



# CONRAD LUTHERAN PARISH

## LOGOS

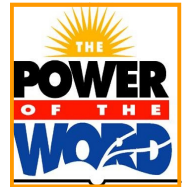
### WORSHIP TIMES

8:30 a.m. Golden West, fellowship at 8 a.m.

10 a.m. Pondera Valley, fellowship afterward

Pastor Jeff Driscoll  
Kim Wiest, Admin. Assistant  
Office # 271-3934  
P.O. Box 883  
Office Hours:  
Monday - Thursday, 9-4  
In an emergency call:  
Pastor Jeff, 360-631-4707 or  
Kim Wiest, 406-450-5821.  
conradlutheran@gmail.com

It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost. 1 Timothy 1:15



### Advent Begins November 30th!

- ♦ Children's Christmas Program at Pondera Valley will be held during Worship on **December 21st at 10 a.m.**

#### Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion

- ♦ Golden West at 3 p.m.
- ♦ Pondera Valley at 5 p.m.
- ♦ Radio Broadcast on KSEN 1150AM at 7 p.m.
- ♦ No Christmas Day Services



Thank you to the radio broadcast sponsors on November 2nd at 11 a.m. on KZIN, 96.7 FM: Tom & Page Russett in loving memory of their parents: *Tom & Viola MacKrell and Harvey & Jeanette Russett* AND by Jim & Joann Adamson in loving memory of their parents: Bud & Carma Adamson and Marvin & Leona Petersen. The Christmas Eve Radio Broadcast sponsors are listed on page 5.

God bless the hearing of His word!

**From the Pastor**

I grew up on the cartoon strip Peanuts and of course the Christmas Special where Pig Pen pledges, "In spite of my outward appearance, I shall try to run a neat inn," while Frieda who has been assigned the role of the innkeeper's wife complains that the cloud of dust that follows him is ruining the curl of her naturally curly hair. When I grew older and became a serious student of the Bible I learned that most of that depiction of the nativity was misunderstood. There wasn't an inn with a no vacancy sign out front. Jesus most likely was born in the home of a relative at Bethlehem. There was no room in the upper room, a room in a typical home used to house guests. It is the same type of upper room where Jesus ate his last supper with his disciples and the same type of upper room where the disciples gathered on Pentecost. The upper room of the nativity would have been filled with relatives due to the census, and poor Mary had the choice of giving birth in the middle of a family reunion or going to the more private downstairs of the house where the animals were stabled. The mangers were actually part of the structure of the home. Animals and people all slept under the same roof. Downstairs Mary could deliver her child, most likely with the women of the house attending her, away from the eyes of the men. Jesus would have been swaddled and, yes, laid in the manger as his crib.

This much more ordinary birth means Jesus was born in a place bustling with relatives celebrating their coming together as family again. And while my Christmas-card picture of two lonely, homeless parents may be challenged by this scholarship, one thing I am certain that Peanuts got right is that Uncle Pig Pen and Aunt Frieda were there. Pig Pen's sins follow him

around in a cloud. He could easily confess that he is by nature unclean, but when told he is an absolute mess and handed a mirror, the old sinner in him protests that to the contrary he didn't think he looked that good! How like all of us when the mirror is held up to us and our sins. We compare ourselves to others or to earlier versions of ourselves. I could be so much worse. Meanwhile the poor Friedas in our lives have to live with our sins. They lose the curl of their naturally curly hair. They experience the frustration of calling the sinner to repentance, of holding up the mirror even, and still having the sinner insist things have never been better. Frieda's sins of vanity and judgementalism are called into question by Charlie Brown who tries to get her to put the best construction on Pig Pen's state, "Don't think of it as dust. Think of it as maybe the soil of some great past civilization. Maybe the soil of ancient Babylon."

The upper room of the nativity was filled with Uncle Pig Pens and Aunt Friedas all caught up in their sins. With the holidays upon us, many of you will have full upper rooms or will fill your relative's upper rooms. And you will all bring your sins with you. It's going to be crowded. Enjoy the food, avoid the silly divisive conversations, share the laughs and the sorrows. No matter how crowded it gets, God will find space, even if it is the smallest empty manger in a house full of sinners. God will fill that space with something miraculous, something all those sinners desperately need more than clean clothes or naturally curly hair—a Saviour who is Christ the Lord.

— Pastor Jeff



**PONDERA VALLEY MEMORIALS Received for: BUILDING & GROUNDS UPDATES** in memory of **Roman Ketterling** - David & Tammy Totdahl, Dan & Sue Kimmet, Laurie & Terry Philipps, Keith & Leiha VandenBos, Lyn & Linda Carlson, Ron & Jeanne Moon, Pat Lee, Scott & Jodi Townsend, Jim & Mary Quitmeyer, Marian Turk, Betty Olson, Michael & Monica McCranie, Mike & Gail Klette, Kenneth & Elaine VandenBos, Gary & Angela Brown, Gale & Susan Gustafson; **GENERAL FUND** in memory of **Leonard & Marie Armstrong** - Ryan & Elodie Rauscher; in memory of **Juliusons** - Mark & Sandra Anderson

**THANK YOU!**

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

#### Online:

1. Visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://www.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 benefit that organization.
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.

#### By phone:

1. Call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted, say, "Thrivent Choice".
  2. When prompted, say, "Choice Dollars."
- Help choose where Thrivent Financial for Lutherans gives back! If you don't, Thrivent Financial chooses.*

- ♥ Where to start thanking with a Bazaar that takes so many to take part?! Thank you to Kim Hofstad for organizing it all! Thank you: Linda Welch and her team of lefse makers; Linda Carlson and her team of Tex-Mex chili makers, servers, clean-up crew; Linda Van Tongeren and Joann Adamson for the beautiful quilts made to raffle; all who brought goods to sell; those who helped organize and take down all afterward; those who bought...EVERYONE of YOU - Thank You!
- ♥ Thank you to Erik & Stacy Eneboe for dead-heading flowers out front and for fixing all the lights that needed work!
- ♥ Thank you to the group of women who diligently make quilts all year long...Carolyn Widhalm, June Hovde, Marlene Moon, Jana O'Brien, Rona Matheson, Louise Glimm and Stacy Eneboe.



### ⌘ WOMEN of PVLC!

There will be a meeting after Worship Dec. 7th to approve the recommended benevolences.

Please attend!

♥ **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**

### NOVEMBER (thru 11/24)

**Pastoral Acts: none**

Pondera Valley Offering: **\$13,271**

PV Average Sunday Attendance: **69**

GW Average Sunday Attendance: **17**

GW Praise & Thanks: **85**

## WELCOME TO WEDNESDAY EDUCATION!



**Wednesdays 3:45 p.m.—5 p.m.  
(3 year olds - 5th grade)**

**in the Youth Room** (No class on Dec. 24th or 31st)

**Confirmation for 7th & 8th grades  
6-7:30 p.m. Sundays with Pastor Driscoll  
in the Fellowship Hall** (No class on Dec. 21st or 28th)

### BIBLE STUDIES ...

**FOR MEN — Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. for breakfast and Bible Study**

**FOR WOMEN — Mondays at Noon in church library**

**— Tuesdays at 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall**

**— 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. @ Golden West Church**



**JOINT Council met on Nov. 10th at Pondera Valley.** Pastor Jeff said he is excited about activities in both churches. He will make home visits as required or needed. The councils decided to not have Thanksgiving or Christmas Day services. Christmas Eve services will be at 3 p.m. at Golden West and 5 p.m. at Pondera Valley. The radio (KSEN-AM) will broadcast at 7 p.m. The common budget items were discussed. The annual meeting dates were decided for PV on Jan. 25, 2026 and for GW Feb. 1, 2026. Start putting together your annual reports and email them to Kim Wiest!

**PV Council met following Joint Council.** Work on the wiring for sound and tvs is in progress. It was questioned whether we needed the tvs in the sanctuary but since they are already purchased they will be put in. Building and Ground concerns have been addressed. The Worship Committee met with Pastor and much was discussed. Communion at the rail (table) will be done unless there is a big crowd, such as Christmas Eve when it will be continuous.

People need to be reminded to fill in from the center and then around. The advent wreath will have a new place this year. It is being placed on (and in) the baptismal font. Should we have a baptism during Advent it will be moved to on the altar. Singing the Lord's Prayer and Aaron's blessing will be a normal part of worship on non-communion Sundays. Worship services will begin with 3 chimes. The parsonage walk-through with Pastor is complete. The budget for 2026 was reviewed and recommendations made. Lyn will fill in the chart for the council to review and approve to move forward to the annual meeting and final approval there. Many thank yous for this newsletter! (See page 3). **The next meeting for Pondera Valley will be on Monday, December 8th at 6:30 p.m.**

**GW Council met following Joint Council.** The budget was voted on to be presented at the annual meeting. GW supplied the for the Thanksgiving baskets at the Food Pantry. Christmas eve services will be held at 3pm. The annual meeting will be February 3rd with a waffle dinner.





**Christmas Eve Radio Broadcast will be on KSEN 1150 AM at 7 p.m.**

Sponsors are:

Jim & Shauna Ellefsen in loving memory of *Bob, Eleanor, and Scott Salois*;

Pat Lee & Family in loving memory of *Jack Lee*;

Larry & Rosemarie Banka in loving memory of *John, Pat and Mike Banka*

Linda Welch in loving memory of her parents *George & Madelyn Erickson, their parents and siblings*.

Jack & Barb Judisch in loving memory of *Clark, Maureen, and other family & friends*.

**Thank You!**

# 12 Christmas PRAYERS

**1. Expectation**  
Fill us with hope, knowing that God kept his promise to send his Son to earth. (See Isaiah 9:6-7.)

**2. Wonder**  
Just as the angel's message left Mary in awe, remind us of the joyful news of Jesus' coming. (See Luke 1:31-33.)

**3. Humility**  
Like Joseph, make us willing to trust God and humbly care for others. (See Matthew 1:20-21.)

**4. Obedience**  
On our earthly journey, teach us to follow your commands, just as Joseph and Mary obediently traveled to Bethlehem. (See Luke 2:4-5.)

**5. Provision**  
Thank you for meeting all our needs, as you provided a stable and manger bed for Baby Jesus. (See Luke 2:6-7.)

**6. Peace**  
Fill us with your perfect peace, which the angels proclaimed when Jesus was born. (See Luke 2:13-14.)

**7. Praising**  
Remind us to follow the shepherds' example of celebrating and sharing the good news of Jesus' birth. (See Luke 2:16-18.)

**8. Grateful**  
Keep us thankful for God's greatest gift, which Mary treasured on the first Christmas. (See Luke 2:19.)

**9. Saved**  
May Jesus' precious name remind us of his power to save us from our sins. (See Matthew 1:21.)

**10. Fulfilled**  
Give us content hearts, just as Simeon and Anna found fulfillment in the promised Savior. (See Luke 2:28-32.)

**11. Worshipful**  
Like the gift-giving Magi, equip us to give Jesus our very best. (See Matthew 2:10-11.)

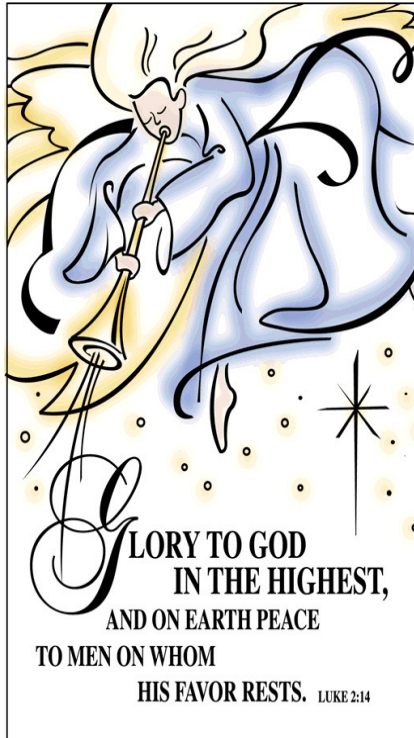
**12. Wisdom**  
Help us seek your guidance as we follow and grow with Jesus. (See Luke 2:49-52.)

## The Angels' Song in Three Words

On the very first Christmas Eve, frightened shepherds were suddenly surrounded by light and music. A choir of angels filled the night sky, singing: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14, KJV).

Nineteenth-century pastor Charles Kingsley reflected on how those three simple words - **glory, peace, and good will** - still capture the meaning of Jesus' birth and the hope it brings.

**Glory.** God's glory isn't shown in dazzling displays of power but in humility and mercy. The baby in the manger revealed God's greatness by stooping low, forgiving, and showing love.



**Peace.** True peace is more than the absence of conflict. It comes when we follow God's example of selflessness, giving up pride and selfish ambition to live in harmony with one another.

**Good will.** God's good will toward us is a gift that transforms our lives. Through Jesus, God invites us out of selfishness and sin into a life marked by love, kindness, and community.

The angels' song wasn't meant only for shepherds long ago. It still sings to us today, calling each of us to live in glory, peace, and good will.



Pondera Valley Women are selling RADA (Made in the USA kitchen tools) to raise money for benevolent projects! Check out the RADA catalog online:

<https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=1818332.f1ff6>



**Giving Tree gifts will need to be back by Thursday, Dec. 11th. THANK YOU!**

## Special Dates

Second Sunday of Advent, December 7  
Third Sunday of Advent, December 14  
PV's Christmas Program, Dec. 21st 10 a.m.  
First Day of Winter, December 21

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec. 21  
Christmas Eve, December 24  
Christmas Day, December 25  
New Year's Eve, December 31





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



## Christmas Card treasures



Turn old Christmas cards into beautiful keepsake ornaments! It's a fun, simple way to give new life to cards you've received and add a handmade touch to your tree.

### What you need:

- Christmas cards
- Scissors
- Glue
- Circle pattern (cut from cardboard or trace around object)
- Hole punch
- Yarn or ribbon
- Glitter (optional)



### What you do:

1. Trace a circle onto two Christmas cards.
2. Cut out the circles and glue the backs together.
3. Decorate the edges with glitter or ribbon for extra sparkle.
4. Punch a hole at the top and thread yarn or ribbon through to hang.

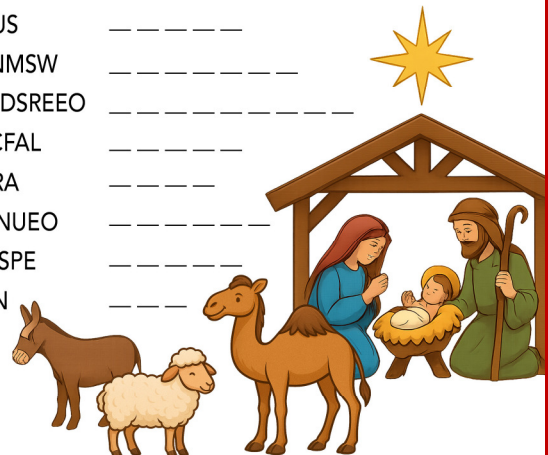
Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights.  
— James 1:17 (NIV)

# Puzzle!

## The Christmas Story

Unscramble each set of letters to form a word from the Christmas story. One letter in each set doesn't belong. Write each extra letter below, on the line above the correct number. Then answer the question: What did we all receive at Christmas?

- (1) TGLBEHHEME \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) NEAGLO \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) NRMEDAG \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) ODEKSNY \_\_\_\_\_
- (5) AMGYR \_\_\_\_\_
- (6) OHESJIP \_\_\_\_\_
- (7) EFJSUS \_\_\_\_\_
- (8) ITEENMSW \_\_\_\_\_
- (9) SPHDSREEO \_\_\_\_\_
- (10) EMCFAL \_\_\_\_\_
- (11) TLSRA \_\_\_\_\_
- (12) CSSNUEO \_\_\_\_\_
- (13) HEVSPE \_\_\_\_\_
- (14) ENIN \_\_\_\_\_



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8  
9 10 11 12 13 14

Answers: Bethlehem (G), Angel (O), Manger (D), Donkey (S), Sheep (V), Inn (E), God's gift of love (F), Wise men (T), Shepherds (O), Camel (F), Star (L), Census (O), Mary (G), Joseph (I), Jesus (P), HEVSPE (E), ENIN (N), CSSNUEO (O), TLSRA (A), EMCFAL (F), SPHDSREEO (S), ITEENMSW (E), EFJSUS (S), OHESJIP (H), AMGYR (Y), ODEKSNY (D), NRMEDAG (A), NEAGLO (G), TGLBEHHEME (E).



**PLEASE UPLIFT IN PRAYER... Illnesses or other concerns:** (*denotes relation to*) Karen Sutton (*Ruth Erickson*), John Gray, Cindy Fuson, Kelly Johns Leisinger, Molly Donath Kavanagh, Carol Kaldor, Tiller Judisch, Paxton Flesch, George Wood, Bob & Sue Kovatch, Christopher Burns, Chris Ketterling, (*Karla Breeding*), Lauren Davis, Don Dezelsky, Jim Skipper (*Linda O'Brien*), Art & Lori Pearson, Dave Kluver, Casey Kluver, (*Rona Matheson*), the Alicia Wood Family, Mary, (*Carol Wood*), Sara McLean, Ann Glimm, Kaitlyn and John Russett (*Tom Russett*), Tristan West, David Larson, Rebekah Thaut, Kariann Thaut (*Pinky Thaut*), Butch Johns, Kailey Judisch, Brenda Rhone, Loretta (*Louise Glimm*), Roger Brastrup, Teagan Bartoo, Faith Birnel Crouch (*Ruth Fladstol*), Poppy Dahl, 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:** Grief has no time table, please keep all who come to mind in your prayers...

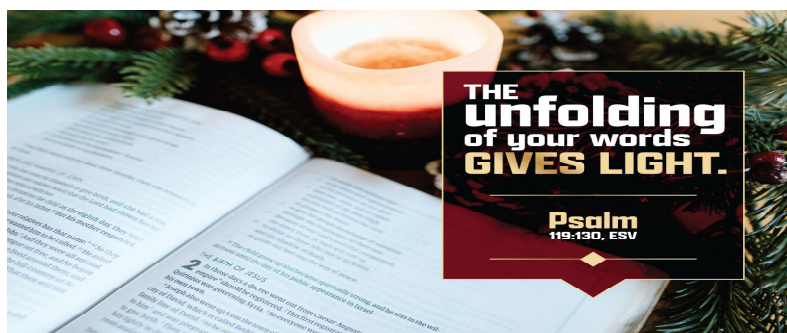
**Those deployed in the service abroad:** Brett Christensen (*Tunisia*), Tyler Rauscher (*Ben's wife, in the Middle East*)

*For an updated prayer list, inquire at the church office.*

### *Prayers to Prepare for Worship*

**Help us have quiet and joyful spirits as we worship you, our loving Creator.**

- ✝ “The LORD has done great things for us, and we [rejoice]” (Psalm 126:3, NRSV). Tune our hearts, God, to sing your praises now and always.
- ✝ Through Scripture, John the Baptist still urges people to prepare for Jesus’ coming. O God, make today’s worship and Christian fellowship part of our hearts’ preparation.
- ✝ [Christmas Eve] As the short days already begin to lengthen, nature itself reminds us that the true Light has come into the world. Tonight we celebrate his glory!
- ✝ [Christmas Day] Prevent us, Lord, from being so wrapped up in celebrating Christmas Day that we keep Christ outside our hearts and minds.
- ✝ Our Christmas celebrations are now a memory, Lord, but help us know Christmas joy all year long.
- ✝ [New Year’s Eve] “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3:1, NRSV). As one year turns into another, we trust that we’re safe in God’s eternal hands.



**THE  
unfolding  
of your words  
GIVES LIGHT.**

**Psalms  
119:130, ESV**

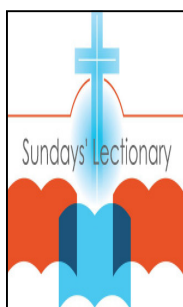


**GOLDEN WEST DECEMBER SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:30 a.m.**

**Ushers: Ken & Cyndi Johnson; Reader: Cyndi;  
Communion Assistant: Ken; Communion Preparer: Ken  
Christmas Eve Service, December 24th, is at 3 p.m.**

**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. Instructions would be made available.

<b>PONDERA VALLEY SUNDAY WORSHIP 10 a.m.</b>	<b>December 7th</b>	<b>December 14th</b>	<b>December 21st</b>	<b>December 24th (Christmas Eve) 5 p.m.</b>	<b>December 28th</b>
<b>Reader</b>	<b>Jim Morren</b>	<b>Kim Hofstad</b>	<b>Kim Hofstad</b>	<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Jim Adamson</b>
<b>Communion Assistants</b>		<b>Kim &amp; Ray Hofstad</b>		<b>Faith Weber &amp; Linda O'Brien</b>	<b>Linda &amp; Lyn Carlson</b>
<b>Usher &amp; Greet</b>	<b>Linda Welch and Ruth Erickson</b>				
<b>Communion Preparer</b>	<b>Donna Fowler</b>				
<b>Sound Tech.</b>	<b>Tom Russett</b>				
<b>Offering Custodian</b>	<b>Linda Welch and Ruth Erickson</b>				

**READ IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

Dec. 7 - Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

Dec. 14 - Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146; James 5:7-11; Matthew 11:2-15

Dec. 21 - Isaiah 7:10-17; Psalm 24; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Dec. 24 - Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 110:1-4; 1 John 4:7-16; Matthew 1:18-25

Dec. 25 - Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 2; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-18

Dec. 28 - Isaiah 63:7-14; Psalm 111; Galatians 4:4-7; Matthew 2:13-23