

Fourth Sunday of Pentecost

June 17, 2026

Order of Worship – 6:30pm

Welcome

Ministry Highlights

Greeting

Opening Song

“Oh, Sing to the Lord”

ELW #822

Prayer of the Day

Scripture Reading

Romans 6: 1-11 (NRSV)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia - ELW Setting 8

ELW pg. 188

Gospel Reading

Matthew 10: 24-39 (NRSV)

Sermon

“LBJ”

Pastor Sue

Hymn of the Day

“His Eye Is on the Sparrow”

(Offering Collected during the Hymn of the Day)

Apostles' Creed

Prayers of the People

Holy Communion: Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord!

“Thy Holy Wings”

ELW #613

Post-Communion Prayer

Blessing

Sending Song

“The Lord Now Sends Us Forth”

ELW #538

Pastor: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Readings for June 24th & 28th, 2026 will be from Romans 6: 12-23 (NRSV) & Matthew 10: 40-42 (NRSV) Key verse – Matthew 10: 42

We pray today for those who need healing in body, mind or spirit. Especially

Terry, Carl, Gerry, Mary Ellen, Tony, Sandy, Ellen, Jerry, and all those impacted by the current Ebola epidemic in Africa. Give to each and all whatever you see they need.

Installation of the church sign is scheduled to begin in July. To date, we have raised 84% of the \$55,000 that is needed, which leaves us with \$9,000 left to raise.

The church council recently voted to release money from the general fund to cover the remaining cost of the church sign so that construction can begin. Your continued donations to the Facility Enhancement Fund will help replenish the general fund. Thank you so much for helping us realize this goal!

Pastor Sue & Maren Kramer will be at Red Willow Bible Camp, Sunday, June 21 – Friday, June 26. They will be available in the event of an emergency.

Tonight's Reader & Communion Assistant: Tina Rued



SUMMARY OF ATTENDANCE

June 10th, 2026 – 30

June 14th – 103

Care & Share Offerings for June 2026
will go to the Furniture Mission

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

WEEK of June 17th – 24th, 2026

Today	9:00am	Piecemakers
	9:00am	Staff Meeting
	6:30pm	Faith Formation Meeting
	6:30pm	Worship with Holy Communion
	7:15pm	All Teams Meeting
Thu	11:00am	Faith & Conviction Meeting
	6:45pm	Dakota Vocal Union practice
Fri	All Day	Church Office Closed in observance of Juneteenth
Sat	9:30am	More Than Manna
Sun	10:00am	Worship with Holy Communion
		Holy Baptism of Cora Jo Kulyk – daughter of Jason & Katelyn Kulyk
		Cora's Baptism sponsors are Samantha Youngren & Nico Youngren
Mon	6:30pm	Boy Scout Troop #213
	7:00pm	AA – Fellowship Hall
Tue		NO Lectionary Bible Study Today
Wed	9:00am	Piecemakers
	9:00am	Staff Meeting
	6:30pm	Worship with Holy Communion with Pastor Brian Hansen from Bethany Homes

We are so happy you are with us today! If you are visitor, please stop by the Welcome Desk after worship & look for me. We have a gift for you.

Prayerfully consider donating to West Fargo Eats or another food pantry in the area to help those experiencing food insecurity. With school out for the summer, some children who receive free or reduced lunches may need extra help. The donation box is located on the upper landing near the elevator. If you are experiencing food insecurity, please don't hesitate to reach out for help at West Fargo Eats or another food pantry. Members of Faith Journey can talk to Pastor Sue. All communications will be kept private & confidential.

Prayer Concerns: If you or a family would like to be added to the prayer list, please contact the church office.

Hospitalized or needing a Pastoral Visit: If you or a family member has been hospitalized, please contact Pastor Sue.

All are Welcome to join us at the Revised Common Lectionary Bible Study on Tuesdays at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. We will NOT meet June 23rd.

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 show 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>

Insights into Matthew 10:42 in the ELCA Context

In the ELCA tradition, Matthew 10:42 is understood as a call to **radical hospitality and the recognition of Christ in others**. The verse — “And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is My disciple, truly I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward” — is part of Jesus’ Missionary Discourse, where he commissions the Twelve to preach, heal, and face persecution.

Theological meaning

ELCA teaching emphasizes that welcoming Jesus’ disciples is equivalent to welcoming Jesus himself and the Father (Matt 10:40–41). The “cup of cold water” is a culturally significant gesture in first-century Palestine, symbolizing thoughtful, costly care in a context where fresh water was scarce. This small act becomes a sacramental sign of spiritual devotion, linking physical hospitality to divine communion.

Faith and action

For the ELCA, this passage affirms that **faith is lived out in tangible acts of love and welcome**. Hospitality is not just courtesy, but a sacred obligation rooted in God’s own covenantal hospitality (e.g., Abraham, Rebekah, Elijah). It challenges the honor–shame culture of the time to focus on inner love rather than outward displays of piety.

Application in the ELCA mission

In ELCA mission work, Matthew 10:42 is often applied to:

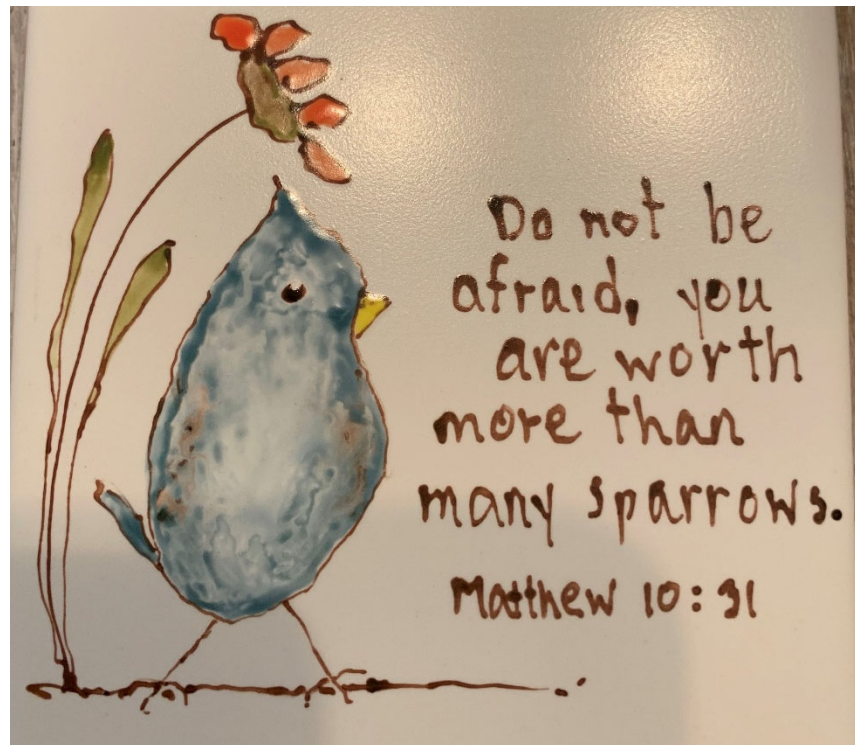
- **Welcoming missionaries and church partners** — recognizing their presence as Christ’s presence.
- **Supporting the marginalized** — seeing “little ones” as Christ’s humble followers, not just children.
- **Small acts of service** — even modest gestures of care are valued by God, reflecting the inclusive nature of the Gospel.

Communal and missional reflection

The ELCA’s emphasis on the church as the body of Christ means that Matthew 10:42 also speaks to **how congregations and mission teams treat one another**. It calls for a culture of mutual care, where every member is seen as a bearer of Christ’s mission. This aligns with the ELCA’s mission to “go and make disciples” while embodying the values of the Kingdom in daily life.

Summary

In the ELCA, Matthew 10:42 is a reminder that **God’s reward is not lost for any act of genuine welcome or service to a disciple**. It is a call to live out the Gospel through hospitality, to see Christ in others, and to integrate mission into everyday relationships.



Faith Journey Lutheran Church
Wednesday, June 17th, 2026

Fourth Wednesday of Pentecost
6:30pm

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

Worship Sunday 9:00am Traditional (September – May)

11:00am Contemporary (September – May)

10:00am - Rotating Traditional & Contemporary (May 24 – Sept. 13)

6:30pm – Wednesdays (May 27 – Sept. 9)

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
Friday

9:00 – 4:00pm
9:00 – 12noon

