



CONRAD LUTHERAN PARISH

LOGOS

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES :

Golden West 9 a.m.

Pondera Valley 11 a.m.

Pastor Drew Nelson

Kim Wiest, Admin. Assistant
Office # 271-3934/P.O. Box 883

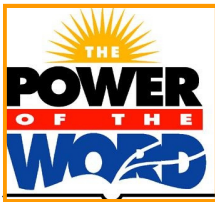
Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday, 9-Noon or
call Pastor: 450-0078,

Kim: 271-2060 or

Pastor's email:

dsnbygrace@gmail.com



WASH YOURSELVES AND BE CLEAN! GET YOUR SINS OUT OF MY SIGHT. GIVE UP YOUR EVIL WAYS. LEARN TO DO GOOD. SEEK JUSTICE. HELP THE OPPRESSED. DEFEND THE CAUSE OF ORPHANS. FIGHT FOR THE RIGHTS OF WIDOWS. ISAIAH 1:16-17



☞ Jan. 31st, following 11 a.m. Worship, Pondera Valley's Annual Meeting

☞ No Ash Wednesday Breakfast this year, due to Covid

☞ Feb. 17th, 6 p.m. Ash Wednesday service at Pondera Valley

☞ Feb. 21st, Golden West's Annual Meeting



Thank you to our sponsors for the RADIO BROADCASTS on KZIN, 96.7 FM at 11 am:
January 31st, sponsored by Page & Tom Russett in loving memory of their parents: Tom & Viola MacKrell and Harvey & Jeanette Russett.

February 7th, sponsored by Karen & Roland Lee in honor and appreciation of our musicians at Pondera Valley and Golden West. *May God bless the hearing of His word!*

“What next?”**Grace and peace to you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Looking out at the pews lately has been quite encouraging. There are new faces consistently present and bringing their families. Children are participating in more and more aspects of worship. At the same time, I see the places of those who need to stay home empty. Knowing that as vaccinations for Covid-19 take effect that you all will be back shortly lets me envision a church filling up with people and growing in fruit quickly. Very soon all of us will be able to be in face to face fellowship, God willing. Until then, I am both joyful at who is able to be with us and lamenting for the day that all of us we be together as one.

Meanwhile, I am thankful for those that always were concerned with our members at home and strived to not let those in isolation become disconnected. Please call if you need anything from the church ever. Several innovative ideas have arisen and we have been able to continue forward in areas of our regular ministry. My hope for this year is that we will continue to add to the schedule. Opportunities will fly at us as the world begins to spin again. Regular ministries may resume sooner than later but we should also consider what we might do different.

With new members beginning their journey in our congregation and stalwarts coming together we may see gifts and talents come from individuals and connections we might not have imagined. Another parish north of us is going to need some help. I even dreamed the other night that we did a curbside lutefisk dinner! What a service that would be to a community stuck at home for so long. There may even be new musical talent sitting amidst us during worship that could teach us to sing a new song. Ideas of going out to give to neighbors are becoming more common than trying gather up large groups. The good that is coming out of what has happened is that we are now beginning to go out.

No other comparison can be made for a world stuck static but then released as it is set free from the fear of death. The great commission to go into the world and baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit empowers us because it is backed by truth we know and have experienced. The Exodus is almost identical. Throughout history God continues to deliver His people from disaster. Often there is a time of waiting and the call to repent so that we may return to the good and blessed path of righteousness. Scripture speaks to this clearly, especially in the Old Testament, but also later in the Gospels and in St. John's Revelation.

2nd Chronicles 7:13-14 makes one of the starkest statements we might consider at this current juncture. It reads, **“When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”** There are more verses that make this point, but you get the summary of the Old Testament prophets here. God has made the conditions clear. Some might see this as being presented with a choice but I interpret this as God Almighty making a promise. He will do what he says now and always according to his steadfast love and enduring grace.

We become the variable then. Do we believe the Word of God or our own will and whims? Not just one choice but your whole life will reflect who you believe in. To be humbled is something that happens to us. We go through it continuously. It is a lot like listening should be. The response is to not always to speak or do but first pray. Then after we get up off our knees to go live life we learn that our purpose is to see others made in His image and to love them as such. On the contrary, to live without this faith means biblically that pestilence is only the start of it. Look back again at those who ignored the initial issued warning. Plagues of every kind came in the wake of sickness for those that did not listen to what God promised.

continued on page 3

from page 2...

Habakkuk 3:5 says, **“Before him went pestilence and plagues followed at his heels.”** This is because Israel continued on in its own direction of division instead of being unified by the promise, ultimately the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. At the end, in the book of Revelation, the warning becomes direr... **“And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth” (6:8).** Yet remember what God said before to the church of Philadelphia in chapter three... **“Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.”** Faith promises us reconciliation and peace that is both present now and will be eternally.

We will not go through the worst of it. With it is the courage and confidence to continue proclaiming the Gospel despite the world appearing to be bent on destruction and unable to hear. We are meant to share all the stuff we learn on Sunday and in our bible studies, the name of Jesus. Realize that we have been called out of the same sin and not just spared, but declared righteous. By the Holy Spirit we have the power to deliver the kingdom to others simply by sharing this Word. **“God loves the world, you and me, so he sent his begotten Son Jesus Christ, for us, not to condemn the world, but to give us everlasting life.”** Is this the good news you have been sharing? Or do you repeat what you hear from the TV and internet instead?

Try turning it off and seeing how blessed we are in this world God gave us. Our new President Joe Biden is placed to lead by God himself whether you like it or not. We can either partner in faith and freedom believing we are citizens of the kingdom here and to come, or continue in the bondage of yelling about who is right to the point of it becoming violent and taking lives. Do not miss out on what is coming and all that is happening right now. We have reason to rejoice, the Lord is with us,

victory is guaranteed, and God will be given glory. Exodus 14:14 encourages us, **“Be still the Lord will fight for you.”** So, I cannot wait to see what our community and congregations will do when we sincerely hold this hope in our heart and are brought together for good instead of selfishness. It will start with prayer that cannot cease. Soon then it will be safe not just to leave our homes without getting sick or attacked. Sin will be no more when we are brought into the brand new heaven and earth and sit by the River of Life.

The reason I say this is plain and simple. In Revelation 3:11-13, Jesus says, **“I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”** Again and always this can only be accomplished by the grace given through Jesus Christ, not our merit or by the right party holding power and taking control of government. God works through the heart of each individual and has prepared good work for each of us. We are gathered together to lift each other up. His will is accomplished perfectly through us as broken and contrary vessels. May the Holy Spirit never let our faith slip away, and finally let the Father give us the courage to bring the kingdom, do His will, and hallow His name so that others may have this gift revealed and live in the kingdom now and always, for His glory, we only boast in Christ while praying He will work in new ways everyday through us. Amen.

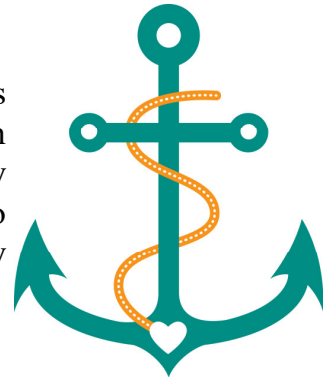
Simul Justus et Peccator, Pastor Drew Nelson +



"The first moments of the new day are not the time for our own plans and worries, not even for our zeal to accomplish our own work, but for God's liberating grace, God's sanctifying presence."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer in MEDITATING ON THE WORD

Because in ancient times an anchor represented safety, early Christians adopted it as a symbol of their hope in Christ. "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure" (Hebrews 6:19, NIV). Word play may have been involved: ankura, Greek for "anchor," sounds similar to en kurio, or "in the Lord." As Latin became Christians' primary language, however, the "anchor-Lord" connection would have faded.



A PLACE OF DUST AND ASHES

In *A Quiet Place in a Crazy World* (Multnomah), Joni Eareckson Tada writes about approaching God with humility, out of "a place of dust and ashes." God rewards an attitude of deep humility by lifting us up (see James 4:10 and 1 Peter 5:6). Abraham, for example, boldly approached God in prayer, "though I am nothing but dust and ashes" (Genesis 18:27, NIV). "The lower Abraham humbled himself, the 'higher' he must have felt," Tada writes. "I can imagine that when Abraham spoke to God, he felt as though he were carried up on eagle's wings to the heights of heaven. It must have awed him to be allowed, of all things, access to God Almighty."

Such an attitude of humility helps us appreciate God's real presence with us in prayer, Tada says, because "we will know the assurance of talking to Someone who is really there."

STAYING FED

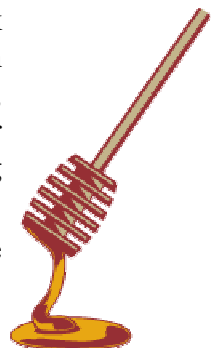
"How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" (Psalm 119:103, NRSV).

Recently I was confronted with this question: If you fed yourself with food the way you feed yourself with God's Word, would you still be alive? It gave me pause.

Do I eat *enough* spiritually? — feast regularly enough on Scripture to keep up my energy and the health of my soul? Do I eat *nutritiously*? — take in a balanced meal of law and gospel, comfort and commandments, prophecy and promise? Do I pass up

spiritual *junk food*? — set aside empty calories that lead to disease, in order to hunger for what truly gives life? Do I drink enough *Living Water* to avoid faith dehydration? And once in a while, do I *splurge on dessert*? — savor the sweetness and joy of belonging at God's table?

What abundance God sets before us. May we never skip a "meal!"
—Heidi Mann





WEDNESDAYS

Preschool - 4th grades: 5:15 p.m.- 6 p.m. (no dinner)
in Ed. Building

5th & 6th grade - Confirmation (7-9th): 6 p.m. Meal in
Fellowship Hall followed right away with class until
7:15 p.m. and until 7:30 p.m. for 7th-9th grades

**The WOMEN'S BAZAAR ...
has been *tentatively rescheduled* to
Spring, continue to work on your items and if you
have any questions, contact Linda Van Tongeren,
Kim Hofstad or Elodie Rauscher.**

**There is hope to have a quilt raffle, drawn on
Mother's Day. Watch for more information!
Thank You!**



Joint Council and Pondera Valley Council met on Monday, Jan. 25th to vote on the proposed budget. More information on their meetings, the Annual Meetings, and the council meetings following will be in next month's newsletter. Stay tuned!
Annual Meetings: PV- Jan. 31st & GW- Feb. 21st

*Christ distributes courage through community;
 He dissipates doubts through fellowship. He never deposits all knowledge in one person but distributes pieces of the jigsaw puzzle to many. When you interlock your understanding with mine, and we share our discoveries, when we mix, mingle, confess and pray,
 Christ speaks. —Max Lucado, Fearless*



James 2:14-17 *What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.*

As Christian stewards, we should take a lesson from this scripture. God has given us much, yet if we

neglect it, or get lazy, we will show no profit by our inaction. Church giving can be thought of in the same light. God has given us the responsibility of preaching the Gospel from the two churches in this parish. That responsibility involves the upkeep of the buildings, electrical, telephone, salaries, materials, outreach, and a host of other expenses which must be met each and every week. If we, as God's stewards, neglect or get lazy in our support, then all of this ministry could come to a halt. However, as we stay faithful in our giving this will never happen, but to the contrary, the ministry will prosper. Thank you for being faithful!



Feb. 7th - Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11; 1 Corinthians 9:16-27; Mark 1:29-39

Feb. 14th - Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 3:12-13, 4:1-6; Mark 9:2-9

Feb. 17th ASH WEDNESDAY - Joel 2:12-19; Ps.51:1-13; 2 Cor. 5:20b--6:10; Matt. 6:16, 16-21

Feb. 21st - Genesis 22:1-18; Psalm 25:1-10; James 1:12-18; Mark 1:9-15

Feb. 28th - Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 5:1-11; Mark 8:27-38

Calendar Reminders:

Pondera Valley Worship Leaders 11 a.m. - *Lynn Utterback* (Sound); *Wanda Bandow* (Comm. Prep.); *Jack & Barb Judisch* (Greeters & Ushers); *Barb Judisch* (Offering Custodian AND Reader Feb. 7th, 21st, and 28th); *Mary Jane Kinyon* (Reader Feb. 21st); *Wanda Bandow and Pat Lee* (C. Servers Feb. 14th); *Pat Lee & Page Russett* (C. Servers Feb. 28th).

Golden West Worship Leaders 9 a.m. - *Carl & Jenny Flesch* (Usher); *Jenny* (Reader); *Rona Matheson* (Communion Preparer); *Steve Matheson* (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**

Wednesday Night Education Preschool - 4th grades: 5:15 p.m.- 6 p.m. (no dinner) in Ed. Building;
5th & 6th grade - Confirmation (7-9th): 6 p.m. Meal in Fellowship Hall followed right away with class until 7:15 p.m. and until 7:30 p.m. for 7th-9th grades

Remember the Ash Wednesday service on February 17th at 6 p.m. at Pondera Valley

MEMORIALS Received: GENERAL FUND, *in memory of Elaine Schram*: Chris & Vicki Kolstad, Karla & Everett Breiding, Roman & Judy Ketterling; in memory of *Clarice Aakre*: Joni Woldstad, Kim Woldstad, Gary & Deana Peterson



In January, there were 3 baptized at Pondera Valley on 1/30: Markus Oiestad, son of Guthrie & Alanna Oiestad; Clint Schlosser, son of Jake & Randi Schlosser; and Jack Schlosser, son of Scott & Ciadie Schlosser.

**Pondera Valley Offering in
January (thru 25th): \$ 16,022
PV Average Sunday Attendance in January 54**



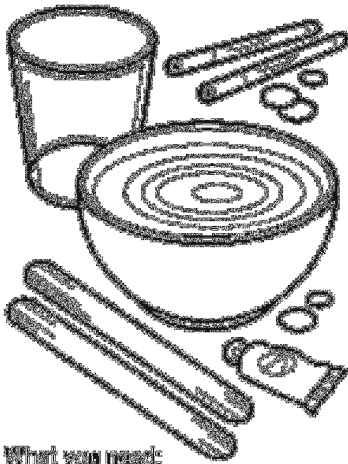
♥ *Thank you to Shauna Ellefsen who has agreed to head up the Giving Tree next year! Thanks Shauna!*

♥ **THANK YOU** to all who continue to send in your offerings! You can use the enclosed blue envelope or mail them to:
PO Box 883, Conrad MT 59425.



**Loving
embraces**

Express your love and friendship with
handcrafted bracelets.

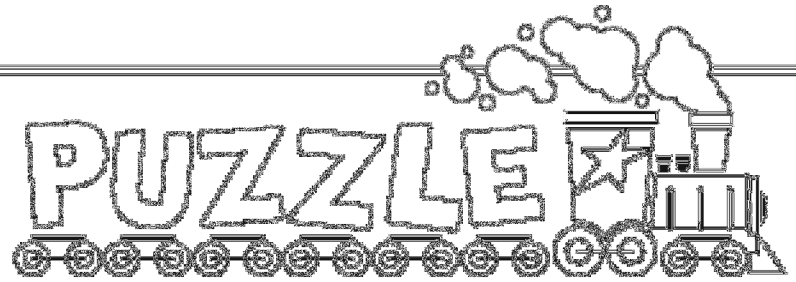


What you need:

- Adult help
- Bowl of boiling water
- Wide wooden craft sticks
- Glass cup
- Markers, paint or decorative tape

What you do:

1. Pour about 3 cups of boiling water into a bowl. Soak sticks in the water about 30 minutes.
2. Remove sticks and slowly, gently bend them into a curve.
3. To maintain the shape, place curved sticks inside a glass cup overnight to dry completely.
4. Remove and decorate the bracelets, which make fun Valentine's Day gifts.



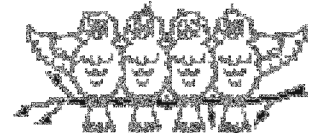
A famous friendship

In the Bible, Ruth and Naomi are known for their loving friendship.

Directions: Using the key **70%** in the blanks to see what each says to Marvel.

1200 3C UNO 10000

Diagram illustrating the connection of a horizontal line to a vertical line using various symbols (L, H, E, C, O) and their corresponding mathematical representations.



W	A		E	T
B	U	H	D	O
R	R	L	Y	I
	N	S	F	B

ALL THE KING'S HORSES ARE LOST AND THE KING'S MEN ARE DEAD

Puzzle!

[illegible]

廣東省立第一中學圖書館藏

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Figure 1

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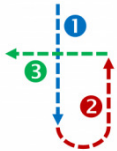


Check out this website: www.holyfamilytime.com

from Feb. 2020 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.



Dear God, you are compassionate and good, and we are so thankful that you care for us! As we read our Bible rhyme today, strengthen our faith, and inspire us to trust you more. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

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

Jesus was a wedding guest
But his hosts were very stressed.
They were filled with nervous doubt
For the wine had all run out!

Mary turned to Jesus, who
Surely would know what to do.
“Pour some water there,” he said,
“It will turn to wine, instead.”

Sure enough, his words were right,
And in Cana on that night,
Jesus had performed a sign:
Turning water into wine!

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

Child: What does it mean to be “stressed?” Do you think Jesus knew how the wedding hosts were feeling? Why or why not?

Child: Tell us about a time when you felt stressed and overwhelmed. How did God help you through that experience?

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

Holy God, when we are worried or overwhelmed, we know that we can turn to you for help. Thank you for listening to our prayers and helping us overcome challenges. We love you! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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

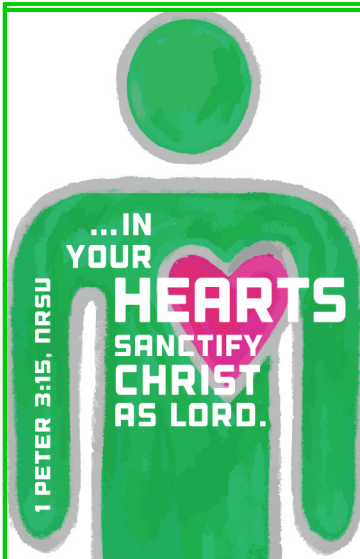
May you give your worries to God!
Amen.


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

Ramona Brastrup, Teagan Bartoo, Faith Birnel Crouch (*3Ruth Fladstol*), Doris Bishop, Ron Thaut, Sara McLean, Madelyn Erickson, Rose Peterman, Mike Buechler, Annie Schlosser, Zach Greene (*Carol Kaldor*), Evan Bell, Dennis Fladstol, Hayden Kellogg, Judy Ketterling, Shaun Short (*Stacie Matheson*), Wayne Smith (*Linda VanTongeren*), Isobel (*Linda O'Brien*), Marvin Baker, Sandy Webb (*JoAnne Unger*), Norman Stordahl, Debbie Ries, Mitchell Moore (*Josita Montgomery*), Wayne Brown (*Carol Wood*), Juelie McLean (*Bill McLean*), Don Bandow, Ralph Swan (*Cyndi Johnson*), Poppy Dahl, Audrey Kieft, Gerald Bruner, Melvin Pocock, Matt Mann, (*4Wanda Bollinger*), Terry Smith, (*Carolyn Widhalm*), BJ Hilyard, Lorie 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... Larry Watterud

Those deployed in the service abroad: Blake Tornnga, Cameron Bowen


Prayers to Prepare for Worship

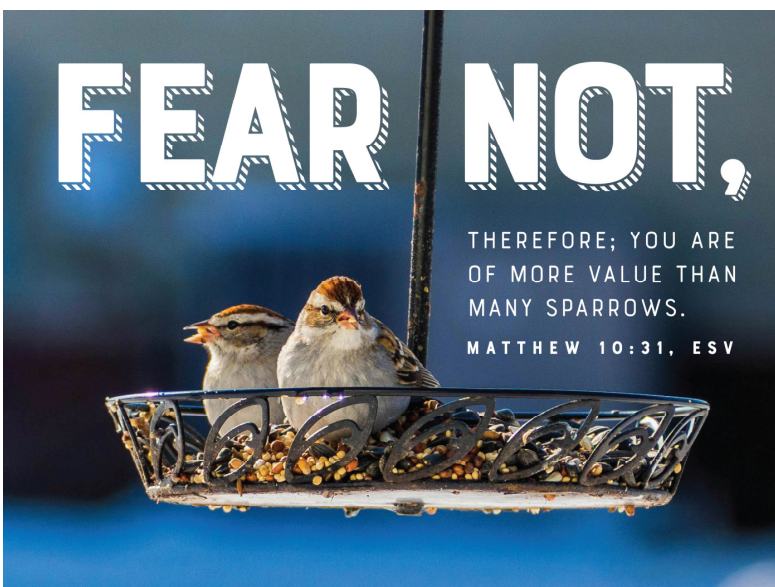
✠ Creator, I rest in your strength that never wearies; I trust in your understanding that reaches beyond all my searching. (Based on Isaiah 40:28.)

✠ “We love because [God] first loved us” (1 John 4:19, NIV). Valentine’s Day is fun, but I pray, God, that you show me how to share your love every day of the year.

✠ “Create in me a clean heart, O God” (Psalm 51:10, NKJV).

✠ Quiet the hearts of all who worship, that we may focus on you, O Sacred One, and bask in your love.

✠ Show me, Jesus, how to take up my cross — to give of myself wholeheartedly for others — and follow you.

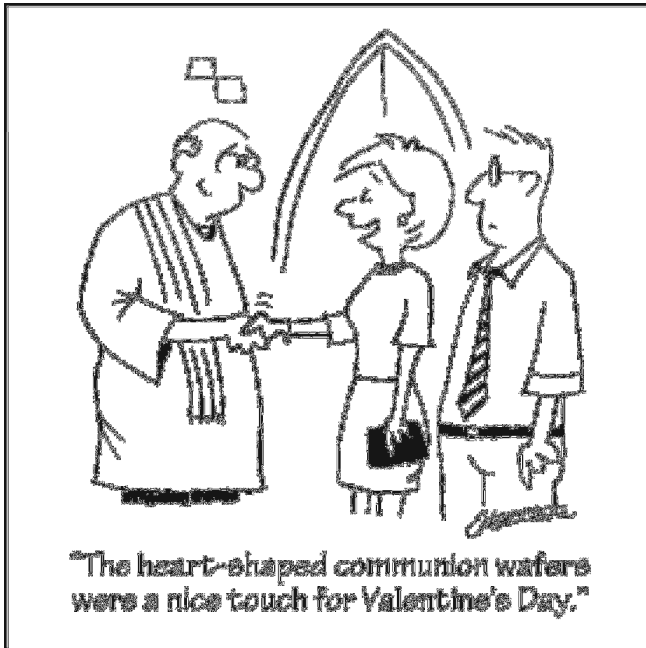


Community Prayer Night

Monday, February 1st

***6:30 pm at the
Conrad Sr. Center***

It's a 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!



TAKE TIME TO LAUGH....

A young girl was trying to decide what to give her best friend for a birthday present. "Maybe I'll get a bracelet," she told her mother, "but it has to be silver. Beth wears only silver jewelry now, because it goes with her braces."

A mom heard her five year old screaming, when she looked over, she found the baby pulling his hair. Trying to comfort him, she reassured him that his baby sister didn't know that it hurts. Turning her back for a minute, the baby started to cry. "What's the matter she asked?" Calmly, her son said, "Now she knows."

A man was playing golf in a foursome when his ball landed in a sand trap. Hidden from view, he hacked away at the ball. When he finally drove it out and rejoined his friends, he was asked: "How many strokes, Fred?" "Three." "But we heard six!" "Three," said Fred, "were echoes."

Woodrow Wilson was once asked how long it usually took him to prepare a ten-minute speech. He told the reporter, "Two weeks." "How about an hour long speech?" asked the reporter. "One week," was his reply. "If it were a 2 hour speech?" "I am ready now," he said.

Jimmy Durante bet on a horse at Santa Anita, and the nag lost by inches. "What that horse needed," bragged and ex-jockey, "was my riding." "What he needed," corrected Durante, "was my nose."

A woman wanted to send her husband in the Navy a "Happy Anniversary" telegram during World War II, but the telegraph office told her that wartime restrictions forbade the transmission of any nonessential message. She returned later with another telegram: ANXIOUS TO CONTINUE PARTNERSHP. DESIRE TO ENLARGE FIRM EARLIEST CONVENIENCE. It went through without question.





*Follow the lectionary, see
bottom of page 6.*

*Utilize the Worship
Helps found on the website.*

*Come to hear Pastor's
sermon!*



By comparing love to everything from oxygen and fire to wind and war, songs and poetry emphasize its immense power — for good or for ill. Christian author Patrick Morley uses metaphors that focus on love's practicality in everyday life: "Love is the glue that holds us together and the oil that keeps us from rubbing each other the wrong way." He also calls love "the WD-40 of relationships" because it "can seep into tight places where logic, threats and even promises just can't seem to penetrate."

St. Augustine, who predated WD-40 by centuries, knew that love not only eases friction in personal interactions but, with God's help, can change hearts and lives. "Love all [people], even your enemies," he advises. "Love them, not because they are your brothers, but that they may become your brothers. Thus you will ever burn with fraternal love, both for him who is already your brother and for your enemy, that he may by loving become your brother."



Go to our website for
videos, updates,
materials to use for
worship!

PLUS, the newsletter
is in COLOR!!

www.conradlutheran.com