



# CONRAD LUTHERAN PARISH

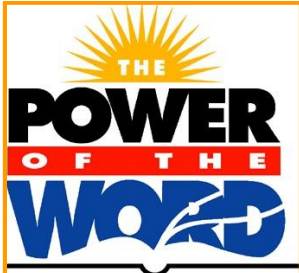
## LOGOS

Pastor Drew Nelson  
Kim Wiest, Admin. Assistant  
Office # 271-3934/P.O. Box 883  
Office Hours:  
9-12/1-4 Mon-Thur  
pondera@3rivers.net  
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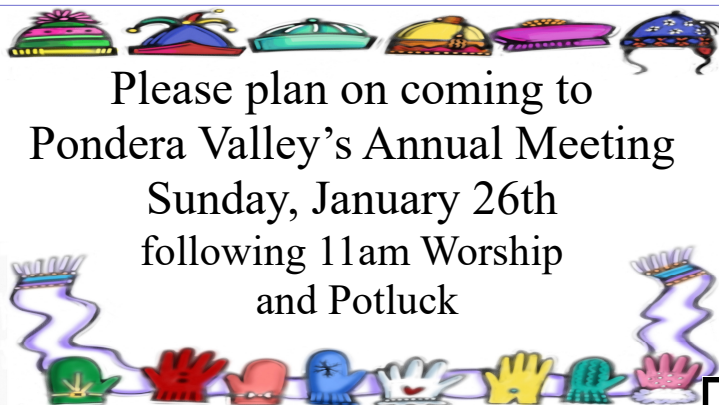
### SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES:

9 am Pondera Valley (except Jan. 26th 11am)

11 am Golden West (except Jan. 26th 9am)



"JESUS REPLIED, "I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE. WHOEVER COMES TO ME WILL NEVER BE HUNGRY AGAIN. WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME WILL NEVER BE THIRSTY." JOHN 6:35



Please plan on coming to  
Pondera Valley's Annual Meeting  
Sunday, January 26th  
following 11am Worship  
and Potluck

**LUTEFISK DINNER**  
**SATURDAY, (LEAP DAY!), FEBRUARY 29TH**  
**12-4pm at Pondera Valley Lutheran Church**  
**Sign-up to help in the Fellowship Hall!**



**RADIO BROADCAST: 11 am January 5th on KZIN, 96.7 FM**

Sponsored by: *Chris & Paula Ostrom and family* in memory of June Ostrom and by *Mildred Dommer* in memory of her husband, Ray, sister & brother-in-law, Alice Berg and Fred Dommer and in honor of her sister-in-law Helen Arnold on her 106th birthday!

Thank you! May God bless the hearing of His word!

## Merry Christmas!

It is a privilege each year to share with you what my family has been up to. We have been here in Conrad with you only two and a half years. I forget Madelyn was born the first summer we got here. Now she runs around with the rest of the kids in her violet glasses. Abigail is already in kindergarten, a girl scout, and getting smart. Kori and I can barely keep up with them.

A highlight for our family this year would have been the short time we spent in Whitehall. I was invited to officiate at a beautiful wedding, and in our down time we went exploring. Nearby was a place called the "Ringing Rocks." There we went to hear how when hit, these boulders would sharply chime. We were able to drive almost all the way to them. Parking at a spot just below the last ascent, the walk up was rocky, moderately steep, and about a block. At the base was waiting a whole rack of hammers for you to try your percussion abilities on the rusty red rocks.

We crawled all over and even to the peak of the pile to test the frequency of every ring. When you would strike them with a hammer the rocks would cry out acutely. It even started raining on us on our way up, but the consensus was we that we kept on going. At one point we huddled together in a cleft to wait out the worst of it. Yet, when we got to the top we knew why we had got there. Our family sat together at the highest point of those stacked up boulders and I realized how good we really have it despite all the difficult times.

The sky around us became beautiful. Other families began arriving. Their joyful noise joined ours as kids began to play together. Perhaps it is one of those scenes you will never forget as a parent. Ironically, after getting to the top struggling with stumbling and suffering the storm we saw all the people around us beginning the same way up, while right behind us was a simple path to step directly to the peak. So, from the top we called out to them saying, "There is another way up! Follow that path and you will be brought right here with us."

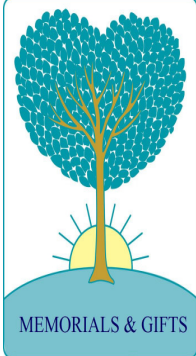
Some listened while others continued the path they had picked. We began our descent, called to continue our own journey. Together we went along that path at peace and knowing the love each of us had and needed. Reflecting on that event as I write this I now realize what message was being

given. Luke 19:40 Jesus says, "I tell you, if they keep silent, the stones will cry out." The point is that with this Christmas season I pray with my whole family that you hear that we are no longer waiting. Jesus has arrived on earth for all of us with the whole kingdom. If we do not announce it the rocks will. Our opportunity as believers is in everyday life to give the whole kingdom to those we are called to love. Let it change you, your life, and your whole household.

As I sat with my family there, all I could do was thank God for that moment. I knew He was with us and had given us the joy and peace we go about life with. We pray you are set free this Christmas season and hear what is being announced. Know there is nothing that can hold back Jesus from this world. That reality changes everything today and now. Certainly, we look forward to the day Jesus will arrive again, but realize that we can live confidently knowing what is going to happen. The whole world was given as a gift to us by God from the beginning. Our Father is the most generous giver because all that we have is received from Him. Even when nothing is left he will provide us with eternal life as heirs to the whole kingdom. There is no gift or message on earth that matches the Good News of what Jesus has done for you and given.

By Christ alone my family lives and we are so thankful for Jesus arrival this Christmas season. We are surely blessed and with praise and thanksgiving give glory to God the Father. May the Spirit continue to work in us as we hope to give you God's whole blessing in this wonderful place we have been called to. Immanuel means God with us, so, peace be with you, do not be afraid, take courage, have joy, the whole kingdom is with you this Christmas and every day. Forgiveness, rescue from evil, and salvation to eternal life are yours, if you believe God's promise fulfilled only through Jesus Christ. He is the way, truth, and life to more than the top of a pile of rocks, mountaintop, any skyscraper you might make, or space we shoot up into. Jesus brings us to the Father's Kingdom and in faith we can constantly tell the whole world what he has done and promised for us all. If we do not, the rocks will ring out. May hope, faith, joy, peace and the presence of Jesus Christ be with you this season and throughout your life so you may give the best gift, the Gospel, to neighbor and enemy.

In Christ, Pastor Drew Nelson



**PONDERA VALLEY**

General Fund: In memory of **Leonard & Marie Armstrong** - Ann Boettcher  
 In memory of **Richard, Marilyn & Jeanne Eckstein** and **Carson Stokes** - Dennis & Dawne Stokes  
 In memory of **Harvey Dahl** - Jack Moritz & family, Tom & Kathy Robinson

Building Reserve: In memory of **Leonard Armstrong** - Jim & Lila Anderson, Leona Elings, Shirley Sanders, Jerry & Gloria Griggs, William & Susan Wood, Gene & Ruth Flesch, KD & DK Guenther, Amy Storle, Pate Lee, John & Diana Fransen

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp: In memory of **Leonard Armstrong** - Lyn & Linda Carlson



**GRIEF SHARE** is a program at Pondera Valley for those grieving the death of a loved one. It will begin a new session on Monday, January 6th at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, call the church, 271-3934 or leader, Pat Lee, 278-3958.



**DECEMBER**  
 Average Worship Attendance

Golden West 21  
 Pondera Valley 82

Pondera Valley Offering as of 12/26 \$14,350.00

Christmas Eve @ PV 145

Christmas Eve @ GW 60



**IN NOVEMBER...** There was a funeral at PV for Sandi Becker on the 7th, an interment for Harvey Dahl on the 12th and a funeral for Al Vanden Bos on the 28th led by Pastor Fred Grundmann.  
**HOLY COMMUNION...** is offered monthly at the Horizon Lodge and at the PMC Extended Care facility, as well as some Vesper services. *If you yourself or someone you know would like a visit from Pastor, please let the church office know, 271-3934.*

♥ Thank you Jeannie Moon for taking care of the Giving Tree again this year! It's a big job with organizational skills needed! And thank you to all who participated!

♥ Thank you to all who have done snow removal...we've sure had plenty of it! Lyn Carlson, Ramsey Offerdal, Tom Russett, Roland & Karen Lee, neighbors - Mark Bergstrom and Dale Smeltzer!

♥ Thank you to Jack & Barb Judisch for getting the Sanctuary Christmas tree!! It is such a beautiful tree!

♥ Thank you to all who helped with the Children's Christmas Program! Thanks to all the teachers and Board Members for your dedication to our youth! And thank you to Susan Gustafson for being our emcee after the potluck and your sharing of your talent with your Kazoo! 😊

♥ Thank you to Wanda & Don Badow for the 2 big wreaths they place on the outside entry doors at Pondera Valley! They add such a festive and welcoming note to all who enter! Thank you!



# “STEP” INTO THE NEW YEAR

Make this craft to remember God’s many blessings.



**What you need:**

- Small stones
- Permanent markers
- Foil pan and cooking spray
- Drop cloth
- Gloves
- Quick-set concrete (and adult help)
- Bucket and paint stirrer

**What you do:**

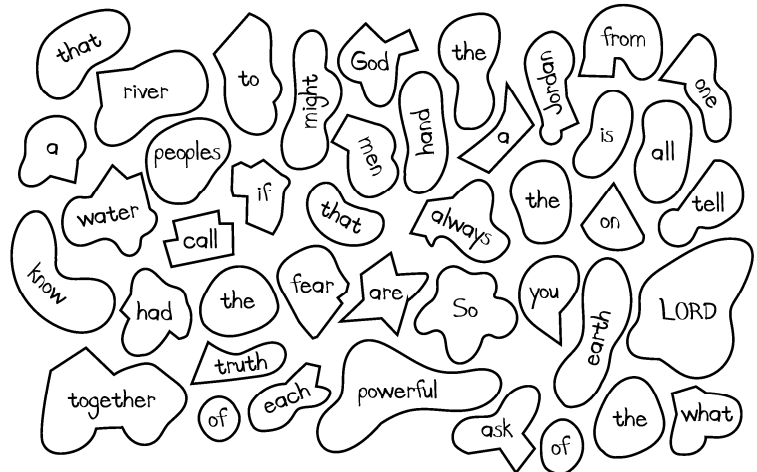
1. After reflecting on the past year, use markers to decorate stones with memorable words, dates and drawings.
2. Spray pan with cooking spray. Set pan outside on a drop cloth.
3. Wearing gloves, mix concrete in a bucket, according to instructions.
4. Pour concrete into pan. Smooth top with paint stirrer.
5. Press in stones, handprints and other decorations.
6. Let dry completely. Remove from pan.
7. Place the stepping-stone outside as a reminder of God’s continued goodness.



## Reminder rocks

When Joshua and the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, they set up stones for a special reason.

*Directions: Shade all the rocks that aren't completely rounded. Unscramble the remaining rocks to reveal a message from Joshua 4:24, NIV.*



So \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ the  
 \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ .

JOSHUA 4:24, NIV

Answer: So that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful. Joshua 4:24, NIV



Share God's Word

**God’s Message yet again: “Go stand at the crossroads and look around. Ask for directions to the old road, The tried-and-true road. Then take it. Discover the right route for your souls. But they said, ‘Nothing doing.**

**We aren’t going that way.’**

Jeremiah 6:16 THE MESSAGE

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE, TO GROW



### A Sacred Partnership

Bible scholar William Barclay notes that John the Baptist was “startled and unwilling” when Jesus asked to be baptized. The evangelist thought he needed what Jesus could give, not the reverse!

We are pros at taking our needs to God — indeed he invites this: “Call on me in the day of trouble” (Psalm 50:15). But God

also comes to us with needs: “Mortal, I am sending you” (Ezekiel 2:3, NRSV); “Go ... make disciples” (Matthew 28:19); “Carry each other’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2, NIV).

Apparently, God prefers partnership to acting solo. From the beginning, God has invited people to name the animals, tend the garden, welcome strangers, build the tabernacle, proclaim His

word, ensure justice and mercy, share His love.

What does God need from you, as Jesus needed baptism from John? Salvation is God’s alone to accomplish, but then He calls us to share work with Him, for the world’s sake. So we echo Jesus: “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this” (Matthew 3:15, NIV). —Heidi Mann

### JOIN A BIBLE STUDY!

#### FOR EVERYONE...

- ◆ **6 p.m. Tuesdays** in the F.H. with Pastor Drew. “*A Journey Through Revelation*” by Armin Gothberg continues. Everyone welcome!

#### FOR MEN...

- ◆ **6:30 a.m. Tuesdays** Breakfast & Bible Study in the F.H. They’re working their way through the Bible.

#### FOR WOMEN...

- ◆ **Mondays @ Noon**, in the Fellowship Hall, beginning in January, they will be studying *Understanding Your Blessings in Christ* on Ephesians by Elizabeth George. If you do not have a book but would like to join, contact Louise Glimm.
- ◆ **Tuesdays @ 9 am** In January we will begin “Jesus the One & Only” with Beth Moore. Call Barb Judisch a.s.a.p. to order a book, 278-5387.
- ◆ **The 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1pm** in the church library, Faith/Joy Circle meets.
- ◆ **Once a month**, home Bible Study “*Bless These Lips*” will meet **Jan. 9th at 7pm at Kinyon’s**.

If you would like a reading plan or a suggested personal Bible study, contact the church office, 271-3934!

### Bible Study Options



[www.holyfamilytime.com](http://www.holyfamilytime.com)

A great resource for all... share with your family!



January 5th - 1 Kings 3:4-15; Psalm 119:97-104; Ephesians 1:3-14; Luke 2:40-52

January 12th - Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Romans 6:1-11; Matthew 3:13-17

January 19th - Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42a

January 26th - Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-25



**Golden West and Pondera Valley had their**

**Joint Council Meeting on Dec. 3rd at Golden West.** Steve and Rona Matheson and Karen and Roland Lee were approved to be the Pastoral Relations Committee. Pastor announced that Augustana Dist. will have a conference in Bloomington, MN February 3rd & 4th and the NW District Annual Gathering will be in Post Falls ID May 1st & 2nd.

The compensation package was approved. Pondera Valley will have their Annual meeting January 26th following 11 am Worship and a Potluck. (Golden West will have 9 am Worship that day only.) Golden West will have their Annual meeting on February 9th with their Waffle Dinner. **Annual reports are due the end of December.** The parish has

dropped their copyright subscription so there will be no copying non-public material. **Pondera Valley Council met following the joint meeting.** The Education board reported that 22 were enrolled for Wednesday nights. Building & Grounds will be looking at light at entrance to Ed. Building. Custodian will be needed for the Ed. Building. Troy Shirley will be resigning his post on the council at the annual meeting. Worship Committee will try a new service out of the With One Voice hymnal. Thank you to be sent to the City of Conrad for snow removal for a funeral. February 29th (Leap Day!) has been set for the Lutefisk Dinner. There will be sign up sheets for different areas of help needed. There will be no Christmas Day service. It was approved that Kim will be out of the office Dec. 30-Jan. 2. The annual budget was presented. The meeting was

dismissed as it was getting late. **The next meeting was scheduled for a few days later, December 9th.** At the Dec. 9th meeting the council discussed the concern of the low balance of the treasury. The council will be watching spending and continue to have discussions concerning the funds. There was some discussion on snow removal. The proposed budget for 2020 was approved to present at the annual meeting. Janitorial needs were tabled until a later meeting. A Reimbursement Policy Resolution was presented by Lyn Carlson, discussed and approved. Pastor presented a proposed Lenten Lunch schedule to the Presbyterians and the Catholics and is waiting to hear back from them. The meeting was adjourned. ***The next council meeting will follow the annual meeting, January 26th.***

**"See what love the Father has given us,**  
  
**that we should be called children of God."**  
1 John 3:1



*Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine. Proverbs 3:9-10*

According to Lawrence O. Richards, to honor someone "means to respect the person and to give him or her appropriate attention and obedience." (Expository Dictionary of Bible Words, page 342.)

In applying this definition to this passage we are to give attention to and obey the Lord through the giving of the first part of our income. Giving must be a priority in our lives. If we fail to put God first in the area of giving, it is doubtful that God will have any place at all; where real obedience is concerned. In order to walk in obedience to God, we are to set aside God's portion the first thing when we receive our income. Just like every command of God, when we obey, wonderful blessings are the result.



**Illnesses or other concerns:** (*denotes relation to*) Ron Thaut, Mike Buechler, Zach Greene (*2Carol Kaldor*), Casey Jo Burrows, Evan Bell, Teagan Bartoo, Faith Birnel Crouch (*2Ruth Fladstol*), Lucille Russell, Linda Griggs, Hayden Kellogg, Ginny Zanuck, Billie Jean Stokes (*2Kim Wiest*), Patti Winterrowd, Carter Gemar, (*Rose Peterman*), Marvin Baker, Derek Matheson, Sandy Webb (*JoAnne Unger*), Norman Stordahl, Debbie Ries, Debbi Gage, Rose Peterman, Donna Sorlie, Mike Harding, Mitchell Moore (*Josita Montgomery*), Gavin Foth (*Arlyn Seidler*), Juelie McLean, Nat Wilburn (*2Bill McLean*), Don Bandow, Ralph Swan (*Cyndi Johnson*), Cyndi Johnson, Poppy Dahl, Kimberly Peacock, Meghan Pickell, Claude & Audrey Kieft, Gerald Bruner, Melvin Pocock, (*6Wanda Bollinger*), Carolyn Widhalm, Terry Smith, Lorie Hasner, Julie Parks (*Carol Wood*), all PMC Extended Care Residents, Missionaries and Christians all around the world who are being persecuted - and their persecutors, All in crisis due to weather conditions, CASA-the kids and all who work with them

**All those who mourn...** Al Vanden Bos, John Haskew, Harvey Dahl, Sandi Becker

**Those deployed in the service abroad:** Mark Thompson, Brett Christensen, Blake Tornga, Nathan Young, Justin Kjos, Guthrie Oiestad



### FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

The Conrad Food Pantry is happy to get food donations and paper products.

Please be sure they are not outdated, however.

**Monetary donations are always helpful!** Some of the staples they give out are:

individual packets of powdered milk, canned milk,

toilet paper rolls, sugar, flour,

pancake mix, syrup, salt, tomato sauce, tomatoes in a can.

Here is a monthly list of items useful at any time:

**January:** tuna fish **February:** canned fruit **March:** canned vegetables

**April:** instant potatoes **May:** shampoo/toothpaste

**June:** soap (hand/washing) **July:** peanut butter/Jelly

**August:** Hamburger Helper **September:** soup **October:** Mac & Cheese

**November:** cooking oil **December:** Jell-O/Pudding

*Each church has a basket where you can leave your donated items for the pantry.*

*Address for donations: 220 S Front Street Conrad MT 59425*



**Pondera Valley Stewardship Day**  
 Making Quilts for Lutheran World Relief  
 on the **3rd Tuesday of each month**  
 from **9 a.m. - Noon** in the church  
 basement. **ANYONE who is able is**  
**encouraged to help on January 21st!**

**WE HAVE MORE YARN!!** Those of you who knit, crochet, or weave will have what you need to complete a prayer shawl to aid our ministry! Come pick up some today!! **AND...if you know someone who is in need of a prayer shawl, call the office!**



Community Prayer Night

Come, join our community to pray for our town, state, nation, world! The next prayer night:

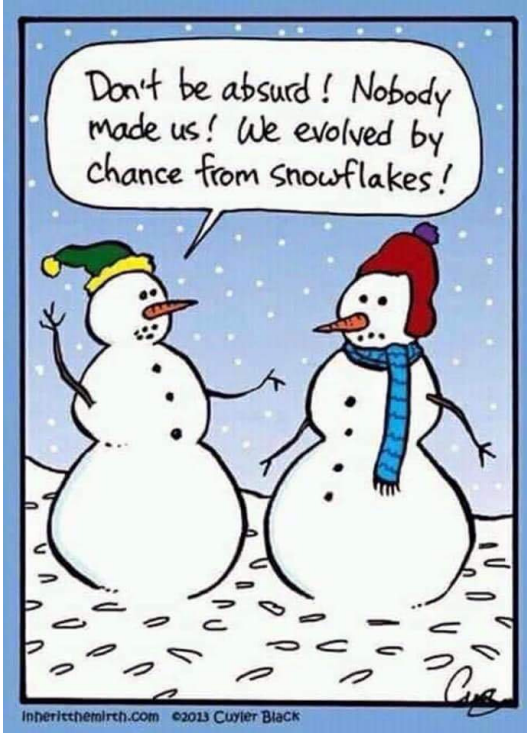
**January 6th**

**6:30pm @ Conrad Sr. Center**  
**Everyone Welcome!**





**Board of Education members:**


***Kathy Walter, Kara Baker, Tricia Patterson, Julene Peters, Lori Pearson,  
Co-Superintendents: Barb Judisch and Donna Fowler***





**Quotes of Beauty**


 Over the winter glaciers  
 I see the summer glow,  
 And through the wide-piled snowdrift  
 The warm rosebuds below.  
 Ralph Waldo Emerson


 I shall walk eager still for what Life holds  
 Although it seems the hard road will not end---  
 One never knows the beauty round the bend!  
 Anna Blake Mezquida

 Let us thank the lavish hand that gives  
 world beauty to our eyes,  
 And bless the days that saw us young,  
 and years that made us wise.  
 Julia Ward Howe

 All the beautiful sentiments in the world weigh  
 less than a single lovely action.  
 James Russell Lowell

 Beauty seen is never lost,  
 God's colors all are fast;  
 The glory of this sunset heaven  
 Into my soul has passed.  
 Alfred, Lord Tennyson

 *Don't be concerned about the outward beauty  
 of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or  
 beautiful clothes. You should clothe yourselves  
 instead with the beauty that comes from within,  
 the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit,  
 which is so precious to God. 1Peter 3:3-4*

 *Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last;  
 but a woman who fears the Lord will be greatly  
 praised. Proverbs 31:30*







**Golden West WORSHIP Sundays 11 a.m.**  
**Usher: Dennis & Ruth Fladstol; Reader: Ruth Fladstol;**  
**Communion Assistant: Dennis Fladstol; Communion Preparer: Ruth Fladstol**

**Pondera Valley:** If you are interested in volunteering to help with ushering, greeting, reading the scripture lessons, serving or helping with communion set-up, please call the church office, 271-3934. Info /instructions would be made available.

| SUNDAY WORSHIP<br>9 a.m. | January 5th           | January 12th      | January 19th    | January 26th       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Reader                   | Peggy Young           | Mary Jane Kinyon  | Judy Ketterling | Kim Wiest          |
| Communion Assistant      |                       | MJ & Barb Judisch |                 | Kim & Barb Judisch |
| Ushers                   | Terry & Julene Peters |                   |                 |                    |
| Communion Preparer       | Barb Judisch          |                   |                 |                    |
| Sound Tech.              | Lynn Utterback        |                   |                 |                    |
| Greeter                  | Linda O'Brien         |                   |                 |                    |
| Offering Custodian       | Julene Peters         |                   |                 |                    |



**COOKIES & KITCHEN HELP NEEDED FOR SUNDAYS! See the list in the Fellowship Hall! Thank you!** Barb Judisch is in charge of keeping the kitchen stocked with dry and paper products. If you see something the kitchen needs or would like to donate items, please contact her first, 278-5387. *(Liquid coffee creamer is a donated item.)* The kitchen needs to be cleaned after each event. We are all responsible for that! If anyone sees that the dishcloths/towels need to be washed, please take them home and return them when done. Thank you for doing this!