



CONRAD LUTHERAN PARISH

LOGOS

WORSHIP TIMES
September - December
9 a.m. Golden West
11 a.m. Pondera Valley

Part-time Pastor
Jeff Stoopes, Sun.-Tues.
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THE SAVIOR—YES, THE MESSIAH, THE LORD—HAS BEEN BORN TONIGHT IN BETHLEHEM! HOW WILL YOU RECOGNIZE HIM? YOU WILL FIND A BABY WRAPPED IN A BLANKET, LYING IN A MANGER!" SUDDENLY, THE ANGEL WAS JOINED BY A VAST HOST OF OTHERS—THE ARMIES OF HEAVEN—PRAISING GOD. Luke 2:11-13 THE LIVING BIBLE



PONDERA VALLEY

Dec. 2nd, 1 pm Women's Christmas Party, bring a friend!
Dec. 14th, 4 pm Giving Tree Gifts are to be brought back, wrapped and with the tag
Dec. 17th, 11 am Children's Christmas Program

No morning worship services on Christmas Eve Day, December 24th....

Candlelight CHRISTMAS EVE Services with Holy Communion

3 pm Golden West

5 pm Pondera Valley & Radio Broadcast at 7 pm on KSEN 1150 AM



We have 3 radio broadcasts in December! Thank you to all the sponsors! On KZIN, 96.7 FM at 11am December 3rd: Kathy Walter in loving memory of her husband Gerry, father-in-law

Don Walter, parents Hildur & Palmer Gustafson, brother Marlin, and Grandma Karen.

On KSEN, 1150 AM at 7 p.m. on Christmas Eve: see multiple sponsors on page 5.

And on KZIN, 96.7 FM at 11am December 31st: Pat Lee & Family in loving memory of Jack Lee.

God bless the hearing of His word!

Pastor's Letter

Once upon a time, I was young. In those years growing up in Oregon there were special family rituals we observed every year. Being faithful Lutherans and active members of our congregation we were involved in parish Christmas programs every year. Learning to recite scripture pieces for the Christmas program was an annual thing. We celebrated Christmas by opening gifts on Christmas Eve as a family. Before that my parents always read the Christmas story as recorded in chapter two of Matthew's gospel. I remember as a lad looking at the nativity scene under the Christmas tree and trying to imagine what the great event might have really looked like.

Now I'm a septuagenarian and a lot of Christmas seasons have passed by along the way. I don't quite have the same emotional constitution as I had as a youngster. But the deep meaning of the human condition, of family, of faith in the Savior, Christ the Lord, makes Christmas very special indeed. All the

attendant trappings of the season in secular society has little effect or meaning for me.

When we read Luke's account of Christ's birth we are confronted with the tremendous disparity between the humble birth of Jesus on the one hand and the unveiling of God's glory by the angelic hosts on the other. The incarnation of Christ was the meeting of the human and the divine in an astounding miracle. The miracle was the *Person* not merely a display of power. It is the person of Jesus we are meant to meet and welcome into our lives.

My prayer for all of us - young and old - this Advent and Christmas season is that our hearts will be open to welcome Jesus as the Savior and Lord into every portion of our lives.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Jeff Stoopes



PONDERA VALLEY MEMORIALS Received:

General Fund *in memory of ALL the wonderful people* we have lost this year - Robert Skorupa

THANK YOU!



The Giving Tree is up! Check to see if there are any tags left and do some shopping! The wrapped gifts are to be returned to the church by Dec. 14th, 4 p.m. ~~~ THANK YOU!

If You're a Thrivent Member, You Can Direct Dollars to the church...Here's How!

Online:

1. Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice
2. Click on "log in" at the top right of your screen and enter your MyThrivent user ID and password. (If you haven't registered, click on "register now" to register for full access.)
3. Look for your designated Choice Dollars amount on the right side of the screen.
4. Click on "Direct Choice Dollars" in the Thrivent Choice box on your MyThrivent page.

5. Search the catalog of organizations to find your choice, ex. "Pondera Valley Lutheran Church".
6. Click on "Direct Choice Dollars Now" to direct your designated Choice Dollars to benefit that organization.

By phone:

1. Call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted, say, "Thrivent Choice".
2. When prompted, say, "Choice Dollars."

3. Say or enter your Social Security number.
4. Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars or press 2 to hear the Thrivent Choice program terms and conditions.
5. A representative will then work with you to direct Choice Dollars.

Help choose where Thrivent Financial for Lutherans gives back! If you don't, Thrivent Financial chooses.

- ♥ Thank you to Kim Hofstad and Linda Van Tongeren and all who volunteered, participated, gave to the Fall Bazaar. It was a wonderful success! And thank you once again to Joann Adamson for the beautiful quilt we raffled! The Bazaar brought in over \$3,600!
- ♥ Thank you to ALL who took the "Green Bean Challenge" and brought 125+ cans for the Conrad Food Pantry! YOU'RE AWESOME!
- ♥ Rachel Thielmann has resigned as our janitor. Rachel, you will be missed. Thank you for doing such an awesome job for us!

SERVANT LEADER
 QUILTING SINGING SERVING OTHERS
 TRANSPORTATION ALTAR YES **TEAMWORK**
THANK YOU GUILD READER **GIVE**
 SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER ACOLYTE
VOLUNTEER
YOU USHERING MENTORING
 GREETING
 WORKING TOGETHER BEING AVAILABLE
 THE HEART OF EVERY CHURCH EVERY WHERE
ANSWERING THE CALL
 GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS
STEPPING UP
 ASSEMBLING SCHOOL KITS
DISCIPLESHIP
FOOD PANTRY
 THANK YOU FOR SAYING YES

♥ **THANK YOU** to all who give! Your offerings are much appreciated. You can use the enclosed blue envelope or mail them to: PO Box 883, Conrad MT 59425.

NOVEMBER
 No pastor acts in November.
 Pondera Valley Offering: \$ 17,021
 Average PV Sunday Attendance: 62
 Average GW Sunday Attendance: 12
 GW Praise & Thanks Attendance: 63



Wednesday Education

4-5 p.m. for ages Preschool – 5th grade in the Youth Room

Christmas Program December 17th during 11 a.m. Worship

No Education on Dec. 27th or Jan. 3rd, we'll resume Jan. 10th!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! We love working with your kids!



COME! Be a part of a Bible Study! at Pondera Valley:

☞ In January, a Sunday Women's Bible study will begin. The group will either start with "Listen, Love, Repeat" by Kate Ehman or "Dance, Stand, Run" by Jess Connolly. Each study is a 6 session study. The meeting times will likely be after Sunday worship. If you are interested please contact Linda O'Brien or Stacy Eneboe or leave a message with Kim at the church office.

☞ Men's 6:30 a.m. Bible Study with
Breakfast on Tuesdays, in the Fellowship Hall

☞ Women's Monday Noon Bible Study, in the Library

☞ Women's 9 a.m. Bible Study on Tuesdays in the Fellowship Hall.

at Golden West:

☞ 2nd Tuesday of each month, 9:30 a.m. at Golden West



Pondera Valley and Golden West Councils met Nov. 14th.

There was discussion on having consistent worship times.

The congregational annual meeting dates will be Jan. 21st for PV and Jan. 28th for GW. Options for a pictorial directory were presented and will be decided on soon.

Annual reports are due into the office by Jan. 14th or sooner.

PV Council had their meeting following. Buildings & Grounds had Don & Wanda Bollinger install railing at the parsonage. Lighting in the entryway of the church has been replaced. Lighting for the sanctuary and the outside alley door will be looked at by Kronebusch Electric.

The nominating committee has been working on nominees for the council.

The green bean challenge was a success.

Replacing the chairs for the Fellowship Hall was discussed. Julene Peters will work on cost estimates for 3 styles and have the congregation vote. The men's and women's group will purchase the chairs after a decision is made.

The council went over the budget.

Rachel Thielmann, the church janitor, has resigned effective the end of November. On behalf of the congregation the council thanks her for her service. The council filled in the vacancies in December for offering custodian.

The next PV Council meeting will be Tuesday, Dec. 12th.



Christmas Eve Radio Broadcast will be on KSEN 1150 AM at 7 p.m.

Sponsors are:

Linda Welch in loving memory of her parents George & Madelyn Erickson and their parents and siblings;

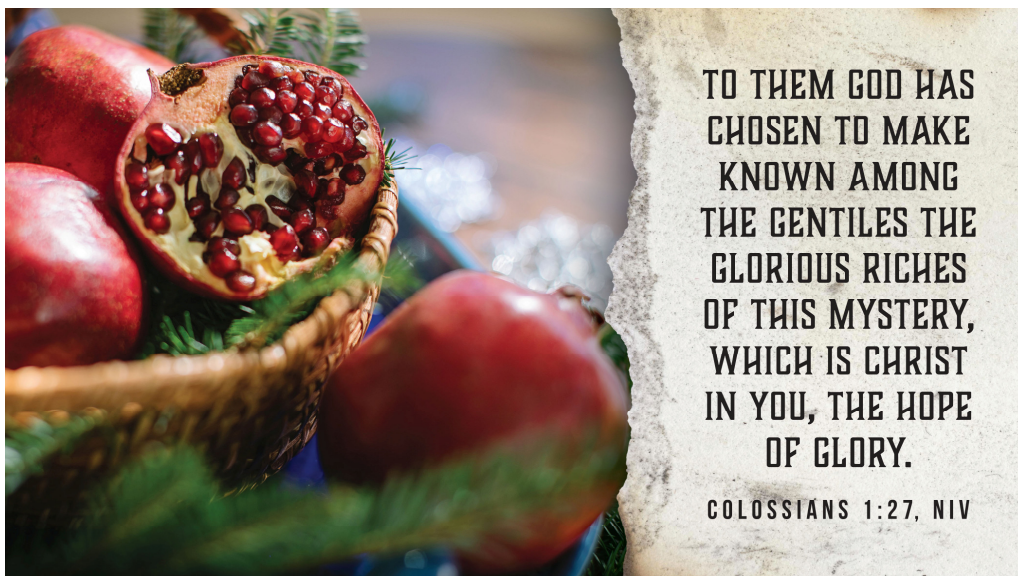
Jim & Shauna Ellefsen in loving memory of Bob, Eleanor, and Scott Salois;

Doris Peterson in loving memory of her family;

Larry & Rosemarie Banka in loving memory of John, Pat and Mike Banka;

Jack & Barb Judisch in loving memory of Clark, Maureen, and other family & friends.

Thank You!



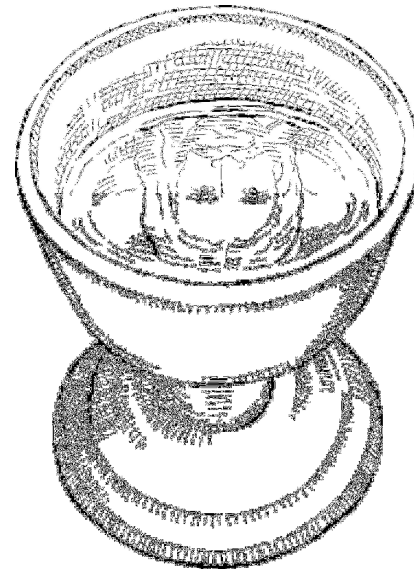
TO THEM GOD HAS
CHOSEN TO MAKE
KNOWN AMONG
THE GENTILES THE
GLORIOUS RICHES
OF THIS MYSTERY,
WHICH IS CHRIST
IN YOU, THE HOPE
OF GLORY.

COLOSSIANS 1:27, NIV

The Light Shines in the Darkness

In the introduction to his book *For All God's Worth*, theologian N.T. Wright says, "Christmas is God lighting a candle, and you don't light a candle in a room that's already full of sunlight. You light a candle in a room that's so murky that the candle, when lit, reveals just how bad things really are. The light shines in the darkness, says St. John, and the darkness has not overcome it."

For that reason, Wright explains, Christmas isn't a dream or a momentary escape but reality. And the same is true for Christianity. "Either Jesus is the Lord of the world and all reality makes sense in his life, or he is dangerously irrelevant to the problems and possibilities of today's world," he adds. "There is no middle ground. Either Jesus was, and is, the Word of God, or he, and the stories Christians tell about him, are lies."

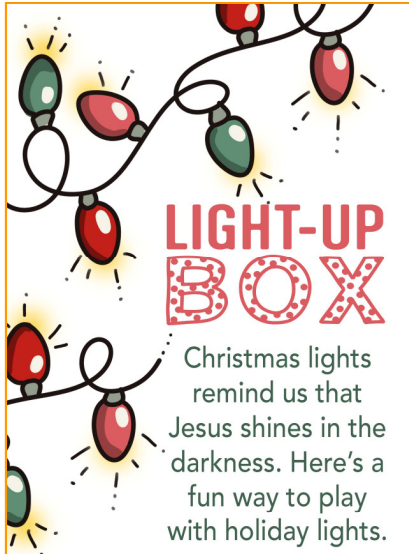


THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS

Dutch Catholic priest and theologian Henri Nouwen found it useful to reflect on several questions at the end of the day: "Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone's face? Did I say words of healing?" Pondering such questions may prove valuable at the end of a year as well: "How did I contribute to peace in the world this past year? Did I bring smiles to others' faces? Did I offer words of healing?" Nouwen continued, and we can too: "Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love?"

Many of us set New Year's resolutions for self-improvement, asking, "What are my goals? How can I better myself, my weight, my work-life balance, my habits?" But Nouwen said of his self-inquiry: "These are the real questions. I must trust that the little bit of love that I sow now will bear many fruits, here in this world and [in] the life to come." His resolution was to share God's love with others. With God's help, it can be ours as well, for each new day and each new year.



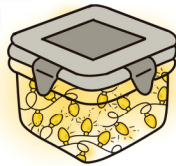


LIGHT-UP BOX

Christmas lights remind us that Jesus shines in the darkness. Here's a fun way to play with holiday lights.

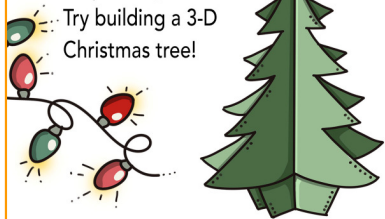
What you need:

- A strand of Christmas lights
- A large clear plastic container and lid
- Green tissue paper
- Colorful beads



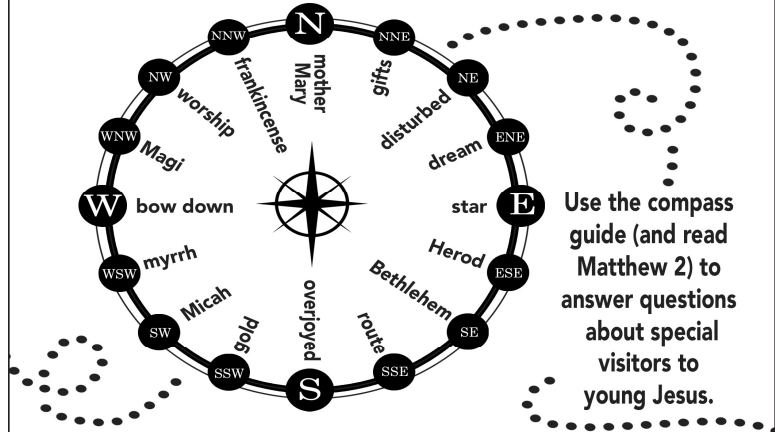
What you do:

1. Plug in the lights and place them in the container.
 2. Put on the lid. (If the lid isn't transparent, flip the box over.)
 3. Play with your light box, using these ideas as starters:
 - Cut tissue paper into triangles and arrange them in a tree shape. Decorate the tree with colorful beads.
 - Use the light box for tracing. Place a picture on it, with a clean sheet of paper on top. Then trace the drawing.
 - Use magnet tiles to build designs atop the light box.
- Try building a 3-D Christmas tree!



www.holyfamilytime.com A great resource!

Puzzle!



Use the compass guide (and read Matthew 2) to answer questions about special visitors to young Jesus.

1. Who was king at the time of Jesus' birth? _____ (ESE)
2. Who came from the East to worship the one born king of the Jews? _____ (WNW)
3. How did King Herod feel about Jesus' birth? _____ (NE)
4. Which prophet did the chief priests and teachers of the law quote when King Herod asked where the Christ would be born? _____ (SW)
5. In what city would Christ be born? _____ (SE)
6. King Herod lied to the wise men, telling them to search and report back so he, too, could do what to Christ? _____ (NW)
7. What did the Magi see in the east and follow to find Jesus? _____ (E)
8. When the star stopped, how did the Magi feel? _____ (S)
9. Who else did the Magi see with Jesus? His _____ (N)
10. Before they worshiped the child, what did the Magi do? _____ (W)
11. Name the three treasures the Magi brought for Jesus. _____ (SSW) _____ (NNW) _____ (WSW)
12. These three treasures were all brought for Jesus as _____ (NNE)
13. What warned the Magi not to return to Herod? A _____ (ENE)
14. The Magi had to return to their country by another _____ (SSE)

Answers: 1. Herod; 2. Magi; 3. disturbed; 4. Micah; 5. Bethlehem; 6. worship; 7. star; 8. overjoyed; 9. mother Mary; 10. bow down; 11. gold; frankincense; myrrh; 12. gifts; 13. dream; 14. route

PUZZLE!

SIMEON'S SIGHT

When Joseph and Mary brought baby Jesus to the temple, they heard a special prophecy from Simeon.

Directions: Using the star key, write the words in the correct spaces to complete Luke 2:30-32, NIV.

"For my _____ have seen your _____, which you have prepared in the sight of all _____: a _____ for revelation to the _____ and the _____ of your people _____."

Luke 2:30-32, NIV



Illnesses or other concerns: *(denotes relation to)*

Tom Robinson, Ron Iverson, Bob Beck (*Karen Lee*), Art & Lori Pearson, Dave Kløver (*Rona Matheson*), *Kenny Matheson*, *George Wood*, Roman Ketterling, Donna Combs, Sandy Webb (*Joanne Unger*), Kaitlyn and John Russett (*Tom Russett*), Brad Stuart (*Kenny Matheson*), Cheryl Stoopes Forest, Susan Stoopes, Tom Stoopes, Derek Matheson, Ron Thaut, Tristan West, Alex (*Donna Fowler*), David Larson, Julia (Judy) Haun, Michelle, Janet (*3Kim Wiest*), Sara McLean, Don Bandow, Brenda Rhone, Linda Iverson, (*2Louise Glimm*), Marilyn Waite, Evan Bell, Roger Brastrup, Teagan Bartoo, Faith Birnel Crouch (*3Ruth Fladstol*), Rose Peterman, Marvin Baker, Mitchell Moore (*Josita Montgomery*), Poppy Dahl, Terry Smith, (*Carolyn Widhalm*), Jolene Wynn (*Kim Hofstad*), all Logan Health Ext. Care, Bee Hive, and Horizon Lodge Residents, Missionaries and Christians all around the world who are being persecuted and their persecutors, All in crisis due to COVID 19, weather conditions, CASA-the kids and all who work with them **All those who mourn and Those deployed in the service here and abroad...**

Prayers to Prepare for Worship



- ✻ On this first day of Advent, Lord, I am eager for your coming — at Christmas, at the end of time and in the present moment. Amen.
- ✻ Shepherding God, thank you for feeding your flock with love, gathering us lambs in your arms and carrying us close to your heart. (See Isaiah 40:11.)
- ✻ The spirit of the Lord is upon us to bring good news to all the world. May we be strengthened for this work through our time of worship. (See Isaiah 61:1.)
- ✻ With Mary, “my soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior” (Luke 1:46-47, NIV).
- ✻ [Christmas Eve] “Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King!” (Isaac Watts). May my heart, too, prepare you room, dear Jesus.
- ✻ Like a child excited for Christmas morning, may I always be eager to receive the gift of your love, O Lord.
- ✻ As a child, Jesus “grew and became strong, filled with wisdom” (Luke 2:40). In the new year may I, too, grow and become stronger in faith, filled with the wisdom that comes from God.



Conrad Community Night of Prayer
 will be **December 4th at 6:30 p.m.** at the
Conrad Sr. Center
This is an ecumenical event,
ALL are welcome!



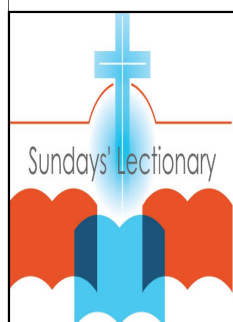
“HE was created of a mother whom HE created. HE was carried by hands that HE formed. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy, HE, the Word, without WHOM all human eloquence is mute.” --Augustine of Hippo

Golden West WORSHIP Sundays 9 a.m. EXCEPT on Dec. 24th 3 p.m. only - no morning service

**Ushers: Ken & Cyndi Johnson; Reader: Cyndi; Communion Assistant: ?;
Communion Preparer: Ken**

Pondera Valley: VOLUNTEER! to help with ushering, greeting, reading the scripture lessons, serving or helping with communion set-up, call the church office, 271-3934. Info /instructions would be made available.

PONDERA VALLEY SUNDAY WORSHIP 11 a.m.	December 3rd	December 10th	December 17th Christmas Program	December 24th 5 p.m. only - no morning service	December 31st
Reader	Faith Weber	Stacy Eneboe	Faith Weber	Faith Weber	Faith Weber
Communion Assistants		Stacy Eneboe & June Hovde		Julene & Terry Peters and Tom Russett	
Ushers	Ramsey & Betty Offerdal				
Communion Preparer	Donna Fowler				
Sound Tech.	Tom Russett				
Greeters	Wanda Bandow				
Offering Custodian	3rd: Faith Weber; 10th: Stacy Eneboe; 17th: Faith; 24th: Mike O'Brien; 31st: Mike				



Dec. 3rd - Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37
 Dec. 10th - Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8
 Dec. 17th - Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28
 Dec. 24th - 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16; Psalm 89:1-29; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38
 Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 110:1-4; 1 John 4:7-16; Matthew 1:18-25
 Dec. 25th - Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 2; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-18
 Dec. 31st - Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3; Psalm 111; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40