

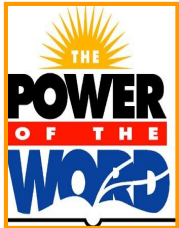


CONRAD LUTHERAN PARISH

LOGOS

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

Part-time Pastor
Jeff Stopes, 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



LITTLE CHILDREN, LET'S NOT LOVE WITH WORD OR WITH TONGUE, BUT IN DEED AND TRUTH. 1 JOHN 3:18



Palm Sunday, April 2nd:

- 9 a.m. Worship @ Golden West and a brunch to follow
- 11 a.m. Worship @ Pondera Valley with a bake sale to benefit VBS and 2 Quilt Drawings to benefit TV in the basement for youth classes

Maundy Thursday, April 6th: 6 p.m. Worship @ PV

Good Friday, April 7th: 6 p.m. Worship @ PV

Easter, April 9th: *He has RISEN! He has Risen Indeed!*

- 9 a.m. Worship @ Golden West
- 9 a.m. Breakfast @ Pondera Valley with free-will offering to go toward Earthquake Disaster Relief.
- 11 a.m. Worship @ Pondera Valley with First Communion for Charlie Mulvaney, Keltey Fowler, Landen Klette, and Ryder Brown.



Thank you sponsors for the RADIO BROADCAST on KZIN, 96.7 FM at 11 am
April 2nd: Michelle, Jody, & Kaia Fowler in loving memory of Harland & Elaine Schram
AND by Dennis & Dawne Stokes in loving memory of Marilyn, Dick & Jeanne Eckstein and
Carson Stokes. *May God bless the hearing of His word!*

Pastor's Letter

Now that spring is officially here and Easter is coming on the 9th of this month, the long, dark, cold days of winter are fading away in the rear view mirror. And none too soon ... thank you very much. As you may know, winter is my least favorite season of the year. So when the green-up time of April rolls around here in Montana I'm a happy camper -- even though I haven't gone camping yet. Perhaps you feel the same way.

One of the great joys of the Christian life is the assurance that all our trials, sufferings, disappointments, set-backs, and crushed expectations are temporary and the best is yet to come. The resurrection of Jesus from death and his offer of new life for all humans who put their trust in him is the best of all possible good news. As St. Paul asserts in Romans 6:4, "... just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

New life in Christ is the spiritual transformation from our slavery to sin, death, and the devil to the New Creation existence we now have by God's grace. We are not

immediately transformed in all respects. Our old nature, our old creation bodies, our natural lives in the present world continues to exist as before. But a greater reality has come into possession of our being. "You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you" (Romans 8:4). There are no adequate metaphors or analogies we can dream up that will do complete justice to this new creation reality that God has introduced into old creation. We must allow the Spirit to do the work of transformation according to our Creator's purpose and plan and timing. That will require patience on our part as in all things we "... grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ" (Ephesians 4:15).

"Christ is Risen!" "He is risen indeed!"



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 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!

**JOIN US FOR AN EVENING
OF PRAISE & WORSHIP WITH MUSIC AND TESTIMONIALS
FROM THE RESCUE TOUR OF
DAVE ANDERSON AND ROGER WALCK**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 21ST AT 6 PM
AT PONDERA VALLEY LUTHERAN**

**A FREE-WILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN TO BENEFIT *STANDING STONES*
A SHEPHERD'S CANYON RETREAT MINISTRY CENTER PROVIDING
SPIRITUAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALING TO CLERGY AND CHURCH STAFF
LOCATED IN WICKENBURG ARIZONA**



PONDERA VALLEY MEMORIALS Received:

GENERAL FUND in memory of *Faye Keiper, Brian Watterud, and Landon Watterud-Rogers* - Krista Keiper

AUDIO/VISUAL UPGRADES in memory of *Madelyn Erickson* - Red Hatitudes, Ernie & Jeanne Stordahl, Pat Lee, Kenny & Deb Schmidt, Maria & Roger Erickson, Russ & Ranae Lee, Janet, Sue, Craig, Sandra, Brad, Lanette, and Cheryl Hovde

GOLDEN WEST MEMORIAL FUND in memory of *Norma Copenhaver* - Bob & Alice Copenhaver

- ♥ Thank you Kim Hofstad and Linda Carlson for agreeing to head-up the Lenten lunches. Thanks to all who brought soup or bread and those who helped set-up or clean-up!
- ♥ Thank you to all who provided meals for our Wednesday night classes this year! Some of you did it multiple times!
- ♥ A special thanks to Barb & Jack Judisch for all the many years of service you have provided to our church and the wonderful fellowship we've had with you. We will miss you! God bless your new home and your adventures in Shepherd, Montana!

♥ **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.

MARCH
PASTORAL Acts:
Pondera Valley Offering: \$8,566
Average PV Sunday Attendance: 62



**Wednesday Night Education:
Preschool/K - 4th 5-6 pm in the**

YOUTH ROOM ;

5th-9th 6-7:30 pm

Meal & Class in the Fellowship Hall

The last night this school year is

April 12th.

- ♥ Thank you to all our teachers and cooks this year.
- ♥ You are awesome!

**Help Us Maintain our
Fellowship Hall Decorations!**

Many of us enjoy the Fellowship Hall for a variety of activities. We are getting new plastic to put over our tablecloths in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone who uses the Fellowship Hall can help by:

- ⌘ Please remove table cloths before working on tables – this includes cutting, taping, coloring. Replace them when you are done.
- ⌘ Use cutting boards and if using tape, please be sure you have it all off and washed off before replacing table cloths.
- ⌘ When washing table cloths, please use only soap and water.

Thank you!

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.



Pondera Valley Council met March 14th. Karen Lee met with Randy Rossmiller and will present a quote he gave for changes to the sound system that would allow the audio of our services to be posted to the website. The congregation is invited to drop off other ideas for church projects to the office. The council will review the ideas in June, have a list prioritized prior to the November budget meeting and the final list will be reviewed at the January 2024 annual meeting. Lori Pearson and Karla Breeding are our Thrivent representatives. Repairs to the Fellowship Hall roof were discussed. It was decided to move forward with the full A.T. Klemmens bid of \$9,000. Funds are

available from the Kaspersma Escrow Funds. It was agreed to allow The Rescue Tour come to PVLC April 21st (see page 3). Pastor is planning to once again offer a once-a-month service at Horizon Lodge. They are not allowing groups yet at Logan Health and the Bee Hive is unrestricted. There will be an Easter Breakfast with donations going toward Earthquake Disaster Relief. Permission was granted for a burial at Pondera Valley Cemetery. Research is being done for a hands-on pictorial directory. Barb Judisch will be resigning her position on council since she and Jack are moving to Shepherd, MT. Prayers for their new home, we will miss you! **The next PV Council meeting will be Tuesday, April 11th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.**

Sharing the Load

In 1969 the Hollies released “He Ain’t Heavy, He’s My Brother.” Do you know the story behind that song title?

Fifty years earlier in Omaha, Nebraska, a boy with polio was abandoned at Father Flanagan’s Home for Boys, predecessor to the Boys Town organization. Soon several older residents started carrying young Howard — with his heavy leg braces — especially up stairs. Father Flanagan once saw an older boy, Reuben, doing this and asked if it was hard work. Reuben replied, “He ain’t heavy, Father. He’s my brother.” Years later, these words and the image of one person carrying another became the Boys Town brand.



All of us have been “carried” at some point, and we’ve likely “carried” someone else. The Hollies’ song declares: “His welfare is my concern.” Jesus said it this way: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” The load isn’t too heavy to bear because Jesus himself is always carrying us.

Complete Trust, Even Amid Suffering

In a Good Friday column written during the pandemic, Michael Gerson said anguish is warranted in the face of death. As Jesus suffers on the cross, he asks why his Father has forsaken him. To Gerson, this proves that “anguish and questioning are not sins or weaknesses. They are the proper responses to the horrors of death. In the ninth hour, God gave permission for confusion. He dignified doubt.”

But Christ’s final words — committing himself into his Father’s hands — “ring a different note,” adds Gerson. “This was more than resignation; it was trust. In the end, Jesus found, not an answer, but a person — someone capable of reversing the verdict of Good Friday. That is all we are promised, and it is more than enough.”

Not Resuscitation — Resurrection!

In the early years of the U.S. space program, a small but powerful rocket was supported by a metal framework. This “escape tower” was bolted to the capsule in which astronauts awaited takeoff. If disaster occurred, the escape tower was to carry the capsule up and away from the main rocket. A parachute would then float the astronauts safely to earth.

Jesus’ resurrection is more than a great escape. If he had merely eluded death, that would be akin to resuscitation. By God’s power, Jesus didn’t merely survive death but conquered it, once and for all. On Easter, Jesus returns to life not for his own sake but for the sake of all humanity. He reassures the disciples — and us — “Peace be with you.”

—adapted from *Homiletics*

“Peace,
BE WITH YOU!”

Jesus Answers Our Uncertainties

Thomas didn’t believe the other disciples when they said Jesus had risen. The two travelers to Emmaus despaired over Jesus’ death, uncertain what might come next.

During our life of faith, we all face questions, doubts and despair. In *Fearless*, Max Lucado says Jesus’ responses to us echo his responses to the disciples. His answer to our doubt is the same as with Thomas: “Touch my body” — which we do every time we connect with the church (the body of Christ), wounds and all. As with the Emmaus disciples, Jesus urges us to ponder his story found in Scripture — which we do through Bible reading and study. Today, just as long ago, Jesus meets his followers — in his body, in his Word — and strengthens our faith.

The God Who Hides

Isaiah declares, “Truly, you are a God who hides himself, O God of Israel, the Savior” (45:15, ESV). But why would God hide? Isn’t our knowing God the point? Martin Luther explained that God hides in unexpected places so as not to be found where the world assumes a god would be — in power, status, fame, wealth — but to be found in weakness, humility and places of suffering.

“Those who have found God in the cross of Jesus Christ,” said 20th - century theologian

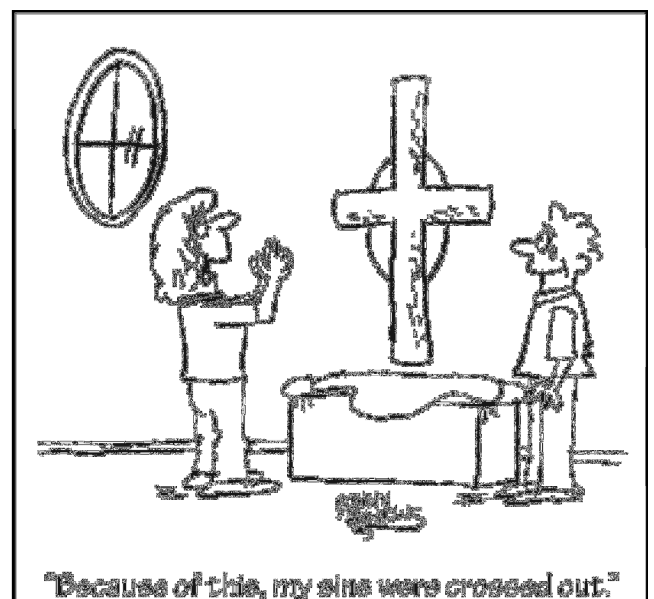
Dietrich Bonhoeffer, “know how wonderfully God hides himself in this world and how he is closest precisely when we believe him to be most distant.” So God assures us of his presence in the humble manger, among the poor and outcast during his ministry, in the excruciating suffering of the cross, and with us in every struggle.

God hides not to avoid us but so we will discover him precisely where we need him most, and where others need us most.

Easter Errors

The Resurrection occurred without a hitch, but church services aren’t always as fortunate. Pastors shared Easter goofs ...

- ☺ During a prayer, one pastor said, “Jesus, we love you to death.” Though it was fitting, the slip-up led to chuckles.
- ☺ Actors in Passion Plays apparently tend to fall off crosses. After one did so and muttered a swear word, the pastor said, “At least he’s the unbelieving thief.” And when a man playing Jesus had to be reattached to his cross, a pastor said the real Jesus “would have climbed back on out of love.”
- ☺ Shocked by the early rehearsal time, a guitarist without thinking asked, “Whose idea was it for Easter to be in the morning?”
- ☺ Before leading a sunrise service, a pastor was informed of a member’s death. So he was briefly “thrown ... when she walked up in the early morning shadows.” Turns out there’d been a name mix-up. “I believe in resurrection power,” says the pastor. “But I was more than a little surprised at what I was seeing!”



Good news flags

Use batik, a unique fabric-dyeing method, to create flags celebrating the good news of Christ's resurrection.



What you need:

- Colored chalk
- White linen fabric
- Washable gel glue
- Acrylic craft paint
- Textile medium
- Paintbrushes

What you do:

1. Cut fabric to the desired size and shape. Set it on a flat, protected surface. With chalk, lightly sketch an Easter design or message.
2. Completely cover the chalk lines with gel glue. Let dry.
3. Mix equal parts paint and textile medium. Paint the flag with that mixture, which makes paint permanent. Let dry.
4. Soak the dried fabric in warm water a few minutes. Then gently peel away the glue to reveal the unpainted areas. Lay flat to dry.
5. Hang the flags and celebrate!



Puzzles!



Starting at the capital A and ending at the period, find the words to match 5:28 in the letter maze below. Words can appear forward, backward, up or down. Not all letters will be used, and some words may be split. But you won't need to lift your pencil off the page!

All who believe in the Son of Man who has come in the flesh will be saved. For the Son of Man will be betrayed, killed, and after three days will rise again. He will appear to the people and will go to Jerusalem and be crucified there. He will be buried and will rise again on the third day. He will go to the Father's house and will sit on the right hand of the Father. He will send the Holy Spirit upon you, as the Father has sent Him upon Me, and He will abide with you and be in you, and you will bear witness to Him. He will be crucified for you, and you will be crucified for Him. He will be crucified for you, and you will be crucified for Him. He will be crucified for you, and you will be crucified for Him.

Answer: All the sheep have good shepherds; we have all crossed to our own way, and the Father has laid us from the integrity of us all. (John 5:28, NIV)

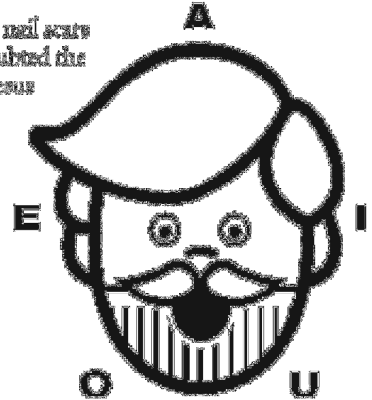
www.holyfamilytime.com A great resource!

PUZZLE

SEEING AND BELIEVING

Until Thomas saw Jesus' nail scars with his own eyes, he doubted the resurrection. What did Jesus tell Thomas?

Directions:
Use the code to fill in the words and complete John 20:29, NIV.



"B _ c _ _ a _ y _ _ h _ v _ a _ n _ m _ ,
 y _ _ h _ v _ b _ l _ v _ d ;
 b _ l _ s _ s _ d _ r _ t _ h _ s _ w _ h _ h _ v _ r _ t
 s _ _ n _ n _ d _ y _ t _ h _ v _ b _ l _ v _ d ."

JOHN 20:29, NIV

Answer: "The reason you have seen me and have believed is because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen me and yet have believed." (John 20:29, NIV)

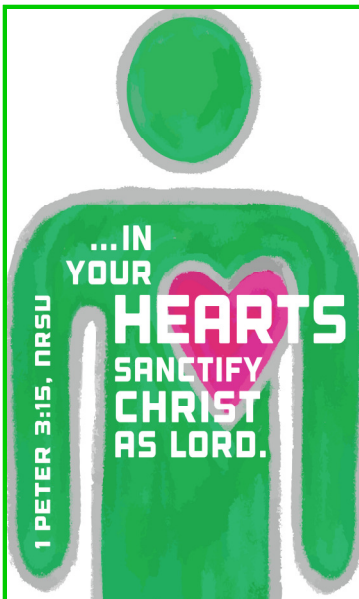


Illnesses or other concerns: (*denotes relation to*)

Frances Larson, Ron Iverson, Bob Beck (*Karen Lee*), Art & Lori Pearson, Rolene, Dave Kluver (*2Rona Matheson*), Kenny Matheson, Jeff Elings, Hartley Herndon (*Carol Wood*), Roman Ketterling, Sandy Webb (*Joanne Unger*), Kaitlyn and John Russett (*Tom Russett*), Brad Stuart (*Kenny Matheson*), Casey Fuson, George Wood, Beccy Lockyer, Susan Stoope, Tom Stoope (*2Pastor Stoope*), Derek Matheson, Ron Thaut, Tristan West, Sara McLean, Don Bandow, Carol Johns, Ann Glimm, Amy Glimm, Loretta (*Louise Glimm*), 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: Tom Eckstein

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



Prayers to Prepare for Worship

- ♦ [Palm/Passion Sunday] We praise you, Jesus Messiah! Keep us faithful as we follow you, even to the cross.
- ♦ [Maundy Thursday] What's the modern-day equivalent of foot-washing? Jesus, help me serve others humbly and lovingly, following your example.
- ♦ [Good Friday] "Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb. There, adoring at his feet, mark the miracle of time: God's own sacrifice complete."
- ♦ [Easter] Jesus, you meet me today and every day, as you met Mary outside the empty tomb. Call my name, so I will know for sure that it's you.
- ♦ Jesus, my faith, like that of Thomas, is always tinged with some doubt. Thank you for blessing me anyway with your love and acceptance.
- ♦ As you walk with me through life, Jesus, help me recognize you and invite you to stay.
- ♦ Jesus, Good Shepherd, as you lead, help me know your voice better each day and eagerly follow you.



"It is
finished."

John 19:30



Conrad Community Night of Prayer
First Monday of each month, except
holidays at the Conrad Sr. Center
- this month April 3rd at 6:30 p.m.

EVERYONE WELCOME!



Golden West WORSHIP Sundays 9 a.m.

Ushers: Aaron & Janae Bliss; Reader: Janae; Communion Assistant: Aaron; Communion Preparer: Janae

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.	April 2nd	Maundy Thursday April 6th	Good Friday April 7th	April 9th	April 16th	April 23rd	April 30th
Reader	Dick Kinyon	Roland Lee	Faith Weber	Linda O'Brien	Jim Morren	David Berg	Faith Weber
Communion Assistants		Karen & Roland Lee		Linda & Mike O'Brien		Karla Breeding & June Hovde	
Ushers	Randy & Peggy Young						
Communion Preparer	Linda Carlson						
Sound Tech.	Karen Lee						
Greeters	Kim Wiest						
Offering Custodian	Carol Wood						



April 2nd Proc John 12:12-19; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:19-29; Phil 2:5-11; Matt 26:1--27:66
April 6th Wash John 13:1-35; Exodus 24:3-11; Psalm 116:12-19; Heb 9:11-22; Matt 26:17-30
April 7th Isaiah 52:13--53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9; John 18:1--19:42
April 9th Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 16; Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10
April 16th Acts 5:29-42; Psalm 148; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31
April 23rd Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-14; 1 Peter 1:17-25; Luke 24:13-35
April 30th Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10