

Fifth Sunday of Pentecost

June 24, 2026

Order of Worship – 6:30pm

Welcome

Ministry Highlights

Confession & Forgiveness

Greeting

Opening Song "All Are Welcome" ELW #641

Prayer of the Day

Maren – Youth Activity

Scripture Reading Romans 6: 12-23 (NRSV)

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia - ELW Setting 8 ELW pg. 188

Gospel Reading Matthew 10: 40-42 (NRSV)

Sermon "Bethany" Pastor Brian Hansen

Hymn of the Day "Let Us Go Now to the Banquet" ELW #523

(Offering Collected during the Hymn of the Day)

Prayers of the People

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

"Build a Longer Table" ACS #1062

Post-Communion Prayer

Blessing

Sending Song "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Song" ELW #779

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

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Readings for July 1st & July 5th, 2026 will be from Romans 7: 15-25 (MSG) & Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30 (MSG) Key verse – Matthew 11: 29

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

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

Tonight we welcome guest preacher, Pastor Brian Hansen. Pastor Hansen will share a message & preside over as Pastor Sue is enjoying Red Willow Bible Camp as the Chaplin this week. He will also give updates on Bethany Homes, where he serves. Thank you Pastor Brian!

Reader & Communion Assistant tonight: Dan Knudsvig

Celebrate the 4th of July at Bethany! July 3 – 3pm Bethany on 42nd or July 4 – 2:45pm Bethany on University. "Stars & Stripes" America's 250th Birthday Celebration & Happy Hour

SUMMARY OF ATTENDANCE

June 17th, 2026 – 15 June 21st – 95 June to Date: 355

May Income - \$56,689 Operating Expense - \$59,739

May Net Income - \$3,889

Care & Share Offerings for June/July 2026

will go to the Furniture Mission

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

WEEK of June 24th - July 5th, 2026

Today	9:00am	Piecemakers
	9:00am	Staff Meeting
	6:30pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Thu	11:00am	Faith & Conviction Meeting
	6:45pm	Dakota Vocal Union practice
Sun	10:00am	Worship with Holy Communion
Mon	7:00pm	AA – Fellowship Hall
Tue	10:00am	Lectionary Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall
Wed	9:00am	Piecemakers
	9:00am	Staff Meeting
	6:30pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Fri	All Day	Church Office Closed
Sat		HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!
Sun	10:30a	Worship with Holy Communion

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.

Your donations help YWCA Cass Clay with their mission to be a place for women & children to turn as they escape violence & homelessness. Your support helps women & families heal & transform their lives. The YWCA donation box is located near the kitchenette. The current needs list changes frequently & is posted on the whiteboard next to the church office window. Thank you!

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.

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>

As you can see, installation of the new church sign has begun! We have raised 84% of the \$55,000 needed which leaves us with just under \$9,000 to raise. The church council voted to release the needed money from the general fund to cover the remaining cost so that we could get it installed. Your continued donations to the Facility Enhancement Fund will help replenish the general fund. Thank you so much for helping to reach this goal!

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:

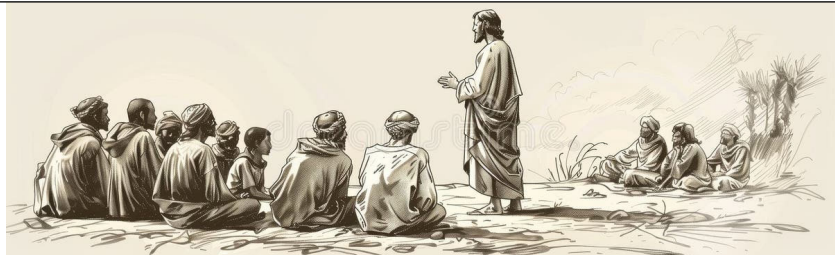
- **Welcoming missionaries and church partners** — recognizing their presence as Christ’s presence.
- **Supporting the marginalized** — seeing “little ones” as Christ’s humble followers, not just children.
- **Small acts of service** — even modest gestures of care are valued by God, reflecting the inclusive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

Communal and missional reflection

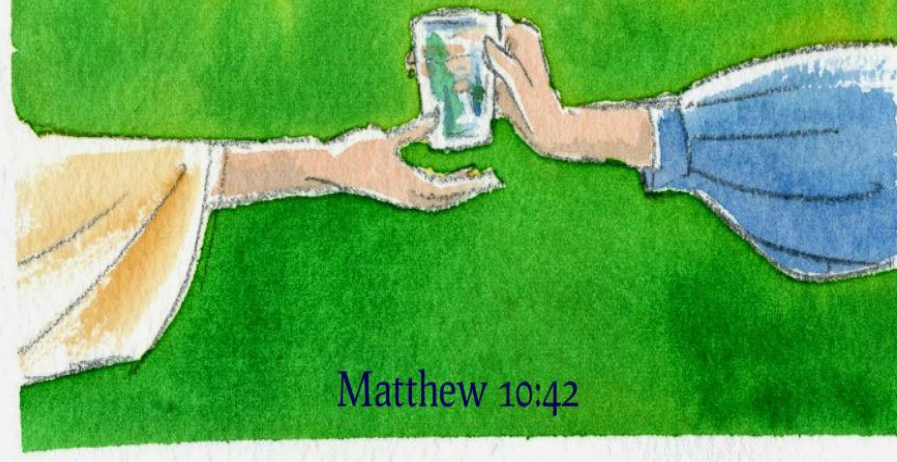
The ELCA’s emphasis on the church as the body of Christ means that Matthew 10:42 also speaks to **how congregations and mission teams treat one another**. It calls for a culture of mutual care, where every member is seen as a bearer of Christ’s mission. This aligns with the ELCA’s mission to “go and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



Anyone who gives one of my most humble followers
a cup of cool water, just because that person is
my follower, will surely be rewarded.



Faith Journey Lutheran Church
Wednesday, June 24th, 2026

Fifth 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