



CONRAD LUTHERAN PARISH

LOGOS

WORSHIP TIMES
8:30 a.m. Golden West
10 a.m. Pondera Valley

Part-time Pastor
Jeff Stoopes, Sun.-Tues.
Kim Wiest, Admin. Assistant
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Monday - Thursday, 9-4
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*“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth,
 where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.
 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor
 rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your
 treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:19-21*



PRE-SUPER BOWL

**NIGHT OF FOOD and FUN, GAMES
 and Music at Pondera Valley
 on Sat. February 8th at 6 p.m.
 It’s a community-wide event!**

Come enjoy soup & bread and bring your favorite ethnic
 dessert to share. Cribbage tournament and other games to follow with live music!
 Bring your game and have some fun!
 All donations go to benefit the Conrad Food Pantry: bring a can of food, or a
 free-will offering, or bid at the Silent Auction for a handmade pottery Super Bowl
 Soup Bowl ... or all three! Pastor Jeff Stoopes

 **Thank you to the radio broadcast sponsors on February 2nd at 11 a.m. on KZIN,
 96.7 FM: Ramsey & Betty Offerdal in loving memory of parents: *Oliver & Christine
 Offerdal, Chet Newell*, and Betty’s sisters: Mary Ann Wolery and Lela Kaiser.
 God bless the hearing of His word!**

From the Pastor

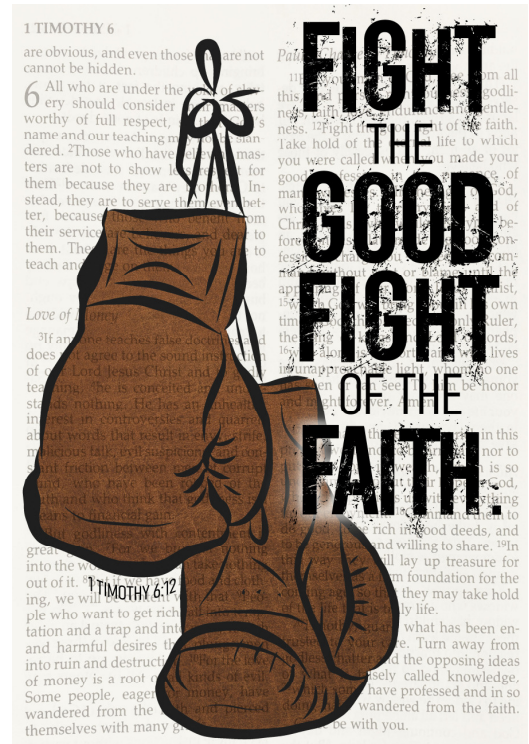
“Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom (Psalm 90:12).”

The Psalmist recognized our need for wisdom and also our need to consider the shortness of our earthly lives. We are creatures who must see our existence in the right light if we are to live into God’s purposes for us. Short-term pleasures are always tempting us to look no further than the next dopamine explosion in our brains. The more mature humans of all ages have recognized our need for wisdom to counter our proclivities for mindless excess. But knowing about our problem and actually *doing* something about it are two different things. That’s why groups like Alcoholics Anonymous exist. We can’t fight the good fight alone.

As I draw near to my 74th birthday on March 5th, I’m reminded of all the things my father tried to teach me when I was a boy. He was a faithful Christian gentleman of the old order who very kindly and patiently instructed me in all sorts of things - including avoiding stupid thinking and actions. When I did do something unwise and suffered the consequences for it, he would ask me, “Did you learn anything?” My face would flush, my gaze would drop to my feet, and I would try to assert that I had indeed learned my lesson. Sometimes, I actually did! God be praised! But it was my heavenly Father who did the heavy lifting in my conversion from folly to wisdom. The Spirit and word of God did all the interior work that made my dad’s words and example the spark that lit the fire.

We can’t fight the good fight alone. When St. Paul admonished Timothy to “fight the good fight of faith,” it was in view of his “taking hold

of eternal life” that made it a possibility (see 1 Timothy 6:1-16). That “taking hold” can only be accomplished when we are in communion with God through word and Spirit and in communion with Christ’s Church. That is where God promises to transform us, not in some self-chosen, inner sanctum of our own making.



Paul told Timothy, at the end of his earthly journey, that he had “fought the good fight.” He was finishing his race. He had kept the faith. He had been made wise by his Creator. “*Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness*” (see 2 Timothy 3:10-4:8). He had been made wise unto salvation by his gracious Creator. May we be made the same.

Pastor Jeff Stoopes

PONDERA VALLEY MEMORIALS Received for:

YOUTH EDUCATION FUND in memory of **Kathy Walter** - Larry & Rose Banka, Harold & Betty Olson, Ryan & Elodie Rauscher, Janet & Wade Spears, Ron & Jeanne Moon, Ray & Kim Hofstad, Pat Lee

GENERAL FUND in memory of **????** - Dave & Carol Thornton (AZ) - no address/memorial name given

GENERAL FUND in memory of **Charlie Hardeland** - Linda Welch, Bob & Annette Inabnit, Mark & Arlene, Gary & Becky Gollehon, Lynn Ostrom, Chris & Vicki Kolstad

PVLC FOUNDATION in memory of **Dan Felska** - Lyn & Linda Carlson

THANK YOU to EVERYONE!

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

Online:

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.

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.

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 those who volunteer for jobs each Sunday! Finding Readers and Communion Preparers: Page Russett; Finding Ushers: Linda Van Tongeren; Altar Cloths: Pat Lee; Banners: Wanda Bandow; Kitchen Crew: there's others but the mainstays are: Tom Russett, Carolyn Widhalm, and Dick Kinyon; Communion Preparers: Betty Olson, Kim Hofstad, Wanda Bandow, Wanda Bollinger, Linda Carlson, Carol Wood, Betty Offerdal, Pat Lee, Kim Wiest, Patty Larson, Tom & Page Russett, Linda O'Brien, and Donna Fowler; those who usher: Terry & Julene Peters, Erik & Stacy Eneboe, Randy & Peggy Young, Olson & Bollinger, Jessily Seidler and Stephanie Haugestuen, Kim & Ray Hofstad, Page & Tom Russett, Mike & Linda O'Brien, Betty & Ramsey Offerdal; Readers: Dick Kinyon, Faith Weber, Jim Adamson, Jim Morren, Linda O'Brien, Kim Wiest, Stacy Eneboe, David Berg, Lyn Carlson, and Kim Hofstad; Betty Olson who helps Kim Wiest count money each week; Shauna Ellefsen and Donna Fowler who do such a beautiful job of decorating the Fellowship Hall, and Shauna who keeps the kitchen well stocked and organized. SEE?! I've run out of room and I'm sure I'm just getting started! **THANK YOU!**

♥ **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.

January
 Pastoral Acts: Charlie Hardeland's funeral at PV 12/28, Kathy Walter's funeral at PV 1/4.
 Pondera Valley Offering: **\$9,740.00**
 PV Average Sunday Attendance: **50**
 GW Average Sunday Attendance: **11**



WEDNESDAY NIGHT EDUCATION

4-5 p.m. for 3 year olds - 6th grade in the Youth Room

Education Board: *Donna Fowler, Julene Peters, Linda O'Brien, Mary Klette, Amanda Lesnik, Faith Weber, Kim Hofstad*

Join a Bible Study!

☞ Sundays at 9 a.m. for Women in the Youth Room

☞ Mondays at Noon for Women in the church library

☞ Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. for Men with Breakfast in the F.H.

☞ Tuesdays at 9 a.m. for Women in the F.H.

☞ AT GOLDEN WEST, 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m.



Pondera Valley had their annual meeting on January 19th. All reports were accepted and many were thanked. Elected to the council were: Faith Weber, Kim Hofstad, Ruth Erickson, and Tom Russett; to the Foundation: Drew Lesnik, Ray Hofstad and Jeanne Moon; to the Ed. Board: Mary Klette; as a Horizon Lodge Representative: Wanda Bandow; to the Benevolence Committee: Linda O'Brien, Art Pearson, Ramsey Offerdal, Jr, Leslee Weber, and Erik Eneboe; to the Nominating Committee: Kim Hofstad, Kim Wiest, Ruth Erickson, Mike O'Brien, and Lynn Utterback. The pictorial directory will be going to the printer soon and so we should expect them in mid-February. Pastor Jeff will be connecting with First Presbyterian and St. Michael's Catholic pastors to determine a theme and schedule for the Lenten lunches which will be begin on March 6th at noon and go through April 10th. Watch for more info and sign-ups to help! Also planned is a Pre-Super Bowl night of fun here at Pondera Valley. It will be a community

event and begin at 6 p.m. with soups and breads. Everyone is to bring a ethnic dessert to share. Games and music will start after dinner. There will be sign-up soon for this too. Following a nice potluck, the council met. Officers were elected: Susan Gustafson, President; Linda Welch, Vice President; Stacy Eneboe, Secretary; Lyn Carlson, Treasurer; Karla Breeding, Financial Secretary; Faith Weber and Kim Hofstad to serve from the council on the Board of Education. Council members signed up for the meeting devotions, offering custodians, and committees. **The next council meeting will be Monday, February 10th at 6:30 p.m. The first 15 minutes will be committees meeting.**

Golden West had their annual meeting on January 26th. Elected were: Elaine McLean, President; Ken Johnson, Vice President; Cathi Hemry, Secretary; Bill McLean, Treasurer; Rona Matheson, Trustee; Carl Flesch, Deacon; and Chris Bjelland, Endowment Fund.

The Challenge of Scripture

A few years back *GQ* magazine included the Bible on a list of 21 books not worth reading, calling the text “repetitive” and “foolish” (among other things). Pushback came from both secular and religious folks.

Writing in *USA Today*, Tim Swarens argued that even if you don’t believe in God, the Bible helps you understand Western culture, history, current events, and your neighbors.

For Christians, the Bible - God’s inspired Word - reveals God’s love and will. It isn’t always easy to read or process, but no other book contains such good news.

As Daniell Shroyer writes in *Original Blessing*, “Scripture is a sacred book meant to provoke us in ways that will move us toward God. And often, that is the very last thing we are looking for. We would rather have an answer, a simple plan, even a nicely tidy moral story. But Scripture

gives us none of these things, because the holy is anything but domestic. We go looking to find a plan and instead are sent on a treasure hunt.”

In reading and studying the scripture we learn we can trust God. God’s best for us is always to draw us to Him and into godly maturity, becoming more like Him. It is a process and a treasure.



“To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others, use your heart.” - Eleanor Roosevelt

“If you can find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn’t lead anywhere.” - Frank A. Clark

“Vegetables are a must on a diet. I suggest carrot cake, zucchini bread and pumpkin pie.” - Jim Davis

“No thief, however skillful, can rob one of knowledge, and that is why knowledge is the best and safest treasure to acquire.” - L. Frank Baum

From the Heart

John Bunyan said, “In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart.” A story told by a 19th-century Jewish rabbi shares the same idea: A disheveled old man entered a synagogue for the first time. Not realizing he was holding the prayer book upside down, he tried to follow the congregation’s singing, but his words were incorrect. Finally, he simply looked toward heaven, repeating one Hebrew word over and over.

After worship, some people complained to the rabbi, “Why didn’t you ask him to leave?” He replied, “That man said more to God with his one word than some of us will ever say in our whole lives. God hears the words of the heart.”

Happy Valentine's Day!

Many of us celebrate Valentine's Day in both fun and serious ways. Children exchange treats and humorous cards with classmates and friends; some bring home handmade cards for the adults in their lives. Romantic partners may go out to eat and present each other flowers, chocolate, a fancy card — maybe even an engagement ring!

As playful as Valentine's Day can be, it's also a great time to remember the serious side of love, as indicated by these quotes:

“When you love someone, you love the whole person as he or she is, and not as you would like them to be.”
—Leo Tolstoy

“You don't love someone because they're perfect; you love them in spite of the fact that they're not.”
—Jodi Picoult

“Love ... is quiet understanding, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving ... It settles for less than perfection and makes allowances for human weaknesses.”
—Ann Landers

We can do the difficult work of true love — actions, not just feelings — only because God loved us first. He did (and does) so despite our imperfection, and in Jesus, God shows us how to share true love with others. This Valentine's Day, if you don't remember any other profound quotes, hold this one in your heart:

“We love because God first loved us.” 1 John 4:19 (NCV)



The Role of a Lifetime

We grow up when we see our life and our role from God's perspective; when we thank God for the role he has assigned us and begin to see our cup as a gift instead of a cross; when each morning we ask, “God, how can I glorify you today in my given role?”
-Linda Dillow, *Calm My Anxious Heart*

Lord of heaven and earth, we offer you our deepest gratitude for this country and the freedom to worship you. Stir up a sense of stewardship so we all may care for our nation and each inhabitant of it.



We pray especially for our leaders, that you will bless them with wisdom and humility. Prompt everyone in positions of authority to pursue righteousness, justice and the welfare of all. Remind us of the psalmist's teaching: “Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord” (Psalm 33:12, NRSV). May that promise be fulfilled “from sea to shining sea.” Amen.

Special dates

- ◆ African American History Month
- ◆ Valentine's Day, *February 14th*
- ◆ Presidents Day, *February 17th*



Pray for our leaders.

God is LOVE.
1 JOHN 4:16



a lovely aroma

Make this sweet-smelling gift for a friend or valentine.


What you need:

- Colored felt
- Scrap paper
- Permanent marker
- Scissors
- String
- Essential oils (rose, lavender, etc.)

What you do:

1. Draw a flower shape on paper and cut it out.
2. Place the flower template on felt and draw around it with the marker.
3. Cut out the felt flower. Then cut a small slit or hole through it.
4. Cut 8 inches of string. Thread it through the felt flower and tie to form a loop for hanging.
5. To the felt, add 3 to 5 drops of essential oil. This air freshener will last about 2 weeks.
6. Revive the scent, as needed, by adding a few drops of essential oil.

www.holyfamilytime.com A great resource!

PUZZLE 

THE LOVE CYCLE

In 1 John 4, God instructs us to love other people. Where does our love come from?

Directions: Starting at #1 and going clockwise, solve each clue to create a new four-letter word. Then write the eighth word in both blanks below to complete 1 John 4:19, NIV.

We _____ because [God] first _____ us.

1 John 4:19, NIV

CLUES

2. change 1 letter: a tent to play in
3. change 2 letters: a crease in paper
4. change 1 letter: a precious metal
5. change 2 letters: a beautiful dress
6. change 1 letter: opposite of up
7. change 2 letters: a type of bird
8. change 1 letter: God is this (see 1 John 4:16).

Answers: fort, fold, gold, gown, down, dove, love; We love because [God] first loved us. 1 John 4:19, NIV

BIBLE QUIZ

The short Old Testament book of Lamentations is a set of communal laments (sorrowful songs) about the destruction in 587 B.C. of which city, by which people?

- A. Babylon; the Assyrians
- B. Jerusalem; the Babylonians
- C. Rome; the Greeks
- D. Caesarea Philippi; the Romans

Answer: B
(See Bible commentaries.)





PLEASE UPLIFT IN PRAYER... Illnesses or other concerns: *(denotes relation to)*
 Karen Sutton (*Ruth Erickson*), John Gray, Carol Kaldor, Christopher Burns, Colby Johns*, Lori Pocock Fletcher, Ron Iverson, Art & Lori Pearson, Dave Kluver, (*Rona Matheson*), Rose Johns, Erik Dommer, Mary, Barbara (*Carol Wood*), Sara McLean, Denny Hepp (*Andrew Bishop*), Tom Robinson, Ann Glimm, Kathryn Olson, Sandy Webb, David Unger (*Joanne Unger*), Kaitlyn and John Russett (*Tom Russett*), Tristan West, David Larson, Rebekah Thaut, Kariann Thaut (*Pinky Thaut*), Don Bandow, Brett Stanley, Brenda Rhone, Loretta (*Louise Glimm*), Roger Brastrup, Teagan Bartoo, Faith Birnel Crouch (*Ruth Fladstol*), Rose Peterman, 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: *name those you know of...*

Those deployed in the service abroad:

***THERE IS A FUND SET UP AT STOCKMAN BANK for COLBY JOHNS**

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

Prayers to Prepare for Worship

- ♥ Jesus, this Valentine’s month and all year long, help me live in love so that, whatever else I do, I will not be “a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal” (1 Corinthians 13:1, NRSV).
- ♥ Wherever you call me to go this week, Lord, may I respond like Isaiah: “Here I am. Send me” (Isaiah 6:8). And may my time at worship today strengthen me to do just that.
- ♥ God, I come to you with many preoccupations. Settle my spirit in the embrace of your love and peace. Amen.
- ♥ As days grow longer and we continue to celebrate your light this Epiphany season, dear Jesus, help us spread kindness and compassion in ever-widening circles as testimony to you.



GRIEF SUPPORT

(formerly GriefShare)

will be starting up in March at Pondera Valley!

Please Contact Pat Lee now if you are interested! 406-278-3938

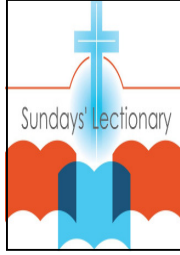


GOLDEN WEST SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:30 a.m.
Ushers: Carl & Jenny Flesch; Reader: Jenny Flesch;
Communion Assistant: Jim Bjelland; Communion Preparer: Chris Bjelland

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 10 a.m.	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23
Reader	Kim Wiest	Kim Wiest	Dick Kinyon	Dick Kinyon
Communion Assistants		Kim Wiest & Elodie Rauscher		Elodie Rauscher & Kim Wiest
Usher & Greet	Erik & Stacy Eneboe			
Communion Preparer	Wanda Bandow			
Sound Tech.	Lynn Utterback			
Offering Custodian	Stacy Eneboe			





Sundays' Lectionary

READ IN PREPARATION FOR SUNDAY MORNINGS

Feb. 2 - Jeremiah 1:4-10, 17-19; Psalm 71:1-11; 1 Cor. 12:31b--13:13; Luke 4:31-44

Feb. 9 - Isaiah 6:1-13; Psalm 138; 1 Cor. 14:12b-20; Luke 5:1-11

Feb. 16 - Jeremiah 17:5-8; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:1-20; Luke 6:17-26

Feb. 23 - Genesis 45:3-15; Psalm 103:1-13; 1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42; Luke 6:27-38