



# CONRAD LUTHERAN PARISH

## LOGOS

**WORSHIP TIMES**  
**8:30 a.m. Golden West**  
**10 a.m. Pondera Valley**

**Part-time Pastor**  
**Jeff Stoopes, 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**

**“Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,” Acts 3:19**



**On January 12th we will have Stewardship Sunday. Pastor Jeff’s sermon title will be “Giving Until It Hurts”. A sample handout for that Sunday is found at the bottom of page 5.**



**Pondera Valley will hold their meeting directly following the 10 a.m. Worship service on January 19th. After the meeting a potluck will be held.**

**Golden West will hold their meeting following the 8:30 am Worship service on January 26th and have their waffle dinner.**

**Thank you to the radio broadcast sponsors on January 5th at 11 a.m. on KZIN, 96.7 FM: Mildred Dommer in loving memory of her husband, *Ray Dommer* and his siblings: *Alice Berg, Fred Dommer, Jeanette Strom, and Helen Arnold.***  
**AND by Chris & Paul Ostrom and family in loving memory of *June Ostrom.***  
**God bless the hearing of His word!**



### From the Pastor

In the year of our LORD Two Thousand and Twenty-Five, many things will happen. Good things and bad things will come our way. Happy times and sad times are likely to descend upon us at odd moments - out of the blue, so to speak. Our plans and hopes and dreams may find fertile soil in 2025 ... or they may wither and die. Who knows? God does!

God knows our comings and goings, our inner struggles and our outward labors. God sees all that happens in the whole universe - plus He keeps it going for His own purposes. God's ways are mysterious to us. Often we find ourselves asking, "Why? ... O, Lord ... Why?" That is a part of the human condition in old creation.

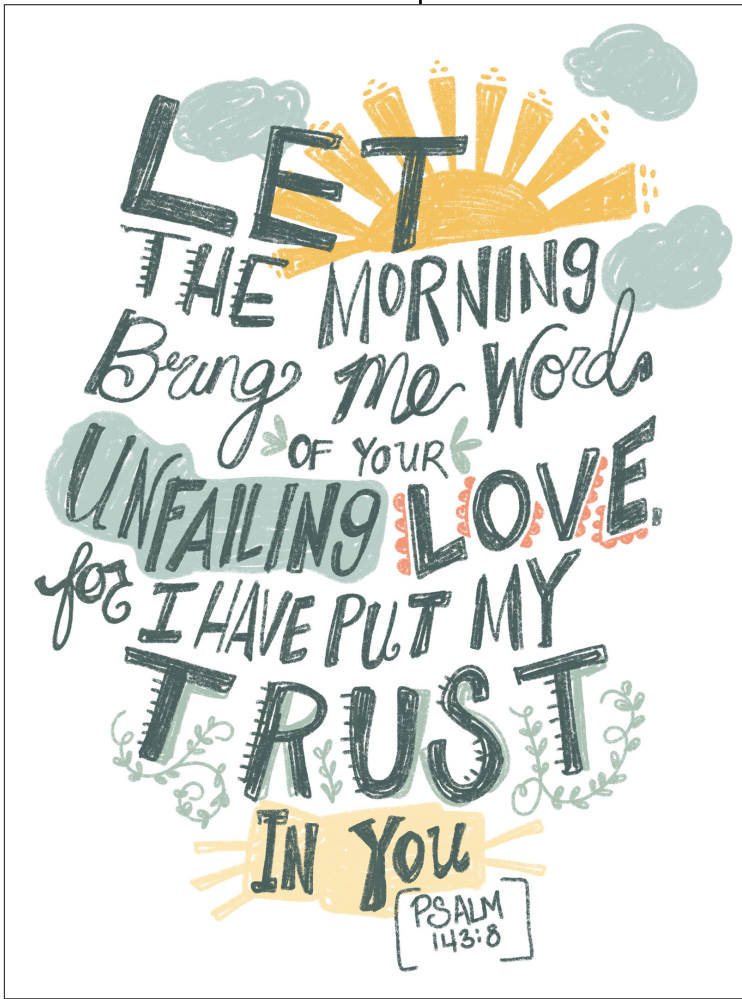
About twenty years ago I wrote a poem about my visits with an elderly man who had a severe stroke which all but incapacitated him. The poem's title, "Why?" was the "one-word man's" plaintive question to me. He repeated it again and again and again.

How was I to answer this anguished soul? All my pastoral training had done little to prepare me to meet this poor man's suffering with anything more than heart-felt sympathy. I read scripture to him, prayed for him, told him funny stories to try to give him some cheer and take his mind off this condition. But he was like a prisoner on Death Row - waiting for the dark end of his road in this life.

What will 2025 bring our way? I have no idea. I hope and pray God's goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of 2025 and all the rest of our days of natural life. But most of all I pray for our growth in grace so that, whatever comes our way, we may not be stuck endlessly asking: "Why?" May we pray in faith to our Maker for the grace needed to

meet every event in daily life with confidence and joy. Jesus said, "Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete" (John 16:24). "The Father Himself loves you..." Jesus told His disciples, and promised, "...you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. (John 16:22)." May that joy from above be ours in 2025.

Pastor Jeff Stoores



New Year's Blessing For YOU

The eighth day of Christmas,  
the eighth day of Creation,  
the Next New Day,  
New Year's Day.

May every day be a new year's day for you:  
a chance to forgive and be forgiven,  
to start again.

May you take courage to begin anew. ...

As you let go of the year past, may you ... in  
your free fall ...

find yourself held by an eternal love that has  
come ages to be with you, and will carry you  
all the way to the end. ...

Every day may you trust your belovedness,  
your freedom from having to prove yourself,  
and receive the grace that is given to you.

May this year be a year of grace and hope.

—Steve Garnaas-Holmes, unfoldinglight.net

**PONDERA VALLEY MEMORIALS Received for: GENERAL FUND & SAETHRE MISSION TRIP**  
*in memory of all we have lost this year - Robert Skorupa*  
**YOUTH FUND** *in memory of John & Madeline Maki, Joan, Leroy, and Janet Rouns - Marilyn Waite*  
**HEAT/AIR** *in memory of Bud Adamson - Marian Turk, Pat Lee*  
**GENERAL FUND** *in memory of Charlie Hardeland - Marian Turk*      **THANK YOU to EVERYONE!**

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

Online:

1. Visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://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 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.**

**DECEMBER**  
**Pastoral Acts: At PV**  
Bud Adamson's funeral 12/12  
Pondera Valley Offering: **\$21,770.**  
PV Average Sunday Attendance: **70**  
PV Christmas Eve: **111**  
GW Average Sunday Attendance: **7**  
GW Christmas Eve: **47**

♥ Thank you Carol Wood and Klayton Lohr for serving on PV Council; Mike O'Brien on the Foundation Board; and Kathy Walter on the Ed. Board. These 4 are going off these positions. Please give them your gratitude when you see them.



## WEDNESDAY NIGHT EDUCATION

4-5 p.m. for 3 year olds - 6th grade in the Youth Room  
STARTS UP AGAIN JANUARY 8th!

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

## Join a Bible Study!

☞ Sunday, at 9 a.m. for Women in the Youth Room beginning Jan. 19th

☞ Mondays at Noon for Women in the church library

☞ Tuesdays, 6:30 a.m. for Men with Breakfast in the F.H.

☞ Tuesdays at 9 a.m. for Women in the F.H.

☞ 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!



### PV Council met Dec. 9th.

The “Three Almost Wisemen” were a hit! So much so, Pastor Jeff would like to see us use this to reach out to the community on Christmas strolls in the future. Pastor is looking for pulpit supply on January 26th so he can be with Golden West on their annual meeting day and on February 2nd while he is taking a vacation. Building & Grounds is looking for solutions to the internet and audio and visual in the church. Council gave permission to Terry Peters to use the money to get it done. The Call Committee reported that a pastor from Texas is interested in coming to preach and visit with the congregations probably in March. Final date and more information will be coming. When he

comes, Pondera Valley will have a potluck that Sunday following the 10 a.m. service and ask Golden West to join us. The Call Committee also has an interview with another candidate soon. She is from Great Falls. The council worked to finish the proposed budget, adding in the recommendations from the Benevolence Committee. **Annual reports are due by January 6th**. Email them to Kim Wiest at [kwpondera@hotmail.com](mailto:kwpondera@hotmail.com). If she doesn't respond that she received it, please follow up with her. **The next meeting for the PV Council will be following the Annual meeting & Potluck, Jan. 19th**. The council decided that with worship at 10 a.m., the annual meeting on Jan. 19th will directly follow the service with a potluck to follow the meeting.

**God's Constant New Work**

From the beginning of time, God's pattern has been to continually do new things and make things new. Though we can celebrate this every day, the New Year's season is especially fitting to pause and recognize God's work of renewal. Consider the following scriptures (all NIV) and how God is making them real in your own life right now.

- ✚ [God] has granted us new life to rebuild ... and repair .... (Ezra 9:9)
- ✚ If [a tree] is cut down, it will sprout again, and its new shoots will not fail. (Job 14:7)
- ✚ He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. (Psalm 40:3)
- ✚ See, I am doing a new thing! ... I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. (Isaiah 43:19)
- ✚ You will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow. (Isaiah 62:2)
- ✚ [God's] compassions ... are new every morning. (Lamentations 3:22-23)
- ✚ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you. (Ezekiel 36:26)
- ✚ [Jesus] took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." (Luke 22:20)
- ✚ Just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:4)
- ✚ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

**Come hear Pastor Stoopes expound on this Plan on January 12th!**

**My 2025 Charitable Giving Plan**

**Charitable Giving for 2024** \_\_\_\_\_

**Estimated Gross Income for 2025** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fixed or Planned Expenses:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Estimated Discretionary Funds Available:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Charitable Giving:**

**Church Offering** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Religious** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Secular Charities** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**A Prayer for Spiritual Growth**  
**LORD,**  
 When my spiritual vision is foggy,  
 help me to find my way.  
 When my understanding is  
 incomplete, open my mind and  
 increase my patience.  
 When my indifference blocks my  
 senses, touch my heart.  
 When worry or fear raise their  
 voices, speak to my faith.  
 Let your Spirit permeate my  
 longings as well as my living and  
 my loving. Amen.  
 —Peggy Ferrell, *Prayers and Poems*



**When Life Gets Out of Control...**

In September 2024, a North Dakota teen’s car malfunctioned, becoming unstoppable and reaching 113 miles per hour. For 40 minutes, 18-year-old Sam navigated a bridge into Minnesota, intersections with train tracks and highways, small towns and — almost — the road’s dead end.

But after Sam called his mom and 911, multiple first responders gathered. Police drove near him, staying on the phone and calmly asking about the accelerator, emergency brake and remaining gas. Ambulance crews were ready. The highway patrol laid speed sticks to puncture the tires (it didn’t work) and cleared intersections ahead of the runaway vehicle. All the while, Sam’s mom prayed. Finally, an officer sped ahead so Sam could run into his squad car, bringing his own to a halt.

Not making light of what could have turned tragic, sometimes our lives get out of control too. We speed through work, school, relationships, parenting — trying to accomplish, achieve and gain faster than others. We cram as much in each day as possible, seemingly unable to slow down. The harried pace can endanger our physical, mental and spiritual health.

Often, we’re “saved” only as people who care come alongside us to help. Perhaps family members express concern, professionals suggest remedies, loved ones pray for us. Finally, when all we can do is crash into the loving care of God, we come to rest. It may take time to recover emotionally, to dare get back “behind the wheel,” to trust life to carry us at a safe speed again. But thanks be to God for placing support systems around us when we need them most.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

**Special Dates**

- New Year’s Day, *January 1, 2025*
- Epiphany, *January 6, 2025*
- Baptism of the Lord, *January 12, 2025*
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, *January 20, 2025*
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, *January 18-25, 2025*





AND HE SAID  
TO THEM, "FOLLOW ME,  
AND I WILL MAKE  
YOU FISHERS OF MEN."  
MATTHEW 4:19, ESV



Make a catch of fish  
to show what happens  
when Jesus calls  
his first disciples.

**What you need:**

- Cardboard egg carton
- Acrylic paint
- Paintbrush
- Darning needle
- Fishing twine
- Scissors
- Googly eyes or buttons
- Glue



**What you do:**

1. From the egg carton, cut out the 12 cups. From the lid, cut out two fish tails.
2. On a protected surface, turn the cups upside down. Paint the outside of each cup and both sides of the tails. Let dry.
3. Thread the needle with an arm's length of twine. Tie a knot at the end.
4. Thread the needle through the end of the tail. Tie another knot an inch from the tail.
5. Thread the needle through one upside-down cup. Pull the twine through until the cup rests on the knot.
6. Continue tying knots an inch above each cup and threading on another cup until you've strung six cups. Tie a knot above the last cup and leave a long string to hang the fish. (You can make two fish with each egg carton.)
7. Add googly eyes or buttons to the last cup to make a face.

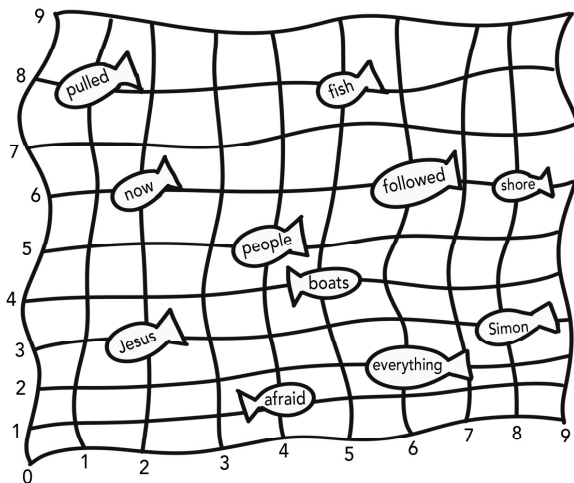
www.holyfamilytime.com A great resource!



**FISHING DIRECTIONS**

When fishermen obeyed Jesus and let down their nets, they caught so many fish that their boats began to sink! Simon Peter fell at Jesus' knees. What happened next?

Directions: Use the coordinate clues to locate the correct words and complete Luke 5:10-11 (NIV) below. The first number in each clue pair goes across, and the second number goes up.



Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch many fish." So they left their boats up on the shore, left everything and followed him.

Luke 5:10-11, NIV

Answers: Jesus, Jesus, said to, them, "Don't be, afraid; from, now, on you will, catch, many, fish." So they, left, their, boats, up on, the shore, left, everything, and, followed, him.

**Bible Quiz**

When 12-year-old Jesus stayed at the Jerusalem temple as Joseph and Mary started traveling home, after how many days did his parents find him?

- A. 1 day
- B. 2 days
- C. 3 days
- D. 7 days



Answer: C (See Luke 2:46)



**PLEASE UPLIFT IN PRAYER... Illnesses or other concerns:** (*denotes relation to*) Karen Sutton (*Ruth Erickson*), John Gray, Christopher Burns, Colby Johns\*, Lori Pocock Fletcher, Ron Iverson, Art & Lori Pearson, Dave Kluver, (*Rona Matheson*), Rose Johns, Erik Dommer, Mary, Barbara (*Carol Wood*), Denny Hepp (*Andrew Bishop*), Tom Robinson, Ann Glimm, Kathryn Olson, Sandy Webb, David Unger (*Joanne Unger*), Kaitlyn and John Russett (*Tom Russett*), Tristan West, David Larson, Don Bandow, Brett Stanley, Brenda Rhone, 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:** Kathy Walter, Charlie Hardeland, Dylan Kellogg, Bud Adamson, Alicia Wood (and that she may be found), and those we name in our heart...

**Those deployed in the service abroad:**

**\*THERE IS A FUND SET UP AT STOCKMAN BANK for COLBY JOHNS**

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

### *Prayers to Prepare for Worship*

- ♥ Dear God, at the start of this new year, and the Epiphany season, shine your light on my path. Amen.
- ♥ In baptism you called Jesus — and you call us — “beloved.” May we grow in your love, God, and share it with others.
- ♥ In 1 Corinthians 12, St. Paul wrote to Christians about the many spiritual gifts. Holy Spirit, show me what gifts I have for serving you.
- ♥ Sometimes my heart feels cold, like the snowy ground during a northern winter. Nurture seeds of growth deep inside me, Great Gardener, so I may soon bloom with love and faith.



### **All About Attitude**

“The way you say ‘representative’ to an automated system reflects the real you,” a friend told me. After we laughed at that truth, I realized *everything* I say matters. Someone is always listening, whether the words and tone are positive or negative. Ephesians 4:29 (NLT) says our language shouldn’t be “foul or abusive” but good, helpful and encouraging. Whether I’m peaceful, hurried, joyful, empathetic, frustrated, celebrating

or hurting, I can carefully choose my words (and the attitude behind them). When I’m not ready to speak wholesomely, may God shut my mouth. When a friend needs encouragement, may I listen to God’s prompting. When I need to confront, may I do so lovingly. Changing how we think — that is, how we speak to ourselves — can be tough. But God wants to transform our reactions and motives, dispelling pride, a lack of confidence and anxiety. In this new year:

*I’m alone* can become *God is with me.*  
*I can’t do this* can become *Anything is possible with God.*  
*I’m failing* can become *Just because I’m struggling, it doesn’t mean I’m failing.*  
*I’m not enough* can become *I’m God’s beloved child.*  
*I’m tired* can become *God will give me rest.*  
 Don’t stop there. Consider the concerns in your heart and let God give you new words and attitudes.

—Janna Firestone



**GOLDEN WEST SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:30 a.m.**  
**Usher: Elaine Gray; Reader: Ruth Fladstol;**  
**Communion Assistant: Jim Bjelland; Communion Preparer: Ruth Fladstol**

**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.	January 5th	January 12th	January 19th	January 26th
<b>Reader</b>	<b>Kim Wiest</b>	<b>Linda O'Brien</b>	<b>Jim Morren</b>	<b>Stacy Eneboe</b>
<b>Communion Assistants</b>		<b>Mike &amp; Linda O'Brien</b>		<b>Stacy &amp; Erik Eneboe</b>
<b>Usher &amp; Greet</b>	<b>Terry &amp; Julene Peters</b>			
<b>Communion Preparer</b>	<b>Kim Hofstad</b>			
<b>Sound Tech.</b>	<b>Lynn Utterback</b>			
<b>Offering Custodian</b>	<b>Terry Peters</b>			





**READ IN PREPARATION FOR SUNDAY MORNINGS**

January 5 - 1 Kings 3:4-15; Psalm 199:97-104; Ephesians 1:3-14; Luke 2:40-52

January 12 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD - Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Romans 6:1-11; Luke 3:15-22

January 19 - Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 128; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

January 26 - Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19:1-14; 1 Cor.14:12b-20; Luke 4:16-30