I PRAY THAT YOUR LOVE WILL OVERFLOW MORE AND MORE, AND THAT YOU WILL KEEP ON GROWING IN KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING. FOR I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND WHAT REALLY MATTERS, SO THAT YOU MAY LIVE PURE AND BLAMELESS LIVES UNTIL THE DAY OF CHRIST’S RETURN. PHILIPPIANS 1:9-10

Due to COVID-19, the Sixty-Second Annual Praise and Thanks Celebration will not be held this year. However, we will continue to praise God and thank Him for His many blessings of even this last year and those before. He is so good! In the past, this event has helped to provide resources for the women of Golden West to do their benevolent ministry. That ministry will continue and so we ask you to prayerfully consider contributing to Golden West Praise & Thanks. Your offering can be given directly to Golden West Women c/o Cathi Hemry 14095 Brady Rd Brady MT 59416 or if you give at Pondera Valley, make sure it has “Golden West Praise & Thanks” in the memo. Thank you!

RADIO BROADCAST: 11 am November 1st on KZIN, 96.7 FM  Sponsored by: Frances Larson in loving memory of her husband, John and by the Martin Family in loving memory of their parents, Cliff & Donna, and their brother Douglas.

Thank you! May God bless the hearing of His word!
To all God’s holy people in Christ,

**Grace and peace to you from God the Father and Our Lord Jesus Christ.** You can witness the faith of our congregation through the fact that we have a habit of planning for what comes next when things seem to be coming to an end. Winter arrived already in October with snow covered yards and slick roads, but nothing will stop us from gathering at a time like this. I believe that is because we know what we have been given, not only that, we know that God is generous. Stewardship and benevolence both start in this same place. We know victory is arriving. Where God has promised us these blessings is in Word and Sacrament. There we hear that creation, life, and everything has been given over to us through Jesus Christ because God so loved us. Today then the question begets, “What are we going to do with all of it?” Specifically, what will those who gather in faith do knowing that they hold the whole kingdom of God because of His Only Son?

This is not a question of salvation. We are talking about inheritance and succession. Each of us knows that faith alone saves, but we are also given everything we have right here and now because of it. There are present tense blessing for a person who believes God loves, forgives, and gives generously. The parable Jesus gives is extreme when the young man asks how much he has to give, but still it is literally turning from yourself. God cannot be recompensed but Jesus has given his life for us, so how are we called to respond? Do the same for someone by bringing them this message through something as simple as a worship service where the Word is preached. How do we get someone to come to our church on Sunday morning? Call them, bring them along, and show them where you can find every treasure we have.

Everyone will also need a set of keys unlocking forgiveness so that they can bring outsiders in to receive the blessings we have. If we look to the Commandments we see that after a person comes to fear, love, and trust God that they are able to be opened to the world and most important their neighbor. The call to give is according to the amount we have received, and that is the sum of everything. The 3rd Commandment says that we are to remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy. The Small Catechism teaches us this means, “We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.” Now, include this into a conversation about stewardship and benevolence. Bring it back to the church and how we express thanksgiving in what we have heard.

When we begin our planning during this season the call for us is to give in such a way that the Word will be proclaimed. Of course this means supporting local churches and ministries, including ours. Remember that this is in order to bless our neighbor. It is to praise and thank Our God. No merit will ever gain us a place in heaven. So know that your contributions are not one of obligation, but can arrive freely as you joyfully support organizations that love thy neighbor. By faith in Christ we fulfill commandments not by sitting idly but also through making contribution and this brings the kingdom into the moment.

I’m proud of the fact that new groups have become stewards in our building. I pray

*continued >>>>>*
every person who recognizes the gifts they have received can come share them here faithfully and with this same benevolence. It is a joy to see people caring for one another because they have seen the other side of it. We love because he first loved us. All of us know what happens to a building that is neglected. Yet, as Jesus says every stone first has to be knocked over. We have to see our needs first. I call it rock bottom Christianity. It is knowing we are cracked vessels and letting the light shine into the cracks and corners. Jesus went into the total darkness of death so that he could give what he had for us. The light of the world exploded back into the world three days later and handed you and I His kingdom. If your life has been renewed by this and you see the source of this same Good News coming from a ministry or church, please support it.

Asking for money from anyone currently seems like a dangerous subject, so I want to be clear about the message. Everything you have belongs to God. Give it back to Him. Find your vocation and places in the church, home, and workplace that give back according to your passion and benevolence. Our first fruits are true benevolence and stewardship. God wants us to give joyfully because that is how He created us in the first place. This is far over and above from what we give to Caesar. We learn that this love is the greatest gift because it does not fail us. It is the last of faith, hope, and love to exist. The greatest commandment that Jesus gives is to love Our God with all our mind, strength, and soul, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. For me the question becomes, how much do I value the life I have been given? Again, where did everything I have come from? Where did I hear about this?

What causes me to believe? Who else and where else do I see this same message? Do I love them enough to give as I have been given?

Romans 10:17 says that faith comes by hearing, so we are repeating what was said before. Please support the places that keep the Sabbath Day and give Word and Sacrament, the sources of grace, forgiveness, love, faith and life in the name of Jesus for the neighbor who needs Him. How many of us heard about Jesus in a church like this, perhaps this very one? You may sit in the same place and that is right in the presence of God. Or did you receive forgiveness and new life out of pure grace somewhere else? Remember that Jesus is a source that does not run out. We can come here to refill our resources without limit, so know that will also fulfill everyone and every need you meet. This is for free for us and we have the pleasant opportunity to give it to our friends, family, neighbors, and enemies. We have never gone a day without Our Bread and I pray we give it the same as we have been. Amen.

In Christ, Pastor Drew Nelson. +++
The PV Council met on October 12th. The Education Board has decided to not follow the school in starting up Wednesday nights again. They will wait and decide when to start. The confirmands are working on their faith statements. The Stewardship Committee will soon meet. Buildings and Grounds are still accepting applications for the janitor at the education building. Dinner for the Joint Council meeting next month was arranged. The nominating committee and the benevolence committee have begun work for their report at the annual meeting. Health insurance was researched and it was decided to stay with the same plan for 2021. There will be no Thanksgiving or Christmas Day services again this year. It was decided to just have one Christmas Eve service and prepare to Social Distance using the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to Charlie Hardeland for stepping up last minute to play the piano or Sunday worship!

The next council meeting will be the Joint Council meeting with Golden West here at Pondera Valley, Monday, November 9th at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

**Ecclesiastes 11:1-6** Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days. Give a portion to seven, or even to eight, for you know not what disaster may happen on earth. If the clouds are full of rain, they empty themselves on the earth, and if a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie. He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap. As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything. In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good.

In this passage we are told to cast our bread upon the water and it will return. We are also told not to consider the clouds or the rain in our sowing. To the contrary, we are told to sow our seed in the morning and evening, and to not withhold our hand from sowing. Giving to the church should take place on the same principles. That is, we should give without regard to our present conditions. We are not to look at our surroundings, at what we have or do not have, only at the promises of God. If we look at our surroundings, these things may stop us from sowing our financial seed into the work of the Lord.
Calendar Reminders:
Pondera Valley Worship Leaders - **Jack Judisch** (Sound); **Linda O’Brien** (Comm. Prep.); **Wanda Bandow** (Greeter); **Jessily Seidler & Stephanie Haugestuen** (Ushers); **Lori Pearson** (Offering Custodian); **Judy Ketterling** (Reader Nov. 1st); **Tom Russett** (Reader Nov. 8th); **Kim Hofstad** (Reader Nov. 15th); **Linda O’Brien** (Reader Nov. 22nd); **David Berg** (Reader Nov. 29th); **Tom & Page Russett** (Comm. Servers Nov. 8th); **Mike & Linda O’Brien** (Comm. Servers Nov. 22nd).

Golden West Worship Leaders - **Jim & Chris Bjelland** (Ushers, Chris-Reader, and Comm. Preparer); **Bill McLean** (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

ALL SAINTS is Sunday, Nov. 1st. Those who have departed us this last year as members and/or we had a part in their services: **Gerald Gunderson, Leonard Armstrong, Sandi Becker, Harvey Dahl, Al VandenBo, Violet Klette, Joyce McAlister, Donna Sorlie, Jack Hurley, Bill Pate, Shirley Habets, Helen Arnold, Debra Gage, Herb Peterman.**

MEMORIALS Received:
General Fund:
from Pam Arvidson in memory of Dale Sheldon

In October, Pastor had 3 private services for: Shirley Habets, Helen Arnold, and Herb Peterman.

Pondera Valley Offering in thru October 18: $ 7,722
Average Attendance in October: PV 34; GW 12

♥ Thank you to Charlie Hardeland for stepping forward last minute to play for the worship service at Pondera Valley!
Thanks Charlie!

♥THANK YOU to all who continue to send in your offerings!
With one Sunday left to record, we are at 60% of our budget.
♥Please continue to help with our ministry!
♥You can use the enclosed blue envelope or mail them to PO Box 883, Conrad MT 59425.
November 2020

Puzzle!
Write the words below in alphabetical order inside the squares. Then read down the second column to discover the sentences that begin and end with "Praise be to God in the highest!"

Skeptical
Mutual
Essay
Llama
Orbit
Carry
Udder
Brush
Items
Apple
Leather
Cider

Answer:

Glad gatherings
The first Christians met together over a meal. Today church families still gather to break bread and thank God.

Follow the instructions below. Then write the remaining words in order from left to right and top to bottom to complete the verses.

Cross out all words in column E with double letters.
Cross out all words that are books of the Bible.
Cross out all words in column B that end in "d.
Cross out all words in column A that have more than 4 letters.
Cross out all words in rows 5 with 3 syllables.
Cross out all words in the table with 8 letters.
Cross out all words in column F with 2 or more vowels.

ACTS 2:46-47, NIV

Trust in the Lord forever,
for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.

Isaiah 26:4, ESV

Bible Quiz

After Jesus healed 10 men at one time, how many returned to thank him? What had been their ailment?

A. five; blindness
B. all 10; deafness
C. one; possession by demons
D. one; leprosy

Answer: D (see Luke 17:11-19)
The WOMEN’S BAZAAR is COMING!! But has been tentatively postponed 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!

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

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Family Time: Compassion

Pray: Begin by making the sign of the cross and calling upon God’s name.

From God to us, from death to life, from me to you - in the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Almighty Father, thank you for this time together. Please help us to focus so that we can learn from our discussion. May your Holy Spirit be with us, guiding and inspiring all that we say and do. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Listen: Pay close attention as the Bible story is read in the form of a rhyme.

A man named James had this to say
To those who lived the Christian way:
“You claim your faith is real to you
But does it impact what you do?
When have you fed the poor, the sick?
Or looked beyond your own small clique?

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Check out this website: www.holyfamilytime.com
This one is from Nov. 28th 2019... Holy

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When have you clothed a child who’s cold?
Or brought a meal to someone old?
These good, kind acts show faith and love
And point to Jesus Christ above.
So don’t sit back and simply wait
Go out and serve! It’s not too late!

Engage: Talk about the Bible by having parents respond to children’s questions.

Child: Have you ever served in a soup kitchen, or done other work to help the poor? What was that like?

Child: Who is someone who seems lonely or in need of help? What is one thing we could do to make life a little better for that person?

Affirm: Pray for God to put his Word into action in your daily life.

Lord God, there is so much need in our world. Sometimes, it can seem almost overwhelming. Help us to see those areas where we can make a real difference in our community, and give us the strength and creativity to do just that. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Have each person in the family bless one another with these words.

May you go in peace and serve the Lord! Amen.

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NOV. 1st ALL SAINTS SUNDAY- Rev. 7:9-17; Psalm 149; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12
NOV. 8th - Amos 5:18-24; Psalm 70; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13
NOV. 15th - Zephaniah 1:7-16; Psalm 90:1-12; 1 Thess. 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30
NOV. 22nd CHRIST THE KING-Ezek.34:11-16, 20-24; Psm. 95:1-7a; 1 Cor. 15:20-28; Mt 25:31-46
NOV. 29th 1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT- Isaiah 64:1-9; Psm. 80:1-7; 1 Cor. 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37
Illnesses or other concerns: (denotes relation to) Ron Thaut, Madelyn Erickson, Rose Peterman, Mike Buechler, Annie Schlosser, Zach Greene (Carol Kaldor), Evan Bell, Dennis Fladstol, Teagan Bartoo, Faith Birnel Crouch (Ruth Fladstol), Hayden Kellogg, Ron Widhalm, Shaun Short (Stacie Matheson), Wayne Smith (Linda VanTongeren), Marvin Baker, Sandy Webb (JoAnne Unger), Norman Stordahl, Debbie Ries, Debbi Gage, Mitchell Moore (Josita Montgomery), Connie Wolf, Wayne Brown (Carol Wood), Juiele McLean (Bill McLean), Don Bandow, Ralph Swan (Cyndi Johnson), Poppy Dahl, Kimberly Peacock, Audrey Kieft, Gerald Bruner, Melvin Pocock, Daryn, Mark Mann (Wanda Bollinger), Terry Smith, (Carolyn Widhalm), BJ Hilyard, Loric Hasner, Jolene Wynn (Kim Hofstad), Kat O’Brien and all COVID-19 frontline 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... Herb Peterman, Helen Arnold, Shirley Habets, Debra Gage Those deployed in the service abroad: Mark Thompson, Blake Tornga, Cameron Bowen

WATCH on the bulletin board at Pondera Valley for some reports on answers to prayer!!

Prayers to Prepare for Worship

- “My people, hear my teaching,” says the Lord. “Listen to the words of my mouth” (Psalm 78:1). God, help me focus my attention and listen well to You during this worship service. Amen.
- God, You are solid ground for my faith, a sky of love to blanket me; your Spirit gives me breath, and your Son, living water and bread of life, nourishes me. Amen.
- Christ Jesus, reestablish your reign in my heart every day, so that I live as an emissary of your love. In Your Name, Amen.
- Thank you, thank you, thank you, Lord. What more is there for me to say but this?
- Jesus, may all who gather here feel welcome. May all who worship from home feel Your love. May we bless one another with Your love as we go about our week. Amen.

For Those Who are Afraid

Come to the aid of all who are living in anxiety and fear in this time of world pandemic, especially those who are vulnerable to illness and those who are already suffering with health issues. Provide wisdom and skill to all in the health care profession so that they may be agents of your healing care. Help us all to act in a caring and responsible manner for the sake of others. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Community Prayer Night

Monday, November 2nd

6:15pm in the Fellowship Hall of Pondera Valley. It’s an 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!
THE OLD TESTAMENT IN THE NEW
Each of these passages from the New Testament is a quotation from the Old Testament. Name the Old Testament book where the passage appears.

1. Matthew 15:8 “This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me...” (& Mk 7:6)
2. Matthew 21:13 He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you make it a den of robbers.”
3. Matthew 21:16 and they said to him, “Do you hear what these are saying?” And Jesus said to them, “Yes; have you never read, “Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise’?”
4. Matthew 21:42 Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”
5. Matthew 22:32 ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob”? He is not God of the dead, but of the living.”
6. Matthew 23:37 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!
7. Matthew 22:39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
8. Matthew 22:44 “‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet’”?
9. Matthew 27:35 And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots.
10. Matthew 27:43 He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”
11. Matthew 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
12. Mark 1:3 the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”
13. Mark 4:12 so that “‘they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should turn and be forgiven.’” (and Luke 8:10)

Is there anything we can do for you?
Call the office, 271-3934.

Thankfulness, studies show, has multiple physical, mental and emotional benefits. Psychologist Robert Emmons calls gratitude “fertilizer for the mind” because of its powerful effects.

He admits gratitude isn’t always easy — especially when life throws us curveballs (see the year 2020) — but says it can be most helpful during and after difficulties. Emmons suggests reframing challenges using thankfulness-based language. Ask, for example: Though I wasn’t grateful for the experience at the time, how can I be now? What lessons did I learn, and how did I grow as a person?

Throughout his letters, the apostle Paul reframes his extensive sufferings and urges us to do the same. “Give thanks in all circumstances,” he writes, “for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV).

Applications are now open for the janitor position at the Education Building of Pondera Valley. You can pick up an application with a job description at the church office in the mornings (Monday-Wednesday) or call Kim and she will get one to you. There hasn’t been a deadline set but it will probably close soon without notification so if you are interested in the position, please pick up an application soon! Thank you!