



CONRAD LUTHERAN PARISH

LOGOS

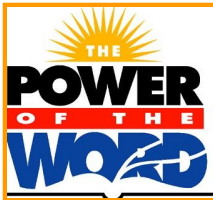
ATTENTION!! Worship Times change in January!

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES :

Golden West 9 a.m.

Pondera Valley 11 a.m.

Pastor Drew Nelson
Kim Wiest, Admin. Assistant
Office # 271-3934/P.O. Box 883
Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday, 9-Noon or
call Pastor: 450-0078,
Kim: 271-2060 or
Pastor's email:
dsnbygrace@gmail.com



JESUS TOLD HER, "I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE. ANYONE WHO BELIEVES IN ME WILL LIVE, EVEN AFTER DYING." JOHN 11:25



Join in for a brief Saturday morning chat amongst our church family! (probably in January or February)
Remember Dinners for Eight? This is kind of along those lines but during the Breakfast/Brunch time slot and only you in your own home with or without breakfast, joined with 3 or 4 other families on the phone. (Some could be visual with internet if so choose.) There will be one moderator for each group who will make the calls and have some conversation starters, closing with a prayer.

We hope you will want to give it a try!
WHO'S interested?! Please call the church office to sign up or if you have more questions, 271-3934.



RADIO BROADCAST: 11 am January 3rd on KZIN, 96.7 FM Sponsored by: *Mildred Dommer* in loving memory of her husband, Ray Dommer, and his siblings: Alice Berg, Fred Dommer, Jeanette Strom, and Helen Arnold and by *Chris & Paula Ostrom* in loving memory of June Ostrom. **Thank you! May God bless the hearing of His word!**

Christmas 2020

Merry Christmas to you all at Pondera Valley and Golden West from the Nelson family! This is our fourth Christmas here in Montana and our household has grown a bit. This past August we welcomed Uriah into the clan. He will be four months old already this Christmas Eve and has grown enough to prove it if you ever try to hold him. Madelyn has been enjoying early preschool this year and says she wishes she could go every day with her friends. She is three years old but quickly approaching four. This one keeps us on our toes with her wild humor and fearless endeavors. Of course, the talking never stops in our house. Abigail this year has matured immensely and made many connections with her classmates. Kori and I both said that she has definitely moved into another new stage of early adolescent. We love watching her learn through hard work, reading and discovery. The go has never stopped in our oldest and she is always ready to head out on another adventure. She says she wants to play basketball for the Bobcats when she gets older. Lately, her teeth have been falling out. Her younger sister wishes hers would too, and their brother has not quite grown the first one in. Yes, there is a lot of whistling and singing in our house to the tune of, "All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth..." It was also great to see our kids in the nativity scene at Pondera Valley, and to hear them sing at Golden West with Abigail performing piano for the first time. We are excited to see what they will do next.

For Kori and I, this will be our tenth Christmas together. In the summer we will celebrate ten years of marriage and all our children will become another year older.

Lately, we have been recollecting about all the states we have lived in and the experiences we have been privileged to get. To be specific we were trying to count all the species of game and fish that have come across our counter since living together. The point being, one of our favorite things may be the simplest. I like to catch the food and Kori cooks it to perfection. This is an important reflection for us because I can also recall the stages of life we found ourselves in through what we sat around the table eating. As many if not all of you reading can relate to we have not always eaten as good as we currently do. Even this Christmas I think about how many people like us will not be gathering together with family or feasting. Preparing for a festive gathering this season has become very different, but I have my wife and children sitting next to me. As I think about it more and more a proverb returns again and again to my head. **"Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a fattened ox and hatred with it"** (Proverbs 15:17).

Why this proverb? It has nothing to do with your ability to cook. Rather, I hear about the circumstance we find ourselves in this holiday when trying to figure out what to do now and where to go next. Or, who should we even have over to the house when caution about gathering is suggested? During advent we spoke strongly about rejoicing in every circumstance, and boasting in hope rather than being afraid. Peace is with us because of the Spirit's presence. Jesus has been born so should we not be celebrating and full of love for those around us. Where do you discover yourself?

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Not being with family for the season we traditionally return home during may make any meal taste like bitter herbs. Who will be missing from your table this Christmas?

What will you be eating? Yet, we are to rejoice knowing that God has made himself present in Jesus Christ so that we may know his love and spread it across the world. That starts with those who are right next to us. Imagine making a feast and being the only one to sit down at the table, or building a mansion to live alone in. How has this year affected us and our attitude toward friends, neighbors, and enemies? Have we been filled with fear and hatred? Or do we gather around a table where love is? Do we feel alone? Or do we realize who is present and all we have? Have we fallen into despair or do we know why we hold onto hope with such confidence? Do believe and know the reality of the Twenty-Third Psalm when we pray, "You prepare a table in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil. My cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

What Kori and I have learned through these ten years may be something the rest of you have already gained wisdom about. That is how do we make our food taste best despite the ingredients? How do we add love into our recipe book like grandma does? For us the Holy Spirit convicts us of the truth that all we have been given is by God's grace and faithfulness. We have found who has truly built our house. It is seeing our children grow and flourish and hearing God has promised them long life. Every bit of fish we

catch to the beef that people raise and give to us is a daily gift. What we are able to do and make with those resources makes us thankful and joyful in the moment. We love as we were loved first always. Never are any of us alone during Christmas because Jesus is here in every way that matters for our family and the world. We lack nothing and rejoice because of what we have and believe will soon arrive completely. The kingdom is here and Jesus reigns already. He has promised to return for us so that darkness, suffering, and mourning will be wiped away. Remember always that Jesus, the Light of the World, will come to claim us and eliminate sin so that we will have eternal life amidst every good gift and work God has prepared and done for us, in the new heaven and earth. God is love. We live by His faithfulness. Amen.

Verbum Domini in Aeternum,

Pastor Drew Nelson



Loved and Known

“Jesus knows me, this I love,” read the church sign. That twist on the classic children’s song emphasizes the importance of being both loved and known. “It’s not one or the other; it’s hard truth and ridiculous grace,” sings contemporary Christian artist Tauren Wells in “Known.”

Timothy Keller, in *The Meaning of Marriage*, describes the duality this way: “To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known and truly loved is, well, a lot like being loved by God. It is what we need more than anything. It liberates us from pretense, humbles us out of our self-righteousness, and fortifies us for any difficulty life can throw at us.”



A Winning Pattern for the New Year

Some anonymous wise person penned the following directions for living without bringing pain to others or oneself:

“You will never be sorry — for thinking before acting, for hearing before judging, for forgiving your enemies, for being candid and frank, for helping a fallen

brother, for being honest in business, for thinking before speaking, for being loyal to God and the church, for standing by your principles, for refusing to participate in gossip, for holding your words when tempted to demean another, for not entertaining impure or hateful thoughts, for sympathizing with the afflicted, for being courteous and kind to all.”



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**

***Following Christmas Break, will start up again
Wednesday, January 6th!***

**The WOMEN'S BAZAAR is COMING!!
But has been *tentatively scheduled 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!**

We're often taught that prayer is speaking to God. And of course, that's part of it. It's good to pray for the well-being and needs of others — even Jesus prayed for his disciples. It's okay to pray for our own growth in faith and love. It's a wonderful, powerful thing, modeled especially by the Psalmists, to give God thanks and praise. And God welcomes our cries of pain and sorrow, offering the Spirit's help when words fail us (Romans 8:26).

But through the ages, many deeply faithful followers of Christ have practiced contemplative prayer, centering prayer and other forms of stillness before God. Danish theologian Søren Kierkegaard (1813-1855) expressed it this way: "To pray does not mean to listen to oneself speaking. Prayer involves becoming silent, and being silent, and waiting until God is heard."

JOIN the LCMC in 3 days of prayer: January 5-7, 2021. Jan. 5th CONFESSON ask God to show you where you need to repent. * Jan. 6th PETITION ask God to show you who needs your prayers. * Jan. 7th VISION ask God for His vision of Your life and this parish.* *Wait to hear God after each!



The PV Council met on Nov. 23rd. There will be 2 weeks off over Christmas for Wednesday night education.

A Live Nativity is being planned for the Christmas program this year. Stewardship is hoping to involve the Evangelism committee to do a special "care call". Buildings & Grounds will be interviewing for a new janitor for the Education Building soon. Rudy King and his boys have agreed to do snow removal for the church. We need to get another snow blower. The council worked on the budget for the upcoming year. Thank you to Susan Gustafson for reading and leading worship at Pondera Valley when Pastor Drew was quarantined. **The next council meeting will be Monday, Dec. 14th at 6 p.m.**

PV Council did meet on Dec. 14th. Pastor and family hope to go to SD to see family between Dec. 27th and Jan. 3rd. Kim will be out of the office Dec.

29th-31st. Pastor & Kori are going to wait a little on housing but would like a few things for short term: a portable dishwasher, egress windows in the basement, and a reinforced stair railing. The council needs to have a joint meeting with Golden West before the budget can be completed to present at the Annual Meeting which has been set for Pondera Valley on Sunday, Jan. 31st following a 11 a.m. Worship, no potluck, just a quick meeting! **ANNUAL REPORTS** due early January!! Thank you to Kara Baker for serving on the council, Kathy Walter-the Ed. Board, Art Pearson-the Foundation, Matt Fowler and Walduskys for the Live Nativity animals, Cassie Peters for her organization. Jesse Parks asked that the Foundation year end be Nov. 30th, council approved. Holy Communion concerns will be address by: reminders about the disposable Communion cups offered (ushers and greeters to remind too) and coming single file to the steps for Communion distribution. Pastor also said he is available to come to people's homes if they would like. **The next meeting will be announced!**



Haggai 1:3-11 *Then the LORD sent this message through the prophet Haggai: "Why are you living in luxurious houses while my house lies in ruins? This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies says: Look at what's happening to you! You have planted much but harvest little. You eat but are not satisfied. You drink but are still thirsty. You put on clothes but cannot keep warm. Your wages disappear as though you were putting them in pockets filled with holes! "This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies says: Look at what's happening to you! Now go up into the hills, bring down timber, and rebuild my house. Then I will take pleasure in it and be honored, says the LORD. You hoped for rich harvests, but they were poor. And*

when you brought your harvest home, I blew it away. Why? Because my house lies in ruins, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, while all of you are busy building your own fine houses. It's because of you that the heavens withhold the dew and the earth produces no crops. I have called for a drought on your fields and hills—a drought to wither the grain and grapes and olive trees and all your other crops, a drought to starve you and your livestock and to ruin everything you have worked so hard to get."

It may seem that we are prospering when we keep our money for ourselves, without putting God's house first. The truth is, however, that it will be as though we put our money into pockets with holes, if we do not put God first. By being a giver who puts God first, we seal up all holes in our pockets. God alone brings complete satisfaction.



Jan. 3rd - 1 Kings 3:4-15; Psalm 119:97-104; Ephesians 1:3-14; Luke 2:40-52

Jan. 10th - Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Romans 6:1-11; Mark 1:4-11

Jan. 17th - 1 Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm 139:1-10; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

Jan. 24th - Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62; 1 Corinthians 7:29-35; Mark 1:14-20

Jan. 31st - Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

Calendar Reminders:

Pondera Valley Worship Leaders 11 a.m. - Lynn Utterback (Sound); **Barb Judisch** (Comm. Prep.); **Linda O'Brien** (Greeter); **Terry & Julene Peters** (Ushers); **Rudy King** (Offering Custodian); **Stacy Eneboe** (Reader Jan. 3rd); **Stacy Eneboe** (Reader Jan. 10th); **Karen Lee** (Reader Jan. 17th); **Roland Lee** (Reader Jan. 24th); **Lori Pearson** (Reader Jan. 31st); **Stacy & Erik Eneboe** (Comm. Servers Jan. 10th); **Betty Olson & Page Russett** (C. Servers Jan. 24th).


Golden West Worship Leaders 9 a.m. - Elaine Gray (Usher); **Ruth Fladstol**-Reader and Communion Preparer); **Dennis Fladstol** (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

Wednesday Night Education begins again on Jan. 6th!

MEMORIALS Received: GENERAL FUND, in memory of **Richard, Marilyn & Jeanne Eckstein, and Carson Stokes**: Dennis & Dawne Stokes; in memory of **Lucille "Cec" Peterman**: Bret & Cheryl Murphy, Pam & Scott Arvidson, Lavonne Fuson; in memory of **Elaine Schram**: Joanne Unger, Marian Turk, Dennis & Dawne Stokes, Lucille Russell, Gloria & Jerry Griggs; in memory of **Clarice Aakre**: Lucille Russell, Marian Turk; BUILDING RESERVE, in memory of **Herb Peterman**: Harold & Betty Olson, Betty & Ramsey Offerdal, Terry & Julene Peters; in memory of **Debbi Gage, Elaine Schram, and Clarice Aakre**: Ramsey & Betty Offerdal; PVLC FOUNDATION, in memory of **Elaine Schram, Clarice Aakre, and Herb Peterman**: Gordon & Karen Nelsen; PVLC SCHOLARSHIP, in memory of **Clarice Aakre and Elaine Schram**: Lyn & Linda Carlson

GOLDEN WEST MEMORIAL WOMEN in memory of **Helen Arnold**: Rita Cheek, Steve and Rona Matheson, Ron & Cathi Henry; in memory of **Laila Lindberg**: Ron & Cathi Henry

 In December, there were funerals at PV for Elaine C. Schram on the 12th and for Clarice Aakre on the 15th.

Pondera Valley Offering in December: \$ 15,867
Average Sunday Attendance in December: 47 Christmas Eve: 87

♥ *Thank you Jeanne Moon for your work with the Christmas Giving Tree this year and in years past. We appreciate You! Jeanne would like to pass on the baton to someone else. If you would be interested, please contact the church office soon, 271-3934. Jeanne will help you get started for next year!*

♥ **Thank you to Cassie Peters for your work with the Live Nativity and thank you to those who brought animals: Matt Fowler and Walduskys. It was a great event!**

♥ **Thank you to Kara Baker for serving on council, Kathy Walter for serving on the Ed. Board, Art Pearson for serving on the PVLC Foundation Board! God bless You!**



♥ **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.

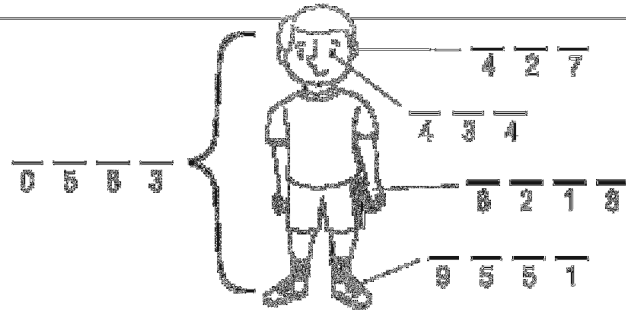


PUZZLE

WORKING IN UNISON

Just as body parts work in unison, the church – the body of Christ – is to work together for God's purposes.

Directions: Fill in the letters for each body part. Add up each part's number total, and use those totals to complete the Bible passage.



Now if the _____ should say, "Because I am not a _____, I do not belong to the _____," ... And if the _____ should say, "Because I am not an _____, I do not belong to the _____," it would not for that reason stop being part of the _____. If the whole _____ were an _____, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole _____ were an _____, where would the sense of smell be? ... As it is, there are many parts, but one _____.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:16-17, 20, NIV

Answer key - 16, eye - 11, ear - 12, hand - 17, foot - 20

A COLORFUL body

Help crayons to show how the body of Christ works together.



What you need:

- Crayons
- Metal baking sheet
- Adult help
- Metal gingerbread man cookie cutter

What you do:

1. Remove labels and break crayons into 1-inch pieces.
2. Scatter pieces on the baking sheet, about two layers thick.
3. Bake for 10 minutes at 350 degrees until melted. Allow to cool 15 minutes.
4. When melted crayons are the consistency of playdough, press the cookie cutter through them (while still on pan).
5. Cool the pan in freezer for 15 minutes until crayons are hardened.
6. Remove from pan and break apart the shapes.

Puzzle!

Complete each saying below. Then place the words from these blanks in the correct order to complete Proverbs 23:4.

1. When the going gets tough, the tough _____ going.
2. People who live in glass houses should _____ throw stones.
3. If the shoe fits, _____ it.
4. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is _____ to enter the Kingdom of God.
5. Good things come _____ those who wait.
6. What in Rome, _____ as the Romans do.
7. Don't wear _____ your welcome.
8. If you want something done right, _____ do it.

Write the unscrambled words here:



Check out this website: www.holyfamilytime.com

from Jan. 2017 **DEALING WITH SOCIAL MEDIA...How do we live as Holy Families who use Social Media?**

In the past 10 years, the use of social media by adults has gone from 7 percent of all adults in 2005 to more than 76 percent in 2015, according to Pew Research. Teenagers are also using social media in record numbers these days, which means that they need parental guidance on the benefits and dangers of having a public profile. Whether your favorite is Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or Pinterest, it is very likely that you are using some kind of social media at least once a day. This usage is not likely to decrease in the future.

Because young people are concrete, in-the-moment thinkers, it is very hard for them to predict the consequences of their actions. The human brain continues to develop into an individual's early 20s, and there are many situations that young people have yet to encounter and thus do not necessarily know how to handle. Situations that can arise in social media just might be one of those places as kids increasingly own tablets and smartphones where the Internet is just a swipe or click away.

As with any other aspect of family life, it is important to have a conversation about expectations. What do you expect out of your children when it comes to social media usage? Are there time limits that will be imposed? Do they need to "friend" you so you can see what they are saying? What about the posting of pictures or the kinds of information they can and cannot share?

Part of a conversation on expectations might include social media etiquette. How do we, as people of faith, treat others when we are online? No doubt we've all

cringed in horror as one person has criticized or belittled another in full view of all their online friends. We can look to Martin Luther's explanation to the Eighth Commandment for some guidance in this regard: **You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.** What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not betray, slander, lie, or gossip about our neighbors, but defend them, speak well of them, and put the most charitable construction on all that they do. (Small Catechism)

Social media has valuable uses. It is a wonderful way to keep in touch with family and friends, connect with people who have similar interests or concerns, or even to seek advice. But, like anything else, it can have a dark side that families need to talk about together so that children are safe and unharmed. As people of faith, we live *all* aspects of our lives centered in Christ, and social media is no different.

Things to Pray and Talk About:

- a) *Have you ever witnessed negative interactions on social media? How did it make you feel to see it?*
- b) *What are some of the dangers of social media? How can you protect yourself from those sorts of interactions?*
- c) *Discuss together Luther's explanation to the Eighth Commandment and what that means for how you treat others in all aspects of life.*
- d) *Who owns your phone, computer and tablet? What is your family policy on privacy?*

Asking for God's Blessing:

Creator God, you have made us to be social creatures who crave interaction and relationships. Protect us in all aspects of life, including the realms of the digital age. Help us to use those platforms to bring good news to the world and to be bold in our confession of faith to you. Open the lines of communication in our family and guide us in your holy ways in all we do. Amen.

Is it ever too late to open up better communication with God, our family, or friends?



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

Doris Bishop, 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, 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*), Wayne Brown (*Carol 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 front-line 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... Clarice Aakre, Elaine C. Schram, Bill Hake (Betty Offerdal)

Those deployed in the service abroad: Blake Tornga, Cameron Bowen



Prayers to Prepare for Worship

- ** God of the Ages, I offer you my heart, anew with this new year. Help me love you and my neighbors all year long, one day at a time.
- ** God, thank you for the gift of baptism, when you claim us, as you claimed Jesus, as your beloved.
- ** As I prepare my heart for worship today, I pray like young Samuel: "Speak, for your servant is listening." (1 Samuel 3:10)
- ** God, thank you for your mercy to Jonah, Nineveh, and me. May I learn from them to follow your will--the first time. And may I rejoice when others accept You! Help me to show mercy as You do.
- ** Jesus our Teacher, Healer and Savior: May your authoritative teaching move all people to live in love. Help us to have fervent love and forgiveness for others.

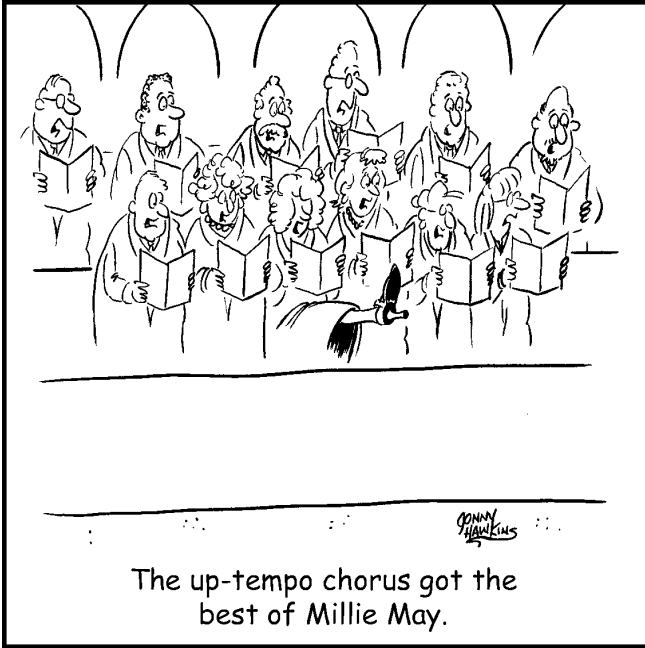



Community Prayer Night

Monday, January 4th

6:30 pm at the
Stockman Bank Drive-Through Building,
(across from The Keg) 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....

Coronacoaster, noun: the ups and downs of a pandemic. One day you're loving your bubble, doing work outs, baking banana bread, and going for long walks and the next you're crying, drinking gin for breakfast, and missing people you don't even like.

I'm at that age where my mind still thinks I'm 29, my humor suggests I'm 12, while my body mostly keeps asking if I'm sure I'm not dead yet.

Don't be worried about your smartphone or TV spying on you. Your vacuum cleaner has been collecting dirt on you for years.

I'm getting tired of being part of a major historical event.

I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit.

How many of us have looked around our family reunion and thought: "Well aren't we just two clowns short of a circus?"

You don't realize how old you are until you sit on the floor and then try to get back up.

We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

☺ One day a four year old was coloring. She loved the story of baby Jesus so much she had much of it memorized. Her dad took the opportunity to quiz her on her colors. He pulled out a silver crayon and asked her its name. "Gold," she replied. "No, not gold. Guess again." She paused for a moment, then flashed a big grin as she triumphantly cried out, "Frankincense!"

☺ When my grandson's wife had her yard sale, she set out some of her husband's old suits and ties. Reluctantly, he agreed but doubted anyone would buy them. Halfway through the day, true to his predictions, none of his things had sold. But his smug "I-told-you-so" attitude was soon nipped when a woman exclaimed, "Perfect!" Pulling his suit and tie from the rack, she added, "These will look terrific on my scarecrow!"





*By getting into
God's Word...
Need direction?
Follow the lectionary,
see bottom of page 6.*



Go to our website for
videos, updates,
materials to use for
worship!
PLUS, the newsletter
is in COLOR!!

www.conradlutheran.com