



Celebrating Our Faith Journey 2026

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

Happy almost Summer Faith Journey!

My goodness but the year has flown by! The school year is almost over, and summer is just around the corner.

Memorial Day is early this year, so we will be moving to one 10:00 am service on Sunday mornings on Sunday, May 24th. We'll be alternating between Contemporary and Traditional Worship Settings so that our marvelous musicians and song leaders can more easily schedule summer vacations.

If you are someone who gravitates towards one style of worship over the other, this is a great opportunity to enhance your appreciation of other ways to praise God!

Beginning Wednesday, May 27th we will be adding a midweek 6:30 pm worship service with Holy Communion. Plan for traditional worship with a folksy, laid-back vibe. On June 10th, July 15th, and August 26th we'll share a meal before worship and an activity (hopefully outdoors) after worship.

Here's to Summer!

God's peace,

Pastor Sue

Pastor Sue Koesterman
Faith Journey Lutheran Church, ELCA
127 2nd Ave E
West Fargo, ND 58078
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701-282-3309 (main office)
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UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

May Memory Café Schedule

May 6th 1:00pm – Education: Driving Safety Panel & Driving Resources – Hope Lutheran South Campus Church

May 13th 1:00pm – 2nd Annual Memory Café Art Show & New Building Community Open House. Everyone Welcome! – 2910 25th Street South, Fargo

May 20th – 1:00pm – Sing from Your Heart Musical Performance & Sing Along – Hope Lutheran Church South Campus

May 27th - 9:30am – Moving Ahead Life After Loss Support Group, 1122 1st Ave. N, Fargo

May 27th – 1:00pm – Caregiver Café Support Group, 1122 1st Ave. N.



MEMORY
CAFÉ



IN LOVING
Memory

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

In Memory of:

Marvel Mossestad
Jerry Roth (3)
Tim Buchholz
Keith Haring
Terry Aalgaard

Given by:

Paul & Diane Newburgh
James Roth
Peggy Buchholz & Family
Heather, Tyler, Noah & Chloe O'Donnell
Eric & Sara Rogne

Given to:

General Fund
General Fund
Rachel CT Bible Camp Fund
General Fund
General Fund



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

Donald Grindahl
William Parkhouse

Date of Death: 4/1/2026
4/7/2026

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!!



People have been incredibly generous through Sunday School (Launch) and Noisy Offering. From now until Rally Day next fall, we will be purchasing animals through ELCA World Hunger - God's Global Barnyard.

The animals we purchase will go to families and communities where hunger is significant, along with training on how to care for the animals and create sustainable nutrition through offspring.

This will be in addition to sponsoring our students in Africa. Next fall, we'll celebrate and see all the animals we've helped bring into God's Global Barnyard!

MAY

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

						1	2
							9:30am More than Manna
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
9am Trad. Worship with Holy Communion 10am Launch SS 11am Cont. Worship with Holy Communion Commissioning of Communion Deacons @ both services	6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 7pm AA	10am Bible Study 6pm Cub Scout Pack 232 6:30pm Choir	9am Piecemakers 11am Staff Retreat – Off Site 7pm Compass	 12noon National Day of Prayer Service 1:00pm Caring Ministry Team Meeting in the Fellowship Hall 6:30pm National Day of Prayer Service 6:30-8pm GriefShare 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
 9am Trad. Worship with Communion 10am Launch SS Fellowship Hall 11am Cont. Worship with Holy Communion 3:30pm FM Gay Men's Chorus Tech Rehearsal	3pm FM Gay Men's Chorus Tech Rehearsal 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 7pm AA	10am Bible Study 5:30pm Landscaping Team Meeting 6pm Cub Scout Pack 232 6:30pm Choir Potluck	9am Piecemakers 9am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Faith Formation Mtg 7pm Compass	9am Creative Minds Preschool & Childcare Set-up 1pm Caring Ministry Team Meeting 6pm Arts & Environment Team Planning Meeting 6:30-8pm GriefShare 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice	9am Creative Minds Preschool & Childcare Graduation	9:30am More than Manna 4:00pm FM Gay Men's Chorus Concert	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
Sr. Recognition @ both services 9am Trad. Worship with Holy Communion 10am Launch SS 11am Cont. Worship with Holy Communion & Baptism 12:15 Intergenerational Potluck & Power in the Narthex	5:30pm Church Council 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 7pm AA	10am Bible Study 6pm Cub Scout Pack 232 6-8pm Launch & Compass Fellowship Event at Thunder Road	9am Piecemakers 9am Staff Meeting	6:30-8pm GriefShare 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
 Wear Red today! 10am Worship with Holy Communion	 Office Closed 7pm AA June Newsletter Deadline	10am Bible Study	9:00am Piecemakers 9:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Worship with Holy Communion	7am Kings Men @ Deaner's Diner 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice		9:30am More than Manna	 10am Worship with Holy Communion



Red Willow Bible Camp Opportunities

Summer is coming fast, & along with it comes Bible Camp! Our Youth can attend Red Willow Bible Camp where they will experience the love of God in the great outdoors along with friends & leaders who will help them to:

- Deepen their Christian faith
- Build meaningful relationships
- Create shared experiences with others
- Have life-changing fun!

Thanks to our Faith Foundation and Rachel CT Bible Camp Fund, cost is: \$100 per camper
Additional confidential scholarships are available.

When registering: Identify as Faith Journey (West Fargo) Include scholarship code (youth board, email, or contact me)

Camp Weeks for Faith Journey Youth will be:

Compass Confirmation (Grades 5–9) June 21–26, 2026 OR August 9–14, 2026:

Our Compass program asks students to attend one week of Bible Camp for two of the three summers they are in Compass Confirmation.

High School Youth (Grades 9–12) July 19–24, 2026

Kindergarten–4th Grade (half and full week options) June 14–19, 2026 or July 5–10, 2026

Camp Wear Love

July 13–16, 2026

Monday–Thursday 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM

For Kids Kindergarten – Grade 5

Lead by Red Willow Bible Camp Staff

Free to All Participants!

(Thanks to a Faith Formation Scholarship)

Lunch will be included

(We will move indoors if needed for weather)

Register now!

Volunteers will be needed!

Volunteers (6th grade – 105 years old!)

Host homes for camp staff (July 12–16)

Talk to Maren with questions & to volunteer



Experience

Games

Outdoor
Camp
Setup

Tents & a
Fire Ring

Bible Time

Crafts

Launch & Compass End-of-Year Celebration

May 19th 6–8 PM TUESDAY Thunder Road

We will again have unlimited wristbands (food not included).

Launch students must be accompanied by an adult family member.

Parents & siblings—Please join us! You deserve some fun too!



1st Intergenerational Potluck & Power Hour!

May 17 - 12:15 PM in the Narthex

All ages invited!

Bring a dish that is a family favorite, culturally meaningful or something you love to share!

After lunch, we'll brainstorm about activities, groups, and learning opportunities for future Power Hour gatherings. The idea is to share time eating together, getting to know one another and then have time and space for gathering around an area of your interest on a monthly basis! So, if you have been wanting to get a faith-based book club, small bible study, craft group, community outings, or exercise group together this may be a great way to start! At our 1st gathering we can discuss ideal times to meet. Contact Maren Kramer, Faith Formation Director for info. or to share ideas!





Syttende Mai Power Hour Potluck

If you have Scandinavian roots, you won't want to miss the kick-off **POWER-HOUR POTLUCK** on May 17! Stay after the 11am worship for food and fellowship, and we encourage you to bring a favorite family dish to share and it doesn't need to be Norwegian!

But seeing that Norway celebrates their Independence Day on May 17 (Syttende Mai), we will have foods that reflect Norwegian-American culture. Look for Lefse, Rømmegrøt, and Norwegian Kransekake. You can even learn a little bit about Norwegian culture and cuisine.

Let's talk about LEFSE! How do you eat your lefse? With sugar? Without sugar? Do you want to have a lefse blind taste test? Do you like homemade lefse, or do you prefer Freddy's Lefse?

Microwave RØMMEGRØT? Uffda Mayda! Have you been missing Norwegian Porridge? If you aren't a fan of boiling half and half on the stove, do we have a recipe for you!

Kransekake Construction. One of the most famous cakes from Norway, and in the world of cakes, the kransekake stands out. Known as the 'wreath cake' or 'ring cake', it's not only beautiful to look at, but also delicious to eat. Composed mainly of almonds, sugar, and egg whites, its texture is chewy, its taste subtly sweet, and its form distinctive. Learn the traditions and how to assemble the perfect pyramid.

Our church directory is available to view on your computer! Instant Church Directory – the program we use to build our church directory - has a member website. Go to <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/>

You will be asked to enter your email address as it's listed in our directory. If your email address isn't listed in the directory, let Brenda Jo or Katie know so it can be added. Once you enter your email address, follow the directions on-screen to complete the create log-in process. After you sign in, you'll see the most up-to-date directory for our church. Any time updates are made, they will be shown on the Online Members' Website, too. For more information about the members' website, go here: <https://help.instantchurchdirectory.com/article/638-navigating-the-online-member-directory>



Exciting News from Faith Journey Lutheran Church!

We feel blessed to share that Faith Journey Lutheran Church is in the beginning stages of developing our very own church app! We are looking forward to launching this new resource for our congregation in the very near future.

With our new app, everything will be conveniently available in one place, including:

- Online giving that is simple and secure
- Live streaming and recorded worship services
- Church calendar and event updates
- Announcements and important notifications
- Group messaging and ministry communication
- Easy access to church resources
- A convenient way to stay connected throughout the week



The giving portion of the app is already up and running; the QR code is located below. With that being said, we understand that we recently transitioned to Zeffy and are now in the process of moving giving to the Subsplash app. We completely understand that multiple changes can be frustrating, and we sincerely apologize for the inconvenience. We truly believe this is the best direction for our church as we continue to grow and make it easier for everyone to stay connected.

We are excited about the many ways this app will help strengthen communication, connection, and community at Faith Journey. Please keep an eye on the bulletin, newsletter, and email updates for more information as we move closer to launch! Feel free to reach out to Katie Berg with any questions.



A mighty fine group in our Readers Theater for the gospel of John during Lent.

Thank you to all our participants:

Jesus: Amelia Wyum

The Blind Man: Beau Wyum

The Blind Man's Parents: Paul & Britni Wyum

The Neighbors: Clayton and Brenda Nelson, Noah Reimer

The Pharisees: Rod & Sharon Gillund, Emily Reimer

The Disciples: Reese & Aiden Dauer, Marshall Miller, Brooke Evenson, Brenda Jo Gillund

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 Guiland, 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*)

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

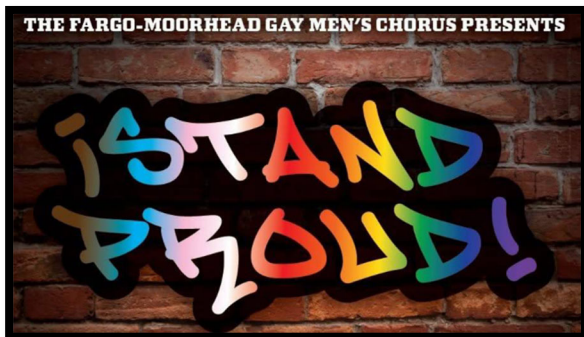
Instagram: [faithjourneyWF](https://www.instagram.com/faithjourneyWF)

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



The Fargo Moorhead Gay Men's Chorus will be having their spring concert on Saturday, May 16th at 4:00pm. Tickets are available for pre-sale & at the door. After the performance, join the chorus in the Fellowship Hall for a pasta Bar Dinner. A free-will offering will help support the chorus. Don't miss this concert – they are spectacular!!

May 7th is the National Day of Prayer. In these very troubling times in our country & in our world, it's more important than ever that we remember that God is in control, & that we need to spend time in prayer with our family, friends & neighbors both here & abroad. We will be holding prayer services at Faith Journey Lutheran Church at 12noon & 6:30pm. All are invited & encouraged to attend!



Information was provided by Ellen Liddle. Please contact her for more information.





A conference for healthcare professionals, care partners, individuals living with mild cognitive impairment or early-stage dementia, and those interested in improving the quality of life for the memory loss community.

Redefining Memory Loss Conference

Tuesday June 9, 2026 | 8:00-4:30 | Delta Hotel | Fargo ND

This unique and local conference provides attendees the opportunity to learn from leading dementia experts. Attendees will gain valuable knowledge, practical tools, and helpful resources while also experiencing the empowerment that comes from connecting with others who share a commitment to improving dementia care and support.

KEYNOTE SESSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates on Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Neurodegenerative Diseases —Dr. Vijay Ramanan 	<h3 style="color: #0070c0;">Keynote Speakers</h3> <div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 20px;">  <p>Dr. Vijay Ramanan Mayo Clinic Neurologist—</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Jayne Clairmont Dementia Expert—</p> </div> <p style="font-size: small; color: #0070c0;">— Vendor Booths — Premier Raffle Prizes!</p>
SESSION 1 BREAKOUT OPTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel Discussion: More than a Diagnosis, Living Well with Dementia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Dr. Vijay Ramanan — Dr. Lindsey Dahl — Nicky Holzworth, OTRL — Deb Kaul, MCRRV Co-Founder Every Moment Matters: Lessons, Insights & Honest Conversation That Change Professional Care — Jayne Clairmont 	
SESSION 2 BREAKOUT OPTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advancing Dementia Care: A Provider-Focused Discussion — Dr. Vijay Ramanan The Empowered Caregiver: Supporting Independence in Professional Care —Joan Danks, CTRS Living Well, One Day at a Time: Practical Tips for Dementia Well Being — Nicky Holzworth, OTRL 	
KEYNOTE SESSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forty-Four Years of Dementia Knowledge: Mistakes Made and Lessons Learned —Jayne Clairmont 	

This Activity has been approved for up to 4.5 credits
AMA PRA Category 1 credits/ANCC contact hours.



Cost	Before May 13	After May 13
Community Members	\$70	\$90
Community Group Rate	\$300 — fill a table of 6	
Professionals	\$100	\$120
Professional Group Rate	\$510 — fill a table of 6 <small>(Price does not include processing fees)</small>	

Register Early and Save

memorycaferrv.org



The 2026 YWCA Women of the Year event celebrated 34 nominees for their leadership, service, and impact in the Fargo-Moorhead community, with winners announced live at the April 20 event. Our very own Brenda Jo Gillund was nominated in the category of HEALTH, WELLNESS, & SPIRITUALITY which was sponsored by Essentia Health. This award honors an individual dedicated to physical, mental, or spiritual health who empowers people to lead healthier lives through her compassion and expertise. She inspires lasting wellness and forges trusted relationships with those she serves and is respected by her peers in the field.

BRENDA JO GILLUND is a master's-prepared registered nurse who spent her career in oncology care, supporting patients and families. She later served as Parish Nurse and Caring Ministry Coordinator at Faith Journey Lutheran Church. A passionate advocate, Brenda works on issues including healthcare, autism, LGBTQ+ rights, and caregiving, and has testified before the North Dakota Legislature. Her kindness has touched many through involvement in her church and community theatre.

Brenda was named one of the Jaycees' Ten Outstanding Americans for her impact on cancer care. She earned a B.S. in Nursing from the University of North Dakota as well as an M.S. in Adult Health Nursing.

