



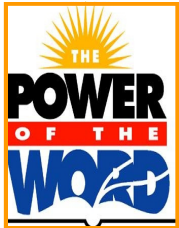
# CONRAD LUTHERAN PARISH

## LOGOS

**WORSHIP TIMES:**  
**January - April**  
**Golden West at 9 a.m.**  
**Pondera Valley at 11 a.m.**

**Part-time Pastor**  
**Jeff Stoope, Sun.-Tues.**  
**Kim Wiest, Admin. Assistant**  
**Office # 271-3934/P.O. Box 883**  
**Office Hours:**  
**Monday - Thursday, 9-4**  
**In an emergency call:**  
**Pastor Jeff, 390-5449 or**  
**Kim Wiest, 450-5821.**  
**conradlutheran@gmail.com**

⌘ Remember, March 12th Daylight Saving Time begins so at bedtime, March 11th move your clocks **ONE HOUR FORWARD!**



*You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. Matthew 5:43-45*

LENT *Lent* LENT *Lent*

**Lenten lunches** continue in March with the theme of the "I AM" statements of Christ. Everyone is encouraged to attend this short time of fellowship which begins with prayer at noon on Thursdays and will finish by 12:50 p.m. so that those who are on their lunch break can attend. **March 2nd is hosted by St. Michael Catholic Church; March 9th and 16th will be hosted by First Presbyterian Church; and March 23rd and 30th will be hosted by Pondera Valley Lutheran.**



**Thank you sponsors for the RADIO BROADCAST on KZIN, 96.7 FM at 11 am**  
**March 5th: Krista Keiper, Bryce and Kelci Watterud in loving memory of Brian, Nell & Larry Watterud, and Landon. AND by Carol Kaldor and June Hovde in loving memory of their families.**  
***May God bless the hearing of His word!***

## Pastor's Letter

I'll be seventy-two years old on March 5th. While not exactly ancient, I'm no spring chicken either. I'm reminded of Psalm 90 which has some reflections on the human condition. Whereas God our Creator is outside time -- "...from everlasting to everlasting you are God;" "... a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has gone by or like a watch in the night," -- we humans are mortal. "You turn men back to dust saying, 'Return to dust, O sons of men'." "You sweep men away in the sleep of death; they are like the new grass of the morning -- though in the morning it springs up new, by the evening it is dry and withered." Our mortality is a stark fact of our existence but so is our sinfulness. God's just indignation and wrath are terrifying. We cannot keep our secret sins from being exposed to God's eyes. "All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan."

The gloomy prospect before the Psalmist continues with this: "The length of our days is seventy years -- or eighty if we have the

strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away."



But these stark facts are not all the Psalmist reflects upon. God can be our "dwelling place" and we may come in supplication for mercy and compassion. Relief is available because of "Your unfailing love." So the Psalmist prays, "May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us." We yet may be glad and sing for joy because God's love will see us through. There is hope in the midst of the harsh realities we must endure. The Psalmist prays to the Lord, "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." That's my prayer too. I hope you will also make it yours, however old you may be.

Pastor Jeff Stoopes



## PICTURES STILL WELCOME for the ELECTRONIC DIRECTORY

This will not be a public directory but might morph into one at a later date. This is for the private ministry use of the pastor only.

Please send an email attached photo of yourself or family to: [pvlcdirectory@gmail.com](mailto:pvlcdirectory@gmail.com) OR Faith Weber and others will also be taking photos at church after services at Pondera Valley and we welcome anyone who will do the same out at Golden West. It would be great to get as many as we can! Thank you!



**IDEAS NEEDED!**

At the March 14th PV Council meeting, the council members have been assigned to bring a list of their ideas for potential congregational projects. YOU are invited and encouraged to make a list as well and turn it into the office and they will be given to the council. THANK YOU!



*Awesome is God*

FROM HIS SANCTUARY;  
THE GOD OF ISRAEL –  
HE IS THE ONE WHO GIVES  
POWER AND STRENGTH  
TO HIS PEOPLE.

*Blessed be God!*

PSALM 68:35, ESV



**PONDERA VALLEY MEMORIALS Received:**

GENERAL FUND *in memory of* **Jeanie Long** - Larry & Rose Banka  
AUDIO VISUAL UPGRADES *in memory of* **Madelyn Erickson** - Larry & Rose Banka, Marian Turk, Lyn & Linda Carlson, Nancy Herman Pringle

- ♥ Thank you to those who are on our funeral committees and will bring food and help set-up and clean-up. Our leaders are: Julene Peters & Barb Judisch; Linda Carlson; and Betty Offerdal. There are many of you who offer your help in so many ways when the prayer chain comes out asking for help for funerals and it is such a blessing for the families involved. Thank you.

♥ **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.

**FEBRUARY**

**PASTORAL Acts:**

at Pondera Valley a celebration of life for Madelyn Erickson on Feb. 14th

(thru 2/21) Pondera Valley Offering: **\$7,180**  
Average PV Sunday Attendance: **58**

**IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITIES!**

- ⌘ **Marian Turk has donated 2 quilts to raffle for a benefit for the Youth TV in the basement. Tickets go on sale March 1st! See Linda VanTongerren for tickets! Drawing to be held Palm Sunday, April 2nd, during coffee hour!**
- ⌘ **First Communion class** for 5th grade and up are going to be **March 22nd and 29th at 6 p.m.** for a meal and then class until 7:30. First Communion will be Easter Sunday. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall!
- ⌘ **Scholarship applications** for Pondera Valley members are on the website and in the church and office. They are **due on April 1, 2023**
- ⌘ **New Members' class** will be **April 12th and 19th at 6 p.m.** Sign up in the Fellowship Hall!



**Wednesday Night Education:  
Preschool/K - 4th 5-6 pm in the  
YOUTH ROOM (basement of church);  
5th-9th 6-7:30 pm  
Meal & Class in the Fellowship Hall  
This will continue to April 12th.**

♥ **If you could cook a meal for 10, please sign up in F.H. Thank you!!**

**Ed. Board members are: Linda O'Brien, Kathy Walter, Amanda Lesnik, Julene Peters, and Carol Wood and superintendents: Donna Fowler and Barb Judisch.**

**BIBLE STUDIES, All are Welcome!**

- ⌘ **Women's Noon Mondays** in the **church library**, "God's Word for Today: Psalms" begins in mid-March
- ⌘ **Men's 6:30 a.m.** with Breakfast on **Tuesdays, F.H.**
- ⌘ **Women's 9 a.m. Tuesdays** in the **F.H.**



**Golden West had their annual meeting January 29th following worship and a waffle dinner.**

The electrical problems in the basement have been fixed. Also, the elevator has been repaired. For benevolences, it was voted on to send money to the Matthew 25 Ministry and the Lutheran Asian Ministries. A Palm Sunday Brunch will again be planned for this year. The elections took place with a unanimous ballot. President is Carl Fleisch; Vice President: Ken Johnson; Secretary: Cathi Hemry; Treasurer: Bill McLean; Trustee: Steve Matheson; Deacon: Carol Gunderson;

Committees: Ushering-Ron & Cathi Hemry; Cemetery- Jim & Chris Bjelland; Nominating-Cathi Hemry; Auditing-Ken Johnson; Endowment- Elaine McLean and Jim Bjelland. Elaine Gray has once again offered her cabin at Essex for Sunday service this year. The Endowment fund was down this year. It was decided to give to the Mosley Family and the DeVries both in the loss of their homes to fire as well as to the Grace Home for Veterans, Shriner's Hospital, and for Bible Camp scholarships.

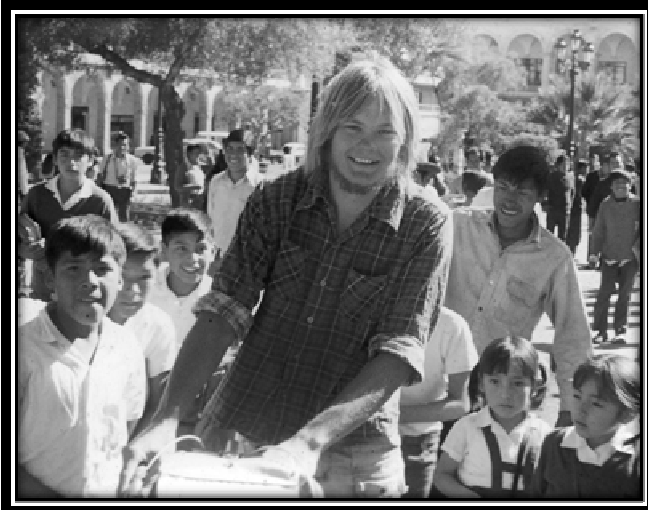
**Pondera Valley Council will meet Tuesday, March 14th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.**

**Letter from Pastor John Cross ... in honor of his friend, Pastor Jeff Stoopes and his birthday March 5th!**

First of all, I want to thank all of the good people at the Pondera Valley & Golden West Lutheran Churches for your warm hospitality during my visit there in mid-January! It was a thrill for me to see how you are thriving and making plans for your future. Thank you for all of that!

Most important, I want to share a few thoughts about my friend Pastor Jeff Stoopes, who is now your part-time Term Pastor for the next two or three years. I have been in and around the Lutheran Church all of my life, and there is something special about a good match between pastor and congregation. You have that there at Pondera Valley & Golden West Lutheran Churches! I am not telling you anything that you do not know!

I was sorry I was not able to be a part of the installation of Pastor Stoopes back in November, but I was pleased to know what a festive and deeply spiritual experience that was. Since I could not be there, I want to say just a few things about Pastor Stoopes. Of course, he has been my friend since 1974, just before our rather legendary 8,334-mile bicycle adventure from the national convention of the American Lutheran Church in Detroit, Michigan to La Paz, Bolivia.



*Jeff Stoopes in Arequipa, Peru in July, 1975. All the locals loved his long, blonde hair!! At this point, our "Pedal for People" adventure was within a few hundred miles of our goal – La Paz, Bolivia! John Cross*

Since then, we have shared many other travels together and have maintained our friendship. Pastor Jeff really helped me as I became the part-time

pastor at Selbu Lutheran Church (LCMC) here in LaCrosse, Washington. He was my official "pastoral coach," as I had never served a rural congregation before. My intent was only to stay a few months as an interim, but almost 11 years later, here I am! And the church is thriving!

We called Pastor Jeff our "Bishop for the Day" back in July, 2012 when he installed me as Pastor here at Selbu. Since then, Pastor Stoopes has stopped by here multiple times on his way to see family in Oregon, and has preached at least 15 – 20 times. I asked some of the members here to share a few thoughts about Pastor Jeff, and I want to share them with you folks:

- Cowboy Jeff is "one of us." Although he is only here a couple times a year, he always joins in whole-heartedly at church and also attends community events. Everyone loves him!
- Pastor Jeff's sermons are pretty deep, and sometimes I have to stop and listen very carefully. He is very much Christ-centered, I always am blessed by listening to his message.
- Pastor Jeff is a little different. On one hand he seems quiet and solemn, but, really, he has a super dry sense of humor and loves to make us laugh and join in with us!
- We were really excited to meet Grace Stoopes, as she joined Pastor Jeff on occasion! They both are spiritual and kind people – and a lot of fun!
- Some of us were not totally positive that Pastor John's "supposed" crazy bicycle trip to South America really happened! Ha! After watching Jeff and John together, and listening to some of their tales, that confirmed everything. They're both a little zany – in a good way!
- Pastor Stoopes is very spiritual, and quite deep! Sometimes I need to hear the sermon a second time, so I watch online. I like how he starts with a story and gets us laughing. Then he hits us with a very powerful message from the Gospel.
- Pastor Jeff's friendship with Pastor John brought our minister to us and his help along the way has inspired our pastor to do an even better job. Thanks be to God!

*Rest of letter is continued on page 6 >>>*

*Continued from page 5 ...*

- Whenever we hear that “Cowboy Jeff” (our affectionate name for him!) is going to be here, we make a special effort to get to church! He is quite a character!
- When I heard he had received a short-term call in the Conrad, Montana area, I was so delighted for the congregations involved! We are sure that he fits hand-in-glove and he certainly must blend in with the rural culture up there in beautiful Montana.

Those are just a few of the comments that I wanted to share with you. Blessings all the way around, and thank each one of you for your continued support for the future of the PV and Golden West parishes. I know that Pastor Jeff has some definite plans during his tenure there, and I would urge you to cooperate as much as is possible. I know he has your best interest in mind and, more important, he will follow the Lord’s lead on encouraging you to continue to reach more people for Christ in the greater Conrad area.

Finally, as I mentioned in my sermon, sometimes an “interim” or a “term call” can be just as important as a longer-tenured pastorate. Accept this time with Pastor Stoopes as a gift, and enjoy every day with

him. I know that he loves you and will give his very best to serving you in the future.

Thanks again for your hospitality to me! I hope to have a chance to possibly work with you in the future.

God bless!

Pastor John Cross

Selbu Lutheran Church (LCMC) LaCrosse, Washington

*Pastor Jeff was the tour leader (Bearpaw Adventures) of a 2019 bicycle trek from Mullan, Idaho to Glacier National Park. Jeff is on the left and John Cross in the middle!!*

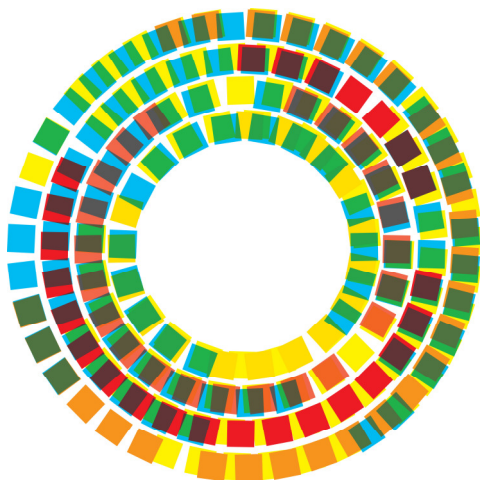


**The Church as a Mosaic**

A mosaic consists of thousands of little stones. Some are blue, some are green, some are yellow, some are gold. When we bring our faces close to the mosaic, we can admire the beauty of each stone. But as we step back from it, we can see that all these little stones reveal to us a beautiful picture, telling a story none of these stones can tell by itself.

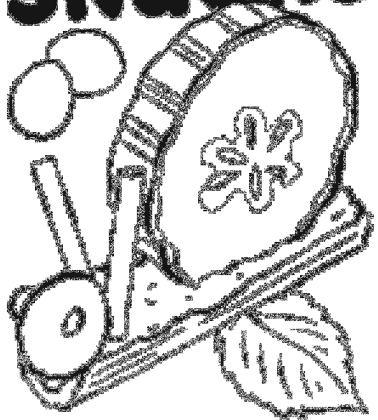
That is what our life in the church is about. Each of us is like a little stone, but together we reveal the face of God to the world. Nobody can say: “I make God visible.” But others who see us together can say: “They make God visible.” Christian community is where humility and glory touch.

--Henri J.M. Nouwen



www.holyfamilytime.com A great resource!

# SPRINGTIME SNACKS



Whip up a plate of these cute, healthy treats!

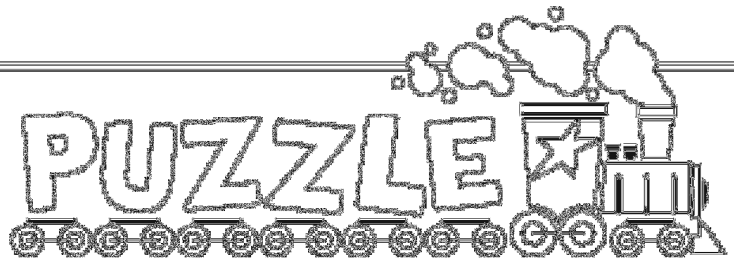
### What you need:

- Celery sticks
- Cherry tomatoes
- Cucumber circles
- Olives
- Cream cheese spread
- Fresh basil leaves (optional)
- Adult help

### What you do:

1. Have an adult help you wash and cut the veggies.
2. Spread cream cheese inside the celery rods.
3. Place a cucumber circle upright in the cream cheese to make a bug body.
4. Add the tomato as a head.
5. Arrange basil leaves on a plate and place the veggie bugs on them.
6. Making different-shaped bugs with your favorite veggies. Enjoy!

# PUZZLE



## A seasonal reminder

Signs of spring remind us of God's promises.

Directions: Use the picture code and clues to complete Isaiah 61:11, NIV

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| plants grow here                            | seeds are planted in this       |
| to eat and jump (also a season of the year) | when watered, these make plants |
| to expand and get bigger                    | another word for seedling       |

For as the \_\_\_\_\_ makes the \_\_\_\_\_  
 come up and a \_\_\_\_\_ causes  
 \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, so the  
 Sovereign LORD will make righteousness  
 and praise \_\_\_\_\_ up before all nations.

ISAIAH 61:11, NIV

Isaiah 61:11, NIV



St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Godhead. Holding up a shamrock, he challenged them, "Is this one leaf, or three?" Inevitably, people replied that it was both, prompting St. Patrick to draw the analogy that so, too, is God: one God in three Persons — the Holy Trinity.



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

Frances Larson, Ron Iverson, Bob Beck (*Karen Lee*), Art & Lori Pearson, Dave Kliver (*Rona Matheson*), Susan Stoope, Tom Stoope (*2Pastor Stoope*), Loretta, Amy Glimm (*2Louise Glimm*), Kenny Matheson, Jeff Elings, Hartley Herndon (*Carol Wood*), Roman Ketterling, Brad Stuart (*Kenny Matheson*), Casey Fuson, George Wood, Beccy Lockyer, Derek Matheson, Ron Thaut, Tristan West, Sara McLean, Don Bandow, Carol Johns, Marilyn Waite, Georgia Smeltzer, (*Carol Kaldor*), Evan Bell, Roger Brastrup, Teagan Bartoo, Faith Birnel Crouch (*3Ruth Fladstol*), Rose Peterman, Annie Schlosser, Marvin Baker, Norman Stordahl, Debbie Ries, Mitchell Moore (*Josita Montgomery*), Juelie McLean (*Bill McLean*), Poppy Dahl, Mark Melby, Terry Smith, (*2Carolyn 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:** Dick Preputin

**Those deployed in the service abroad:** Cameron Bowen (*England*), Shane Hofstad (*Japan*)



**Prayers to Prepare for Worship**

- \*\* It's still winter ... but spring is near. It's Lent ... but we're pointed toward Easter. Keep us hopeful, Lord.
- \*\* My soul is parched, Lord, like Israel in the wilderness and the woman at the well. Pour into me your forgiveness and love.
- \*\* God, as I encounter others at worship today, help me look on their hearts, as you do. Then lead me to share a caring word.
- \*\* Where we tend to see hopelessness in the world, O God, give us vision to see what you are doing — and to join your life-giving work.
- \*\* LORD, I want to worship You in Spirit and Truth and honor You in all I think, say, and do. Help me LORD!



**Conrad Community Night of Prayer**  
**First Monday of each month, except**  
**holidays - March 6th at 6:30 p.m.**  
**in the Conrad Sr. Center**

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**





**Golden West WORSHIP Sundays 9 a.m.**

**Ushers: Ron & Cathi Hemry; Reader: Cathi; Communion Assistant: Bill McLean;  
Communion Preparer: Cathi Hemry**

**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.

<b>PONDERA VALLEY SUNDAY WORSHIP 11 a.m.</b>	<b>March 5th</b>	<b>March 12th</b>	<b>March 19th</b>	<b>March 26th</b>
<b>Reader</b>	<b>Kim Wiest</b>	<b>Kim Hofstad</b>	<b>Jim Adamson</b>	<b>Kim Wiest</b>
<b>Communion Assistants</b>		<b>Kim &amp; Ray Hofstad</b>		<b>Stacy &amp; Erik Eneboe</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Carolyn &amp; Dave Widhalm</b>			
<b>Communion Preparer</b>	<b>Betty Olson and Wanda Bollinger</b>			
<b>Sound Tech.</b>	<b>Jack Judisch</b>			
<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Tom &amp; Page Russett</b>			
<b>Offering Custodian</b>	<b>Stacy Eneboe</b>			



March 5 - Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-8, 13-17; John 3:1-17

March 12 - Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95:1-9; Romans 5:1-8; John 4:5-30, 39-42

March 19 - Isaiah 42:14-21; Psalm 142; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

March 26 - Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:1-11; John 11:1-53