

CONRAD LUTHERAN PARISH

LOGOS

BEDTIME OCT. 31st move your clocks back ONE hour!

WORSHIP TIMES

8:30 a.m. Golden West, fellowship at 8 a.m.

10 a.m. Pondera Valley, fellowship afterward

Pastor Jeff Driscoll
Kim Wiest, Admin. Assistant
Office # 271-3934
P.O. Box 883
Office Hours:
Pastor: Mon. - Weds., 9 -12
Kim: Mon. - Thurs., 9-4
In an emergency call:
Pastor Jeff, 360-631-4707 or
Kim Wiest, 406-450-5821.
conradlutheran@gmail.com

A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah. **God, You are my God; I shall be watching for You; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and exhausted land where there is no water.** Psalm 63:1

November 1st, ALL SAINTS' DAY, we remember the faithful believers who have gone before us. May their witness encourage us as we worship the God who remains faithful through every generation. This year during worship we will honor all who have passed away this last year: Clifton Gustafson, Carol Kaldor, Maynard Van Tongeren, Dale Copelan, Virginia Bliss, Diana Hoy, Dawne Stokes, Helen Bjelland, Mary Simonson, Roger Schlosser, Kathy Hager, and those you name in your heart...



The 68th Annual Praise & Thanks Celebration

at Golden West Lutheran Church

23 miles East of Conrad on the Sollid Rd

Sunday, November 8, 2026, 2 p.m.

Meegan Bryce, the Training and Outreach Director for the Intermountain Children's Services in Helena will be the featured speaker. The musical program will include vocal, piano, harp and guitar selections. Pie and coffee will be served following the service of thanksgiving. A free will offering will be taken to fund the Golden West Women's benevolent programs. Everyone is welcome.



Thank you to the radio broadcast sponsors of November 1st at 11 a.m. on KZIN, 96.7 FM: Patty Larson *in loving memory of her parents,* ***John & Frances Larson*** AND by The Martin Family *in loving memory of their parents,* ***Cliff & Donna Martin*** *and brother,* ***Douglas.***

God bless the hearing of His word!

The Chain You Keep Fastening
Romans 8:1-4

We are promised that our sins are completely defeated in the death of Christ. Romans 8 says plainly that my sins do not condemn me in Christ. Yet they keep me up at night. This troubles me, as I think it troubles all Christians. Why do I still seem in bondage? Why do I feel condemned? How can I say I am free when I feel like a slave, or say I believe and still persist in the very thing that grieves me, even as it costs me my peace, my health, my household, or my good name? "If I am free," I ask, "why does it feel like this?"

Paul does not say there is now no *consequence*. He says there is no *condemnation*. The devil would have you confuse the two. When you are comfortable in sin, he whispers, "Grace covers everything, so carry on." When the bill comes due, he whispers, "You see? God has not forgiven you at all." Both lies come from the same father.

God has condemned sin in the flesh of his Son so that it can no longer condemn you. But broke the world in Eden and the world is still broken, and your flesh still has teeth. A man forgiven for drunkenness still wakes with a ruined liver. God forgives the debt before heaven; he does not promise to unburn the fields.

Your suffering is not God's wrath. Put that out of your mind, for it will kill you quicker than the sin will. What you feel is the harvest of what you have sown, and also the rod of a Father who will not let his child go to the dogs. God wounds in order to heal. The pain means you still belong to someone who bothers with you.

It feels like slavery because you say "I am forgiven" and in the same breath reach for the sin again, as though forgiveness were a permission slip. But forgiveness is a death and a resurrection. In Baptism you were drowned and raised, yet the old Adam is a strong swimmer. He crawls out every morning and must be drowned again by repentance and the Word. You are carrying the chain back to the blacksmith, then wondering why your wrists are sore.

Do not try to fix this by doing better. Luther tried that in the monastery. He confessed for six hours at a time and came out more tangled than he went in. A will bound by sin cannot unbind itself. You will either fail and despair, or succeed a little and grow proud, and the second is worse.

Run to Christ, not to your resolutions. Say your sin aloud, to God and to a brother who will speak the absolution over you. Do not say "I am forgiven" as a shield against the truth; say it as a beggar says it: "I have nothing, and he has said he is mine." Then be ready to be dragged back to the water tomorrow morning.

If the pain has driven you to think God is done with you, hear this: Christ did not die for the tidy. He died for the stubborn, the relapsing, those who say "never again," mean it, and fall again. Your grief is evidence that the Spirit has not left you. The dead feel nothing.

Sin keeps its wages, and Christ keeps his promises. Your freedom is real: not freedom to remain in the mud, but freedom to come out of it, with a Father waiting at the road, running, before you have finished your confession. Come home. Not cleaned up. Come as you are, and let him do the cleaning.

God's Peace,
Pastor Jeff



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.



"God makes us rich in every way so we can be generous on every occasion, which will result in thanksgiving to God. --God doesn't bless us to provide for our own needs; he blesses us so we can be generous." Rick Warren (based on 2 Corinthians 9:11)



♥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

OCTOBER Pastoral Acts: baptism (by Jeff Stoopes) of Keeler Fowler 10/18; memorial (GW) for Kathy Hager 10/3; memorial (CHS) for Roger Schlosser 10/10

Pondera Valley Offering**: $ 8,587.00**

PV Average Sunday Attendance**: 57**



<u>Youth Education</u> Preschool - 6th grade
Wednesdays, 3:45 - 5 p.m., in Youth Room
<u>November 25th</u>: there will be NO Wednesday Night Education
<u>Confirmation</u> 7th grade - and up
Wednesdays, 7—8 p.m., FH



Contacts listed...but all are welcome to just show up!

FOR MEN — Tuesdays, 6:30 a.m. for breakfast and Study, contact Tom Russett:406-576-7123

FOR WOMEN —
One Sunday a month at 9 a.m. in church library. Contact Stacy Eneboe: 406-271-9156.

Mondays at Noon in church library. Contact Linda Carlson: 406-271-3507.

Tuesdays at 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall Contact Julene Peters: 406-788-5562.

2nd Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. @ Golden West Church Contact Ruth Fladstol: 406-627-2113.



GW Council met on Thurs. Oct. 22nd. Discussion was held on painting the church and the upcoming Praise & Thanks Nov. 8th at 2 p.m. **The next council meeting will be the Joint councils meeting on Nov. 10th at 6 p.m. @ GW.**

PV Council met on Mon. Oct. 26th. Snow removal bids are being looked at. Thanks to Ken Judisch who used his bucket truck and fixed the Education Building roof. December Ushers are needed for the 20th, 24th and 27th. Please call the church office if you are able to do one or more. Pastor and Nikki are moving into their new house and hope to be out of the parsonage by the end of October. The council will be doing some research into the best way to utilize the parsonage down the road. AA, who uses our Luther Room in the Education Building every Thursday evening for a meeting place, has asked and was given permission to use it for an hour every other month starting in January 2027 on Sundays 1-2 p.m. for their district business meeting. Pastor and the councils are working toward getting the Pastoral Relations Committee set up with new members, more on that later. Pondera Valley General Fund is low on funds. Over the next couple of months, in preparation for 2027, the budget will be re-worked. Thank you for your continued giving!
The next council meeting will be the Joint councils meeting on Nov. 10th at 6 p.m. @ GW. PV Council will carpool from church at 5:30 p.m.

Each year on Veterans Day (Nov. 11th), we pause to give thanks for the men and women who have served our country with courage, sacrifice and devotion. Their willingness to defend freedom reminds us that service often comes with great cost.

As Christians, we are called to honor those who serve and to pray for veterans, active-duty military members and their families. We also remember that true peace comes from God, who is our refuge and strength.

May this day lead us to gratitude, prayer and renewed commitment to serve others with humility, courage and love.





Look for the Giving Tree tags on Sunday, November 22nd. Gifts will have to be returned by Wednesday, December 16th!



Kansas pastor Jack Wellman has been credited with the insight that "there is a certain genius in generosity." He explains that when we open our hands - figuratively speaking - to allow something to pass through our fingers, rather than holding it with tightly clenched fists, God can give us new blessings.

"God cannot pour more into hands that are already clinging tightly to what they hold," says Wellman. Whether material goods or time, ideas or talents, money or energy, the gifts God has given us so generously are to be shared just as freely with others. With our hands continually open to receive, give and receive again, God's genius cycle of generosity goes on and on.

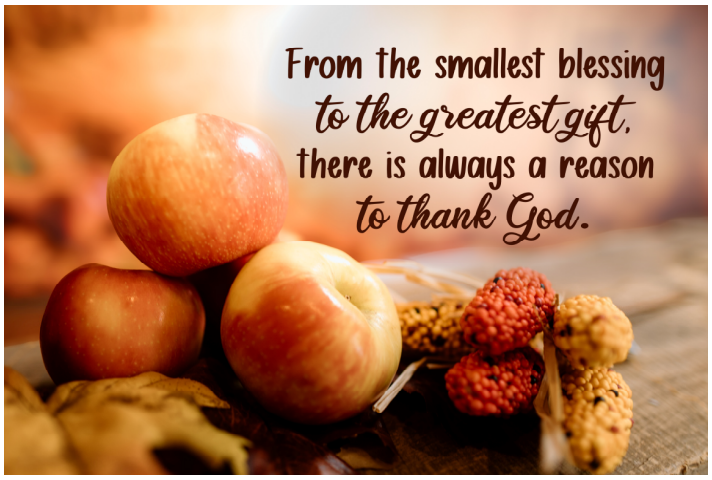


Christ the King Sunday, November 22nd: Celebrating Our Faithful King

As the church year draws to a close, Christ the King Sunday reminds us that Jesus reigns with truth, mercy and love. Whatever changes around us, His kingdom remains secure. May we place our hope in Christ and faithfully follow His example of humble service.

A door symbolizes our invitation to engage in prayer and a personal relationship with Jesus: "Knock and the door will be opened to you" Matthew 7:7. A door can also represent Jesus' loving invitation to open our hearts to him: "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock" Revelation 3:20. When we welcome him in, we receive the joy of fellowship and life with Christ.







PRAYER
In you, Jesus, "all things hold together". Move us, your body the church, to hold in love any who feel broken.
Amen

This challenge is to help build Thanksgiving Baskets for our community. Please help if you are able. Bring cans of fruit cocktail to the Fellowship Hall at Pondera Valley. Thank you!



Special Dates for November 2026

- All Saints' Day, *November 1st*
- Daylight saving time ends, *November 1st*
- Veterans Day, *November 11th*
- Christ the King Sunday, *November 22nd*
- Thanksgiving Day, *November 26th*

Pondera Valley Women are selling RADA (Made in the USA kitchen tools) to raise money for benevolent projects! Check out the RADA catalog online: https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=1818332.f1ff6

www.holyfamilytime.com A great resource!

Bread Painting



When you eat this fun snack, be thankful for Jesus, who is our Bread of Life.

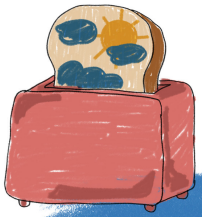
What you need:

- Small cups
- Milk
- Food coloring
- Clean, food-safe brush
- Slice of bread
- Toaster or toaster oven
- Butter, optional



What you do:

1. Set out one small cup for each color you want to use.
2. Pour 1 to 2 tablespoons of milk into each cup.
3. Add a few drops of food coloring to each cup and stir until the color is bright.
4. Using a clean, food-safe brush, gently paint a picture or design on the bread. Be careful not to soak the bread.
5. When you're finished painting, toast the bread. Add a little butter, if desired, and enjoy!



Reminder: Ask an adult for help when using a toaster or toaster oven.

"I am the bread of life."
John 6:35, NIV



Counting Our Blessings

Thanksgiving is a great opportunity to "count our blessings." God blesses each of us daily in so many ways. Solve the following math problems. Then write the words on the numbered lines below to complete Ephesians 1:3, NIV.

14 - 7 = ____ Father	10 + 15 = ____ in
10 + 9 = ____ heavenly	6 - 3 = ____ to
10 + 5 = ____ blessed	12 - 6 = ____ and
2 - 1 = ____ Praise	6 + 6 = ____ Christ
7 + 7 = ____ has	18 - 9 = ____ our
11 + 11 = ____ every	22 - 11 = ____ Jesus
12 + 12 = ____ blessing	1 + 1 = ____ be
10 + 10 = ____ realms	7 + 6 = ____ who
13 + 13 = ____ Christ	2 + 2 = ____ the
8 + 8 = ____ us	10 - 5 = ____ God
8 + 9 = ____ in	4 + 4 = ____ of
5 + 5 = ____ Lord	9 + 9 = ____ the
10 + 11 = ____ with	10 + 13 = ____ spiritual

"_____ (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)."

Ephesians 1:3, NIV

Answer: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."



When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy.
Psalm 94:19, NIV



PLEASE UPLIFT IN PRAYER… Illnesses or other concerns: *(denotes relation to)* John Gray, Kelly Johns Leisinger, Molly Donath Kavanagh, Lori Wetendorf, Amber Miller *(Sharon Parks),* Bob & Sue Kovatch, Dave Bliss, Kelly Syvertson, Christopher Burns, Chris Ketterling, *(Karla Breding)*, Jim Skipper, Kathy*(2Linda O'Brien),* Art & Lori Pearson, Cindy Fuson, Rolene, Dave Kluver, *(2Rona Matheson)*, the Alicia Wood Family, Mary, Cheryl, *(2Carol Wood)*, Sara McLean, Ann Glimm, Tristan West, David Larson, Rebekah Thaut, Kariann Thaut *(2Pinky Thaut),* Kailey Judisch, Brenda Rhone, Loretta *(2Louise Glimm),* Kaitlyn and John Russett *(Tom Russett),* Roger Brastrup, Teagan Bartoo, Faith Birnel Crouch *(3Ruth Fladstol),* Poppy Dahl, Marilyn Waite, *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 weather conditions, war and other issues, CASA-the kids and all who work with them

All those who mourn: Casey Kluver *(Rona Matheson)*, grief has no time table - please keep all who come to mind in your prayers...

Those deployed in the service abroad: Brett Christensen *(Central Republic of Africa)*

For an updated prayer list, or to update the list, call the church office, 406-271-3934.

Prayers to Prepare for Worship

- Today, we remember the faithful believers who have gone before us. May their witness encourage us as we worship the God who remains faithful through every generation.
- May your Spirit speak to our spirits, O God. Give us the grace and strength to obey your guidance.
- Open our spiritual eyes, blessed Lord, that we may catch a glimpse of your holiness.
- As Thanksgiving approaches, we pause to thank God for every blessing. Let us worship with grateful hearts and remember his goodness in every season.
- Today, we begin the season of Advent with hope. As we remember Christ's coming, let us prepare our hearts to welcome him anew.





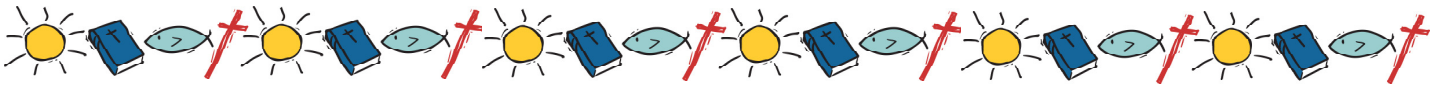
I AM BLESSED by Alice Dommer Berg

By Your grace, You have brought me to this hour. Whatever the season, Lord, You have tended and fed me, made me like a tree reaching for the light. You have let my roots grow deep, nourished by Your Word. When I, like a tree, have borne fruit, or to someone in need given shelter, there You are, Lord, beside me. Your mercy falls like gentle rain! In quietness of heart, Lord Jesus, I will forever praise You!

NOVEMBER GOLDEN WEST SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:30 a.m.
Ushers: Jim & Chris Bjelland; Reader: Chris;
Communion Assistant: Bill McLean; Communion Preparer: Rona Matheson

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. Instructions would be made available.

NOVEMBER PONDERA VALLEY SUNDAY WORSHIP 10 a.m.	Nov. 1st	Nov. 8th	Nov. 15th	Nov. 22nd	Nov. 29th
Reader	Jim Morren	Kim Wiest	Jim Morren	Faith Peebles	Leiko Judisch
Communion Assistants		Page Russett & Kim Wiest		Karla Breding & Linda Welch	
Usher & Greet	Dave & Carolyn Widhalm				
Communion Preparer	Kim Wiest				
Sound Tech.	Linda Carlson; 22nd- Faith Peebles				
Offering Custodian	1st - Tom Russett; 8th - Stacy Eneboe; 15th - Ruth Erickson; 22nd - Ruth; 29th - Tom Russett				



READ IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP



Nov. 1 ALL SAINTS DAY - Rev. 7:2-17; Psalm 149; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12
Nov. 8 - Amos 5:18-24; Psalm 70; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13
Nov. 15 - Zephaniah 1:7-16; Psalm 90:1-12; 1 Thess. 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30
Nov. 22 CHRIST THE KING - Ezek.34:11-16,20-24; Psm 95:1-7a; 1Cor.15:20-28; Matt.25:31-46
Nov. 29 ADVENT 1 - Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37