



CONRAD LUTHERAN PARISH

LOGOS

WORSHIP TIMES

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

10 a.m. Pondera Valley, fellowship afterward

This is what the Lord says, He who is your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the Lord your God, who teaches you to benefit, Who leads you in the way you should go.

Isaiah 48:17



Pastor Jeff Driscoll
Kim Wiest, Admin. Assistant
Office # 271-3934
P.O. Box 883
Office Hours:
Pastor: Mon. - Weds., 9 -12
Kim: Mon. - Thurs., 9-4
In an emergency call:
Pastor Jeff, 360-631-4707 or
Kim Wiest, 406-450-5821.
conradlutheran@gmail.com

Pastor Jeff will be on vacation
October 12th - 21st

Pastor Appreciation: Grateful for Faithful Leadership

- ♥ **October is Pastor Appreciation Month.** Let us be grateful for **Pastor Jeff Driscoll** and take the opportunity to thank him for teaching, encouraging, praying and caring for our congregation. May we honor his faithful service, support him with our prayers and remind him that his ministry makes a meaningful difference in the lives of many.
- ♥ **October 25th, Reformation Sunday/Confirmation Day** for: **Charlie Mulvaney, Keltey Fowler, and Leiko Judisch.** Wear RED! Cake reception in their honor following service.
Reformation Sunday: Standing Firm in Faith Reformation Sunday reminds us of the enduring gift of God's Word and the truth that we are saved by grace through faith. May we remain rooted in Scripture, grateful for those who have carried the faith before us and committed to sharing the good news with future generations.
- ♥ **A Harvest of Gratitude :** The colors and beauty of autumn remind us that every season carries evidence of God's goodness. As we enjoy cooler days and changing leaves, may we pause to give thanks for His provision and share our blessings with those around us. And put **Golden West's Praise & Thanks** on your calendar for November 8th at 2 p.m.!



Thank you to the radio broadcast sponsors of October 4th at 11 a.m. on KZIN, 96.7 FM: Nancy Herman Pringle in loving memory of her parents, **Robert & Evelyn Herman.**

God bless the hearing of His word!

Title: Called, Not Hired

There's a peculiar habit modern Christians have fallen into: we talk about evangelism the way a corporation talks about market share. We speak of "reaching" demographics, of "growing" attendance, of church "branding" and "outreach strategy." We hire staff to do it. We form committees to plan it. And somewhere in all that strategic language, we've quietly convinced ourselves that evangelism is something the institution does — a program, a campaign, a line item in the budget — rather than something that happens, necessarily and unavoidably, in the ordinary speech of ordinary baptized people.

This is a mistake, and it's worth naming plainly: the church does not evangelize. Christians do.

The church, as an institution, gathers, baptizes, preaches, and administers the sacraments. That is its proper work, and it is glorious work. But the church as an organization has never once told a neighbor about Jesus. It cannot. Only you can do that — a person with a mouth, a memory, a life, and a neighbor standing in front of you (because God sent them there to you) who is drowning in something the neighbor cannot name. Evangelism is not corporate; it is intensely, unavoidably personal. It is what happens when a baptized man or woman, going about the business of being human, opens their mouth and tells the truth about where hope actually comes from.

This is why Luther's doctrine of vocation matters so much here, and why it gets lost so easily. Luther didn't teach that some Christians have the vocation of "evangelist" while the rest of us are off the hook, free to let the professionals handle it. He taught that every baptized Christian has been given, in baptism itself, a standing summons to love and serve the neighbor in whatever station they occupy — and that includes speaking the gospel where it's needed. You don't need ordination for this. You don't need a training seminar, though those can help. You need a neighbor in trouble and a word that isn't yours to keep.

And that gets us to the real heart of it — the reason evangelism can't be outsourced to an institution in the first place. The gospel, by its

very nature, is a word that comes to us extra nos — from outside ourselves. This is basic to everything Luther recovered. You do not find the gospel by searching your own heart. You do not construct it out of your own religious feeling or moral effort. It comes to you from outside — through water, through bread and wine, through the mouth of another human being telling you what God has done for you in Christ. Faith, Paul says, comes by hearing. Someone has to speak.

But here is what we so often miss: if the gospel comes to us extra nos, it also goes out from us extra nos to the next person. It doesn't originate in you. You're not manufacturing good news out of your own spiritual resources when you tell someone that Christ died for the ungodly, that his mercy doesn't wait for you to clean yourself up first. You're simply passing along a word that was given to you by somebody else, who got it from somebody else, in an unbroken chain running all the way back to an empty tomb. You are not the source. You are the mouth God has decided to use this time.

That should take an enormous weight off your shoulders. You don't have to be eloquent. You don't have to have your own life in perfect order — thank God, because none of us do. You are not responsible for manufacturing conviction in someone else's heart, or engineering the moment, or closing the sale. That was never your job and it was never within your power anyway. Your job is much smaller and much stranger: to say the word that was said to you. To hand over what you did not make.

Think about who is actually positioned to do this. Not the church staff, most of the time — they don't know your coworker who just lost her husband, or your brother-in-law who hasn't set foot in a sanctuary in fifteen years and won't, or the guy from the next farm over who mentioned, almost in passing, that he can't sleep anymore. You know them. You're already there. The mission field was never "out there" somewhere requiring a plane ticket and a committee; it is the break room, the sideline at your kid's football game, the phone call you've been avoiding making. God, in his strange wisdom, has placed you exactly where you need to be to

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PONDERA VALLEY MEMORIALS Received for:

Office Equipment Updates in memory **Diana Hoy** - Kevin & Jan Fisher,
Kari Ratliff

GOLDEN WEST MEMORIALS Received for:

Golden West Women in memory of **Helen Bjelland** - Arlyn & Sandra Seidler, Ron & Cathi Hemry, Roy & Karen Hollandsworth, Bill & Elaine McLean, Carl & Jenny Flesch

THANK YOU!

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.
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.*

♥ Thank you volunteers delivering Meals on Wheels in September: Page Russett & Kim Wiest, Linda Carlson, Ryan & Elodie Rauscher, Mike & Gail Klette, and Betty Olson & Wanda Bollinger. If any one would like to volunteer for Meals on Wheels, please call the office, 406-271-3934. "Many hands make light work!"

♥ **Our Organists, Carol Gunderson and Carol Johns...**aren't they the greatest?! Thank you Carol and Carol for the music, the hours of practice and playing you provide for us and the community. We love you and appreciate 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**

SEPTEMBER Pastoral Acts: none

Pondera Valley Offering: **\$ 9,040.00**

PV Average Sunday Attendance: **58**

GW Average Sunday Attendance: **16**

Joint Worship at PV on 9/20/26: 73

**Youth Education** Preschool - 6th grade**Wednesdays, 3:45 - 5 p.m., in Youth Room***October 14th there will be NO Wednesday Night Education***Confirmation** 7th grade - and up**Wednesdays, 7—8 p.m., FH**

**Contacts listed...but
all are welcome to
just show up!**

FOR MEN — Tuesdays, 6:30 a.m. for breakfast and Study, contact Tom Russett: 406-576-7123

FOR WOMEN —

One Sunday a month at 9 a.m. in church library. Contact Stacy Eneboe: 406-271-9156.

Mondays at Noon in church library. Contact Linda Carlson: 406-271-3507.

Tuesdays at 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall Contact Julene Peters: 406-788-5562.

2nd Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. @ Golden West Church Contact Ruth Fladstol: 406-627-2113.



**GW Council
met on Weds.**

Sept. 9th. Praise & Thanks will be November 8th at 2 p.m.

We will do a joint service on Sept 20th at 9 a.m. in Conrad for the Art Pearson Brunch.

The next council meeting will be Thurs. Oct. 22nd at 10 a.m.

PV Council met on Mon. Sept. 14th. Pastor's report shared that when his wife,

Nikki arrives, they will have more dogs and the contract with PVLC's parsonage states only 1 pet allowed. Pastor said, a simple solution would be that he could buy a house. After discussion that is what was decided to do. Pastor & Nikki will be buying a house here in Conrad! The Mission team reports were gone through. Confirmation and youth education will be starting soon. A new snow removal business will be needed for this next winter season. Also, some

repairs will be done above the organ on the ceiling/wall. Change in worship time this next Sunday, Sept. 20th at 9 a.m. with a Joint service here with Golden West will allow for a benefit brunch and bake sale to be held following for Art & Lori Pearson. Pastor will be gone October 12th - 21st for his daughter's wedding.

The next council meeting will be October 12th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

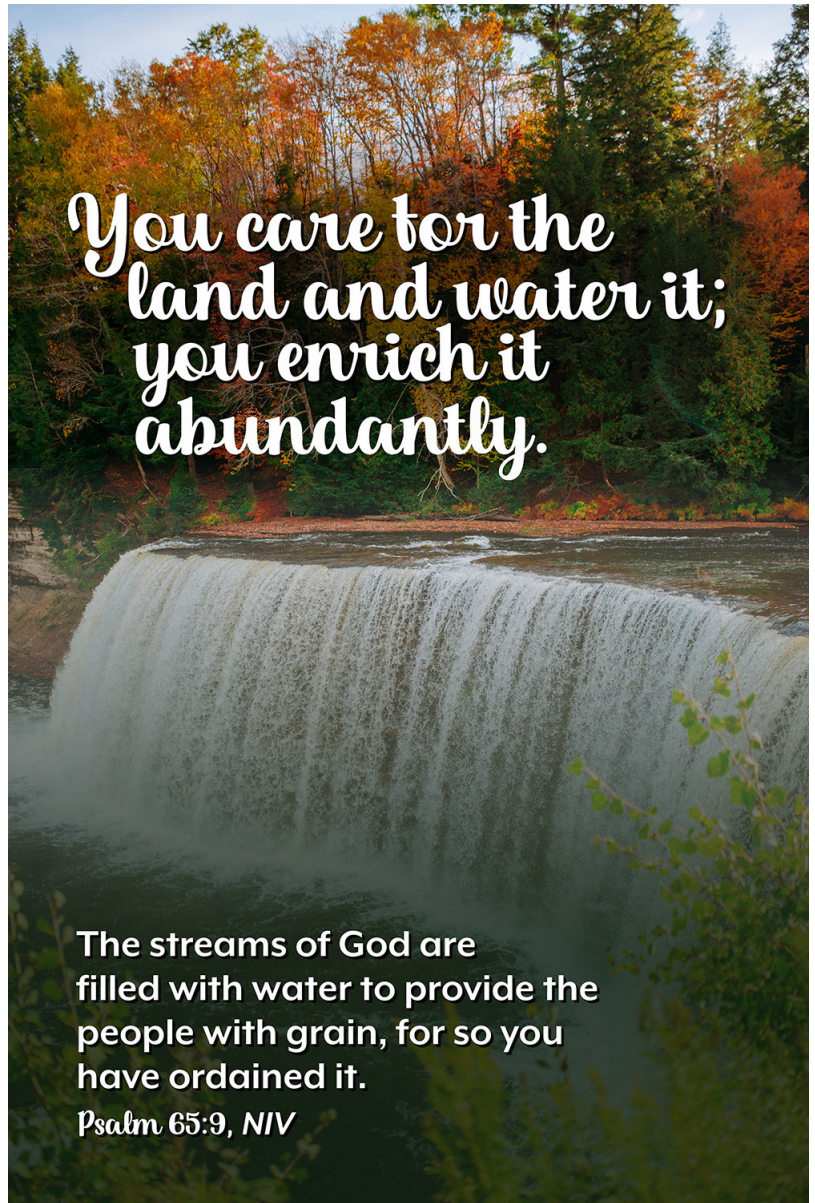
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Speak a word of hope to someone who has no other way of hearing it except through you.

This is not a burden laid on you to perform. It flows out of what has already been done to you. You were baptized — drowned and raised, claimed by a word spoken over you before you did anything to deserve it. That word didn't stay locked inside the font. It goes where you go. Working out your baptism, as Paul puts it, doesn't mean earning what you've already been given; it means living as the person that gift has made you — a person entrusted with good news, standing next to people who desperately need some.

So the next time you hear "evangelism" and your mind jumps to strategy and slogans, stop. Think instead of your own mouth, your own neighbor, your own baptism. Somebody spoke the gospel to you extra nos, when you couldn't have found it on your own. Now, in the strange economy of God's grace, it's your turn to be the outside word for somebody else. Not because the church assigned it to you, but because Christ already did, in the water, a long time ago.

God's Peace,
Pastor Jeff



*You care for the
land and water it;
you enrich it
abundantly.*

**The streams of God are
filled with water to provide the
people with grain, for so you
have ordained it.**

Psalms 65:9, NIV



Charging Forward in Stewardship

Rhinoceroses are remarkable creatures. Strong, sturdy and surprisingly fast, a rhino is built to protect. When it senses

danger, especially near its herd or its young, it does not hesitate. It moves with focus, strength and purpose.

There may be a stewardship lesson for us in that.

God has entrusted each of us with gifts, time and resources to use for his kingdom. When opportunities come to serve, give, encourage or help, faithful stewards do not stand

still and wait for someone else to go first. They respond with willing hearts and steady faith.

Stewardship is not passive. It calls us to move with purpose, give with conviction and serve with the strength God provides. May we be quick to answer God's call, bold in putting our faith into action and faithful in caring for the people and work God has placed before us.

You're Needed!

Even though my typewriter is an old model, it works quite well—except for one key. I have many times wished it worked perfectly. It's true that the other keys work great, but just one key not working makes a huge difference.



needed

Sometimes our church seems like my typewriter — not all the key people work. You may say to yourself, "Well, I'm just one

person. I don't make or break the church." But it does make a big difference because a church, to be effective, needs the active participation of every person.

So, the next time you think your efforts aren't necessary, remember my typewriter and say to yourself, "I'm a key person in the congregation, and I'm needed very much."



CHRISTIAN SYMBOL ... THE LAMP — In Bible times, lamps were small but essential sources of light, especially during the dark hours of night. Scripture often uses the image of a lamp to represent God's guidance, truth and wisdom. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path," reminding believers that God's Word directs

each step of life. Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids also connects the lamp with wisdom and spiritual readiness (Matthew 25:1-13). In addition, the lamp is sometimes used to symbolize the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the gift of life itself. Because of these meanings, the lamp has become a lasting symbol of God's guidance, faithful living and the light of Christ shining in the darkness.

Special Dates for October 2026

- Pastor Appreciation Month
- Columbus Day, Indigenous Peoples Day, and Canadian Thanksgiving, *October 12*
- Reformation Sunday, *October 25*
- Reformation Day, *October 31*

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>

Martin Luther's First Posting



Puzzle!

NAMES OF GOD

Every name of God tells us something about his power, love and care for his people. Use the Scripture clues to uncover just some of these special names.



F _____ (Matthew 6:9)

A _____ and O _____ (Revelation 1:8)

I A _____ (Exodus 3:14)

Y _____ (Exodus 6:2-3)

G _____ M _____ H _____ (Genesis 14:19)

G _____ A _____ (Genesis 17:1)

R _____ (Psalm 18:2)

J _____ (Psalm 75:7)

F _____ (Psalm 18:2)

H _____ O _____ (Isaiah 40:25)

Answer key: Father, Alpha and Omega, I AM, Yahweh, God Most High, God Almighty, Rock, Judge, Fortress, Holy One

www.holvfamilytime.com A great resource!



A Family of Prayer

Acts tells us about a man named Cornelius. He was a Roman soldier who worshiped God and prayed with his family. God used Cornelius to help Peter learn an important truth: God welcomes everyone who loves Him and does what is right.

Solve the math problems using the grid. Then use the key to find the letter for each answer. Write each letter on the blank to discover what Cornelius and his family did.

GRID	
A	B
2	4
C	D
6	5

KEY

a = 7 e = 8
i = 10 o = 9
u = 11 y = 6

"He _____ and _____ ll h _____ s f _____ m _____ l _____
A+C A+D A+D B+C A+D B+C A+B

w _____ r _____ d _____ v _____ t _____ nd
A+C A+C A+C B+D C+D A+D

G _____ d-f _____ r _____ ng; h _____ g _____ v _____
B+D A+C A+D B+C A+C A+D A+C

g _____ n _____ r _____ sl _____ t _____ th _____ s _____ n
A+C A+C B+D C+D A+B B+D B+D A+C B+C

n _____ d _____ nd pr _____ y _____ d t _____ G _____ d
A+C A+C A+D A+D A+B A+C B+D

r _____ g _____ l _____ rl _____ ." _____ cts 10:2, NIV
A+C C+D A+D A+B A+D

Answers: "He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly." Acts 10:2, NIV

"Christians never have to choose between standing firm on scripture and being kind.

We are called to do both at the same time." Michelle Lesley, *Discipleship for Christian Women*





PLEASE UPLIFT IN PRAYER... Illnesses or other concerns:

(denotes relation to) John Gray, Kelly Johns Leisinger, Molly Donath Kavanagh, Lori Wetendorf, Amber Miller (*Sharon Parks*), Bob & Sue Kovatch, Dave Bliss, Kelly Syvertson, Christopher Burns, Chris Ketterling, (*Karla Breding*), Jim Skipper, Kathy(₂Linda O'Brien), Art & Lori Pearson, Cindy Fuson, Rolene, Dave Kluver, Casey Kluver, (₃Rona Matheson), the Alicia Wood Family, Mary, Cheryl, (₂Carol Wood), Sara McLean, Ann

Glimm, Tristan West, David Larson, Rebekah Thaut, Kariann Thaut (₂Pinky Thaut), Kailey Judisch, Brenda Rhone, Loretta (₂Louise Glimm), Kaitlyn and John Russett (*Tom Russett*), Roger Brastrup, Teagan Bartoo, Faith Birnel Crouch (₃Ruth 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, war and other issues, CASA -the kids and all who work with them

All those who mourn: Kathy Hager, Roger Schlosser, grief has no time table - please keep all who come to mind in your prayers...

Those deployed in the service abroad: Ben Rauscher, Chance Rauscher (*Japan*), Brett Christensen (*Central Republic of Africa*)

For an updated prayer list, or to update the list, call the church office, 406-271-3934.

Prayers to Prepare for Worship

- ♥ Keep our minds and spirits focused on you, O Lord, that we may not miss your message to us. Amen.
- ♥ Prepare our hearts, O Lord, as we come to your table. Help us remember the sacrifice of Christ, receive your grace with gratitude and live as one body in your love. Amen.
- ♥ Fill our minds with holy thoughts, O Lord, that we may think what you would have us think and worship you with purity of heart. Amen.
- ♥ Open our hearts to your Word, O Lord, and renew our faith by your truth. May we worship with grateful spirits and follow Christ with courage, humility and joy. Amen.



The song: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

- Author: Written by Martin Luther between 1521 and 1529 (most likely in 1527–1528).
- A Hymn of Comfort: Although called a battle hymn, Luther originally intended it as a song of encouragement and comfort during difficult times, (intense religious persecution).
- Metaphors: Compares God to a strong fortress and a "bulwark" (a defensive wall) that never fails against life's troubles.
- Spiritual Warfare: Acknowledges the power of an "ancient foe" (the devil), but emphasizes that Jesus Christ is the ultimate victor who secures salvation and cannot be defeated. *Taken from an AI overview.*

OCTOBER GOLDEN WEST SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:30 a.m.

**Ushers: Sandra Seidler; Reader: Sandra;
Communion Assistant: Elaine Gray; Communion Preparer: Sandra**

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.

OCTOBER PONDERA VALLEY SUNDAY WORSHIP 10 a.m.	October 4th	October 11th	October 18th	October 25th
Reader	Leiko Judisch	Jim Adamson	Kim Hofstad	Jim Adamson
Communion Assistants		Ruth Erickson & Linda Welch		Wanda Bandow & Kim Wiest
Usher & Greet	Tom & Page Russett			
Communion Preparer	Tom & Page Russett			
Sound Tech.	Betty Offerdal			
Offering Custodian	Tom Russett			

**READ IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

Oct. 4 - Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-19; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

Oct. 11 - Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:4-13; Matthew 22:1-14

Oct. 18 - Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

Oct. 25 REFORMATION DAY - Revelation 14:6-7; Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36

