



CONRAD LUTHERAN PARISH

LOGOS

NEW FOREVER WORSHIP TIMES!

8:30 a.m. Golden West

10 a.m. Pondera Valley

Part-time Pastor
Jeff Stoores, Sun.-Tues.
Kim Wiest, Admin. Assistant
Office # 271-3934/P.O. Box 883
Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday, 9-4
In an emergency call:
Pastor Jeff, 390-5449 or
Kim Wiest, 450-5821.
conradlutheran@gmail.com

For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:5-8



April Reminders:

- ◆ Worship times change permanently in **April** to:
8:30 a.m. for Golden West and 10 a.m. for Pondera Valley
- ◆ **April 14th** - PV Members should have received a letter in the mail announcing a congregational meeting for this day. See **page 5** for more information.
- ◆ **April 14th** at Golden West, they will honor the kids following **8:30 a.m. Worship**
- ◆ **April 21st & 28th** - a special offering will be taken at the door of the sanctuary at Pondera Valley for the new chairs purchased for the Fellowship Hall, Library, Choir Loft, and back of the church. See **page 6**.
- ◆ **FIRST COMMUNION CLASS** (5th Grade +) will meet Mondays, **April 8, 15, & 22** at **6:30 p.m.** in the PV library. Each class will last an hour. First Communion will be during **10 a.m. Worship April 28th**. Call the office, 271-3934 if you are interested.
- ◆ **NEW MEMBERS CLASS!** Contact Pastor or the church office if you are interested!

Thank you to the radio broadcast sponsors on April 7th on KZIN, 96.7 FM at 11am :

Michelle, Jody, & Kaia Fowler in loving memory of Elaine & Harlan Schram.

And by Dennis & Dawne Stokes in loving memory of Marilyn, Dick & Jeanne Eckstein and Carson Stokes.

God bless the hearing of His word!



Pastor's Letter

Do you have a favorite memory of Spring? Allow me to share one of my favorites. I often wait to go fly fishing, here in Montana, for the first time in a new year in late April. Green-up has begun. I like a nice warm day, with no wind, to go out for the first fishing excursion. One of my favorite spots to wade fish is where Sheep Creek empties into the Missouri River across I-15 from Tower Rock. After rigging up my rod and getting all my gear in place, I walk from the Fishing Access Site parking lot through the newly leafed-out cottonwoods and other deciduous trees. The aroma of these trees and other newly sprouted plants is almost intoxicating. To fill one's lungs with this natural elixir is a delightful experience after a long Montana winter. Perhaps you have similar "Ah, Spring!" experiences.

Moving from the natural delights of springtime to the spiritual delight we may experience in this life, I have been blessed with times of refreshment after long spells of "trudging through the snow". We can get weary of the troubles, disappointments, and hardships of life. Hopes can fade away, loved ones and friends pass away. The dark things in our cultural environment may wear us down. It's like the experience of the

disciples of Jesus after his crucifixion, death, and burial. The forlorn disciples whom the resurrected Jesus met on the road to Emmaus had downcast faces as they told him, "... we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel (Luke 24:21)." Jesus responded with, "How foolish you are, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?"



Darkness, suffering, death, all that saps life from us is not the greatest reality. The resurrected Jesus has overcome all of that and has entered New Creation glory. That ultimate spiritual refreshment is yet in our future. But even now we may be caught up into it by faith. Trusting ourselves into the loving care of our Lord is the way out of our dark winters and into the springtime of hope and renewed life.

Pastor Jeff Stoopes

PONDERA VALLEY MEMORIALS Received:

GENERAL FUND in memory of **Vernon Gjullin** - Steve & Rona Matheson
in memory of **Judy Ketterling** - Pam & Matthew Wittmier

GOLDEN WEST WOMEN in memory of **Hilda Matheson** - Jim & Chris Bjelland

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. |
|--|---|---|

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.*

☞ Depending on when you read this...Thank you to Tom & Page Russett and Kim & Ray Hofstad for the Easter breakfast at PV! (If you read this before Easter, breakfast will be served from 7-9 a.m.!)

☞ Thank you to all those who came and helped unload and unpack the new chairs: Eddy Erickson, Dick Kinyon, Kim & Ray Hofstad, Mikel Martin, Dave Widhalm, Gary Boe, Lynn Utterback, Linda Carlson, Julene Peters, and Kim Wiest. You didn't have much notice but you showed up and did good work!

☞ Thank you to all our teachers this year: Julene Peters, Cassie Andrews, Kathy Walter, Karli Redd, Lisa Judisch, Lisa Salois, Landen Klette, Ryder Brown, Kim Hofstad, Amanda Lesnik, Randi Schlosser, and Linda O'Brien.

☞ Thank you to Carol Wood, Linda Welch, Linda Carlson, Ruth Fladstol, Mike O'Brien and Kim Wiest for your work on the new pictorial directory.



♥ **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.**

MARCH
No Pastoral acts.
Pondera Valley Offering: **\$13,885**
Average PV Sunday Attendance: **54**
PV Palm Sunday Attendance: **96**
Palm Sunday Bake Sale for VBS: **\$619**



Wednesday Education 4-5 p.m. for ages Preschool – 5th grade in the Youth Room through April 3rd is the LAST one for the season.

Mark your calendars now for VBS with FLBC July 29th - August 2nd from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.!



COME! Be a part of a Bible Study! at Pondera Valley:

☞ For Everyone, Sunday 11:15 a.m. in the Youth Room, beginning April 7th

☞ Men's 6:30 a.m. with Breakfast on Tues., in the FH

☞ Women's Monday Noon, in the Library, beginning April 8th

☞ 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



Pondera Valley had a council meeting March 4th. Pastor Stoopes said that he would have first communion classes in

April as well as new member classes if there is an interest. The Education board will have a couple of meetings soon to cover vacation Bible school and scholarships. The Building & Grounds will buy a new vacuum for the church. They will also be getting a price quote for the installation of LED lights in the sanctuary. The

call committee has updated the information online. There are no candidates at this time. The council finalized the details for the special congregational meeting on April 14th. The pictorial directory is moving along. The *chairs* have been ordered. There will be a *special offering taken for them on April 21st and 28th*. Lenten lunches continue and will finish on March 21st. Golden West will have a council meeting on April 9th at 9 a.m.

The next PV Council meeting will be Monday, April 8th at 6:30 p.m.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SCHEDULED

Voting members should have or will be receiving a letter in the mail soon calling for a special congregational meeting by Pondera Valley Lutheran Church Council. The meeting will be held **following 10 a.m. Worship on Sunday, April 14, 2024.**

To meet the needs for a future pastor, Pondera Valley Lutheran Church (PVLC) Council is asking the PVLC Congregation for the authority to expedite the sale of the existing parsonage and for the purchase of a new home. A larger family size home would be purchased as the new parsonage. The council would not sell the existing parsonage until a suitable new home was found. To expedite the purchase of a new parsonage, a loan is needed to bridge the gap between the purchase price of the new home minus cash on hand designated for the parsonage. After the loan is secured and a new home purchased, the existing parsonage (the Montgomery House) will be sold. Funds

received from the sale of the Montgomery House will be used to pay down the loan. The council is asking you to support this request by voting yes to the following proposal:

“Pondera Valley Lutheran Church (PVLC), by no less than a 2/3 majority vote of the members present and voting at a legally called meeting of the congregation (with a quorum of at least 30 members present), grants the PVLC Council the authority to purchase a new home, the authority to secure a loan for the purchase of a new parsonage, and the authority to sell the existing parsonage, called the Montgomery House.”

Please plan to attend the special congregational meeting on Sunday, April 14, 2024 following the 10 a.m. Worship. Pray for the future of the PVLC congregation, the call committee, council, and for a future pastor.



A Wakeup Call

God — let me be aware.
Let me not stumble blindly down the ways,
Just getting somehow safely through the days,
Not even groping for another hand,
Not even wondering why it all was planned,
Eyes to the ground unseeking for the light,
Soul never aching for a wild-winged flight,
Please, keep me eager just to do my share.
God — let me be aware.
God — let me be aware.
Stab my soul fiercely with others’ pain,
Let me walk seeing horror and stain.

Let my hands, groping, find other hands.
Give me the heart that divines, understands.
Give me the courage, wounded, to fight.
Flood me with knowledge, drench me in light.
Please — keep me eager just to do my share.
God — let me be aware.
—Miriam Teichner

*Miriam Teichner (1887-1963), from Detroit, was a **journalist and poet**. In 1915, she served as a correspondent for the Detroit Evening News on the peace ship Oscar II that took Henry Ford to Europe on his ill-fated peace mission before World War I. Afterward she went on to work for the New York Globe.*



At the writing of this, the new pictorial directory is in the process of being made! We will let you know when they arrive, probably by early May.

Donations for this project are welcome! The Parish paid for two days of photography and the assembly costs, \$400. Plus each directory will cost \$8.50.

Drop any donations in the mail or the offering plate and mark them "directory".



When it rains, the skeleton flower, a perennial native to Japan, has delicate petals that change from opaque white to almost transparent when wet. After it rains, only the flower's intricate, skeleton-like veins are visible.

When the rains come (and they will!) in our lives, the same can be said. Amid difficulty and struggle, our true selves often become more transparent. During a parenting challenge, criticism might emerge. Or while we tackle a tough work project, impatience might rear its ugly head.

Hosea 6:3 (NLT) proclaims: "Oh, that we might know the Lord! Let us press on to know him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring."

The rains will come. Whether you're experiencing light rain or a downpour, ponder what the water reveals. Then ask God how you can be more open to his work in that area. —Janna Firestone



HEY! Have you noticed me and my friends in the Fellowship Hall of Pondera Valley? We're new here! Come meet us...sit on us...enjoy us! If you would like to help with the cost of bringing us here, you can write "chairs" in the memo of a check. There will be a special offering taken 2 Sundays in April...the 21st and the 28th!




SOMETHING OLD, Something New

Use scrap paper to fuel new growth and make a gift that keeps on giving.


What you need:

- Scrap paper
- Water
- Herb or flower seeds
- Blender
- Strainer
- Cookie sheet
- Towel
- Adult help



What you do:

1. Tear the scrap paper into strips and place in a bowl. Cover the paper with water and let it soak overnight.
2. Pour the mixture into a blender and blend about 10 seconds.
3. Strain and squeeze the paper pulp to remove excess water. Place in a bowl.
4. Sprinkle seeds over the pulp and mix to incorporate them into the pulp.
5. Shape the pulp into a flat layer on the cookie sheet. Use a towel to soak up excess water. Allow the paper to dry completely.
6. Tear paper into shapes or fold into a card. You can plant the paper directly into soil. Water it and then watch your plants grow!



PUZZLE

PLANT, WATER, GROW

Building a faith community takes work. How did the church in Corinth come to be?

Directions: Use the code to fill in the words and complete a teaching of the apostle Paul.

KEY

- = seed
- = watered
- = planted
- = God
- = grow
- = one
- = anything
- = only

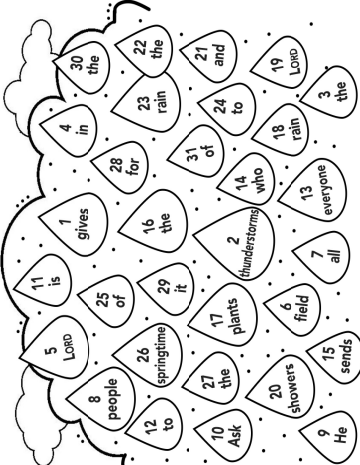
I _____ the _____, Apollos _____ it,
 but _____ has been making it _____.
 So neither the _____ who plants nor the
 _____ who waters is _____,
 but _____, who makes things _____.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7, NIV

Answer: planted, seed, watered, God, grow, one, one, anything, only, God, grow

Puzzle!

Complete a Bible verse about spring by writing the word from each raindrop on the correct numbered line below.



_____ 18 _____
 _____ 22 _____
 _____ 26 _____
 _____ 29 _____
 _____ 3 _____
 _____ 14 _____
 _____ 15 _____
 _____ 5 _____
 _____ 28 _____
 _____ 11 _____
 _____ 19 _____
 _____ 14 _____
 _____ 7 _____
 _____ 8 _____
 _____ 21 _____
 _____ 17 _____
 _____ 30 _____
 _____ 6 _____
 _____ 24 _____
 _____ 13 _____
 _____ 25 _____

Zachariah 10:1, NIV

Answer: Ask the Lord for rain in the springtime; it is the Lord who sends the thundershowers. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone. Zachariah 10:1, NIV



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

Tom Robinson, Ron Iverson, Art & Lori Pearson, Dave Kluver (*Rona Matheson*), Karen Sutton (*Ruth Erickson*), Rose Johns, Erik Dommer, Carol Kaldor, Dave Fleming (*Linda Welch*), Kenny Matheson, Erik Dommer, 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, Tristan West, David Larson, Sara McLean, Don Bandow, Brenda Rhone, Loretta (*2 Louise Glimm*), Evan Bell, Roger Brastrup, Teagan Bartoo, Faith Birnel Crouch (*3 Ruth Fladstol*), Rose Peterman, Marvin Baker, Mitchell Moore (*Josita Montgomery*), Poppy Dahl, Terry Smith, (*Carolyn Widhalm*), Jenna & Kids, Teri Ewell, Jonnie Geber, Jolene Wynn (*4 Kim 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:** Ron Thaut, Mary (*Carol Wood*), Bob Beck (*Karen Lee*), Carole Thielmann, Hilda Matheson **Those deployed in the service abroad:**



Prayers to Prepare for Worship

- ☞ Springtime, new life, resurrection, hope. God, help me hold onto an Easter focus all season long.
- ☞ The risen Jesus invites us into peace as we touch his scarred body. May we, the body of Christ, share his peace with one another by touching each other's lives with love.
- ☞ Good Shepherd, in you I have everything I need. Thank you for guiding me along the path of life.
- ☞ I lay my joys and cares before you, Holy Spirit, that you might prepare my heart for worship.





Golden West WORSHIP Sundays 8:30 a.m.

Ushers: Aaron & Janae Bliss; Reader: Janae Bliss; Communion Assistant: Aaron Bliss; Communion Preparer: Janae Bliss

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.	April 7th	April 14th	April 21st	April 28th
Reader	Jim Adamson	David Berg	Jim Adamson	Lyn Carlson
Communion Assistants		Karla Breeding & Kim Wiest		Lyn & Linda Carlson
Ushers & Greeters	Randy & Peggy Young			
Communion Preparer	Linda Carlson			
Sound Tech.	Betty Offerdal			
Offering Custodian	Stacy Eneboe			



April 7 - Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 148; 1 John 1:1--2:2; John 20:19-31

April 14 - Acts 3:11-21; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36-49

April 21 - Acts 4:1-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

April 28 - Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 150; 1 John 4:1-21; John 15:1-8