



CONRAD LUTHERAN PARISH

LOGOS

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

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



HE HAS TOLD YOU, O MAN, WHAT IS GOOD; AND WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU BUT TO DO JUSTICE, AND TO LOVE KINDNESS, AND TO WALK HUMBLLY WITH YOUR GOD? MICAH 6:8

LENT *Lent* LENT *Lent*

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 22nd begins with a **9 a.m. breakfast** hosted by the women of Pondera Valley for the community. In the evening, at **5:30 p.m.** is a **Soup Supper** with the traditional **Ash Wednesday Service** at **6 p.m.**

Lenten lunches will begin **February 23rd** for 6 Thursdays at **noon.** (through **March 30th**). The **St. Michael Catholic Church** will host first on **Feb. 23rd** and **March 2nd**; **First Presbyterian Church** will host **March 9th & 16th**; and **Pondera Valley Lutheran** will host **March 23rd & 30th.** The Community is invited to join in this short time of Fellowship together. We are usually done in under an hour.



Thank you sponsors for the RADIO BROADCAST on KZIN, 96.7 FM at 11 am February 5th: Roland & Karen Lee in honor and appreciation of our musicians at Pondera Valley and Golden West.

May God bless the hearing of His word!

Pastor's Letter

The Dreamer: A Parable

A man had a friend who asked him to meet him at the edge of a high cliff. When he arrived, his friend excitedly told him of a powerful and wondrous vision he had in a dream. In the vision, he flew on beautiful colored cellophane and balsa wood wings out over the high cliff above the river valley below. He effortlessly glided like a bird, turned and banked, and then landed safely back on the high plateau.

His friend watched in dismay as *The Dreamer* strapped his delicate home-made wings on his arms and prepared to jump off the cliff.

"Please take a video of me flying so we can show it to our friends," said *The Dreamer*.

"I can't let you do this," replied his friend, "you'll be killed if you jump off the cliff!"

"No, I won't! I'll be able to fly just as I did in my vision," retorted *The Dreamer*.

"Your dream -- your 'vision' as you call it -- hasn't anything to do with reality," his friend asserted, "you'll be killed and we'll have to haul you out of here in a body bag!"

The friend made a move to tackle *The Dreamer*.

"Leave me alone! Stop imposing your ideas of reality on me!" yelled *The Dreamer*.

It's not merely my opinion," objected the friend, "it's the law of gravity and the principles

of physics -- your puny balsa wood wings are not up to the job."

"Yes they are!" screamed *The Dreamer*, and, evading a lunge from his friend, he ran to the precipice and jumped off.

At the coroner's inquest, the friend related the incident in detail. Through his tears, he recounted his efforts to dissuade his friend from his folly and save him from dying.

"What else could I have done?" he asked. "I couldn't talk him out of it and he evaded my efforts to tackle him."

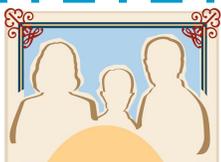
Cause of Death: "Severe bodily trauma from a fall." That's what went into the official records.

On the tombstone of *The Dreamer* is inscribed, "Down with Gravity!"

"Their visions are false and their divinations a lie. Even though the LORD has not sent them, they say, 'The LORD declares,' and expect him to fulfill their words. Have you not seen false visions and uttered lying divinations when you say, 'The LORD declares,' though I have not spoken?" Ezekiel 13:6-7

"Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world." 1 John 4:1

Pastor Jeff Stoores



**Pastoral
Pictorial
Directory**

It's not too late! We're working on this slow and steady...

We still want your pictures 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 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!



You don't want to miss some things coming up so take note and save the dates!

⌘ **Scholarship applications** for Pondera Valley members are on the website and in the church and office. They are **due on April 1, 2023!**

⌘ **First Communion class** for 5th grade and up are going to be **March 22nd and 29th at 6 p.m.** for a meal and then class until 7:30. First Communion will be Easter Sunday. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall!

⌘ **New Members' class** will be **April 12th and 19th at 6 p.m.** Sign up in the Fellowship Hall!

Winterfest Potluck & Games

On January 15th we had great food, fellowship and games with an attendance of about 26. We hope to do something similar again! If you'd like to help plan, contact the church office or Pastor Jeff.



PONDERA VALLEY MEMORIALS Received:

GENERAL FUND in memory of Virginia Robinson - Donna Syvertson, Scotty & Delores Johnson, Pat Lee, Gary & Becky Gollehon, Betty & Ramsey Offerdal, Laurie Philipps, Carol Wood, Marla Bruner, Susan Bacon, Terri & Roy VandenBos
in memory of Margaret Rigby, Gerald Bruner, Jeanie Long, and Dorothy Musegades - Robert Skorupa
in memory of Madelyn Erickson - Ray & Jana O'Brien

FUNERAL LUNCHESES in memory of Virginia Robinson - Helen Bjelland

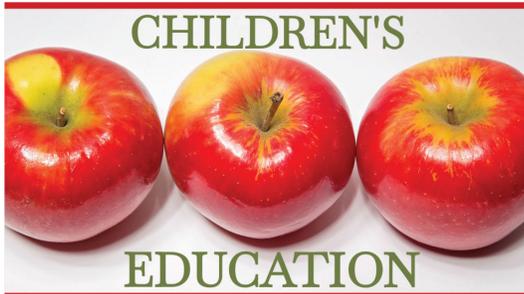
- ♥ Thank you to Mel Ryan of Country Charm who donated many beautiful poinsettias for our Christmas season!
- ♥ Thank you to Lyn Carlson for all your voluntary work as our Treasurer! We know you don't like the attention but it's important to us that we recognize you!
- ♥ Thank you to Betty Offerdal for being our Financial Secretary!

♥ **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.**

JANUARY PASTORAL Acts:
 at Golden West a baptism of Nora Lily Bjelland, daughter of Karl & Alexandra
(thru 1/22) Pondera Valley Offering: \$10,549
Average PV Sunday Attendance: 62

PLEASE CONSIDER: Being a substitute! Call the church office, 271-3934.

Ed. Board members are: Linda O'Brien, Kathy Walter, Amanda Lesnik, Julene Peters, and Carol Wood and superintendents: Donna Fowler and Barb Judisch.



**Wednesday Night Education:
Preschool/K - 4th 5-6 pm in the
YOUTH ROOM (basement of church);
5th-9th 6-7:30 pm
Meal & Class in the Fellowship Hall**

♥ **If you could cook a meal for 10, please sign up in F.H. Thank you!!**



BIBLE STUDIES, All are Welcome!

- ☞ Women's **Noon Mondays** in the church library.
- ☞ Men's **6:30 a.m.** with Breakfast on **Tuesdays, F.H.**
- ☞ Women's **9 a.m. Tuesdays** in the F.H.
- ☞ Women's on Jan. 29th, Feb. 12th, and Feb. 26th at **6 p.m.** in F.H.



The council met on January 15th to approve the proposed budget for 2023. It was accepted. **Pondera Valley had their annual meeting January 22nd.** There was a perfect quorum of 30 in attendance. The Treasurer's report was discussed and approved. Erik Eneboe and Jack Judisch reviewed the Treasurer's books and found them to be impeccable. The Foundation report was in the book. It was discussed that it being a very poor year, they recommended having no expenditures this year. It was approved. The proposed budget was presented and passed. Elections were held. Council members elected were Rudy King and Stacy Eneboe. Amanda Lesnik was voted to go on the Board of Education and Brett Peters for the Foundation. Elected for the Benevolence Committee: Linda O'Brien; Art Pearson, Ramsey Offerdal, Jr; Harold Olson; Leslee Weber, and Erik Eneboe. Nominating Committee members elected were: Kim Hofstad;

Page Russett; Jack Judisch; Terry Peters, and Gale Gustafson. President Barb Judisch read an update on the Montgomery's House (parsonage). Julene Peters described the move of the education classrooms to the Church basement. Lenten lunches will begin Feb. 23rd with the Catholics for 2 weeks, then the Presbyterians for 2 weeks, and last 2 weeks Pondera Valley will host, (March 23rd & 30th). Kim Hofstad agreed to head up the lunches. Kim also mentioned the Fall Bazaar this year for people to start thinking of what they can bring. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer. **PV Council met following the annual meeting.** The council are to bring their prioritized lists for potential congregational projects next meeting. Officers were elected. Pres. Mike O'Brien; V.P. Julene Peters; Sec. Stacy Eneboe; Treas. Lyn Carlson, Financial Sec. Betty Offerdal. **Their next council meeting will be March 14th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Golden West will have their annual meeting January 29th.**

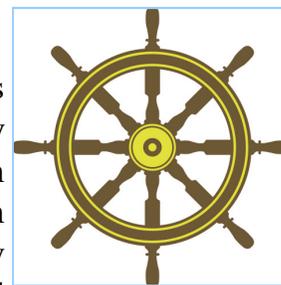
Going Out of Our Way

In mid-2022, Mediterranean Shipping Company, a world leader in container transport, voluntarily changed its routes, on the advice of scientists, to protect large populations of blue whales off the Sri Lankan coast. Going out of its way 15 nautical miles has led to a whopping 95% drop in whale strikes.

Jesus counseled people to go out of their way for one another, especially for the vulnerable: “If anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.” Further, “whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water ... will by no means lose his reward” (Matthew 5:40-41; 10:42, ESV).

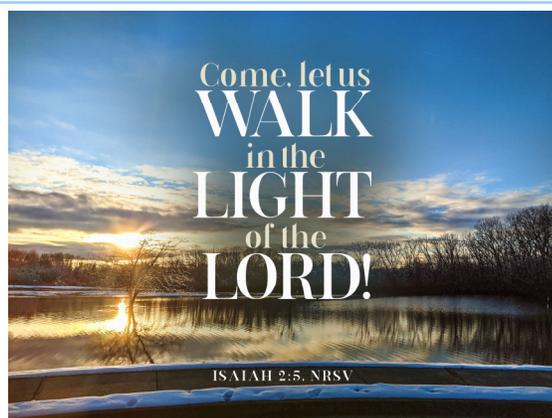
Paul likewise urged his listeners to voluntarily give up eating meat, even if they didn’t believe in and weren’t challenged by the idols to which it had been sacrificed, for the sake of new believers with weaker faith (Romans 14).

Faith calls us to go out of our way for the sake of others; sometimes a wealthy corporation opts to do the same. God’s hand is at work in both, protecting vulnerable humans and nonhumans alike.



Lenten Prayer Calendar

Watch for sign-ups on the back table at Pondera Valley to be included in the 40 Day Calendar for Lenten Prayers. It will ask you your name and to list your favorite Bible verse (just one!). They will be given out on Ash Wednesday and we are encouraged to pray for each other and look up the verse for that day.



Life’s Directions

The Red River of the North, in the north-central U.S. and central Canada, takes countless twists and turns. A close-up aerial photo or map shows its frequent sideswipes and U-turns. One could cross the river several times without changing direction while hiking or biking along the border between Minnesota and

North Dakota. You might wonder at points if it has completely turned back south — which raises another point: While most rivers flow south, the Red River flows north.

Sometimes life meanders, but that doesn’t mean we’re off course. Sometimes we seem to be going in the opposite direction of most people, but that doesn’t mean we’re not

headed the right way. Sometimes it feels like it takes us a long time to make progress, but that doesn’t mean we’re not moving. We might just be taking in more of life’s scenery! Follow your own unique trajectory, letting God, the creator of all rivers and all life, serve as the current that moves you ever onward.

Start Digging!

Scripture promises that God has a plan for our lives but also reveals that he wants us to play an active role in that plan. In 2 Kings 3, three kings band together to defeat Moab but end up in an 80-mile desert. Amid this dire situation, God commands the people, "Make this valley full of ditches" (verse 16) and promises to fill them with water -- even though it won't rain.

Before the people's need was supplied, they had to trust God and act. The next morning, water filled every ditch they had dug. Plus, they were victorious in battle.

The takeaway? God will bring the blessing, but we may have to dig first!



"My dad's teachin' me to be 'grounded in the faith' too, but he's taking a totally different approach."



Lent

RETURN TO THE LORD
your God,
FOR HE IS
gracious and
MERCIFUL.

JOEL 2:13

"God moves in a mysterious way, his wonders to perform." These oft-quoted words, from a hymn by English poet William Cowper, come with an unsubstantiated yet powerful back story.

Cowper, who struggled with depression, decided to commit suicide one night. He called a cab to go to the Thames River, planning to drown himself. Such dense fog arose that the driver got lost and finally stopped to let his passenger out. To Cowper's surprise, he was at his own door! He concluded that God had sent the fog to spare his life. The hymn he wrote in response continues:

*Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
the clouds ye so much dread
are big with mercy and shall break
in blessings on your head.*

*His purposes will ripen fast,
unfolding every hour.
The bud may have a bitter taste,
but sweet will be the flower.*

www.holyfamilytime.com A great resource!



Children of the LIGHT

This craft celebrates that now we are light in the Lord (see Ephesians 6:22).

What you need:

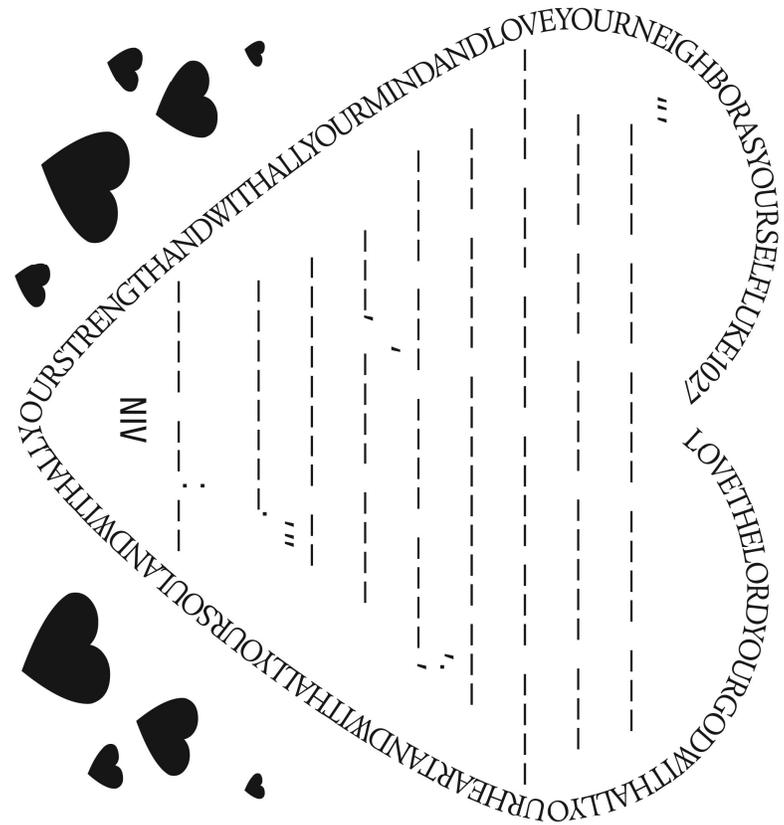
- A gallon zip-top plastic bag
- Permanent markers (dark colors)
- Black construction paper
- White cardstock
- Scissors

What you do:

1. Draw a self-portrait on the outside of the bag. Add details.
2. Insert the black paper and set the bag flat on a table. It should be tough to see your picture now.
3. On the white cardstock, draw a picture of a flashlight with a long beam of light coming on. Color the flashlight but leave the beam white.
4. Cut out the flashlight and light beam. Place them in the bag, over the black paper. When the white beam covers the black background under your picture, you can see your self-portrait clearly.

Puzzle!

Draw lines to separate the words in the heart outline. Then, starting with "Love," write the words in order inside the heart to complete the two greatest commandments.



Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Luke 10:27, NIV



Fill in the blanks for three qualities Paul, in 1 Corinthians 13, attributes to love: "Love is _____; love is _____... it keeps no record of _____."

- A. challenging, important, the past
- B. childlike, innocent, injustice
- C. self-sacrificing, generous, finances
- D. patient, kind, wrongs

Answer: D (See 1 Corinthians 13:4-5, NIV.)

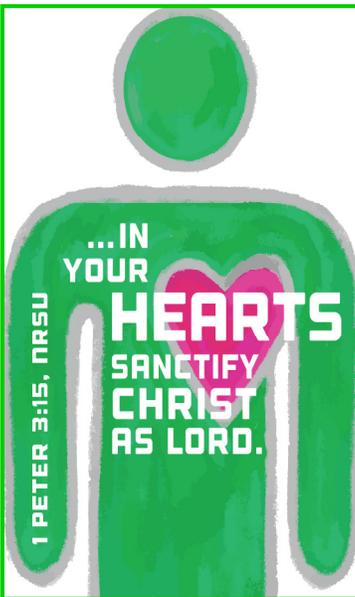


Illnesses or other concerns: (*denotes relation to*)

Frances Larson, Ron Iverson, Bob Beck (*Karen Lee*), Art & Lori Pearson, Jack & Marian Larson (*Art Pearson*), Dave Kliver (*Rona Matheson*), Susan Stoopes, Tom Stoopes (*2Pastor Stoopes*), Loretta, Amy Glimm (*2Louise Glimm*), *Kenny Matheson*, *Jeff Elings*, *Hartley Herndon (Carol Wood)*, Roman Ketterling, Brad Stuart (*Kenny Matheson*), George Wood, Beccy Lockyer, Derek Matheson, Ron Thaut, Tristan West, Sara McLean, Don Badow, Marilyn Waite, Georgia Smeltzer, (*Carol Kaldor*), Evan Bell, Roger Brastrup, Teagan Bartoo, Faith Birnel Crouch (*3Ruth Fladstol*), Rose Peterman, Annie Schlosser, Marvin Baker, Sandy Webb (*JoAnne Unger*), 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: Madelyn Erickson

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



Prayers to Prepare for Worship

- ♥ You promise to guide us continually, Lord, and to meet all our needs. May we be your garden, our thirst quenched by your living water. (See Isaiah 58:11.)
- ♥ God, you call me to choose life and goodness every day. With your Spirit’s help, I will do so.
- ♥ God, you said to your disciples, “This is my Son, the Beloved; ... listen to him!” (Matthew 17:5, NRSV). Help us always listen to Jesus too.
- ♥ [Ash Wednesday] “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me” (Psalm 51:10).
- ♥ Holy Spirit, when you lead us into the wilderness, assure us of your constant presence.



Conrad Community Night of Prayer
First Monday of each month, except
holidays - February 6th at 6:30 p.m.
in the Conrad Sr. Center

EVERYONE WELCOME!



Golden West WORSHIP Sundays 9 a.m.
Ushers: Carl & Jenny Fleisch; Reader: Jenny Fleisch; Communion Assistant: Jim Bjelland;
Communion Preparer: Chris Bjelland

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.	February 5th	February 12th	February 19th	ASH WEDNESDAY February 22nd 5:30 Soup Supper, 6 pm Service	February 26th
Reader	Linda O'Brien	Dick Kinyon	Barb Judisch	Kim Wiest	Jim Morren
Communion Assistants		June Hovde & Karla Breeding			Betty Olson & Page Russett
Ushers	Jack & Barb Judisch				
Communion Preparer	Wanda Bandow				
Sound Tech.	Lynn Utterback				
Greeters	Jack & Barb				
Offering Custodian	Barb Judisch				



 Sundays' Lectionary	February 5 - Isaiah 58:3-9a; Psalm 112:1-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20 February 12 - Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37 February 19 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD - EX. 24:8-18; Psalm 2:6-12; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matt. 17:1-9 February 22 ASH WEDNESDAY - Joel 2:12-19; Psalm 51:1-19; 2 Cor. 5:20b--6:10; Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21 February 26 - Genesis 3:1-21; Psalm 32:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11
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