



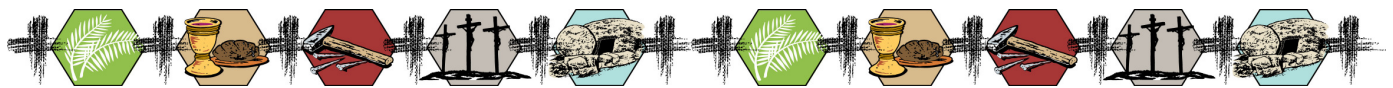
# CONRAD LUTHERAN PARISH

## LOGOS

**WORSHIP TIMES**  
**January - March**  
**9 a.m. Pondera Valley**  
**11 a.m. Golden West**

**Part-time Pastor**  
**Jeff Stoope, 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**

*Seek good and not evil, so that you may live; And so may the LORD God of armies be with you, Just as you have said! Hate evil, love good, And establish justice in the gate! Amos 5: 14-15a*



**ASH WEDNESDAY** is **February 14th**. The Women of Pondera Valley will once again host a **9 a.m. breakfast** with guest speaker, Pastor Judy Sibley from First Presbyterian Church in Conrad. **Pondera Valley** will have an **Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30 p.m.** that evening.

**LENTEN LUNCHESES** will begin on **Thursdays at Noon** during Lent and finish up by 1 p.m. each day. The focus will be on the book "Lent for Everyone: Mark, Year B" by N.T. Wright. The Lutherans will cook and Pastor Jeff Stoope speak on **February 15th & 22nd** at Pondera Valley. The Catholics will cook and Father Matthew Christiaens speak on **Feb. 29th and March 7th** at St. Michael's. And the Presbyterians will cook and Pastor Judy Sibley speak on **March 14th & 21st** at First Presbyterian. The community is invited to attend any and all!



*Thank you to the radio broadcast sponsors on February 4th on KZIN, 96.7 FM at 11am : Ramsey & Betty Offerdal in loving memory of Oliver & Christine Offerdal and Chet Newell.*

*God bless the hearing of His word!*

### Pastor's Letter

The 2023-2024 liturgical calendar published by Solo Publishing is our "authority" for the lectionary readings at our worship services here at Conrad Lutheran Parish. It is based on the LSB version of the Revised Common Lectionary and used with permission of Concordia Publishing Company. The lectionary - the list of Bible readings or "pericopes" - is laid out in a three year cycle. So there are lectionary years A, B, and C which then repeat. This year we are following lectionary year B. Each of the three years highlights one of the three synoptic gospels in that year's gospel readings - Matthew, Mark, and Luke. This year it is Mark's turn - so to speak. As preparation for this I am reading two scholarly commentaries on Mark's gospel: "Mark" from the Proclamation Commentaries Series by Professor Paul J. Achtemeier (Fortress Press, 1986) and "Mark" by Professor Donald H. Juel from the Augsburg Commentary on the New Testament Series (Augsburg Fortress 1990).

Ever since the first century, the gospel of Mark has been a resource for the faith and

life of the Christian Church. Most New Testament scholars believe Mark was written first, then Matthew and Luke, who used Mark as one of their sources, and sometime later John was written to finish out what are now the four canonical gospels. Many other "pseudo gospels" were composed for several hundred years after Pentecost. They were all rejected for various reasons.



As a pastor I'm always delighted to learn of parishioners who go beyond devotional use of the scriptures to serious Bible study of some sort. That's when one is introduced to the nearly two millennia of the historical use and interpretation of

the New Testament in the Christian tradition. One place to start a serious study is with a scholarly or popular general introduction to the New Testament. There are many of these available. My favorite popular level text - at the moment - is "The New Testament In Its World: An Introduction to the History, Literature, and Theology of the First Christians" written by N.T. Wright and Michael F. Bird. I highly recommend it as a resource for serious study.

Pastor Jeff Stoope

**PONDERA VALLEY MEMORIALS Received:**

Parsonage Fund in memory of **Una Coleman** - Martha Hargens Thurlow, Larry & Rose Banka

Quilts in memory of **Judy Ketterling** - Roman Ketterling, Jim & Mary Quitmeyer

General Fund in memory of **Bruce Johnson, Jessica Johnson and Mila Broere** - Diane Johnson

in memory of **Judy Ketterling** - Larry & Rose Banka, Marian Turk, Joanne Unger, Donna Warwick, Harold & Betty Olson, Karen Nelsen, Elaine & Kenneth VandenBos, Ron & Juanita Prewett, Laurie Philipps, Penelope Douglas, Ron & Jeanne Moon

**THANK YOU!**

**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 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 Betty Offerdal for your MANY years (almost 20!) of being our Financial Secretary! Thank you for your many hours serving in this job!**
- ♥ **Thank you Karla Breeding for volunteering to take on the Financial Secretary job!**
- ♥ **Thank you to Wanda Bollinger and Betty Olson for decorating the Fellowship Hall -- for how many years?! It was always masterfully done!**
- ♥ **Thank you to Shauna Ellefsen and Donna Fowler for agreeing to decorate the Fellowship Hall! You have what it takes...it's beautiful!**



♥ **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**  
**Pastor acts: On Jan. 20th at PV, a funeral for Judy Ketterling**  
**Pondera Valley Offering: \$9,459**  
**Average PV Sunday Attendance: 52;**  
**Average GW Sunday Attendance: 11**



**Wednesday Education**

**4-5 p.m. for ages Preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the Youth Room**

**Scholarship applications are available for members on the website.**

**They're due back April 1st!**

**Mark your calendars now for VBS with FLBC July 29th - August 2nd!**



**COME! Be a part of a Bible Study!  
at Pondera Valley:**

☞ **For Everyone, Sunday 10:15 a.m. in the Youth Room**

☞ **Men's 6:30 a.m. with Breakfast on Tues., in the FH**

☞ **Women's Monday Noon, in the Library**

☞ **Women's 9 a.m. Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall**

**at Golden West:**

☞ **2nd Tuesday of each month, 9:30 a.m. at Golden West**



**Golden West Council had a meeting Jan. 8th.** It was decided that the Thrivent grant money would be used to repair the steeple. The By-laws were reviewed and the proposed revised By-laws will be presented to congregation to approve at the annual meeting on January 28th. After much discussion, the council decided that beginning April 7th Golden West will worship at 8:30 a.m. There will be a waffle dinner following worship on Jan. 28th and then the annual meeting will be held.

**Pondera Valley had their annual meeting January 21st.** We had a quorum to begin the meeting but then several left so there were some items that couldn't be finished without the quorum so there will be another congregational meeting in our future. Stay tuned! However, elections were held and elected for the council: Susan Gustafson, incumbent; Klayton Lohr - 1 year; Lisa Judisch - 2 years; Linda Welch and Terry Peters - 3 years. Foundation: Mike O'Brien, incumbent; and Jesse Parks. Board of Education: Linda O'Brien, incumbent. Horizon Lodge Rep.: Ruth Erickson. Benevolence for 2024: Linda O'Brien, Ramsey Offerdal, Jr., Erik Eneboe, Art

Pearson, Leslee Weber, and Linda Van Tongeren. 2024 Nominating Committee: Mike O'Brien, Kim Wiest, Erik Eneboe, Lynn Utterback, and Kim Hofstad. *Many thanks to all who have served their terms and are going off: Council - Julene Peters, Mike O'Brien, Carol Johns, and Jesse Parks; and Foundation - Lynn Utterback.*

**The PV Council met following the annual meeting.** The Council talked about the unfinished business from the congregational meeting and will plan to have another meeting soon. B & G committee will be interviewing for the church janitor position soon. Several members were put on inactive who have moved away. Their information will still stay on our software if they were to come back to Conrad. There were election of officers: Lyn Carlson, Treas.; Stacy Eneboe, Sec.; Linda Welch, V. Pres.; and President will be tabled until the next meeting. Also elected as Financial Officer: Karla Breeding; and Co-Superintendents for Youth Education: Julene Peters and Donna Fowler. The council signed up for committees and other duties. It was decided that the Ash Wednesday service would be at 6:30 p.m. **The next PV Council meeting will be Monday, Feb. 12th at 6:30 p.m.**

**New to Great Falls: *The Foot of the Cross Christian Store***

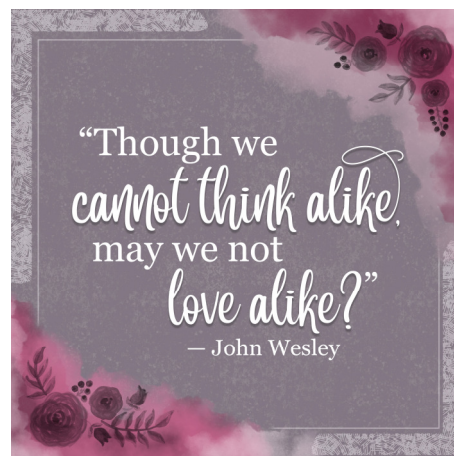
Following the closing by the company of the Christian Book Store in Holiday Village, the manager felt God calling him to open a non-profit Christian book store in Great Falls. Thus the “The Foot of the Cross Christian Store” became a reality.

The end of year net profits is given back to the Christian community of Great Falls and central Montana.

The Foot of the Cross Christian Store is located at 416 2nd Ave. SW. They are available Monday - Friday from noon to 4:00 p.m. to assist you with either an in-store or online purchase. Phone: 1-406-770-0511 OR go to [www.fotcstore.com](http://www.fotcstore.com) The Store is operated by local volunteers with a board of directors. If you would like to volunteer to work an afternoon, give them a call.

**FOOD PANTRY NEWS**

Open 5 Fridays in December; served: 70 children, 94 adults, 46 seniors in 74 households.



**Spring Training for Christians**

The word Lent comes from Middle English and German words for springtime. In light of the start of baseball season, some people call the pre-Easter season “spring training for Christians.” This fresh perspective moves away from the flawed understanding that Lent must be somber, or that giving something up for Lent is punishment for sin or a way to earn God’s favor.

As people of faith, we should never take a season off. But every so often — at least once a year! — we do well to examine where we need to get back in shape spiritually. Perhaps we will indeed opt to give something up: that swearing habit, sleeping in on Sundays, or the cost of a weekly treat so we can donate the money instead. Or maybe we’ll take on something new for Lent: a Bible study, prayer routine or service project.

Hebrews describes spiritual discipline as challenging in the moment but yielding righteousness later. The writer urges us, “Lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees ... so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed” (12:11-13, ESV). May the spring training of Lent strengthen and heal us all.

*“Somewhere between where you are and where you’re going, God comes along and gently takes your hand. Somewhere between all your doubting and your knowing, God comes along and helps you understand.*

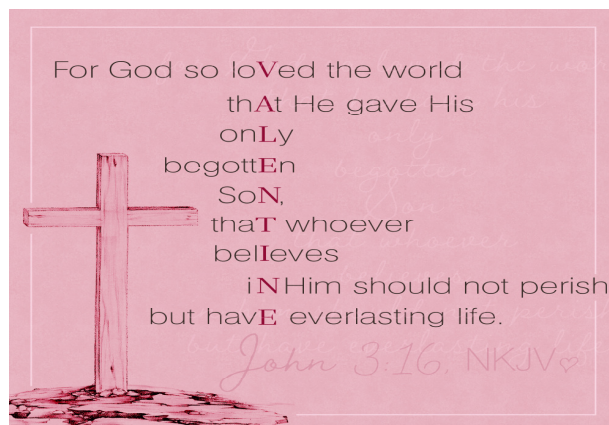
*God alone knows where you are and where you need to be. He created all that you are and guides your destiny.”* (from God Comes Along, Shackley)



Where words fail, music speaks. It’s hard to find the words to express the joy I have felt in singing with and then directing the PVLC choir for nearly 40 years and the sorrow I feel in coming to the end of my time with them. Roland and I met at choir practice. Over those years we’ve made many incredible memories – singing Christmas and Easter cantatas, joint choir experiences and special events. We also lost a number of wonderful choir members as they moved, passed away, or just couldn’t participate anymore. Music speaks when our joy is too expansive or our sorrow is too heavy.

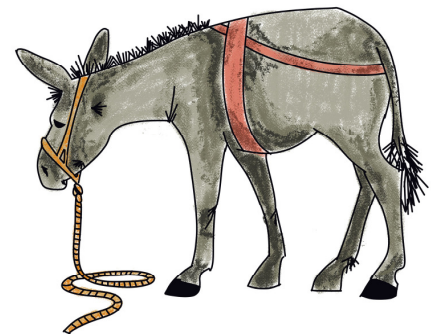
I pray that the choir will continue sharing praise, thanksgiving, hope, and grief in a way that only music can. Please continue to support and encourage those willing to provide special music and consider participating. God is calling us to a new place where we need to be, but this place – Pondera Valley Lutheran Church – holds a special place in our hearts. Thank you.

Karen & Roland Lee



Corrie ten Boom, a devout Christian who helped shelter hundreds of Jewish people from Nazis during World War II, was asked how she stayed humble despite her fame.

“When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches and throwing garments onto the road and singing praises, do you think that for one moment it ever entered the head of that donkey that any of that was for him?” she replied. “If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in his glory, I give him all the praise and all the honor.”



Jesus told his followers they’d need to carry (or “take up”) their cross. But how well do you carry your Savior? How do you bring him into a world that desperately needs the good news of the gospel?



# HEART strings

Make this heartfelt craft as a decoration or gift.

**What you need:**

- Yarn
- Scissors
- Parchment paper
- Baking sheet
- Heart-shaped cookie cutters
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- ½ cup water
- Adult help

**What you do:**

1. Cut yarn into 12-inch pieces.
2. Place cookie cutters atop a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
3. Combine cornstarch and water in a saucepan. Heat mixture over medium heat, stirring until thick and smooth. Remove from heat and cool to form a "glue."
4. Dip each piece of yarn into the mixture to coat completely. Squeeze off any excess.
5. Place yarn in the cookie cutters, allowing pieces to cross and loop within the heart. Add more until the cookie cutter is filled and the yarn looks like a heart.
6. Remove cookie cutters and bake the sheet for two hours at 150°F, or until hearts are dry and hard.

www.holyfamilytime.com A great resource!

# Puzzle!

After solving the equations, write the words on the correct numbered lines below. Complete Ephesians 1:3 (NIV) to discover how God shows his great love for us.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>14 - 7 = ___ Father</p> <p>10 + 9 = ___ heavenly</p> <p>9 + 9 = ___ the</p> <p>12 + 12 = ___ blessing</p> <p>2 - 1 = ___ Praise</p> <p>7 + 7 = ___ has</p> <p>11 + 11 = ___ every</p> <p>13 + 13 = ___ Christ</p> <p>8 + 8 = ___ us</p> <p>10 + 10 = ___ realms</p> <p>8 + 9 = ___ in</p> <p>5 + 5 = ___ Lord</p> <p>10 + 11 = ___ with</p> | <p>10 + 15 = ___ in</p> <p>10 - 5 = ___ God</p> <p>6 - 3 = ___ to</p> <p>12 - 6 = ___ and</p> <p>6 + 6 = ___ Christ</p> <p>18 - 9 = ___ our</p> <p>22 - 11 = ___ Jesus</p> <p>1 + 1 = ___ be</p> <p>7 + 6 = ___ who</p> <p>2 + 2 = ___ the</p> <p>10 + 5 = ___ blessed</p> <p>4 + 4 = ___ of</p> <p>10 + 13 = ___ spiritual</p> |
|--|---|

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		

Ephesians 1:3, NIV

Answer: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Ephesians 1:3, NIV

**Valentine Jokes:**

What did one sheep say to the other?-----*I love ewe!*  
 And how did the other sheep respond? -----*You're not so baaa-d yourself.*  
 Why do skunks love Valentine's Day? -----*They are very scent-imental creatures.*  
 What did the enamored deer say? -----*I'm very fawn-ed of you!*  
 What do you call two birds in love? -----*Tweethearts!*  
 What did one bee say to the other? -----*I love bee-ing with you, honey!*

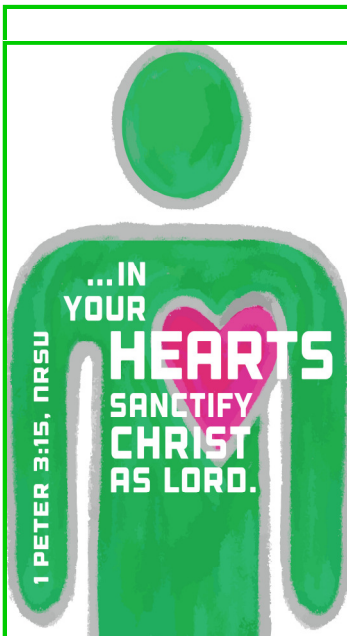


**Illnesses or other concerns:** (*denotes relation to*)

Tom Robinson, Ron Iverson, Art & Lori Pearson, Dave Kluver (*Rona Matheson*), Karen Sutton (*Ruth Erickson*), Lee Barnett (*Carol Kaldor*), Dave Fleming (*Linda Welch*), Kenny Matheson, Erik Dommer, George Wood, Roman Ketterling, Sandy Webb (*Joanne Unger*), Kaitlyn and John Russett (*Tom Russett*), Brad Stuart (*Kenny Matheson*), Cheryl Stoope Forest, Susan Stoope, Tom Stoope, Derek Matheson, Ron Thaut, Tristan West, David Larson, Julia (Judy) Haun, Michelle, (*Kim Wiest*), Sara McLean, Don Bandow, Brenda Rhone, Linda Iverson, (*Louise Glimm*), Marilyn Waite, Evan Bell, Roger Brastrup, Teagan Bartoo, Faith Birnel Crouch (*Ruth Fladstol*), Rose Peterman, Marvin Baker, Mitchell Moore (*Josita Montgomery*), Poppy Dahl, Terry Smith, (*Carolyn Widhalm*), Jonnie Geber, 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 weather conditions and other issues, CASA-the kids and all who work with them;

**All those who mourn:** Vernon Gjullin, Judy Ketterling

**Those deployed in the service abroad ...**



**Prayers to Prepare for Worship**

“Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength” (Isaiah 40:31, NRSV). When I am weak, God, thanks for your promises that give me hope.

[Transfiguration] Holy One, help us recognize you, whether we glimpse your bright glory or hear your voice amid the clouds that sometimes come with life.

[Ash Wednesday] Thank you, Lord, for your love and compassion that “blot out my transgressions” (Psalm 51:1).

“Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in thee” (Psalm 25:1-2, KJV).

“Hoping against hope” (Romans 4:18, NRSV), Abraham trusted God. So much seems hopeless these days, dear God. Help us hold onto hope that beyond death, you promise resurrection.

**Open Invitation**

Come, sinners, to the gospel feast, Let every soul be Jesus’ guest;  
Ye need not be one left behind, For God hath bidden all humankind.

Sent by my Lord, on you I call; The invitation is to all:

Come, all the world; come, sinner, thou! All things in Christ are ready now.

Come, all ye souls by sin oppressed, Ye restless wanderers after rest,  
Ye poor, and maimed, and halt, and blind, In Christ a hearty welcome find.

—Charles Wesley (18<sup>th</sup> century)





**Golden West WORSHIP Sundays 11 a.m.**  
**Ushers: Carl & Jenny Flesch; Reader: Jenny Flesch; 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 9 a.m.	February 4th	February 11th	February 18th	February 25th
<b>Reader</b>	Linda O'Brien	Linda O'Brien	Faith Weber	Faith Weber
<b>Communion Assistants</b>		Linda & Mike O'Brien		June Hovde & Linda Welch
<b>Ushers</b>	Erik & Stacy Eneboe			
<b>Communion Preparer</b>	Wanda Bandow			
<b>Sound Tech.</b>	Lyn Utterback			
<b>Offering Custodian</b>	Stacy Eneboe			



	Feb. 4th - Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11; 1 Corinthians 9:16-27; Mark 1:29-39
	Feb. 11th - Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 3:12-13, 4:1-6; Mark 9:2-9
	Feb. 14th ASH WEDNESDAY - Joel 2:12-19; Psm 51:1-19; 2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10; Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21
	Feb. 18th - Genesis 22:1-18; Psalm 25:1-10; James 1:12-18; Mark 1:9-15
	Feb. 25th - Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 5:1-11; Mark 8:27-38