



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 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

March Memory Café Schedule



MEMORY
CAFÉ

Fargo

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

March 11th 1:00pm – Education: Hjemkomst Center, Moorhead

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

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

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

*Women's
Night
Out*

Women's Night Out - Friday, April 17

Tickets are \$25 & or you can reserve a table of 7 for \$175. They will be on sale beginning Sunday, March 15th, March 22nd, & April 12th. 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 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 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

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

*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 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 24th with one service at
10am Sunday

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



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

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 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 26th)*

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

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

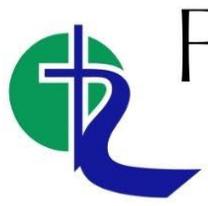
Faith Journey Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall

127 2nd Ave E, West Fargo

Free
Will
Offering

● Funds raised will go toward recarpeting and freshening-up the Youth Room in the Education Wing!



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 3rd 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