



Faith Journey

Lutheran Church

We intend to EQUIP, CONNECT and EMPOWER you to go into the community.
127 2nd Ave E, West Fargo, ND 58078 • 701.282.3309 • www.growinfaith.org

December 8, 2024 • Second Sunday of Advent

Mission: Faith Journey is a community in which all people of all generations feel invited and welcomed to be engaged in the full range of our shared ministries.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays
9:00am—Traditional
11:00am Contemporary

NOTE: ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ONLY

Sunday, December 15, 10am
and
Sunday, December 29, 10am

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
9:30am—Noon

FAITH FORMATION

Launch Family Sunday School

Ages 4—Grade 5
Sundays, 10:00am
Fellowship Hall

Compass

Confirmation for Grades 6-8
Wednesdays, 7:00pm
Worship Center

Road Maintenance

When John the baptizer arrives on the scene, it must mean Jesus is just around the next bend. Yet the path ahead that the prophet Isaiah describes has no bends or curves. It is a way made straight, one on which the rough spots have been smoothed out and the stumbling blocks removed. Our daily lives are rarely, if ever, made straight and smooth, though. The stressors we encounter at work, the difficulties of parenting or caring for family, the challenges that come as we get older fill our paths with twists and turns. Little is plain and simple, in life or in scripture. The point of the gospel is not that everything will be smooth for us if we just have faith. But neither are we hopelessly lost along the way. The good news is that God provides a way forward. Amid the obstacles are also openings.

Preparing our hearts to follow the way of Jesus involves work. Just as maintaining a roadway demands ongoing inspection and service, our spiritual lives and the lives of our faith communities require consistent, long-term attention, care, and commitment. During Advent, we in the church together recommit to the “roadwork” necessary for preparing the way. We open ourselves to receiving the gift of God’s creative presence in the world.

Faith is the opening through which God begins this work. We do not baptize ourselves. We are not called to do the work alone. Rather, we are baptized into a community of faith, as members of Christ’s body in the world. God’s grace given to us in word and sacrament transforms and empowers us to work collectively, to care for one another and God’s creation, to work for justice and peace. Life together won’t always be smooth or straightforward. There will be obstacles. But by the grace of God, there are also open roads ahead.

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Today’s Scripture Readings

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

Next Week’s Scripture Readings

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

For more information:

Website: www.growinfaith.org

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/faithjourneyWF

All Sunday Services of Worship are live streamed to our Website and Facebook.

Church Staff

Pastor Sue Koesterman

Senior Pastor
skoesterman@growinfaith.org

Carly Tufte, Parish Business Manager

ctufte@growinfaith.org

Heather Reimer, Executive Asst. for Finance & HR

hreimer@growinfaith.org

Jane Whaley, Creative Worship Coordinator

jwhaley@growinfaith.org

Jamie Thompson, Contemporary Worship Coord.

jthompson@growinfaith.org

Worship Band: Mike Christl, Josh Thompson, Benny

Gillund, Brent Gillund,

Church Office Volunteers: Theresa Johnson, Eileen

Lund, Signe Nystuen, Sharon Schacher

Publications: Ginnie Berge



Welcome to worship! Please complete a connection card and drop it in the offering plate.

If you are new to Faith Journey, we invite you to take a moment and stop by our information desk for a special welcome gift. If interested in membership, please take a blue membership information form to complete and return to the church office. Questions, please contact Heather, 701.282.3309, hreimer@growinfaith.org.



Christmas Tree Challenge—The Community Impact Team is inviting you all to join in on the Christmas tree challenge fun! Please check out all the trees in the Narthex decorated by different teams at Faith Journey! You can vote by putting a dollar or two in your favorite tree's jar. The trees will be donated to the families at Grace Gardens. The voting money donations will go towards the gifts for the families we are sponsoring at the YWCA through our giving tree.

Thank you for participating in the fun! A special shout out to the winners last year—the Piecemakers! Let's see if they can do it again this year!



**Service of Carols and Readings
Sunday, December 29
10:00am**

We will join together for one service for a special worship of carols and readings on the 29th. Please plan to join us as we continue our celebration of Christmas.

Worship with Carols and Readings



The church office will be closed:

- Tuesday, December 24
- Wednesday, December 25
- Wednesday January 1

Pastor Sue will be out of the office December 26 through January 1.

Community Impact Special Offerings

Please use white pew envelopes or QR code. Gifts can also be made through Pushpay and Square.

December Care and Share Offerings designated to **Medical Mission Ecuador**. Care and Share offering plate is located on the stand in the center aisle as you go to communion.

Noisy Offering supports, through World Vision, three children from Tanzania—Saigoni Ally, Veronica Samson Samsoni and Gibson Flaviana Francisco. Drop in your spare change—"noisy offering", checks and currency in the containers located at the back of the Worship Center.



X-tra Blessings

X-tra blessings Emphasis

Week two is in the books. Our total currently stands at \$28,500 and last week we had five more families join the **x-tra blessings** emphasis. Last year a total of 84 families from our church gave an **x-tra blessings** gift. Continue to pray for our church and consider your gift. It is a great **IN-vestment** in our future. BTW, seniors with an IRA can use an RMD (required minimum distribution) to send their gift directly to our church without paying taxes on the gift. Ask your financial advisor how it can work for you.



Advent

**Midweek Advent Worship
Holden Evening Prayer
December 11 and 18
6:30pm
Worship Center**



Christmas Worship and Program

**Worship with Holy Communion
and
Launch Christmas Program
ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ONLY
Sunday, December 15
10:00am**

**Coffee Fellowship following
Worship in the Fellowship Hall**



Help Needed!

Help needed on December 15! Donations of cookies and other Christmas goodies. Setup/servers/cleanup. Sign-up sheet at the information desk.



**Seasonal Decorations forms
due TODAY!**

SUMMARY OF GIVING AND ATTENDANCE

Dates: November 25—December 1

	Last Week	Month to date	Prior year Week total	Prior year Month total
Giving:	\$ 11,864	\$68,449	\$9,423	\$41,599
Attend:	173	1,025	153	895

*Totals include Pushpay

** \$13,420 is needed weekly in order to make budget

Wi-Fi Guest—User ID: Faith-Guest
Password: FaithJourney

Direct your
**Thrivent Choice
Dollars**
Today!



Donate Your Thrivent Choice Dollars by March 31—

Each year Thrivent gives back dollars to the community through their clients. If you are a Thrivent client, you may have

dollars to give back to our church or any non-profit organization. If you are uncertain of your status or the balance you may have, please contact your Thrivent agent and they will be able to help you transfer them. You have until March 31 to do so, or you will lose those dollars. The church can use your help.



BE THOU MY VISION: What is your vision for the property and landscape for Faith Journey?

Where do you want green space? Where do you want parking? Do you want outdoor worship? Trees? Bushes? Flowers? Vegetable Gardens? **This is your chance to dream!** Keep sending your ideas and suggestions to Brenda Jo, bgillund@msn.com.

Matthew 7:7 *"Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you."*



Join the Piecemakers for quilting on Wednesdays, 9am-3pm, in the Fellowship Hall.

If you can thread a needle and tie a knot, we need you! Donations of quilt tops (fabric or quilt blocks already

sewn together) or twin size sheets are also welcome.

Our Spuds 'n Splits event raised \$3,733 for the church sign fund. If you wish to continue to donate for the church sign, please designate your donations to the Facility Enhancement Fund where these funds will be held until we reach the amount needed to purchase the sign.



Seasonal effective disorder (SAD) is a type of depression that is related to changes in the seasons. It begins and ends at about the same time every year, usually starting in the fall.

Signs and symptoms include feeling sad or down most of the day, nearly every day. Losing interest in activities you once enjoyed, feeling sluggish, feeling hopeless or worthless, appetite changes may also be present. See your doctor if these symptoms last for days at a time. It is especially important to see a clinician if you turn to drugs or alcohol or think about suicide. SAD can worsen and lead to further issues if not treated.

Memory Café—For people with mild to moderate memory loss and their care partners. Events 1:00-2:30pm unless indicated otherwise. Information: 701.281.9303.

- **Dec 11:** Home Safety and Scam Prevention Strategies, West Fargo Fire & Police Departments, Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Ave N, Moorhead
- **Dec 18:** Christmas Concert, Sarah Morrau & Rebekka DeVries, Hope Lutheran Church—South Campus, 3636 25th St. S., Fargo
- **Dec 25:** No Programming—Merry Christmas!



If you or a family member has been hospitalized, please contact Pastor Sue.

Office: 701.282.3309, ext 762

Mobile: 701.951.8911

Remembering in our Prayers

Sympathies

Marvel Mossestad, Janell Schweitzer, Christy and Cody Wilmore and family on the death of daughter, sister and mother, Sandy Rivenes
Family and friends of Patty Jones

*We apologize for any omissions.
Please send corrections to gberge@growinfaith.org
or call the church office. Thank you.*

Prayer Concerns

That your *peace* fills our hearts and our world
The *hope* of Christ's coming brings light to our darkness and renews our spirits
Gratitude to God for His grace and mercy
Our Faith Journey family, as we continue in mission and ministry, loving and serving one another and the world
Pastor Sue, staff and leaders
Our faithful volunteers in all areas of ministry
Those who need God's healing touch
Those mourning the loss of a loved one
People in long term care facilities or homebound
The many hungry and homeless, locally and globally
Those struggling with addictions
For leaders and influencers, that working for the well-being of all will be their highest goal
Those serving in the military and their families
Law enforcement, first responders and their families
Those around the world affected by natural disasters
Those around the world in the presence of war and violence, that they may experience peace
The children we support in Tanzania—Saigoni Ally, Veronica Samson Samsoni, Gibson Flaviana Fransisco
Our Companion Synod and its ministries in Central African Republic

December 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Faith Journey Calendar December 8-15, 2024

Check our online calendar for changes and additions at www.growinfaith.org

*For info about AA or AlAnon call 701.235.SEEK (7335)

To schedule events or activities, contact Carly, ctufte@growinfaith.org, or Heather, hreimer@growinfaith.org, 701.282.3309.

SUN, DECEMBER 8

SEASONAL DECORATIONS FORM DEADLINE

- 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion, Worship Center
- 10:00 Launch Christmas Program Practice, Fellowship Hall
- 11:00 Worship with Holy Communion, Worship Center
- 6:00 Boy Scout Troop #232, Fellowship Hall

MON, DECEMBER 9

- 6:30 Boy Scout Troop #213, Fellowship Hall (West Half)
- 8:00 AA, Fellowship Hall (East Half)

TUE, DECEMBER 10

- 6:00 Cub Scout Pack #232, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 Choir Rehearsal, Worship Center

WED, DECEMBER 11

- 9:00 Piecemakers, Fellowship Hall
- 11:00 Staff Meeting, Room 202
- 6:30 Midweek Advent Worship, Worship Center

THU, DECEMBER 12

- 1:00 Caring Ministry Team Meeting, Conference Room

FRI, DECEMBER 13

SAT, DECEMBER 14

- 10:00 Launch Christmas Program Practice, Worship Center

SUN, DECEMBER 15

- 10:00 Worship with Holy Communion and Launch Christmas Program, Worship Center
- 11:00 Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 Boy Scout Troop #232, Fellowship Hall



Worship Assistants

9:00 Worship

Ushers: Sonia Sandvig, Willie Schacher
Greeters: Janice Kjesbo, Kathy Knutson
Communion Assistants: Jolanda Anderson, Sharon Schacher
Reader: Jolanda Anderson
Cantor: Tom Whaley

11:00 Worship

Ushers: Jennie Bigalke, Dianne Hyndman
 Brad and Darcy Kranda
Greeters: Chelsa Coleman, Linda Lyman
Communion Assistants: Sharon Dreyer, Eileen Stangeland
Reader: Christy Dauer, Aiden Dauer



When considering your personal investment plans, please consider the Faith Foundation. While supporting ministries such as Faith Journey Lutheran Church, the Faith Foundation offers individuals the ability to leave a legacy to our church for generations to come. If you would like more information, please contact the church office at 701.282.3309. They will contact one of the Foundation Trustees to visit with you.



Micah's Mission—Churches United for the Homeless

Faith Journey is committed to serving a meal the **4th Tuesday** of each month at Micah's Mission Family Shelter. For details on volunteering, contact Britni Wyum, britnileclair@yahoo.com.

Food Pantry Needs - Non-perishable food only
 Peanut butter, canned tuna, chicken, fruit and vegetables, soup, pasta, rice, instant potatoes, boxed meals, baking items, spices, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, soap, diapers. Place donations in Food Pantry box by elevator.

YWCA Shelter—Most Urgent Needs: wash cloths, coffee, twin and full-size sheets, twin-size zippered mattress protectors, toilet paper, paper towels, antiperspirant, women's underwear (new—sizes 6-8) For a complete list visit <https://www.ywcacassclay.org>
 Place donations in YWCA box by church office.

Ways to Support Faith Journey:

- ◆ **Offering Plate** during worship
- ◆ **Online**—<https://growinfaith.org/giving> => click on **GIVE NOW** and follow the online instructions
- ◆ **By Mail**—Send your gift to church office, 127 2nd Ave E, West Fargo, ND 58078 Attn: Carly
- ◆ **Square**—Located in the Narthex (lobby) next to the Information table
- ◆ **QR Code**—Use your smart phone camera to scan this QR code

For information, contact Carly, ctufte@growinfaith.org, 701.282.3309.

Thank You for your Generous Support!!



Bulletin Announcements/Announcement Slides

Deadline Monday, 4pm

Send to: Ginnie
gberge@growinfaith.org

If you, or someone you know, is in crisis or contemplating suicide, call the 988 hot line. It is free and available 24/7.