



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

Greetings Faith Journey Family!

In the bible verse above, Jesus reminds us of our need to be connected. Connected to Jesus and to one another. Have you given much thought to our connectedness as community and the ways we can build a more cohesive community?

On Rally Sunday, September 13th, we are going to celebrate community and all the ways we can connect with one another by participating in a treasure hunt. Our church staff, church council, and each of our teams and groups will have tables with interactive activities for people of all ages.

At each table you visit, you'll collect a word. Put all the words together and you have a Bible verse about our treasures and our hearts. Along the way, I'm pretty sure you'll learn something new about a group or team in our church community. Maybe you'll even find you want to give something new (like handbells, choir, Piecemakers, Kings Men, or one of the Teams) a try.

Afterwards, come downstairs for pancakes and sausage. The scout troops that meet in our building are hosting a pancake feed to benefit God's Global Barnyard fundraiser!

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



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

Sept. 2nd 1:00pm – Fall Kick Off Celebration with music from the Dakota Brass Band

Sept. 9th 1:00pm – Bands, Bouquets, & Bingo

Sept. 16th – 1:00pm – Education: Healthcare Navigation & Advocacy “Amanda Roberts, APRN, CNP”

Sept. 23rd – 9:30am – Moving Ahead: Life After Loss Support Group

Sept. 23rd – 1:00pm - Caregiver Café Support Group

CLASS FOR ADULT CPR/AED

Caring Ministry Team is sponsoring a certification class for Adult CPR (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation) and AED (Automatic Electronic Defibrillator) on Monday, October 5, 2026, at 6:30 PM (approximately 2-2 1/2 hours). Location is in the FJLC Narthex. Pre-registration with a payment of \$10.00 is required by September 25 to confirm there are enough registrants to hold the class. To pre-register, call the church office - 701.282.3309



Fargo Beginning Experience

“Moving Forward with Hope...Coping with Life Alone”

This support group is for Widowed, Divorce or Separated people helping them to understand the grief process and the stages of grief. Led by teams of peers who have experienced similar losses in their lives. This is a non-denominational program. The program will be held at Liberty Brethren Lutheran Church, 1702 32nd Ave. S, Fargo, ND. This 10 week program starts on Monday, September 10th. Registration will be at 6:00 and session will begin at 6:30. The cost is \$55.00 which includes your Coping book. For more information please call Bonnie 701-318-0949 or the information line 701-277-8784 and leave a

message. Our website is: www.beginningexperience-easternnorthdakota.org

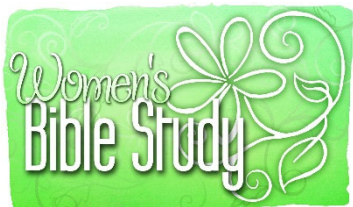
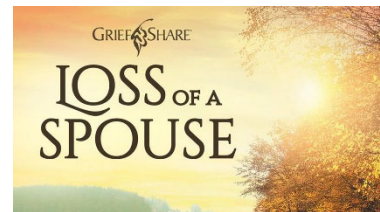


It hurts to lose someone.

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, Phyllis 701-239-6064, Bonnie @701-318-0949 for more information.

We will be offering a two-hour program on " Loss of a Spouse":

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, Phyllis @701-239-6064, Bonnie @701-318-0949.



A New Women's Bible Study will begin on Thursday, September 17th. This study will meet at 7:00am on the 3rd Thursday of each month at Deane's Diner. We will be using the ELCA Women's Gathering Book as our basis. Talk to Pastor Sue for more information.

SEPTEMBER

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

		1 10am Bible Study 6pm Cub Scout Pack 232	2 9am Plecemakers 9am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Faith Formation Mtg 5:30pm WestFest Parade Team Mtg	3 11am Faith & Conviction Mtg 6pm Arts & Environment Mtg 6:30-8:30pm GriefShare Loss of a Spouse 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice	4	5 9:30am More than Manna
6 10am Service with Holy Communion Commissioning of Communion Deacons	7  OFFICE CLOSED 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 7pm AA	8 10am Bible Study 5:30pm Landscaping Team Mtg 6pm Cub Scout Pack 232	9 9am Plecemakers 9am Staff Meeting	10 1pm Caring Ministry Team Mtg 5:30pm Garden Club 6:30pm GriefShare 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice	11 	12  10:00am
13 RALLY SUNDAY! 10am Service with Holy Communion 11:15am Pancake Breakfast served by the Boy Scouts! Pastor Sue out of the office – after the service	14 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 7pm AA Pastor Sue out of the office	15 10am Bible Study 6:30pm Choir Pastor Sue out of the office	16 9am Plecemakers 9am Staff Meeting Pastor Sue out of the office 5:30pm Guide & small group huddle	17 7am Women's Bible Study – Deane's Diner 11am Faith & Conviction Mtg 6:30pm GriefShare 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice	18	19 WEST FEST 9:30am More than Manna
20 9am Worship with Holy Communion 10am Family SS 11am Worship with Holy Communion 11am Weisz Baptism x3 12pm Fellowship Hall Reserved for private event	21 5:30pm Council Mtg 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 7pm AA	22 10am Bible Study 6:30pm Choir 6pm Cub Scout Pack 232	23 9am Plecemakers 9am Staff Meeting 6pm Confirmation Meal 7pm 1st Day Confirmation	24 7am Kings Men at Deane's Diner 6:30pm GriefShare 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice	25 OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE! EaND & NWMN Synod Youth Gathering – Cast Away DL	26 EaND & NWMN Synod Youth Gathering – Cast Away DL
27 Synod Youth Gathering Concludes 9am Worship with Holy Communion 10am Family SS 11am Worship with Holy Communion 11am Figueroa Baptism	28 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 7pm AA	29 10am Bible Study 6:30pm Choir	30 9am Plecemakers 9am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Confirmation			



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>. If you have not had your photo taken, there will be an opportunity to get it taken on Rally Sunday.



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

In Memory of:

Jerry Roth (2)
Lori Holte
Lori Holte
Lori Holte
Lori Holte
Duane Quaschnick

Given by:

James Roth
Jerry & Ellen Liddle
Fred & Paula Kaufman
Piecemakers
Faith Foundation
General Fund

Given to:

General Fund
General Fund
Kitchen Improvement
Kathy Knutson
Marlene Batterberry
James Roth

In Honor of:

Jenean Bauman

Given by:

Elaine Martel

Given to:

Parish Nurse Program



West Fest is right around the corner! Saturday, Sept. 19th Faith Journey will have a float in the West Fest Parade & we are looking for more people to help with construction & preparation for this event. This year's theme is "Your City". Faith Journey has chosen the theme of Noah's Ark for our parade float & would love to have all of you involved. A group is meeting Sundays, August 30th & Sept. 6th following the service, as well as on Wednesday at 5:30pm, Sept. 2nd & 16th. Call the church office for more information.

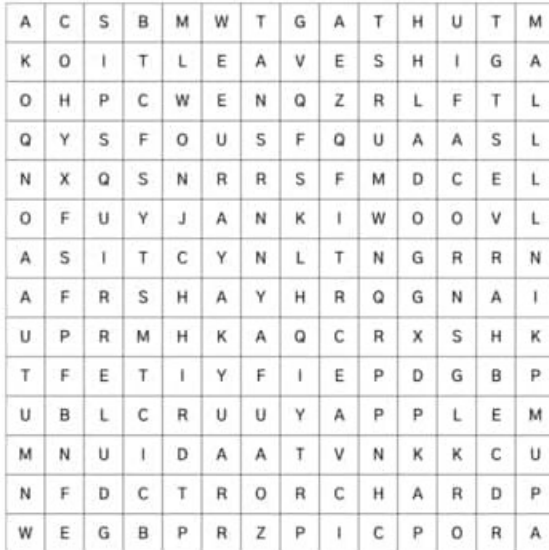
Looking to get more involved with your Faith Journey Lutheran Church Family? There are many opportunities to volunteer including, serving on the church council, joining one of the many teams, ushering, greeting, reading or serving communion. If you would like more information on the many ways you can help, please plan to attend church on Rally Sunday. Every team will have a table set up in the worship center or the narthex & can answer any questions that you might have! See you there!



**Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast
Sunday, September 13th - 11:15am
Serving following church service in the
Fellowship Hall
Free-Will Offering will go to the
God's Global Barnyard Project**

The AUTUMN That GOD MADE WORD SEARCH

Find all of the hidden words listed below.



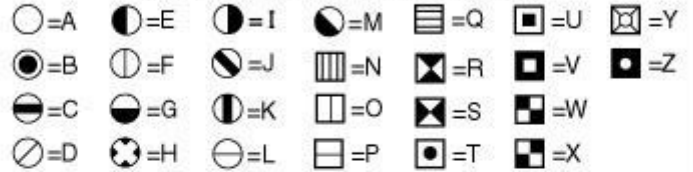
AUTUMN HARVEST APPLE HAYRIDE BLESSINGS
LEAVES ORCHARD ACORN CORN PRAYER FAMILY
PUMPKIN SCARF SQUIRREL THANKFUL GOD

© Ben Box Press

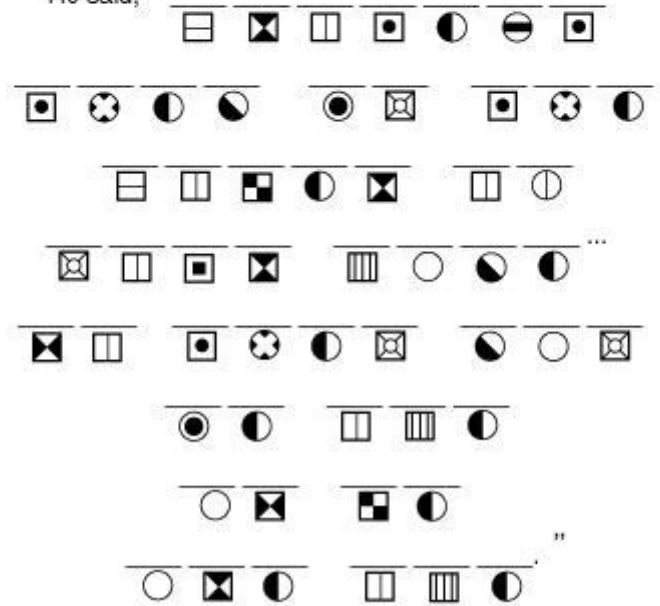


Jesus prayed for His friends.

Use the code to find some of His words.



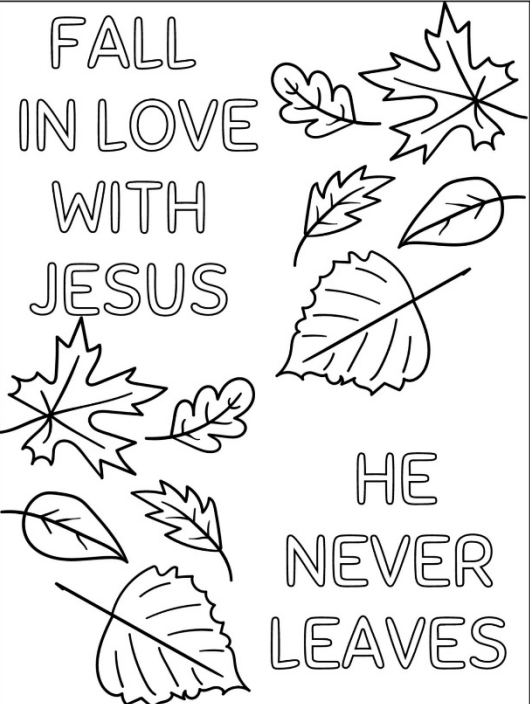
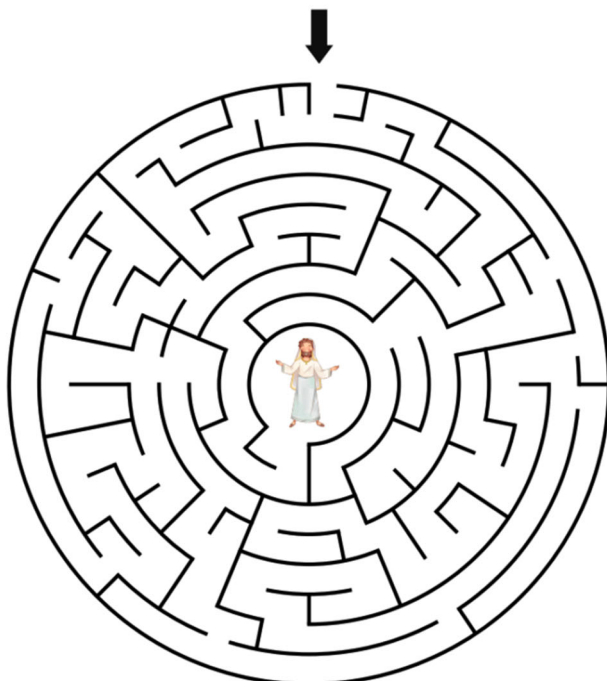
He said, "



Jesus is my Friend!

Find your way to Jesus

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13



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: Brenda Jo Guiland

Church Council Members: Trina Smaaladen, Brenda Jo Guiland, Ginny Jesser, Stephanie Rieniets, Jolanda Anderson, Susan Kaufman, Roger Hansen

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

List for Food Pantries:

Mac & cheese
Beef Jerky or Slim Jim's
Pasta and Pasta Sauce
Cereal
Canned Chicken
Tuna
Goldfish Crackers
Animal Crackers
Applesauce
Granola Bars
Fruit Snacks
Pudding
Ramen
Spaghetios
Peanut Butter
Cheez-Its
Any cracker snack
Fruit Cups
Hamburger Helper
Tuna Helper

Our community impact team is collecting food for the West Fargo Public Schools food pantries. We will focus on the north side schools with this drive. The drive is for snacks and food that is easy to make. Our drive will start next Sunday and end on September 13th-Rally Day. Thank you in advance for helping out the families in West Fargo!

