



# CONRAD LUTHERAN PARISH

## LOGOS

### WORSHIP TIMES

January - March

9 a.m. Pondera Valley

11 a.m. Golden West

*except on Jan. 21st: GW 9 a.m. & PV 11 a.m.*

Part-time Pastor  
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*But when the fullness of the time came, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons and daughters.* Galatians 4:4-5



### Come to the Annual Meetings!

Pondera Valley will have their annual meeting on January 21st following 11 a.m. Worship. There will be a potluck and then the meeting

Golden West will have their annual meeting on January 28th following 11 a.m. Worship. There will be a potluck and then the meeting.



*Thank you to the radio broadcast sponsors on January 7th on KZIN, 96.7 FM at 11am :  
Mildred Dommer in loving memory of her husband Ray and his siblings: Alice Berg, Fred Dommer, Jeanette Strom, and Helen Arnold. AND by Chris & Paula Ostrom and family in loving memory of June Ostrom. *God bless the hearing of His word!**

## Pastor's Letter

Happy New Year! I pray you will be blessed and sustained by God's grace during 2024.

As happens every four years, we citizens of these United States will be witness to another national election including for President. The turmoil in our country and throughout the world adds to the anxiety of having to attend to political goings on. The wars and rumors of wars around the world are a constant assault on our desires for peace and tranquility. It's a reality that drains us and can tempt us to escapism or despair or aggressive retaliation.

It seems almost inescapable that we become caught up in partisan ideological disputes with other human beings holding different worldviews. The war of ideas rarely stays in the arena of mental abstractions. Human beings act upon their metaphysical speculations, political theories, religious affiliations, cultural habits, and tribal identities. Conflict inevitably results.

Jesus was not immune from the effects of this nasty reality about human life in this world. He had enemies who wanted to have him killed. They eventually succeeded in manipulating the religious and political powers in Jerusalem to effect their hatred to its desired ends. Jesus could have solved this by violent retaliation -- calling down legions of angels to destroy his enemies (see

Matthew 26:51-56). He didn't. They richly deserved that judgment. But Jesus offered forgiveness instead. That supernatural love is the only power that can rescue the human race from hubris, folly, and self-destruction.

Under interrogation by Pilate, Jesus responded to the lies of his adversaries by stating, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm." The rule of Jesus is not with the tools of human power structures -- neither governments nor armies. His rule is the rule of agape, divine supernatural love. Agape is self-giving for the real good of others at a cost to one's self.

Jesus prayed in John 17:14-17, "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I do not ask you to take them out of the world, but keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth."

Brothers and sisters, in answer to Christ's prayer for all his people, may we too be so kept in God's grace and sanctifying truth.

Pastor Jeff Stoores

**PONDERA VALLEY MEMORIALS Received:**

Parsonage Fund in memory of **Una Coleman** - Ryan & Elodie Rauscher, Roman & Judy Ketterling, Jim & Shauna Ellefsen, Ruth Fladstol, John & Kathy Tschantre, Everett & Karla Breeding, Terry & Shirley Ernst, Ron & Jeanne Moon, Marian Turk, Nancy Herman Pringle, Pat Lee

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp in memory of **Una Coleman** - Lyn & Linda Carlson

General Fund in memory of **Dick, Marilyn & Jeanne Eckstein** and **Carson Stokes** - Dennis & Dawne Stokes  
**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 to the Tyler & Ken Judisch Families for the beautiful Christmas tree!!
- ♥ Thank you to all the Education teachers and students for the wonderful Christmas program!
- ♥ Thank you to Wanda Bollinger, Betty Olson, Shauna Ellefsen, and Donna Fowler for the beautiful decorations for Christmas!
- ♥ Thanks to Shauna & Donna for heading up the Giving Tree again this year and for all who contributed!

♥ **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.



**DECEMBER**

**Pastor acts: funeral services at Pondera Valley for Darla Jordan (12/7); Una Coleman (12/9); and Rudy King (12/19).**

**Pondera Valley Offering thru 12/27: \$13,482**

**Average PV Sunday Attendance: 64;  
XMAS Program: 142; XMAS Eve: 168**



**Wednesday Education**

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

**Classes resume Jan. 10th!**



**COME! Be a part of a Bible Study!**

**at Pondera Valley:**

☞ **For Everyone, Sunday 10:15 a.m. in the library starting January 7th.**

☞ **Men’s 6:30 a.m. with**

**Breakfast on Tuesdays, in the Fellowship Hall**

☞ **Women’s Monday Noon, in the Library begins again Jan. 8th**

☞ **Women’s 9 a.m. Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall begins Jan. 9th.**

**at Golden West:**

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

**Pondera Valley Council met on December 12th.**



Building & Grounds have been working at solving the lighting issues inside and outside of the church. It was recommended that

we don’t do any more work to the parsonage. The council discussed and decided to ask the congregation at the annual meeting for permission to sell it to go toward using it toward a bigger house. It was decided to hire Chad Smith Photography out of Chester to do the church pictorial directory. It is planned to schedule 2-3 dates in the end of March and beginning of April for picture taking at Pondera Valley. There will be a few sample chairs ordered for the congregation to decide which should replace the chairs in the Fellowship Hall. There is an ad in the Conrad paper for a church janitor and there will be a sign-up sheet posted in the F.H. for members to volunteer to help clean until a new janitor is hired.

Worship time has been discussed for the last 3 council meetings and it was decided that beginning April 7th, we will stop changing the worship times. Also, Pondera Valley will worship at 10 a.m. Golden West will decide what works best for them. The benevolence proposals were discussed and any additional changes from last months meeting. The council voted to approve the proposal of budget items for the annual congregational meeting on January 21st. Kim Wiest asked if she could make a May/June Logos this next year since she will be on vacation in later May. It was agreed that was okay. The following members going off council were acknowledged and thanked for their time and efforts: Julene Peters, Carol Johns, Mike O’Brien and Jesse Parks. Susan Gustafson has agreed to run again. (PLEASE thank these people when you see them!)

**The next PV Council meeting will be following the annual meeting on January 21st.**

### A Year That Whispers Jesus

For author Nancy Tichy, a small holiday gift once sparked big-picture thoughts about Christian living. One December she received a kitchen towel with the message “I want a Christmas that whispers JESUS.” That prompted thoughts of what it’s like to have an entire year that whispers Jesus.

For starters, that involves daily quiet time, devotion and prayer. “Sometimes I wake with the thought of a person on my mind,” writes Tichy. “I’m quiet with this impression, interceding for the family member or friend until it has lifted. Could this be a whisper from our Savior?”

Many other daily occurrences are “worthy of [Jesus’] whispered response of love,” Tichy points out. That’s true whether we’re distracted by tasks and troubling thoughts or buoyed by encounters with contentment and joy. “For me,” she writes, “whispering is part of intimacy, and that is what I want to make a hallmark of the coming year. I want closeness with our Savior that enables me to hear from him, even when he whispers.”

“Although no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending.” —Carl Bard

### Amy Carmichael’s Three Powerful Prayers

Who was Amy Carmichael you might ask. Amy (1867-1951), was an Irish Protestant missionary, who served in India for 55 years. Much of her work was with children, especially rescuing them from sexual slavery. Carmichael wrote 35 books and many articles about her mission work. The Church of England remembers her on January 18, the anniversary of her death.

The following brief but powerful prayers are attributed to Carmichael:

- ♦ May thy grace, O Lord, make that possible to me which seems impossible to me by nature.
- ♦ Holy Spirit, think through me, till your ideas are my ideas.
- ♦ God, hold us to that which drew us first, when the cross was the attraction, and we wanted nothing else.

### God and the Spider

During World War II, a US marine was separated from his unit on a Pacific island. The fighting had been intense, and in the smoke and the crossfire he had lost touch with his comrades.

Alone in the jungle, he could hear enemy soldiers coming in his direction. Scrambling for cover, he found his way up a high ridge to several small caves in the rock. Quickly he crawled inside one of the caves. Although safe for the moment, he realized that once the enemy soldiers looking for him swept up the ridge, they would quickly search all the caves and he would be killed.

As he waited, he prayed, "Lord, if it be your will, please protect me. Whatever your will though, I

love you and trust you. Amen."

After praying, he lay quietly listening to the enemy begin to draw close. He thought, "Well, I guess the Lord isn't going to help me out of this one." Then he saw a spider begin to build a web over the front of his cave.

As he watched, listening to the enemy searching for him all the while, the spider layered strand after strand of web across the opening of the cave.

"Hah," he thought. "What I need is a brick wall and what the Lord has sent me is a spider web. God does have a sense of humor."

As the enemy drew closer he watched from the darkness of his hideout and could see them searching one cave after another. As they came to his, he got ready

to make his last stand. To his amazement, however, after glancing in the direction of his cave, they moved on. Suddenly, he realized that with the spider web over the entrance, his cave looked as if no one had entered for quite a while.

"Lord, forgive me," prayed the young man. "I had forgotten that in you a spider's web is stronger than a brick wall."

We all face times of great trouble. When we do, it is so easy to forget what God can work in our lives, sometimes in the most surprising ways. And remember with God, a mere spider's web becomes a brick wall of protection.



### Our Source of Light is Jesus!

January 6 marks the day of Epiphany, when the wise men (who were Gentiles) came to worship Jesus and bring him gifts. During the church-year season of Epiphany, we remember that God's Son is the Light of the whole world.

Ponder the gifts of Epiphany with these two reflections, written centuries apart:

Your light, dear God, surpasses all other light, because all light comes from you. Your fire surpasses all fire, because your fire alone burns without destroying. The flames of your

fire reach into the soul, consuming the sin and selfishness that lie there. But far from damaging the soul, your fire sets it ablaze with love. What moved you to enlighten me with your truth? The fire of your love was the reason. You loved me so much that you could not bear to see me confused and perplexed. Can I ever repay the burning love which you have given me? No, because I have nothing of my own to give. Yet you assure me that the love which you put into my soul is repayment enough. You desire only the joy of seeing me receiving your gift. What more perfect Father could there be!

—Catherine of Siena (c. 1347-1380)

Epiphany beckons us to come to the light of Jesus Christ. Epiphany calls us to stare into that light until our inner darkness is fully expunged. Epiphany then sends us out into a dark and weary world as women and men with shining faces, until we say with the apostle Paul, "It is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" [see 2 Corinthians 4:6].

—Jason Gaboury, campus minister in New York City



[www.holyfamilytime.com](http://www.holyfamilytime.com) A great resource!



# HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

*Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.*

JANUARY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	God	night	word	in	love	Jesus
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
glory	therefore	speak	give	light	Christ	a
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
saw	beginning	anyone	waters	help	is	many
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
he	again	through	earth	made	while	back
28	29	30	31			
new	if	and	creation			

- The second Monday \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- The last Monday \_ \_
- The 16th \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- One day before the 20th \_ \_
- The day before the first Friday \_ \_
- The last weekday of the second week \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- The day after the 20th \_ \_
- The day after 18th \_ \_
- The first day of the second weekend \_
- The last Sunday \_ \_ \_
- The last day of the month \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Answers: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

## Sprinkle and split

A sprinkle of pepper and a dab of soap illustrate a big concept from God's Word.



### What you need:

- Shallow dish
- Water
- Black ground pepper
- Toothpick
- Dish soap
- Bible

### What you do:

1. With the dish on a table, fill it halfway with water. Don't jiggle the dish.
2. Sprinkle pepper on the water.
3. Dab the toothpick into a drop of soap. Then touch its tip to the center of the water and observe.
4. Read Psalm 103:8-12. How does this experiment illustrate God's forgiveness?
5. Explain the science behind this experiment: The soap disturbs the water's surface tension. The soap molecules don't want to interact with the water. This repels the water molecules from the soap, causing the floating pepper to also move to the sides.





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

Tom Robinson, Ron Iverson, Bob Beck *(Karen Lee)*, Art & Lori Pearson, Dave Kløver *(Rona Matheson)*, Kenny Matheson, George Wood, Roman Ketterling, Donna Combs, Sandy Webb *(Joanne Unger)*, Kaitlyn and John Russett *(Tom Russett)*, Brad Stuart *(Kenny Matheson)*, Cheryl Stoopes Forest, Susan Stoopes, Tom Stoopes, Derek Matheson, Ron Thaut, Tristan West, Alex *(Donna Fowler)*, David Larson, Julia (Judy) Haun, Michelle, Janet *(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)*, 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:** Fred Nelson *(Alice Copenhaver)*, Rudy King, Una Coleman, Darla Kay Jordan



**Prayers to Prepare for Worship**

This day after Epiphany, may we follow your light, dear Jesus, as the wise men followed the star.

\* \* \*

Tomorrow (Jan. 15th) is Martin Luther King Day in the United States, Lord. As I worship today, help me see specific ways in which you call me to better serve and love others.

\* \* \*

Open the eyes and ears of my heart, creative Spirit, to listen for your word of truth. Amen.

\* \* \*

As you taught in the synagogue, Jesus, impart to us today your new teaching — with authority — so that we trust your word and obey it. (Based on Mark 1:27-28.)



On a cold winter morning, Holy Spirit, enfold me in the warmth of your love.



**Conrad Community Night of Prayer will be January 8th at 6:30 p.m. at the Conrad Sr. Center**  
**This is an ecumenical event, ALL are welcome!**





**Golden West WORSHIP Sundays 11 a.m.**  
**Ushers: Elaine Gray; Reader: Ruth Fladstol; Communion Assistant: Jim Bjelland;**  
**Communion Preparer: Ruth Fladstol**

**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.	January 7th	January 14th	January 21st	January 28th
<b>Reader</b>	<b>Jim Adamson</b>	<b>Jim Adamson</b>	<b>Jim Morren</b>	<b>Stacy Eneboe</b>
<b>Communion Assistants</b>		<b>June Hovde &amp; Ruth Erickson</b>		<b>Stacy &amp; Erik Eneboe</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Terry &amp; Julene Peters</b>			
<b>Communion Preparer</b>	<b>Kim Hofstad</b>			
<b>Sound Tech.</b>	<b>Lyn Utterback</b>			
<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Linda O'Brien</b>			
<b>Offering Custodian</b>	<b>Julene Peters</b>			



 Sundays' Lectionary	January 7th - Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Romans 6:1-11; Mark 1:4-11 January 14th - 1 Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm 139:1-10; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51 January 21st - Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62; 1 Corinthians 7:29-35; Mark 1:14-20 January 28th - Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28
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