



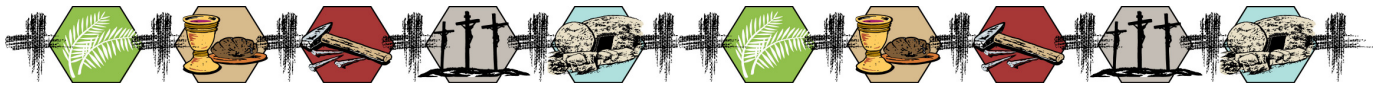
CONRAD LUTHERAN PARISH

LOGOS

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

Part-time Pastor
Jeff Stoores, Sun.-Tues.
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For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in mercy to all who call upon You. Psalm 86:5



LENTEN LUNCHESES continue on **Thursdays at Noon** during Lent and finish up by 1 p.m. each day. The focus is on the book “Lent for Everyone: Mark, Year B” by N.T. Wright. On **Feb. 29th and March 7th** it will be at St. Michael’s Catholic Church with Father Matthew Christiaens speaking. On **March 14th & 21st**, First Presbyterian Church hosts with *Pastor Judy Sibley* speaking. A free-will offering is taken each time to be given to a local charity. The community is invited to attend.

PALM SUNDAY is **March 24th**. The kids will sing at **Pondera Valley’s 9 a.m.** Worship and there will be a **bake sale** following to help with the costs of VBS this summer. **Golden West** will *tentatively* have a **breakfast at 10 a.m.** this day prior to their **11 a.m. Worship**. Watch for more information.

EASTER is **March 31st**. Pondera Valley will have a **breakfast 7-9 a.m.** prior to **worship at 9 a.m.** Golden West will worship at **11 a.m.**



Thank you to the radio broadcast sponsors on March 3rd on KZIN, 96.7 FM at 11am : Carol Kaldor & June Hovde in loving memory of their families and by Krista Keiper, Bryce & Kelci Watterud and Liam Rogers in loving memory of Brian, Nell & Larry Watterud, and Landon. **And our sponsors on March 31st:** Jerry & Myrna Christensen in loving memory of Roy & Marilyn Christensen, Pat Lenz, and Olive & Audrey Larson.

God bless the hearing of His word!

Pastor's Letter

I'm looking at my weekly/monthly planner for March 2024. I see that Easter is on the 31st. I see that our daughter Susan's 34th birthday is on Sunday the 17th. That makes me wonder where the time went. How could my little girl be that old already? Oh ... and there's a notation on the 5th -- "73rd Birthday". That would be mine. The old odometer keeps clicking over.

Also, on the calendar for March, "Spring begins" on the 19th. Officially. But this is Montana. So we will be into April or early May before green-up begins. But it will come -- eventually. And so will Easter -- the Church Feast Day celebrating Christ's resurrection. Of all the noteworthy days on our March calendars, this is the **most** noteworthy.

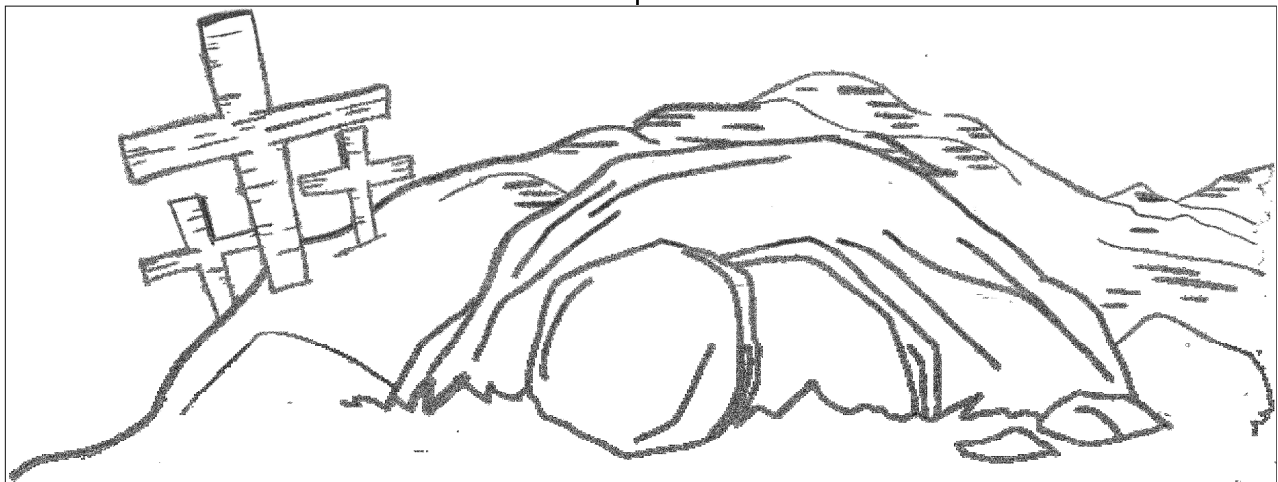
We have been working our way through the Gospel of Mark in this Year B of the Revised Common Lectionary. For Lent, our Lenten Luncheons have used daily devotionals from N.T. Wright's "Lent for Everyone". The daily devotions follow Mark's account of Jesus' ministry from its beginning to its end in Jerusalem during "Holy Week". We are led to the climax of Christ's work -- death on the cross and resurrection from the tomb. The Easter

parables all pointed to this astounding turn of events -- seeds falling into the ground and new plants springing forth. The sower knew not how. That is the classic Easter message - - New Life is springing up! Out of the seemingly hopeless darkness, God is able to recreate new life for all who will trust themselves into His care.

Wright comments: "We may well think, even as we celebrate Easter, that we still have a long way to go before we have ourselves arrived at the kind of life that Jesus assumes His people will live. But the point is that the way is open for anyone who takes Jesus seriously, to know and experience that mutual love with God that is the hallmark of all serious Christian faith, and to offer, to everyone we meet, that ongoing, creative healing love that Jesus Himself offered to all and sundry. If Jesus is truly risen from the dead, **nothing** -- even the renewal and transformation of the human heart! -- is now impossible."

The angels' announcement -- to all who look for Jesus -- at the end of Mark's gospel is, "He Is Risen!" The way is open into new creation life.

Pastor Jeff Stoopes



DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR SATURDAY P.M., MARCH 9TH!!

PONDERA VALLEY MEMORIALS Received:

General Fund in memory of Judy Ketterling - Alyce Kessler, Carol Bain, Carol Miller, Yvonne Paulsen, Kevin & Colleen Moritz, Phyllis Hammermeister, Pam Steiner & Michelle, Les & Jackie Eide, Dan & Sue Kimmet, Dave & Tammy Totdahl, Dan & Marliss Picard, Marla Bruner, Del & Karla Styren, Ray & Kim Hofstad, Sally Aschim, Dale & Tonya Breeding, Terry & Julene Peters, Melinda & John Burns, Carol Gunderson, Don & Wanda Bollinger, Janice Hoppes, Ryan & Elodie Rauscher, Pondera Coalition for Progress, Inc., Mike & Shirley Schmidt, Paul & Bonnie Kronebusch, Lynn Utterback, Gale & Susan Gustafson, Pat Lee, Teton County Abstract Company, Ann Boettcher, Gary & Angela Brown

in memory of Vernon Gjullin - Don & Wanda Bollinger, Karen & Darryl Burditt, Lyn Ostrom, Gary & Becky Gollehon, Janet & Wade Spears, Mitch & Cathi Kellogg, Matt & Pam Wittmier

PVLC Foundation in memory of Judy Ketterling and Vernon Gjullin- Lyn & Linda Carlson;

PVLC VBS Day Camp in memory of Judy Ketterling - Don & Wanda Bandow

THANK YOU!

If You're a Thrivent Member, You Can Direct Dollars to the church...Here's How!

Online:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visit 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. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 benefit that organization. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. |
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So far in 2023 Pondera Valley received \$3,189 in Thrivent Choice Dollars® and Thrivent members have until March 31st to direct their remaining

♥ 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.

Thank you Kim Hofstad for taking on the Lenten Lunches! And for all who brought soup, bread and helped in the kitchen! Thanks also to all the help for Ash Wednesday breakfast!



FEBRUARY
No Pastoral acts.
Pondera Valley Offering: \$8,049
Average PV Sunday Attendance: 47 (including one really COLD Sunday! and 34 on Ash Wednesday



Wednesday Education 4-5 p.m. for ages Preschool – 5th grade in the Youth Room through April 10th (except not on March 27th)

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 their annual meeting Jan. 28th.

Elected were Elaine McLean, Pres.; Ken Johnson, V.Pres.;

Cathi Hemry, Sec.; Bill McLean, Treas.; Ron Hemry, Trustee; Carl Flesch, 1 yr. Deacon; Aaron Bliss, Deacon; Carl Flesch & Ron Hemry, Endowment; Ron Hemry, ushering; Jim & Chris Bjelland, Cemetery; Cathi Hemry, Nomination; Jim Bjelland, Auditing; Chris Bjelland, Hunger; Sandra Seidler, Ed.; Ruth Fladstol, Horizon Lodge Rep.

Pondera Valley had a council meeting Feb. 12th. Susan Gustafson was elected President.

Faith Weber and Stacy Eneboe were elected from the council to be on the Ed. Board. The council toured the parsonage. The council had discussion of what was needed to move forward with the needs of a parsonage for a pastor. Stacy Eneboe was directed to draw up a resolution for a congregational meeting with council input. Ash Wednesday and Lenten Lunches were discussed. The council looked at dates Chad Smith of Havre would be available for taking pictorial directory pictures. It was decided to start with Friday March 22nd and 23rd and we can add a day if needed. *(Please see information on page 6.)* The next PV Council meeting will be **Monday, March 4th at 6:30 p.m.**

PRESSED

Gethsemane, the name of the place where Jesus prayed before his betrayal, is an Aramaic word for “olive press.” During Bible times, olives were pressed three times to remove all the valuable oil. Before being arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus felt the full pressing weight of our sins on his shoulders. Surrounded by olive trees, praying fervently while sweating drops of blood, the perfect Son of God asked his heavenly Father three times to remove the cup of suffering.



Instead of removing that trial, God used it to redeem and save humankind. Likewise, God uses our hardships to refine and strengthen our faith.

In *The Rock, the Road and the Rabbi*, TV host Kathie Lee Gifford and Messianic Rabbi Jason Sobel speculate that if Peter, along with James and John, hadn’t fallen asleep in Gethsemane, he may have had the strength to not deny Jesus later that night.

“All of us must be vigilant to watch and pray so that we don’t succumb to the temptation to deny the Lord when we go through the olive presses of life and feel like we are being crushed by our situation and circumstances,” the authors write. “We must remember that it is the crushing that brings out the true inner value and worth of the olive.”



Have Thine own way, Lord!
Have Thine own way!
Thou art the Potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after Thy will,
While I am waiting yielded and still.

Have Thine own way, Lord!
Have Thine own way!
Search me and try me, Master today!
Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now,
As in Thy presence humbly I bow.

Have Thine own way, Lord!
Have Thine own way!
Hold o’er my being absolute sway!
Fill with Thy Spirit till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me!

Text: Adelaide A Pollard, 1862-1934
Tune: George C. Stebbins, 1846-1945





The councils have chosen Chad Smith Photography out of Chester to do our pictorial directory. We are taking reservations! We have been doing it on Sunday mornings and **phone-ins are welcome, 406-271-3934 during office hours.** Then we will need volunteers to call anyone we don't have after that. Please volunteer to do some calling for this! These are the dates and times:

Friday, March 22nd from 1-7 p.m. and Saturday, March 23rd from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

We will book him for two days and a third if needed. We are paying each day for his services. He has a basic formula that seems to work well... 5 minute time slots for adult singles or adult couples, 10 minutes for families with children 10 years old or older, and 15 minutes for families with younger kids. It will be very important that you are on time for your appointment! (Be a tad early!) AND yes, if you or a member of your family cannot be there for the day of the photo, you are more than welcome to submit a digital photo for the directory.

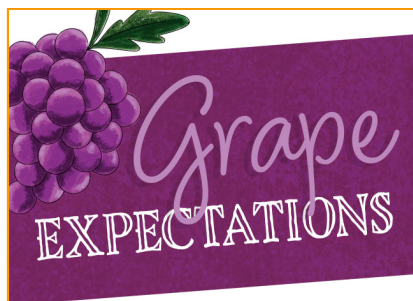
There will be order forms on the day of pictures. He will at a later time show proofs via web galleries for you to choose your photo for the directory and any other prints or digital downloads you want to buy.

As for suggestions for a better picture, try to think about how your outfits go together. Realize gentlemen wearing ball caps or hats that take their hats off for pictures will leave "hat hair". Check kids (and adults) that they don't have stains or food on their shirts. Keep outfits of cohesive nature, like formal wear vs. casual wear.

It has been 11 years since we've had a directory made! It is such a good tool to have for us as a church family! As mentioned above the councils have agreed to pay him each day that he is here. Consider making a donation to this great ministry. Plus, this is a great opportunity for you to save money and get professional portraits without incurring a sitting fee. These fees normally start at \$50 - \$75 per session and go up from there depending on the photographer, so consider your donation amount through the lens of this significant savings! The directories themselves are not free either. A free-will donation basket will be available on photo days or you can give on Sunday mornings or mail in a donation. Make sure you put "directory" in the memo. Thank you!



www.holyfamilytime.com A great resource!



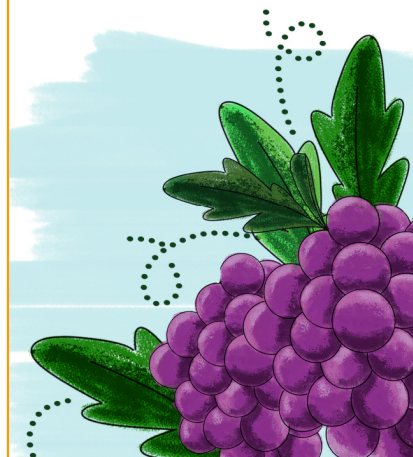
Try this chilly new take on a healthy snack.

What you need:

- 30 grapes, washed and dried
- 1/2 cup vanilla yogurt
- 4 graham crackers, crushed
- Toothpicks
- Parchment paper

What you do:

1. On a baking sheet lined with parchment paper, arrange grapes in a single layer. Freeze for two hours.
2. Insert a toothpick into each grape.
3. Dip each grape into the yogurt, coating half of it.
4. Roll each dipped grape in the crushed crackers. Place back on the parchment.
5. Freeze for two more hours. Enjoy!



PUZZLE

A LASTING LESSON

Before dying on the cross, Jesus teaches the disciples an important lesson.

Directions: Use the clues to unscramble the letters in each grape cluster. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete John 15:5, NIV.

A branch that was waved _____

How Jesus was put to death _____

A stick attached to the vine _____

People shouted this to Jesus _____

Jesus washed these _____

This was broken and eaten _____

The Messiah _____

A drink from grapes _____

Jesus drove the money changers from here _____

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear _____; apart from me you can do nothing." *John 15:5, NIV*

Answer: palm; crucified; branch; hosanna; feet; bread; Jesus; wine; temple; much fruit

Puzzle!

Connect the dots to find two symbols of Easter. Then write the words in the correct blanks to complete an Easter poem.

17 • the 18 • holy 19 • righteous 20 • loving 21 • Son 22 • 23 • He 24 • one 25 • 26 • He 27 • died 28 • to 29 • 30 • 31 • save 32 • again 33 • 34 • 35 • rose 36 • us 37 • all 38 • from 39 • and 40 • sin 41 • Easter 42 • on 43 • day 44 • he 45 • 46 • Jesus 47 • us 48 • 49 • 50 • Christ

26 _____ 28 _____ 30 _____ 32 _____ 34 _____ 36 _____ 38 _____ 40 _____ 42 _____ 44 _____ 46 _____

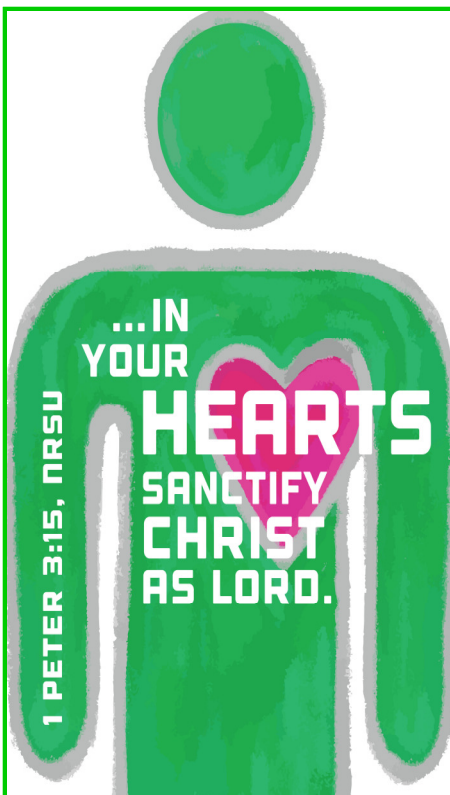
Answer: Good news is Jesus Christ, his Son, the holy being, righteous one. He died to save us all from sin, and on Easter day he rose again.



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

Tom Robinson, Ron Iverson, Art & Lori Pearson, Dave Kluver (*Rona Matheson*), Karen Sutton (*Ruth Erickson*), 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 Stoopes Forest, Susan Stoopes, Tom Stoopes, Derek Matheson, Ron Thaut, Tristan West, David Larson, Julia (Judy) Haun, Michelle, (*2Kim Wiest*), Sara McLean, Don Bandow, Brenda Rhone (*Louise Glimm*), Marilyn Waite, Evan Bell, Roger Brastrup, Teagan Bartoo, Faith Birnel Crouch (*3Ruth Fladstol*), Rose Peterman, Marvin Baker, Mitchell Moore (*Josita Montgomery*), Poppy Dahl, Terry Smith, (*Carolyn Widhalm*), Jenna & Kids, Teri Ewell, Jonnie Geber, Jolene Wynn (*4Kim 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: Hilda Matheson, Linda Iverson, Agnes Simmons (*Carol Wood*), Frank Glimm, Bob Baker (*Carol Wood*) **Those deployed in the service abroad:**



Prayers to Prepare for Worship

- ✝ Jesus, when you overturn my priorities like tables in the temple (John 2:13-16), help me see that your aim is to turn me back to our loving God.
- ✝ As Nicodemus did (John 3), I bring all my questions to you, Jesus. Thank you for welcoming me — and my quandaries — always.
- ✝ “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me” (Psalm 51:10, NRSV).
- ✝ [Palm/Passion Sunday] I pray for growth in faith to follow you, Lord, through both cross-like and resurrection-like times in my life.
- ✝ [Maundy Thursday] As you feed us, Lord, with your own body and blood, move us to feed the world — with food, with peace, with love.
- ✝ [Good Friday] Thank you, Jesus, for bearing the infirmities and transgressions of the whole world, that we may be healed (see Isaiah 53:4-5).
- ✝ [Easter Sunday] “This is the day of the Lord's victory; let us be happy, let us celebrate!” (Psalm 118:24, GNT).

BUTTERFLY — The butterfly symbolizes resurrection, Easter and the new life we have in Christ Jesus. As a caterpillar disappears into a chrysalis, so Jesus’ lifeless body was hidden in a tomb. The emergence of the butterfly, rising into the sky in its beautiful new body, reminds us of Christ’s resurrection — and ours.





Golden West WORSHIP Sundays 11 a.m.

Ushers: Ron & Cathi Hemry; Reader: Cathi Hemry; Communion Assistant: Bill McLean; Communion Preparer: Cathi Hemry

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.	March 3rd	March 10th	March 17th	March 24th	6:30 pm March 28th Maundy Thursday	6:30 pm March 29th Good Friday	March 31st EASTER
Reader	Dick Kinyon	Dick Kinyon	Dick Kinyon	Dick Kinyon	Linda O'Brien	Linda O'Brien	Linda O'Brien
Communion Assistants		June Hovde & Linda Welch		Karla Breeding & Betty Olson	Linda & Lyn Carlson		Faith Weber, Linda & Mike O'Brien
Ushers & Greeters	Dave & Carolyn Widhalm						
Communion Preparer	Betty Olson & Wanda Bollinger						
Sound Tech.	O'Briens						
Offering	Carol Wood						



	March 3rd - Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; John 2:13-25
	March 10th - Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-9; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21
	March 17th - Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:32-45
	PALM SUNDAY March 24th - John 12:12-19; Zech. 9:9-12; Psalm 118:19-29; Phil. 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47
	MAUNDY THURS Mar. 28th - Jn 13:1-35; Ex. 24:3-11; Psm. 116:12-19; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; Mark 14:12-26
	GOOD FRIDAY March 29th - Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22 or 31; Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42
EASTER March 31st - Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 16; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8	