



CONRAD LUTHERAN PARISH

LOGOS

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES :

Pondera Valley 9 a.m.

Golden West 11 a.m.

Christmas Eve

Golden West 5 p.m.

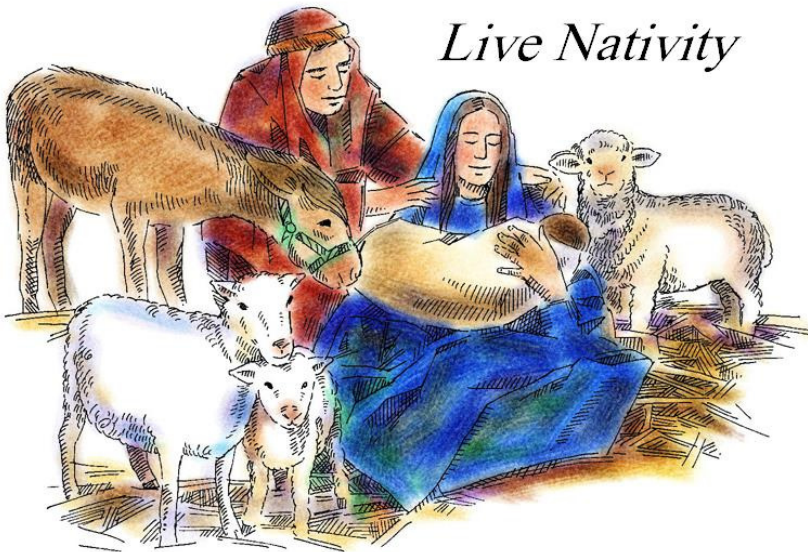
Pondera Valley 7 p.m.



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AND MARY SAID, "MY SOUL MAGNIFIES THE LORD, AND MY SPIRIT REJOICES IN GOD MY SAVIOR, FOR HE HAS LOOKED ON THE HUMBLE ESTATE OF HIS SERVANT. FOR BEHOLD, FROM NOW ON ALL GENERATIONS WILL CALL ME BLESSED; FOR HE WHO IS MIGHTY HAS DONE GREAT THINGS FOR ME, AND HOLY IS HIS NAME. AND HIS MERCY IS FOR THOSE WHO FEAR HIM FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION. LUKE 1:46-50



Live Nativity

Pondera Valley Christmas Program

Sunday, December 6th
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
(unless inclement weather,
then it might be moved to
December 13th)

Please have your kids there by
4:30 p.m.

Audience: Come or Drive by!!



RADIO BROADCAST: 11 am December 6th on KZIN, 96.7 FM Sponsored by:
Kathy Walter in loving memory of her husband, Gerry, father-in-law Don Walter, parents Hildur & Palmer Gustafson, and brother Marlin and by *Norman & Shirley Stordahl* in loving memory of Martha and Lowell Stordahl, and their parents: Walter & Fannie Snortland and Albert & Mabel Stordahl. **Thank you! May God bless the hearing of His word!**

The Christmas Eve Sponsors are on page 6.

Advent 2020

*Grace and peace to you from God the Father
and Our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Did we miss Thanksgiving? The church calendar ended and when we hear the word Advent we know what is next, Christmas. November's last Sunday started the new year of our lectionary leaving three more before the Nativity of Our Lord. Now we know this season often follows a theme. As we progress closer to the 25th of December candles are lit to remind us of hope, peace, joy, and love, traditionally in that order. Each candle is placed in a wreath specifically because of the round shape. The wreath is a ring of evergreens meant to symbolize our eternal life. At the center of it all is the Christ candle holding it all together and all brought in to the tangible world. Simultaneously, Jesus is who we wait on this season and it is the last candle to be lit.

What stands out to me as I write this is where we are currently as a church, community, and country. The Advent season begins in the dark with not one candle burning, and often God's people are left wondering if he took vacation early. Beginning with hope we hear from the readings on Sunday that we are awaiting a day that may be terrifying. The first lesson from Isaiah 64:1-9 illuminated for us that Israel's hope appeared different than one might expect. It is almost as if they are egging God on to bring about the eschaton. The people want the world to receive judgement, God is angry, but where does hope come in? They fall into the same category as a sinner and do not fail to recognize it. Confession like this puts hope into the promise of forgiveness. This is

God's children remembering His promise and calling out for it despite everything and everyone having fallen around them. He said they would be redeemed.

The New Testament lesson follows accordingly. From 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 we find that Paul points this congregation to the whole testimony of what Israel called for before. The confirming of the Good News about Jesus Christ gave the assembly of believers hope. This was everyday endurance that would not run out until the race ends. Yet again, being forgiven is declared boldly here in direct connection to how people will receive eternal life and live in the presence of God forever. The path in front of us does not appear at first to be filled with much glory. To be transparent this does not motivate our flesh much. The days ahead look like we may lose more than gain but we need to be reminded that this is another new start instead of trying to "do the best with what we have".

This is where new life begins. The light has to enter because darkness and death have taken over. There is no other way or solution. New life follows death and we know this from those who witnessed Jesus lead us to pick up our cross every day the same way. The crux of our theology is the cross of Jesus and nothing else.

Remember that it takes time for everyone to get their Christmas lights up. The neighborhoods start dark and quiet, but then one night we notice that the whole town has lit up. I pray more lights are put up this year than ever because it gives me peace. For me it is getting to the part of Psalm 23 that says, "Even though I walk

continued on page 3

from page 2...

through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for God is with me..." That means the light of the world leads David and me as we go through the darkest corridors of life. Hearing it now should lead us to the same revelation that God is walking with you despite what we may or may not see around us, just like with His Son.

I often say to my wife that our eyes are overrated. It takes a lot of light for me to see well, but too much quickly causes a glare and my eyes squint and strain. My binocular and rifle scope skills are quite subpar, and in minutes I have a headache. It takes just the right angle of sunlight for me to find treasured agates. This is to say each of us in these days needs to reflect not only on the world's condition, but also on own standing before God and our mirror of His image. The iniquity of the world is ours as well. We got here somehow. Everyone has missed more than one shot and even looked right passed the best gifts given. Remember that our hope starts with the confession that we believe in the promise that God forgives our sin because of Jesus. Hope is concrete and unfailing, yet we cannot see it unless it is revealed and sustained by grace and faith. Our eyes only work properly when we have heard God's Word. We are then led to peace that surpasses any understanding our five senses might gain. Thanksgiving is not forgotten when the gifts of God are experienced in every season.

New life by the Holy Spirit opens us to the world to be slaves to nothing but servants to everyone. Or, when one has hope and peace placed there by God the result is that the joy jumps out of their heart from the mouth and into daily life. In a moment of listening we

are given a promise that God loves us and lets us lack nothing. So much that we can give everyone what we receive when we hear that we are forgiven and loved. The timeline rests in the promise of Jesus Christ already arriving into the world, but also promising to return any second. The light is coming into the world. Faith in Jesus is where this starts and ends. Let us shine like Him giving thankfully the hope, peace, joy, love and faith in Jesus until he returns with the entire Kingdom. Amen.

In Christ, Pastor Drew Nelson



With Humble Hearts

Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity, which marks the likely spot of Jesus' birth, has a four-foot-high entrance. Throughout the centuries, the height of the entrance has been lowered twice: once to prevent looting and once to keep out camel- and horse-riders.

Because visitors must bow as they enter, this has become known as the Door of Humility. It's a reminder of the reverent, submissive posture our hearts should take as we approach our newborn Lord and Savior. It's also a reminder that Jesus is the narrow door (Luke 13:24) — the only path to eternal life.

As you worship this Christmas season, whether or not you're physically able to kneel, enter Jesus' presence with a humble and thankful heart. He alone deserves our reverence because he alone is able to save.



*May all kings
fall down
before him,
all nations
serve him!*

PSALM 72:11, ESV



Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is up!

Come check out a tag and buy a gift for someone in need!

The gifts need to be wrapped and brought back with their tag by 9 a.m. December 20th!

Thank you for participating!

Good News Amidst Tragedy

On August 4, 2020, the explosion in Beirut, Lebanon, caused at least 204 deaths, 6,500 injuries, and \$15 billion (US) in property damage, and leaving an estimated 300,000 people homeless. In that port there were three 40 foot containers belonging to Lutheran World Relief holding 22,000 quilts, 100 cartons school

kits, 300 cartons personal care kits, and 125 cartons of baby care kits. They were valued at \$624,000. It was thought and even reported that they were destroyed. However, when a person from Lutheran World Relief was allowed into the area it was discovered that all 3 containers had been stored behind a concrete building that helped spare them from the blast. They were found

intact! A fourth container was on a ship off shore and has been delivered. First there was extreme grief over the loss, then joy when it was learned the items had survived and were being distributed. Better yet, they were right where they needed to be to help the hurting in the area! What an amazing story! Praise God!

Excerpts taken by Sandy Pipal



The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity —
hope of pardon,
hope of peace with God,
hope of glory —
because at the Father's will Jesus Christ became poor, and was born in a stable so that 30 years later he might hang on a cross.

—J.I. Packer

Christmas Eve Radio Broadcast will be on KSEN 1150 AM at 7 p.m.

Sponsors are: **Doris Peterson** in loving memory of her husband, Arthur Huyghe;

Madelyn Erickson in loving memory of her husband, George, parents Edna & Oscar Hovde and Hans & Emma Erickson, Hovde siblings: Howard, Arthur, John, Ed, Anna Evers and Erickson siblings: Clara, Bert, Harry, Art, and Irene Grimmer;

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

Jack & Barb Judisch & family in loving memory of Clark Judisch and other family & friends;

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

Thank You!

**WEDNESDAYS**

Preschool - 4th grades: 5:15 p.m.- 6 p.m. (no dinner)
in Ed. Building

5th & 6th grade - Confirmation (7-9th): 6 p.m. Meal in Fellowship Hall followed right away with class until 7:15 p.m. (5th & 6th pick up Ed. building) and until 7:30 p.m. for 7th-9th grades

The last day will be December 16th and we will start up again January 6th!



The PV Council will be meeting on Nov. 23rd and will not have time to get a rough draft of information to the office before the printing of this newsletter. The JOINT COUNCIL meeting has been postponed until later. Watch for more information council members in your email and more news from the councils will be in January's newsletter.



Titus 3:8 *The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.*

Here Paul stresses the importance of good works. In verse 1 he says: "be ready for every good work,..." then in verse 8: "be careful to devote themselves to good works" and in verse 14 he says: "learn to devote themselves to good works". Reading just these 3 verses would lead one to believe that Paul was preaching a salvation by works doctrine. Not at all! In verse 5 he says that our salvation is: "not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit." So

then salvation is never merited by our good works. Good works do have value and are most profitable which our text tells us in verse 8. One good work that is profitable for believers to maintain is that of giving. When we give our tithe and offerings the church is able to do many good works for the community and the cause of Christ. All the ministries of the church are made possible by our financial gifts. Thus, giving is a good work that is profitable to those who benefit from the ministry of the church; but it is also profitable to the giver. For as givers we set in motion the law of Christ: "Give and it will be given to you..." (Luke 6:38) So then, the good work of giving while not bringing salvation does bring great profit to the church, the recipients of the church's ministries, and to us, the givers.

Calendar Reminders:


Pondera Valley Worship Leaders - *Tom Russett* (Sound); *Kori Nelson* (Comm. Prep.); *Jack Judisch* (Greeter); *Ramsey & Betty Offerdal* (Ushers); *Mike O'Brien* (Offering Custodian); *Judy Ketterling* (Reader Dec. 6th); *Mary Jane Kinyon* (Reader Dec. 13th & 20th); *Carol Johns* (Reader Christmas Eve); *David Berg* (Reader Dec. 27th); *Mary Jane & Karla Breeding* (Comm. Servers Dec. 13th); *Betty Olson, Julene & Terry Peters* (Comm. Servers Christmas Eve); *Betty Olson & Page Russett* (Comm. Servers Dec. 27th).

Golden West Worship Leaders - *Ken & Cyndi Johnson* (Ushers, *Cyndi*-Reader, and *Ken* Communion Preparer); ??? (Comm. Assistant)

Bible Studies at Pondera Valley - Men's Tuesday 6:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
- Women's Tuesday 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

MEMORIALS Received: General Fund, *in memory of Barbara Shephard*: Vernon & Kathy Gjullin; Building Reserve, *in memory of Herb Peterman*: Larry & Rose Banka, Matt & Donna Fowler, Nancy Pringle, Lucille Russell, Leona Elings, Malvin & Marilyn Copenhaver, Art & Lori Pearson, Scott & Pam Arvidson, Shauna & Jim Ellefsen, Mary & Paul Peterman, Gordon & Karen Nelsen, Roman & Judy Ketterling, Ray & Kim Hofstad, Ron & Cathi Hemry, Pat Lee, Lavonne Fuson, Bret & Cheryl Murphy, Carol Wood, Richard & Yvonne Jacobson, Marian Turk, Ryan & Elodie Rauscher;
in memory of Debbi Gage: Matt & Donna Fowler, Jim & Shauna Ellefsen;
FOUNDATION *in memory of Herb Peterman*: Lyn & Linda Carlson;

GOLDEN WEST MEMORIAL FUND *in memory of Helen Arnold*: Mildred Dommer

 In November, there were no Pastoral Acts.

Pondera Valley Offering in
thru Nov. 22nd: \$ 13,267.00
Average Attendance in
November: PV 38

♥ *Thank you Judy Ketterling for the many weeks/years you have helped count the weekly offering. You have been such a faithful, efficient helper!! Thanks to Betty Olson for stepping up to take Judy's place!*



♥ Thank you Friends for the prayers, condolences and donations made to the church in memory of Herb. Your love and support mean more than we can express.
Rose Peterman and family

♥ *Thank you Karla Breeding for the years you found the readers and Communion helpers each month!! You are awesome!! Thanks to Page Russett for agreeing to do her job!*

♥ **THANK YOU** to all who continue to send in your offerings!
You can use the enclosed blue envelope or mail them to:
PO Box 883, Conrad MT 59425.

December



Puzzle!

Use the code to complete Isaiah's prophecy about Jesus, our Savior.



CODE:

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
R S T U V W X Y Z A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q

10 23 18 17 14 8 18 21 21

11 14 12 10 21 21 14 18

8 24 28 13 14 1 15 4 21

12 24 4 28 2 14 21 24 1

22 18 18 17 3 8 18 24 18

14 5 14 1 21 10 2 8 18 23 18

15 10 8 17 14 1 25 1 18 28 12 14

24 15 25 14 10 12 14

ISAIAH 9:6, NIV

Answer: And he will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6, NIV



WHITE AS SNOW

Jesus, our Savior, came to earth to purify sinners.

Directions: Figure out which path through the puzzle is correct. Choose one to try, starting at the first picture under the "Path" box. Follow each picture's directional cue to see if the words make sense when placed in order in the blanks below. If not, try a different path until you figure out the Bible verse.



PATH 1	PATH 2	PATH 3	PATH 4	PATH 5	PATH 6
for	the	come	together	around	after
and	his	with	eternal	the	holy
God	Love	say	without	Christ	world
love	sin	marry	other	light	prison
red	star	white	snow	winter	peace

star

"_____ now, let us _____ the matter," _____ the
_____. "Though your _____ are like _____,
they shall be as _____ as _____."

ISAIAH 1:18, NIV

Answer: Path 5; come, with, say, Love, sin, without, white, snow

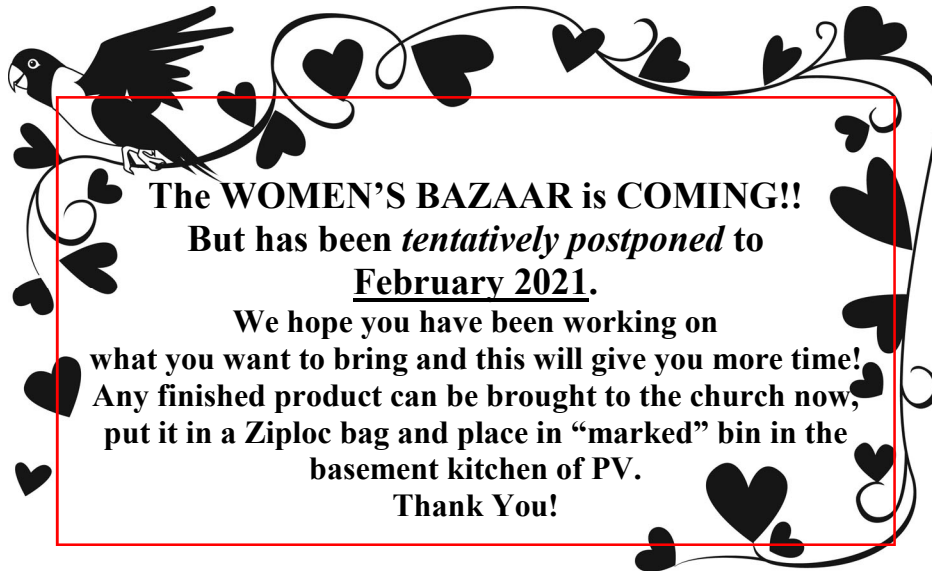
Bible Quiz

Which of the four Gospels name(s) Bethlehem as the place of Jesus' birth?

- A. Only Luke
- B. Matthew and Luke
- C. Mark and John
- D. All four



Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:1-7.)



The WOMEN'S BAZAAR is COMING!!
 But has been *tentatively postponed to*
February 2021.

We hope you have been working on
 what you want to bring and this will give you more time!
 Any finished product can be brought to the church now,
 put it in a Ziploc bag and place in "marked" bin in the
 basement kitchen of PV.

Thank You!



Go to our website for
 videos, updates,
 materials to use for
 worship!

PLUS, the newsletter is
 in **COLOR!!**

www.conradlutheran.com



Check out this website:
www.holyfamilytime.com
 This one is from Nov.
 3, 2020...

Holy Family Time: Struggle

*Pray: Begin by making the sign of the cross and
 calling upon God's name.*

From God to us, from death to life, from me to you -
 in the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of

the Holy Spirit. Amen

Almighty God, be present with us as we study your
 Word today. Help us to follow you, and to learn how
 to live out our faith. Thank you for being with us,
 even in the midst of hardship and struggle. We ask
 this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Listen: Pay close attention as these verses from the
 Bible are read aloud.*

1 Corinthians 1:10 - 12

Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth: My dear
 friends, as a follower of our Lord Jesus Christ, I beg

you to get along with each other. Don't take sides.
 Always try to agree in what you think. Several people
 from Chloe's family have already reported to me that
 you keep arguing with each other. They have said
 that some of you claim to follow me, while others
 claim to follow Apollos or Peter or Christ. (CEV)

*Engage: Talk about the Bible by having parents
 respond to children's questions.*

Child: What's a good way to solve a disagreement?
 When have you done that?

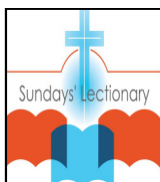
Child: Have you ever taken a side in someone else's
 argument? Why can that be unhelpful?

*Affirm: Pray for God to put his Word into action in
 your daily life.*

Lord, it is hard when we argue with the people who
 are closest to us. Help us notice where others suffer,
 so that we can more easily be kind to them. May we
 learn to see people as you see them. In Jesus' name
 we pray. Amen.

Have each person in the family bless one another
 with these words.

May you look to God when you need help! Amen.



Dec. 6th (2nd Sunday of ADVENT)- Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

Dec. 13th (3rd Sunday of ADVENT)- Is. 61:1-4, 8-11; Ps. 126; 1 Thess. 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Dec. 20th (4th Sunday of ADVENT)- 2 Sam. 7:1-11, 16; Ps. 89:1-5; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Dec. 24th (Christmas Eve)- Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 110:1-4; 1 John 4:7-16; Matthew 1:18-25

Dec. 25th (Christmas Day) - Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 2; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-14 **no services today**

Dec. 27th - Isaiah 61:10--62:3; Psalm 111; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

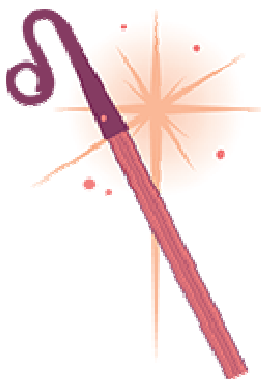


Illnesses or other concerns: (*denotes relation to*) Bill Hake (*Betty Offerdal*), Ron Thaut, Madelyn Erickson, Rose Peterman, Mike Buechler, Annie Schlosser, Zach Greene (*Carol Kaldor*), Evan Bell, Dennis Fladstol, Teagan Bartoo, Faith Birnel Crouch (*2Ruth Fladstol*), Hayden Kellogg, Ron Widhalm, Shaun Short (*Stacie Matheson*), Wayne Smith (*Linda VanTongeren*), Isobel (*Linda O'Brien*), Marvin Baker, Sandy Webb (*JoAnne Unger*), Norman Stordahl, Debbie Ries, Mitchell Moore (*Josita Montgomery*), Connie Wolf, Wayne Brown (*2Carol Wood*), Juelie McLean (*Bill McLean*), Don Bandow, Ralph Swan (*Cyndi Johnson*), Poppy Dahl, Audrey Kieft, Gerald Bruner, Melvin Pocock, Mark Mann, (*4Wanda Bollinger*), Terry Smith, (*Carolyn Widhalm*), BJ Hilyard, Lorie Hasner, Jolene Wynn (*Kim Hofstad*), Kat O'Brien and all COVID-19 frontline workers (health, grocery, truck drivers, etc), all PMC Extended Care 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... Joe Widhalm, Herb Peterman
Those deployed in the service abroad: Blake Tornga, Cameron Bowen



Prayers to Prepare for Worship

- ✠ In this Advent time of waiting, I wait now to hear a word from you, dear Lord.
- ✠ As John the Baptist bore witness to you, Jesus, may my actions and words proclaim that you are the Light of the world.
- ✠ God, I pray for all who are lonely in this season, or exhausted, or grieving. Give them the courage of Mary as you fill them with the Holy Spirit.
- ✠ "How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven." (Phillips Brooks)
- ✠ "Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given!" (John F. Wade)
- ✠ Jesus, help us continue to celebrate your birth among us for the full 12 days and, indeed, all year.



A Sacred Summary

The simple shepherds
 heard the voice of an angel
 and found their Lamb;
 the wise men
 saw the light of a star
 and found their Wisdom.

—Fulton J. Sheen



Community Prayer Night

Monday, Dec. 7th

6:30 pm at the

***Stockman Bank Drive-Through Building,
 the door to the left off Main Street.***

It's a non-denominational event. Come to pray or listen to others pray! If you have a prayer request, give it to Kim, in the office, beforehand!



TAKE TIME TO LAUGH....

Me: (sobbing my heart out, eyes swollen, nose red) ...I can't see you anymore. I am not going to let you hurt me like this again! **Trainer:** It was a sit-up. You did one sit-up.

Having plans sounds like a good idea until you have to put on clothes and leave the house.

It's weird being the same age as old people.

When I was a kid I wanted to be older...this is not what I expected.

Life is like a helicopter. I don't know how to operate a helicopter.

Chocolate is God's way of telling us he likes us a little bit chubby.

It's probably my age that tricks people into thinking I'm an adult.

Marriage Counselor: Your wife says you never buy her flowers. Is that true?

Him: To be honest, I never knew she sold flowers.

Never sing in the shower! Singing leads to dancing, dancing leads to slipping, and slipping leads to paramedics seeing you naked. So remember: Don't sing!



"I'm a king in the living Nativity. I need some gold and a camel by Friday."

My wife asked me to take her to one of those restaurants where they make the food right in front of you. So I took her to Subway and that's how the fight started.

I don't think the therapist is supposed to say "wow," that many times in your first session but here we are...

I see people about my age mountain climbing; I feel good getting my leg through my underwear without losing my balance.

We can all agree that in 2015 not a single person got the answer correct to, 'Where do you see yourself 5 years from now?'

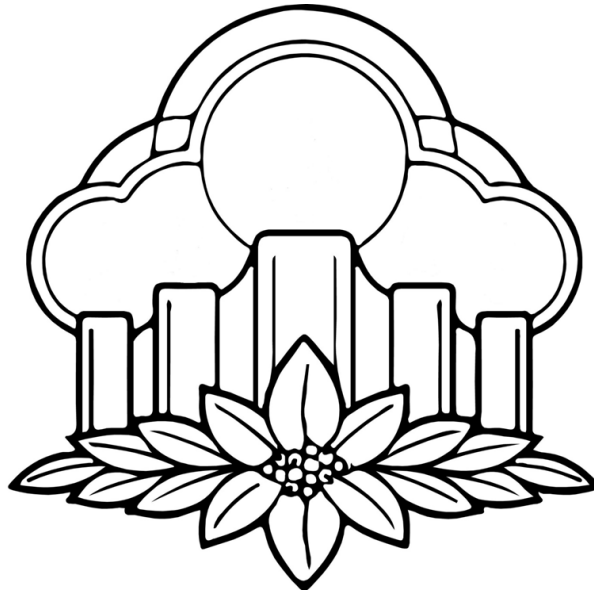
So if a cow doesn't produce milk, is it a milk dud or an udder failure?

If you can't think of a word say "I forgot the English word for it." That way people will think you're bilingual instead of an idiot.

I'm at a place in my life where errands are starting to count as going out.



"... And he was born in a stable, 'cuz there was no room for him in the church."



Color in the flame of
each candle being lit:

November 29th

December 6th

December 13th

December 20th

Christmas Eve or
Christmas Day

For the lighting of the candles...

Hope/Prophecy Candle...In hope, we light the first candle in the Advent wreath, the Prophecy Candle. We read in Hebrews 1:1-2 – ***"Going through a long line of prophets, God has been addressing our ancestors in different ways for centuries. Recently he spoke to us directly through his Son. By his Son, God created the world in the beginning, and it will all belong to the Son at the end."***

Love/Bethlehem Candle...In love, we light the second candle in the Advent wreath, the Bethlehem Candle. We read in Micah 5:2 – ***"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf."***

Joy/Shepherd Candle...In joy, we light the third candle in the Advent wreath, the Shepherd Candle. We read in Luke 2:16-17 – ***"They (shepherds) hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child."***

Peace/Angel Candle...In peace, we light the fourth candle in the Advent wreath, the Angel Candle. We read in Luke 2:13-14 – ***"At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises: Glory to God in the heavenly heights, Peace to all men and women on earth who please him."***

The Christ Candle...We read in John 1:1-14 – ***"In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. God sent a man, John the Baptist to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God. So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son."***