



Celebrating Our Faith Journey 2026

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

I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5 NRSVue

Greetings Faith Journey family,

You'll be seeing and hearing the verse above a lot between now and the end of next summer. In all that we do together, this verse will serve to center us and keep us connected to the source of our life together: Jesus.

So, how can we become more deeply connected? One primary way is to study God's word together.

Our Tuesday morning Revised Common Lectionary Bible Study is well attended and will continue to be held at 10:00 am Tuesday mornings. This Bible study focuses on the preaching text that will be used in worship on the following Sunday. If that time ever works for you, drop in at any time.

We're adding a new monthly Women's Bible Study in September. This group will gather at Deaner's Diner on the second Thursday of each month and will use the Bible Study from the "Gather" magazine. The study series for fall is "Bold Faith on an Unexpected Journey" by Rev. Tiffany Chaney. Chaney writes, "Faith often leads us down paths we didn't expect - into wilderness places, across unfamiliar lands, and through seasons of grief and hope. This three-session study takes us on a journey with Hagar, Ruth, and Mary Magdalen. Bring your Bible, your appetite, and your curiosity. I'll bring extra copies of the study for those who don't receive the Gather magazine.

Men, if you are feeling left out, I'm open to whatever ideas you might have for a men's bible study. Maybe we could do a monthly study on some of the men in the Bible....

God's Peace,

Pastor Sue

Pastor Sue Koesterman
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

August Memory Café Schedule - 3910 25th St. South, Fargo

August 5th 1:00pm – Music with West Beaton Conservatory @ Memory Cafe

August 12th 1:00pm – Memory Café Day at the Zoo at the Red River Zoo

August 19th – 1:00pm – Education: Dr. Rod Swenson 'Beyond Early Detection of Cognitive Decline' @ Memory Cafe

August 24th – 2:00 – 5:00pm – 2nd Annual Memory Café Care Show, Hope Lutheran Church South Campus, 3636 25th Street South

August 26th – 9:30am – Moving Ahead: Life After Loss @ Memory Cafe

August 26th – 1:00pm - Caregiver Café Support Group @ Memory Cafe



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

In Memory of:

Jerry Roth
Laurie Smerud

Given by:

James Roth
Alan Grothe

Given to:

General Fund
General Fund

Death

George Christiansen June 16, 2026
Glenn Johnson July 13, 2026
Lori Holte July 17, 2026

Service with Pastor Sue at West Funeral Home June 26, 2026
Service with Pastor Sue at West Funeral Home July 20, 2026
Service with Pastor Sue at Faith Journey Lutheran July 24, 2026

The Caring Ministry Team is planning a CPR course this fall, including hands-on training in CPR & AED use. The date & time are still to be determined. If you need to renew your certification or become certified for the first time, this is a great opportunity. A minimal fee will apply. Watch for more information in the coming weeks!



Are you looking for a new volunteer opportunity? The Caring Ministry Team is looking for additional members. You would join a committed group of volunteers whose focus is the spiritual, mental, and physical health of the congregation. You are invited to join them in visiting home bound members, being a part of the communion deacon ministry, or visiting congregants in nursing homes. Our team is also involved in health presentations, writing articles related to health and wellness including food and nutrition for the newsletter. If you are interested in joining, please let the church office know or contact Jenean Baumann at 701-367-7136 for more details.

Choir will be start September 15th at 6:30pm in the Worship Center. Whether you are a 'sing in your car' kind of singer, or you have years of experience - ALL persons are welcome to join! We have a lot of fun!!





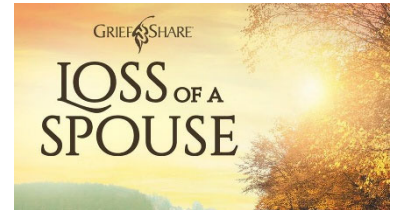
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10am Service with Holy Communion Commissioning of Communion Deacons	3 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 7pm AA	4 10am Bible Study	5 9am Staff Meeting 9am Piecemakers 6:30pm Worship with Holy Communion	6 11am Faith & Conviction Mtg 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice	7	8 9:30am More than Manna
	Pastor Sue gone to Pastor's Conference in New Mexico					
9 10am Service with Holy Communion	10 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 7pm AA	11 10am Bible Study 5:30pm Landscaping Team Meeting	12 9am Staff Meeting 9am Piecemakers 5:30pm Faith Formation Mtg. 6:30pm Worship with Holy	13 11am Faith & Conviction Mtg 1pm Caring Ministry Team Mtg 6pm Arts & Environment Mtg 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice	14	15
	Pastor Sue gone on vacation					
	Maren Kramer gone to Red Willow Bible Camp					
16 10am Service with Holy Communion 2pm Jelinek Anniversary Party	17 5:30pm Council Mtg 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 7pm AA	18 10am Bible Study	19 9am Staff Meeting 9am Piecemakers 6:30pm Worship with Holy Communion	20 11am Faith & Conviction Mtg 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice	21	22 9:30am More than Manna
23 10am Worship with Holy Communion 11:15am Worship Team Meeting	24 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 7pm AA	25 10am Bible Study SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!	26 9am Staff Meeting 9:15am AFLAC meeting at Staff 9am Piecemakers 5:15pm All Teams Potluck 6:15pm All Teams Meeting	27 7am Kings Men at Deane's Diner 11am Faith & Conviction Mtg 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice	28	29
30 10am Worship with Holy Communion	31 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 7pm AA 7pm Altar Guild					

Planning an Event?

Contact Katie in the church office to secure the date & to receive the form needed to reserve the space. Needed on the form will be the contact person, date/s, times, est. number of participants & any other pertinent information. All activities MUST be scheduled through Katie to guarantee your time, date & the space requested. Thank you!
**space not guaranteed without the necessary information & form

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>

GriefShare: "Loss of a Spouse": The death of a spouse brings a unique kind of pain. People who are widowed haven't just lost a loved one - they've lost an entire lifestyle. Faith Journey Lutheran Church in West Fargo is offering " Loss of a Spouse", a 2-hour, stand-alone GriefShare seminar ministry to support grieving spouses. The seminar will be on Thursday, September 3rd at 6:30pm downstairs in a classroom. For more information or to register, please contact Pastor Sue @ 701-282-3309 or Bonnie @701-318-0949.



IT HURTS TO LOSE SOMEONE

GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. We want to help you on your journey toward recovery. Our new GriefShare sessions will begin Thursday, September 10th at 6:30 PM downstairs in a classroom at Faith Journey Lutheran church. 127 2nd Ave E in West Fargo, ND. Please call Pastor Sue @701-282-3309 or Bonnie @ 701-318-0949 for more information.

I've been giving a lot of thought lately about what it means to be a volunteer. In the news media, we hear about different volunteer groups doing great things here and abroad. But do we need to do great things to further God's Kingdom? In John 15:5 Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." Everything we have to offer bears fruit in God's kingdom. It doesn't need to make the news. It may even go unnoticed and that's okay. Mother Theresa is quoted as saying, "Not all of us can do great things but we can do small things with great love." Our church needs many kinds of volunteers. On Rally Sunday, you will have the opportunity to learn about all the volunteer opportunities. Please join us and prayerfully consider how you can use your unique gifts to further the mission of Faith Journey Lutheran Church. We all can do small things with great love.



Jane Whaley
Creative Worship Coordinator

The next All Teams Meeting will be August 26th!
5:30pm Potluck (bring a dish to share!)
6:15pm Individual Team Meetings
7:00pm All Teams Meet together
All are Welcome! See you there!

Ahoy, Mateys! Rally Day 2026 Awaits!



Shiver me timbers, Faith Journey Lutheran Church is the place to be for Rally Day 2026.

September 13, 2026, we invite you to climb aboard the S.S. Faith Journey as we kick off a new year of faith, learning, and fellowship. We will begin by dropping our faith anchor for worship at 10:00 a.m. Then, it's time to set sail on a swashbuckling treasure hunt. Once the adventure is complete, we will head down to the galley for some delicious grub, courtesy of our local Boy Scout Troop.

So, gather your crew young and "young at heart" and visit each stop collecting all your loot, and see what surprises await. You may even have to walk the plank along the way... but don't worry, mateys – no pirates will be left to swim with the sharks.

Everyone is welcome aboard the S.S. Faith Journey for a morning packed with worship, laughter, adventure, and fellowship.



Sunday School

Registration Form

First day of Sunday School for all ages will be Sept. 20th at 10am in the Fellowship Hall. All are Welcome



Confirmation

Registration Form

Confirmation will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 23rd at 6:30pm in the Worship Center.

Scan the QR code to register your child/children.



Happy Summer to All!

As I reflect on the past few months, I am filled with gratitude for the many ways God has been at work in our congregation. Even during the busy summer season, Faith Journey has remained active through our Wednesday evening worship services and fellowship gatherings, providing meaningful opportunities to worship, connect, and grow together.

One of the highlights of July was our Vacation Bible School. Although it was a very warm week, we had an incredible time exploring this year's theme, "Wear Love" based on Colossians 3:12-14 which reads: 12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. We were blessed to have 24 children registered, with about 20 children participating consistently throughout the week. These children came from our congregation, our neighborhood, and surrounding communities.

A special thank you goes to the Red Willow Bible Camp staff, who made the week such a wonderful experience. Through music, skits, games, arts and crafts, water activities, and Bible learning, our children discovered what God's Word teaches about wearing love, kindness, humility, and calmness/patience. It was a joy to watch faith grow while having fun together!

I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make VBS possible, including the members of the Kingsmen who assisted with setup, those who prepared food, and all the volunteers who generously shared their time and energy with our children. We had super volunteers from all ages--Your support truly made a difference.

Look forward to monthly Youth Activities and meetings for those who will be attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering in June 2027.

AS ALWAYS FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME OR STOP BY WITH ANY QUESTIONS, THOUGHTS, IDEAS AND JUST TO SAY HI!

As summer begins to wind down and families prepare for fall schedules, school routines, and new opportunities, know that you are in my prayers. May God bless your family with peace, joy, and renewed energy for the season ahead.

Grace & Peace,

Maren Kramer – Faith Formation Director

mkramer@growinfaith.org 701.369.2464

Upcoming Faith Formation Events:

August 9-14: 14 confirmation students & I will attend Red Willow Bible Camp

September 13: Rally Day!

September 20: 1st Day of Intergenerational Family Sunday School at 10am in the Fellowship Hall

September 23: 1st Day of Confirmation with Pizza at 6:15pm & programming at 7pm. Parents plan to attend this first night!

September 25-27: Eastern North Dakota Youth Retreat at Camp Castaway – More info. to come!

October 12: All 8th grade students planning to be confirmed this fall are required to attend the Confirmation Retreat immediately following the 11am worship service on this date! It will last from approx. 12:15pm to 7pm. Families, be sure to put this on your calendar as a priority!

October 25: Confirmation Sunday will be celebrated with 1 worship service at 10am.

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 Guillard, 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

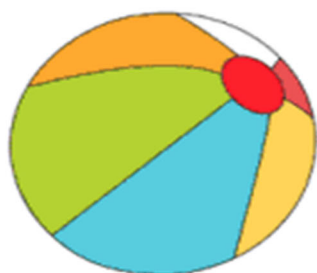
Instagram: [faithjourneyWF](https://www.instagram.com/faithjourneyWF)

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



August
Beach
Camping
Hot
Lazy
Ocean
Peach

Picnic
Pool
Relax
Summer
Sunshine
Vacation
Waffle

W P I C N I C J C A M P I N G
J G B C E O D P P J L R H H N
T D J W I W A O C E A N J H M
P C L H Y K F O M I Z T J D G
N W L K H O T L W F Y V L S F
H C G X N V P I O X B C V H A
R Y D C P A E T W I W L B B U
X V R R Y C R I O A C H E S
N K N A G A H T X G F K F A C
F E B E P T D Z M H F R A C Z
S U N S H I N E R E L A X H S
P E A C H O S U M M E R F V M
I P D Q J N Y R K A Q I F J J
B I W I B J G O A U G U S T D F

WORD SEARCH

August

