heal, argue, and comfort. Live life, die on a cross, and be laid in a tomb. All to defeat the power of sin, death, and the devil and free us so that we can be real. Like "really real".*

*This Lenten season let's put our worst foot forward and trust that God already knows the real us and loves us unconditionally. Now that's the "real real"! Thanks be to God.*

*Love to see you all soon!*

*God's peace,*

*Pastor Sue*

*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)*



# UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

## March Memory Café Schedule



MEMORY  
CAFÉ

Fargo

March 4<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm – Storytelling with wood carved Norwegian characters with Storyteller, Jerry Ness, Hope Lutheran Church South Campus

March 11<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm – Education: Hjemkomst Center, Moorhead

March 18<sup>th</sup> – 1:00pm – St. Patty's Party with dance performance by Jazz Squares & music from Heather & Thistle, Hope Lutheran South Campus

March 25<sup>th</sup> - 9:30am – Moving Ahead Life After Loss Support Group, 1122 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. N, Fargo

March 25<sup>th</sup> – 1:00pm – Caregiver Café Support Group, 1122 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. N.

*Women's  
Night  
Out*

## Women's Night Out - Friday, March 17

Tickets are \$25 & or you can reserve a table of 7 for \$175. They will be on sale beginning Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, & April 12<sup>th</sup>. You can also purchase tickets in the church office during regular office hours. Please have the correct change or a check. Our speaker will be Natalie Dawn Hanson. The title of her talk will be "It's Personal".

Natalie Dawn Hanson is a speaker, coach, author, and faith mentor with a heart for moms and daughters. With a desire for deeper, lasting impact, she created *Arise & Soar Collective*, a

sisterhood community committed to encouraging, equipping, and empowering moms & daughters to surrender to God's grace, accept their original design, live in abundance, and respond with purpose so they can SOAR with confidence, courage, and conviction to be exactly who God created them to be and in doing so learn to nurture a legacy of faith. When she isn't sitting on a bleacher watching her four boys play sports, busy in the kitchen, or supporting her farming husband, she's speaking, working out, or helping moms & daughters grow. It's time for all of God's daughters to arise & soar. More information about Natalie is available on her website at [www.nataliedawnhanson.com](http://www.nataliedawnhanson.com) Only 126 tickets will be sold – don't delay in getting yours!



## GriefShare Hope & Healing After the death of a loved one

### Q: Is GriefShare for me?

When a loved one dies, it can feel like you're alone. Few people understand how painful and isolating your grief can be. That doesn't mean you have to suffer alone.

At GriefShare you'll find a safe, comforting place where you can talk with others about your grief. You'll find support, directions, and guidance on how to make it through.

We hope you can join our 13-week GriefShare support group on Thursday, at 6:30 March 12, 2026. You will find us in a downstairs classroom at Faith Journey Lutheran Church, 127 2nd Ave E in West Fargo, ND

## DID YOU KNOW...

...that Bethany Retirement Living offers a broad range of senior care services to meet just about any need a senior may have? At Bethany on University, Skilled Nursing Care, Memory Care, Rehab Suites, Basic Care, short stays and Assisted Living are available. Bethany on 42nd features Skilled Nursing Care, Assisted Living, Senior Living with Services, and Senior Apartments. Ethos Home Care offers services in your own home. Are you looking for living opportunities for someone you love? Visit our web site at [www.bethanynd.org](http://www.bethanynd.org) or call Bethany on University at 701.239.3000 or Bethany on 42nd at 701.478.8900



# MARCH



Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
Commissioning of Communion Deacons @ both services 9am Trad. Worship with Holy Communion 10am Launch SS 11am Cont. Worship with Holy Communion	6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 8pm AA	10am Bible Study 6pm Cub Scout Pack 232 6:30pm Choir	9am Piecemakers 9am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Lenten Dinner 6:30pm Lenten Midweek Worship	6:00pm Arts & Environment Team Planning Meeting 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice	<b>World Day of Prayer</b> 7:00pm Youth Mock-In @ Bethlehem Lutheran Church	9:30am More than Manna 10:00am Spring Clean-Up
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME – SPRING AHEAD!</b> 9am Trad. Worship with Holy Communion 10am Launch SS 11am Cont. Worship with Holy Communion	6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 8pm AA	10am Bible Study 5:30pm Landscaping Team Meeting 6pm Cub Scout Pack 232 6:30pm Choir	9am Piecemakers 9am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Lenten Dinner 6:30pm Lenten Midweek Worship	1:00pm Caring Ministry Team Meeting in the Fellowship Hall 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice		10:00am Intergenerational Communion Retreat 10:00am Spring Clean-Up
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
9am Trad. Worship with Communion Choir Sings 10am Launch SS Palm Sunday Practice 11am Cont. Worship with Holy Communion	6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 8pm AA	<b>No Bible Study</b> 6pm Cub Scout Pack 232 6:30pm Choir 	9am Piecemakers 9am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Lenten Dinner 6:30pm Lenten Midweek Worship	6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice		9:30am More than Manna
Pastor Sue Out of the Office						
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
9am Trad. Worship with Holy Communion 10am Launch SS 11am Cont. Worship with Holy Communion 1:00pm March Fargo Conference Gathering	5:30pm Church Council 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 8pm AA	10am Bible Study 6pm Cub Scout Pack 232 6:30pm Choir	9am Piecemakers 9am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Lenten Dinner 6:30pm Lenten Midweek Worship	7am Kings Men @ Deaner's Diner 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice		
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Bible Milestone 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade PALM SUNDAY!</b> 8am – 12:30pm <b>Kings Men Pancake Feed</b> <u>Lauch Kids Sing Both Services</u> 9am Trad. Worship with Holy Communion 10am Launch SS 11am Cont. Worship with Holy Communion	6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 8pm AA	10am Bible Study 6pm Cub Scout Pack 232 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union Practice NO Choir	9:00am Piecemakers 9:00am Staff Meeting	 12noon Maundy Thursday Worship 6:00pm Arts & Environment Team Planning Meeting <b>6:30pm Communion Milestone</b> 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Worship	12noon Maundy Thursday Worship 6:30pm Good Friday Worship 	9:30am More than Manna

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

**In Memory of:**

Jerry Roth & Doug Elenbecker (3)  
Daniel Mangin  
Daniel Mangin  
Jerry Roth (2)

**Given by:**

James Roth  
Merilyn Rice  
Jerry & Ellen Liddle  
James Roth

**Given to:**

General Fund  
Kings Men  
General Fund  
General Fund



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

Harvey Nelson      Date of Death: 2/10/2026

**Joining the family of Faith Journey Lutheran Church through Baptism**

2/22/2026    Lorna Marie Van Norman    Parents: Hamish Van Norman & Morgan Dayley



Join us for good food & a time to connect with your church family & friends!

The Youth of Faith Journey are serving every Wednesday during Lent from 5:30 – 6:15pm before worship at 6:30pm. A suggested donation of \$5.00 per person with a \$25 maximum for families over 5 people. Each meal will include an option of chicken, meat or a vegetable-based soup, wonderful breads, salad, dessert, coffee or water.

Funds raised will support Youth Programming.

We are still in need of donations for upcoming Wednesdays. If you would like to donate, contact Maren Kramer, Faith Formation Director @ [mkramer@growinfaith.org](mailto:mkramer@growinfaith.org) or 701.369.2464 or sign-up on the boards in the Narthex. 7 quarts is the amount needed & would need to be delivered by 4:30pm on the day of the meal. Thank you so to all who have donated! For those signed-up to bring at an upcoming meal –

We Can't Wait to Enjoy Them!!



Wednesday  
Lenten  
Soup  
Supper &  
Worship

**Summer Worship Schedule begins**

May 24<sup>th</sup> with one service at  
10am Sunday

We will be adding a Wednesday evening  
Communion Service starting May 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm  
Plan to join us!!



**Bible Camp Registration is now open.  
For youth 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – 12<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Scholarships are available so all kids can go to camp.**

**See the Youth-Family Bulletin Board for more information.**

## 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 Guilland, 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 24 – September 13)*

6:30pm – Wednesdays *(May 27 – August 26<sup>th</sup>)*

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)

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

Friday – 9:00am – 12noon

# Pancake Breakfast



Faith Journey Kings Men

**Palm Sunday**

## Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, March 29

8am – 12:30pm

Faith Journey Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall

127 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave E, West Fargo

Free  
Will  
Offering

● Funds raised will go toward recarpeting the Youth Room in the Education Wind & replacing the flooring in the serving line area of the Fellowship Hall



Faith  
Journey  
Lutheran Church

Lent  
Worship  
Schedule

You are invited to experience the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus through the Liturgy.



**Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026**

- 12:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service
- 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service

**Wednesday, February 25, 2026**

- 5:30 pm Lent Dinner \*\*\*
- 6:30 pm Lent Midweek Worship

**Wednesday, March 4, 2026**

- 5:30 pm Lent Dinner \*\*\*
- 6:30 pm Lent Midweek Worship

**Wednesday, March 11, 2026**

- 5:30 pm Lent Dinner \*\*\*
- 6:30 pm Lent Midweek Worship

**Wednesday, March 18, 2026**

- 5:30 pm Lent Dinner \*\*\*
- 6:30 pm Lent Midweek Worship

**Wednesday, March 25, 2026**

- 5:30 pm Lent Dinner \*\*\*
- 6:30 pm Lent Midweek Worship

**Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026**

- Bible Milestone 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
- 9:00 am Worship
- 9:00 am Launch Kids Sing
- 10:00 am Pancake Feed
- 11:00 am Worship
- 11:00 am Launch Kids Sing

**Maundy Thursday, April 2, 2026**

- 12:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship
- 6:30 pm Communion Milestone
- 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Worship

**Good Friday, April 3, 2026**

- 12:00 pm Good Friday Worship
- 6:30 pm Good Friday Worship

**Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026**

- 7:00 am Easter Sunday Worship
- 9:00 am Easter Sunday Worship
- 11:00 am Easter Sunday Worship

\*\*\*Wednesday Lent meals are served by Faith Journey Lutheran Church Youth Members these are a free will donation meal with a suggested minimum \$5.00