



CONRAD LUTHERAN PARISH


LOGOS

WORSHIP TIMES
8:30 a.m. Golden West
10 a.m. Pondera Valley
Christmas Eve:
3 p.m. Golden West and 5 p.m. Pondera Valley

Part-time Pastor
Jeff Stoores, 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

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14







DECEMBER EVENTS

December 7th at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Pondera Valley. All women are invite to “A Nostalgic Christmas Party” featuring a skit written by Alice Berg in 1991.

December 15th at Pondera Valley’s **10 a.m.** Worship, the Children’s Christmas Program

Christmas Eve, December 24th Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion
3 p.m. Golden West and 5 p.m. Pondera Valley



 **Thank you to the radio broadcast sponsors in December! On the 1st at 11 a.m. on KZIN, 96.7 FM: Tom & Page Russett in loving memory of their parents: *Viola & Tom and Jeanette & Harvey* AND by Kathy Walter in loving memory of her husband *Gerry*, father-in-law *Don Walter*, parents *Hildur & Palmer Gustafson*, brother *Marlin*, and *Grandma Karen*. ***Christmas Eve sponsors are listed on page 3*****

God bless the hearing of His word!

From the Pastor

WISE MEN FROM THE EAST

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. Matthew 2:1-12

Pondera Valley Lutheran Church (PVLC) is a member of the Conrad Chamber of Commerce. As such, we support the Chamber's efforts to enhance the quality of life of our community. The Chamber sponsors the annual Conrad Christmas Stroll. This year, PVLC will

be contributing to the Christmas Stroll by sponsoring the wandering, peripatetic, lost, and slightly eccentric, PVLC church members posing as "THE THREE ALMOST WISE MEN". It's a vaudeville-like act put on by us friendly Lutherans.



The back story for this group is this: The three met at the University of Ctesiphon and all earned PhD's in various fields. Dr. Melchior, "The Librarian", is played by Pastor Jeff Stoope; Dr. Casper, "The Star Gazer", is played by Terry Peters; Dr. Balthazar, "The Treasurer" is played by Lyn Carlson. The three are trying to find the correct heading to get to Jerusalem to consult with King Herod's advisors about the whereabouts of the just-born child destined to be the new King of the Jews. Unfortunately they took a wrong turn after crossing the Euphrates River and wound up in Canada, of all places! After some difficulties with Canadian authorities, the three snuck over the United States border on their camels. They are camping out at Dr. Dick Kinyon's place until they leave for Jerusalem.

Pastor Jeff, Lyn, and Terry will be handing out gold foil wrapped chocolate coins to everyone who points the way to Jerusalem. They will also give everyone text of Matthew 2:1-12 and Bible verse bookmarks supplied by the PVLC Evangelism committee.

May you all be blessed abundantly this Christmas! Merry Christmas!

Pastor Jeff Stoope



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, her grandparents and aunts and uncles;*

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

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

Pat Lee & Family in loving memory of *Jack Lee;*

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

Thank You!

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

Online:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. |
|--|---|---|

By phone:

1. Call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted, say, "Thrivent Help choose where Thrivent Financial for Lutherans gives back! If you don't, Thrivent Financial chooses."
2. When prompted, say, "Choice Dollars."

PONDERA VALLEY MEMORIALS
Received for the GENERAL FUND in
memory of **Carol Larson** - Touchmark
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.

- ♥ Thank you to Cassie DeVries who has been cleaning the church for the past 9 months. We appreciate you, Cassie!
- ♥ Thank you to all who participated in the 100 can Fruit Cocktail Challenge! We met it with 104 cans!! These will go to the Conrad Food Pantry to help complete the Thanksgiving baskets. Thank you donors!
- ♥ Thank you to Jeanne Moon and crew for taking care of the food for the Red Cross Blood Drawing in Conrad Dec. 12th.

NOVEMBER

Pastoral Acts: None

Pondera Valley Offering: **\$11,654.00**
PV Average Sunday Attendance: **57**
GW Average Sunday Attendance: **11**
GW Praise & Thanks: **66**



WEDNESDAY NIGHT EDUCATION

4-5 p.m. for 3 year olds - 6th grade in the Youth Room

Christmas Program Dec. 15th 10 a.m. / Christmas Break: Dec. 25th & Jan. 1st

Education Board: *Donna Fowler, Julene Peters, Linda O'Brien, Kathy Walter, Amanda Lesnik, Faith Weber, Stacy Eneboe*



Join a Bible Study!

☞ Sunday, Dec. 8th at 9 a.m. for Women in the Youth Room

☞ Mondays at Noon for Women in the church library

☞ Tuesdays, 6:30 a.m. for Men with Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall

☞ Tuesdays at 9 a.m. for Women in the Fellowship Hall, taking a break Dec. 24th & 31st

☞ AT GOLDEN WEST, 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m.



◆ Pondera Valley has agreed to bring 2 cakes to Logan Health for their Birthday Party on **January 29th**. We need one person to bring one frosted cake and one to bring one unfrosted angel food cake. They need to be there **by Noon**. Please call the office to volunteer, 406-271-3934. Thanks!



Joint Council met Nov. 12th. Call Committee reported that they are looking into the option of getting a seminary student.

LCMC has cleaned up the call list so that is helpful. Christmas Eve Worship will be at Golden West at 3 p.m. and Pondera Valley at 5 p.m. Pondera Valley's annual meeting will be January 19th following the 10 a.m. Worship. Golden West will have their annual meeting and waffle breakfast on January 26th. Pastor will look into pulpit supply for Pondera Valley on that day so that he can be at Golden West.

Following the Joint Council, PV Council

reviewed the proposed budget and then tabled the rest until the December meeting. It was noted that Memorial funds under "Sound/Audio/Visual" show a total of just over \$10,000.00. The council decided to hire Amanda Brown as janitor for the church and Education Building. Cassie DeVries who is too busy to continue cleaning the church said she would keep going until a new janitor could start. **The next meeting for the PV Council will be Monday, Dec. 9th at 6:30 p.m.** (Committees will meet for the first 15 minutes.)

GW Council also met. They have been looking into internet for the church so that they have the capability of streaming video sermons in the future. Some of the repairs at the church have been completed.

GENEROSITY LITURGY *Taken from a Women's Bible Study book "Luke in the Land" by Kristi McLelland*


"Holy Father, there is nothing I have that you have not given me. All I have and am belong to You, bought with the blood of Jesus. To spend everything on myself, and to give without sacrifice, is the way of the world that You cannot abide.

But generosity is the way of those who call Christ their Lord, who love Him with free hearts and serve Him with renewed minds. Who withstand the delusion of riches that chokes the word, whose hearts are in your kingdom and not in the systems of the world

I am determined to increase in generosity until it can be said that there is no needy person among us. I am determined to be trustworthy with such a little things as money that You may trust me with true riches.

Above all, I am determined to be more generous because You, Father,

are generous. It is the delight of Your daughters and sons to share Your traits, and to show what You are like to all the world. Amen."

Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is coming! Watch for it! Remember when you choose a tag, be sure to sign your name on the corresponding number and note the day that the gifts are to be returned by, December 14th. Thank you for your generosity! And thank you to Shauna Ellefsen and Donna Fowler for heading it up again this year!

Walking with Those Who Grieve

The holiday season can be difficult for people who are grieving a death or deep loss. As Christians, we do well to be aware that not everyone feels wholehearted joy this time of year. How can we support them?

Grief counselor Alan Wolfelt explains that walking alongside — “companioning” — one who grieves “is not about assessing, analyzing, fixing or resolving another’s grief. Instead, it is about being totally present to the mourner, even being a temporary guardian of [his or] her soul.”

Among Wolfelt’s 11 tenets for “companioning the bereaved”:

- ♥ It’s about being present to another person’s pain, not taking it away.
- ♥ It’s about listening with the heart, not analyzing with the head.
- ♥ It’s about walking alongside, not leading.

More tips are available at www.centerforloss.com/2019/12/ May God bless you as you share the love of the Christ Child, his caring parents and his compassionate heavenly Father with people who are hurting.

NEW JANITOR for Both Buildings at Pondera Valley

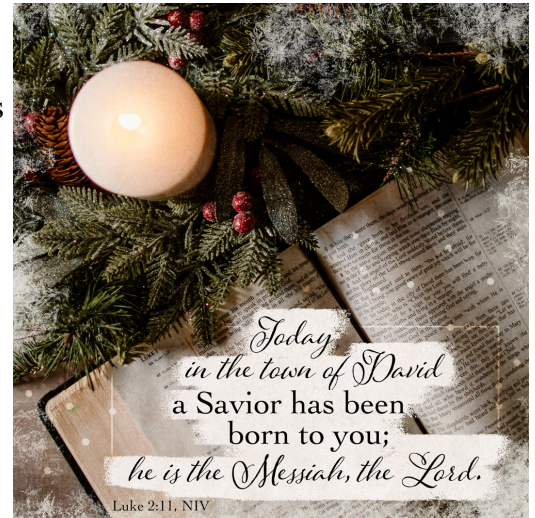
The Pondera Valley council has hired Amanda Brown to clean both the Church and the Education Building. Amanda has had a cleaning business since 2017. It's grown a lot in that time & she's really proud of it. She's remarried to Robert Brown and they have four kids. Amanda's son graduated in 2022 and works with his dad. Her oldest daughter is a senior in high school and will graduate in May. Then they have two younger girls, 10 and 8. She home schools them, which they really enjoy. They also attend our Wednesday Night Education and Amanda attends the Tuesday Women's Bible Study. Welcome aboard Amanda!

Amanda is only able to clean early in the week so that means that groups who meet **Monday - Saturday have to be extra vigilante in cleaning up after themselves!**

The Incarnation

At the center of Christmas is Jesus, both fully God and fully man. "In Bethlehem, humility and glory in their extremes were joined," wrote pastor R.G. Lee (1886-1978). When Jesus came to earth, Lee explained, he descended:
from the heights of glory to the depths of shame,
from the wonders of heaven to the wickedness of earth,
from exaltation to humiliation,
from the throne to the tree,
from dignity to debasement,
from worship to wrath,
from the halls of heaven to the nails of earth,
from the coronation to the curse,
from the glory place to the gory place!

"Born in a stable! Cradled in a cattle trough! Wrapped in swaddling clothes of poverty!" Lee wrote. "No room for him who made all rooms! [No] place for him who made and knows all places! Oh, deep humiliation of the Creator — born of the creature, woman! But in his descent was the dawn of mercy. Because we cannot ascend to him, he descends to us."



Special Dates

- ◆ First Sunday of Advent, *December 1, 2024*
- ◆ Second Sunday of Advent, *December 8, 2024*
- ◆ Third Sunday of Advent, *December 15, 2024*
- ◆ First day of winter, *December 21, 2024*
- ◆ Fourth Sunday of Advent, *December 22, 2024*
- ◆ Christmas Eve, *December 24, 2024*
- ◆ Christmas Day, *December 25, 2024*
- ◆ New Year's Eve/Watch Night, *December 31, 2024*



Prophecy Tree

Make this Christmas craft to display special names for Jesus.

What you need:

- Large wooden craft stick
- Small green wooden craft sticks
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Bible
- Permanent marker
- Craft glue
- Optional: star stickers or craft jewels

What you do:

1. Place the large stick on a table vertically, like a tree trunk.
2. Cut the green sticks into pieces that measure 4", 3½", 3" and 2½".
3. On each green stick, write a name for Jesus from Isaiah 9:6— Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Write small or ask an adult for help.)
4. Use a dot of glue to attach each green stick to the large stick, like tree branches.
5. Decorate your Christmas tree with stickers or jewels.

www.holyfamilytime.com A great resource!

PUZZLE

CLUES ABOUT CHRISTMAS

The Old Testament contains many details about Jesus' birth. Can you uncover what Isaiah prophesied?

Directions: Use the code to write the letters and complete Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

For to us a _____ is _____, to us a _____
 is _____, and the government will be on his shoulders.
 And he will be called Wonderful _____
 _____ God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the
 greatness of his government and _____ there will be no _____.
 His will _____ on David _____ forever _____
 _____ establishing and upholding it with _____ and righteousness
 from that time on and _____ Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV

Answers: child, born, given, son, throne, justice, forever, kingdom, peace, end, Mighty, Counselor, Wonderful, Prince, Everlasting, Father, Government, will, be, on, his, shoulders, will, be, called, Wonderful, Counselor, Prince, of, Peace, Of, the, greatness, of, his, government, and, there, will, be, no, end, His, will, be, on, David, forever, establishing, and, upholding, it, with, righteousness, from, that, time, on, and





Colby Johns, Lori Pocock Fletcher, Ron Iverson, Art & Lori Pearson, Dave Kluver, (Rona Matheson), Karen Sutton (Ruth Erickson), John Gray, Rose Johns, Erik Dommer, Barbara (Carol Wood), Aletta Green (Carol Kaldor), Kathy Walter, Denny Hepp (Andrew Bishop), Christopher Burns, Tom Robinson, Ann Glimm, Sandy Carr, Mary Brook (Linda Van Tongeren), Kathryn Olson, Roman Ketterling, Sandy Webb (Joanne Unger), Kaitlyn and John Russett (Tom Russett), Tristan West, David Larson, Don Bandow, Brenda Rhone, Brett Stanley, Loretta (Louise Glimm), Roger Brastrup, Teagan Bartoo, Faith Birnel Crouch (Ruth Fladstol), Rose Peterman, Poppy Dahl, Teri Ewell, (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 weather conditions and other issues, CASA-the kids and all who work with them

All those who mourn: Jeff Sutherland, Olav Vick, Rolfe Sunwall

Those deployed in the service abroad:

For an updated prayer list, inquire at the church office.

Prayers to Prepare for Worship

- ♥ “Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation” (Psalm 25:4-5, NRSV).
- ♥ St. Paul writes: “Every time I think of you, I thank my God” (Philippians 1:3, CEV). Today I thank God for the following people: _____.
- ♥ Paul says: “Rejoice in the Lord always,” but what if I don’t feel joyful today? I will “present [my] requests to God” and wait for God’s peace beyond understanding (Philippians 4:4-7, NIV).
- ♥ Some here are exhausted already, God, like a full-term pregnant mother. Some — especially children — are excited for the celebration now just days away. Enfold us all as we worship you, Lord.
- ♥ [Christmas Eve] We kneel at your manger, dear Christ Child. Nothing is more important than this.
- ♥ [Christmas Day] Dear Jesus, Holy Word of God, your grace and truth illumine any gloom we experience and deepen our joy. Speak your love into each heart this holy day. Amen.
- ♥ As Mary “treasured ... in her heart” all that had happened around Jesus’ birth and childhood (Luke 2:19, 51), help me, God, to treasure your gifts and teachings in my heart always.



“He became what we are that we might become what he is.”

—Athanasius (4th century)

GOLDEN WEST SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:30 a.m.
Ushers: Ken & Cyndi Johnson; Reader: Cyndi Johnson;
Communion Assistant: _____; Communion Preparer: Ken Johnson

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 10 a.m.	Dec. 1st	Dec. 8th	Dec. 15th	Dec. 22nd	Dec. 24th 5 p.m.	Dec. 29th
Reader	Dick Kinyon	Jim Morren	Jim Morren	Dick Kinyon	Dick Kinyon	Dick Kinyon
Communion Assistants		Linda Welch & Karla Breeding		Linda Welch & Karla Breeding	Faith Weber & Page Russett	
Usher & Greet	Ramsey & Betty Offerdal					
Communion Preparer	Donna Fowler					
Sound Tech.	Tom Russett					
Offering Custodian	Dick Kinyon					



READ IN PREPARATION FOR SUNDAY MORNINGS

- Dec. 1st - Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36
- Dec. 8th - Malachi 3:1-7b; Psalm 66:1-12; Philippians 1:2-11; Luke 3:1-20
- Dec. 15th - Zephaniah 3:14-20; Psalm 85; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 7:18-35
- Dec. 22nd - Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-56
- Dec. 24th - Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20
- Dec. 25th - Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 2; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-18
- Dec. 29th - Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15; Psalm 111; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:22-40

Do you have a Bible Reading Plan for the New Year?