



Celebrating Our Faith Journey 2026

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

Greetings Faith Journey Family,

I'm so excited to share information about our Faith Foundation Seminar sessions this year.

For those of you who are not familiar with the seminars, they are held the first three Thursdays in November each year, are graciously hosted by our Faith Foundation, and feature Bible Study led by me and a speaker from the community.

We live in such anxious times! No matter who I am speaking with. No matter which age cohort they are a part of. What I hear from many of you is how much anxiety is just in the atmosphere these days. So, it seems like a perfect time to reflect on how to live in the midst of these times faithfully and with a greater sense of peace. Our theme this year is "Wisdom and Worry". Below you will find the schedule, the topic, and the speaker for each session.

Wisdom and Worry

Thursday, November 5 - How Can I Know What's True?

9:00 - 9:30 am - Coffee and Fellowship

9:30 - 10:15 am - Bible Study on Proverbs 8:1-17

10:15-10:30 am - Break

10:30 - 11:30 am - Speaker - Kevin Wallevand

Local Emmy Award winning journalist, Kevin Wallevand, will share some general guidelines for evaluating the objectivity and trustworthiness of news sources whether print, TV, or social media based.

Thursday, November 12 - Help! I Can't Stop Doom Scrolling.

9:00 - 9:30 am - Coffee and Fellowship

9:30 - 10:15 am - Bible Study on Proverbs 6:12-23

10:15-10:30 am - Break

10:30 - 11:30 am - Speaker - Valley Christian Counseling

A Mental Health Professional from Valley Christian Counseling will share guidance with us on the value of finding balance and reducing anxiety by setting healthy boundaries around our consumption of news and social media.

Thursday, November 19 - What Did You Just Say?!!!

9:00 - 9:30 am - Coffee and Fellowship

9:30 - 10:15 am - Bible Study on Proverbs 16:16-24, 31-17:1

10:15-10:30 am - Break

10:30 - 11:30 - Speaker - Ross Keys

Just in time for that Thanksgiving Dinner, Ross Keys, Director of the North Dakota Interfaith Alliance, will share experience-based wisdom related to navigating the intricacies of engaging in and promoting civil discourse in times and places marked by discord.

See you in November for this great series of seminars. Don't miss it and be sure to invite your friends!

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



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

Oct. 7th 1:00pm – Fall Kick an Afternoon of Friends & Fall Activities

Oct. 14th 1:00pm – Music with Valley Ukulele Group

Oct. 21st – 1:00pm – Education: Mary Devick “What I Know Now I Wish I Knew Then”

Oct. 28th – 9:30am – Moving Ahead: Life After Loss Support Group

Oct. 28th – 1:00pm - Caregiver Café Support Group

Oct. 28th – 5:00pm – A Support Group for Adult Children

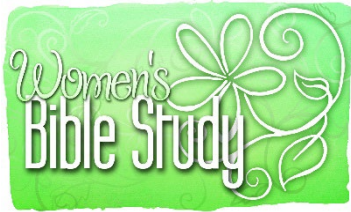
CLASS FOR ADULT CPR/AED

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



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](tel:701-282-3309), Phyllis [701-239-6064](tel:701-239-6064), Bonnie @ [701-318-0949](tel:701-318-0949) for more information.



A Women's Bible Study will be held on Thursday, October 15th. This study will meet at 7:00am on the 3rd Thursday of each month at Deaner's Diner. We will be using the ELCA Women's Gathering Book as our basis. Talk to Pastor Sue for more information.

Donations for Global Refuge:

New Winter Coats: Sizes 2T-Adult XXL

**They are also in
need of hats,
gloves and
scarves!**



**Winter Coat Drive for
Immigrants & Refugees**

Our community impact team is collaborating with Global Refuge to get new winter coats for new immigrants and refugees. We will start the collection on Sunday, September 27th and run it through Sunday, October 11th. Global Refuge is asking for new winter coats from size 2T to Adult XXL. They are also in need of hats, gloves, and scarves. If you cannot contribute a winter item but would like to donate funds, you can do so by using the QR code on the poster in the narthex. Thank you all for your consideration.

Help Us Make Treat Street Extra Sweet!

Faith Journey Lutheran Church is excited to once again participate in West Fargo's Treat Street, along with our Reverse Trick-or-Treating outreach! This year, we are expecting around 1,500 kids at Treat Street and approximately 300 homes to visit as we deliver candy throughout the community. That's a LOT of candy! We are reaching out to our congregation to donate bags of individually wrapped candy to help make this event a success! We would especially love to receive candy that we can pair with a Faith Journey sticker featuring our QR code, giving us an opportunity to share a little more about our church with the families we meet. However, any type of individually wrapped candy donation is greatly appreciated! All donations can be dropped off at the Church.



A Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, October 11 after the 11am service. At this meeting, the 2027 budget will be presented for approval & council elections will be held. If you are



interested in serving on the council, talk to Pastor Sue or one of the council members. The council will be providing a meal of sloppy joes, chips & dessert before the meeting starts.

West Fest 2026 was a huge success! See pictures below of the Faith Journey float & our mascots Wanda & Dexter all decked out in their Faith Journey t-shirts.





FAITH INKUBATORS

New Changes to our Confirmation Program:

From Head to Heart

This fall marks an exciting new chapter in faith formation at Faith Journey Lutheran Church. We are blessed to have 17 students preparing for Confirmation this year, along with our other 6th-8th grade students beginning faith formation classes this past week!

This year we are beginning a new curriculum called Faith Inkubators: Head to Heart, that is known to some and new to others. It helps us move even more beyond the older model of confirmation focused primarily on learning information. Instead, we focus on forming faith that takes root in everyday life. Head to Heart emphasizes faith formation over information transfer, relationships over lectures through large group, small group, fellowship, servant events through church and nightly home huddles every night in every home. It stresses real-life application over workbook completion. Students learn through large groups, small groups, youth activities, and conversations at home. Parents are not spectators or drop-off drivers; they are partners in their children's faith journey through simple Home Huddles and family faith conversations.

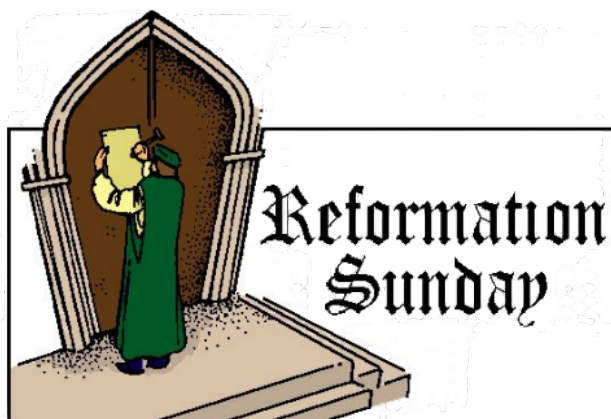
We are also shifting our focus from simply completing requirements to building a community where young people belong, serve, grow, and discover how God is at work in their lives. Service opportunities, youth group, worship, and education will be connected as part of one faith journey rather than separate activities. In addition, we are excited to offer monthly youth group gatherings this year. We are also hoping to take a group to the ELCA National Youth Gathering next summer. Students interested in attending will begin meeting monthly for Bible study, community-building, and fundraising. We are grateful for your encouragement and generosity as we help our young people grow in faith and prepare for this life-changing experience.

Pastor Sue and I are grateful for this new direction and excited to see how God works through our young people and their families as we journey together from head to heart.

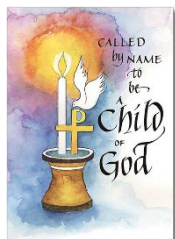
Blessings,
Maren Kramer
Faith Formation Director
Faith Journey Lutheran Church

October 25
ONE service
10:00 am!

**We are pulling out
all the stops!**



Come! Enjoy a full traditional, liturgical, Lutheran service including the Affirmation of Faith of 17 youth!



New Members received through Holy Baptism on September 20, 2026

Lenora Elise Coenen
William Finn LeBlanc
Nelson Everest LeBlanc
Amelio Matías Domínguez

Daughter of Jackson Coenen & Evelyn Wrenson
Son of Jeremy Leblanc & Emerald Weisz
Son of Jeremy Leblanc & Emerald Weisz
Son of Matías & Melanie Domínguez

Members & Friends welcomed into the arms of our Lord

Roger DuBois	2/18/2026	Member	Service at West Funeral Home
Terry Potter	9/02/2026	Member	Service at Faith Journey
Lloyd Iverson	9/7/2026	Non-Member	Service at Faith Journey



Sunday **Monday** **Tuesday** **Wednesday** **Thursday** **Friday** **Saturday**

				1 11am Faith & Conviction Mtg 6pm Arts & Environment Mtg 6:30-8:30pm GriefShare 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice	2	3 9:30am More than Manna 10am Memorial Service for Mike Cariveau at West Funeral Home 11am Inurnment at Faith Journey Columbarium
4 9am Trad. Service with Holy Communion Commissioning of Communion Deacons at both services 10am Family SS 11am Cont. Service with Holy Communion 12:30-7pm Confirmation Retreat	5 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 7pm AA	6 10am Bible Study 6pm Cub Scout Pack 232 6:30pm Choir	7 9am Plecemakers 9am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Faith Formation Mtg. 6:15pm Confirmation Meal 7pm Confirmation	8 1pm Caring Ministry Team Mtg 5:30pm Garden Club 6:30pm GriefShare 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice	9 Pastor Sue at Synod Council meeting	10 Pastor Sue at Synod Council meeting 10am Lloyd Anderson Memorial Service at West Funeral Home
11 1st Bibles at both services 9am Trad. Service Holy Communion 10am Family SS 11am Cont. Service Holy Communion & Holy Baptism 12:15pm Congregational Mtg.	12 Office Closed 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 7pm AA	13 10am Bible Study 5:30pm Landscaping Team Mtg 6pm Cub Scout Pack 232 6:30pm Choir	14 9am Plecemakers 9am Staff Meeting 6:15pm Confirmation Meal 7pm Confirmation	15 7am Women's Bible Study – Deaneer's Diner 11am Faith & Conviction Mtg 6:30pm GriefShare 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice	16	17 9:30am More than Manna
18 9am Trad. Service with Holy Communion – Choir Sings 10am Family SS 11am Cont. Service with Holy Communion & Holy Baptism 12:15pm MaryJean Olson Bday Party 3pm Youth Pumpkin Carving	19 5:30pm Council Mtg 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 7pm AA	20 10am Bible Study 6:30pm Choir 6pm Cub Scout Pack 232	21 9am Plecemakers 9am Staff Meeting 6:15pm Confirmation Meal 7pm Confirmation	22 7am Kings Men at Deaneer's Diner 6:30pm GriefShare 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice	23	24
25 REFORMATION SUNDAY 10am Confirmation Sunday Worship with Holy Communion	26 4pm Faith Foundation Mtg 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 7pm AA	27 10am Bible Study 4:30pm Treat Street 6pm Cub Scout Pack 232 6:30pm Choir	28 9am Plecemakers 9am Staff Meeting 7pm Reverse Trick or Treating/Bonfire	29 6:30pm GriefShare 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice	30	31 Reformation Day 9:30am More than Manna 



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

In Memory of:

Anna Chase
Ann Chase
Sandy Evenrude Blane
Oliver Clemenson
Sandy Evenrude Blane, Jerry Roth
& Duane Quaschnick
Lloyd Iverson
Jerry Roth (2)
Lloyd Iverson
Lloyd Iverson
Terry Potter
Lloyd Iverson
Terry Potter
Terry Potter
Terry Potter
Terry Potter
Lloyd Iverson
Sharon & Allan Nelson
Lloyd Iverson
Terry Potter

Given by:

Teresa Salter
Brian & Corrine Tibba
James Roth
Jolanda Anderson

James Roth
Lyle & Judy Jabs
James Roth
Willie & Sharon Schacher
Marlene Batterberry
Kathy Knutson
Kathy Knutson
Kingsmen
Kingsmen
Kingsmen
Kingsmen
General Fund
Genera Fund
General Fund
Kingsmen

Given to:

General Fund
General Fund
General Fund
Facility Enhancement

General Fund
General Fund
General Fund
General Fund
Faith Foundation
Piecemakers
Piecemakers
Ryan, Tina, Tyler & Callie Rued
Verna Mangin
Terry & Suzi Hansen
Wilie & Sharon Schacher
Joan Whaley
Anonymous
Rachel Thorson
Keith & Leanne Dressel



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 talk to a council member or Pastor Sue. We would love to add you to the list!

Faith Journey Lutheran Church celebrated Rally Day Sunday, September 13, 2026 with a fun and engaging pirate theme. The event highlighted the many volunteer opportunities available within our congregation and provided a wonderful opportunity for fellowship. Our teams went above and beyond, decorating their tables and creating engaging games for children and families. **And a special shout-out to Boy Scouts Troop 213 for the delicious pancake breakfast!** They did an incredible job preparing, serving, and cleaning up. We appreciate all of their hard work! Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make Rally Day such a success. Faith Journey Lutheran church is truly a place where you belong.

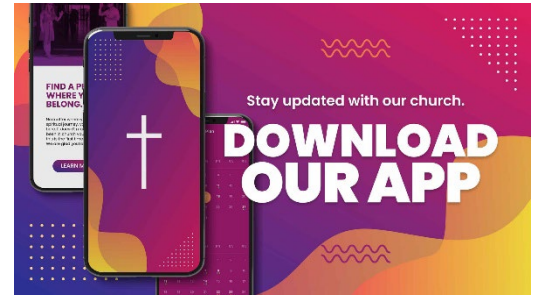


We are excited to announce that our new Faith Journey Lutheran Church app is officially up and running!

Our app is designed to help us stay connected, informed, and engaged as a church family – no matter where we are.

With this app, you can easily access;

- Church news and announcements
- Upcoming events and the church calendar
- Online giving
- Worship videos (Live Streaming coming soon!)



You will also receive notifications about important updates, last-minute changes, upcoming events, and other information you won't want to miss.

And this is just the beginning! As Faith Journey continues to grow, so will our app. We have more features and additions planned, so keep an eye out in our newsletters, bulletins, and flyers for updates.

 **Download It Today!**

Getting the app is easy! Simply go to the App Store or Google Play Store on your smartphone or tablet and search for:

Faith Journey Lutheran Church

Look for our Faith Journey logo, download the app, and you're ready to go!

Make sure you allow notifications when you download the app so you can receive important church updates and messages!



Hello, congregational leaders!

I am so excited to share a special version of this fall's "Leadership Circle Newsletter" with you. Your congregation generously supports the mission of the ELCA beyond your regular Mission Support. Thank you for partnering with us in our shared mission! I've selected the

stories in this resource just for you and included some more information about events that will inspire you and your congregation. (Find more information on the ELCA website at www.elca.org/leadershipcircle)

With deep gratitude for your partnership in mission,

Dan

The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, Congregational Generosity
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A GOOD, INSPIRATIONAL READ – CHECK OUT THE STORIES WITH IMPACT ON THE ELCA WEBSITE UNDER LEADERSHIP CIRCLE. www.elca.org/leadershipcircle

Events at Bethany Retirement Living for October

The Snack Showdown – Flavor Faceoff

Oct. 13 2pm at Bethany on 42nd & Oct. 14 3:30pm at Bethany on University

Bonfire with Hot Apple Cider

Oct. 23 6:30pm at Bethany on University & Oct. 28 at Bethany on 42nd

Monster Mash & Mingle

Oct. 30 3:15pm at Bethany on 42nd & Oct. 30 3:30pm at Bethany on University

All are invited to join any or all these activities. We would love to see you!



Bethany Fargo, ND
retirement living

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 Guillard

Church Council Members: Trina Smaaladen, Brenda Jo Guillard, 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](#)

Facebook: [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



Jared and Amanda Hoeft present

Windswept

a concert of
flute, marimba, and piano

November 7, 2026
2 PM

Faith + Journey Lutheran Church
127 2nd Ave E, West Fargo

\$15 suggested donation

Proceeds benefit the Fargo-Moorhead Gay Men's Chorus

In this concert, the second in a four-part series about the elements, Amanda and Jared will explore the element of air and the many ways it can be depicted through music. From wind across mountains and through fields to birds soaring high above the clouds, using traditional and extended techniques and many musical styles, from baroque to contemporary music (including the premiere of a new piece composed by Jared), this concert will have something for everyone! Amanda's mom, Jane Whaley, will be performing "Clouds", a piano composition by Florence Beatrice Price.