



CONRAD LUTHERAN PARISH

LOGOS

WORSHIP TIME CHANGE!

Sunday, May 2 – Aug. 29:

Pondera Valley at 9 a.m.

Golden West at 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:
dsnbgrace@gmail.com



FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD, AND ARE JUSTIFIED BY HIS GRACE AS A GIFT, THROUGH THE REDEMPTION THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS. ROMANS 3:23-24

WOMEN'S CRAFT SALE

May 1st 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

QUICK! Bring in your items!

If you have any questions,
contact Linda Van Tongeren or Kim Hofstad.



♥ The Women of Pondera Valley are raffling a beautiful quilt, created by Sandi Carr and donated by Linda VanTongeren. It will be drawn on Mother's Day, May 9th. The tickets are 3/\$5 and can be purchased from Kim Hofstad or Linda VanTongeren.



Thank you to our sponsors for the RADIO BROADCASTS on KZIN, 96.7 FM at 11 am: **May 2nd**, sponsored by *Linda Griggs & Family in loving memory of Eugene Knobel and Earl Duncan*; by *Marian Turk in loving memory of Wayne Turk*; AND by *Douglas and Paul Bellamy, and Cheryl Tornga and families in loving memory of Clayro, Hellen, Kurt and Rodger Bellamy. May God bless the hearing of His word!*

“Lutheran Confessions: The Three Ecumenical Creeds”

Often we spend time distinguishing the differences between us rather than relishing in what our beliefs give us. Yes, there are differences in each Christian denomination or association. At the same time, there has been the historical constant of creeds used to confess faith since the beginning. From the very start there was a need to clarify what was truly vital to this religion we share currently.

Think about what happens to Adam and Eve. The first recorded human words come from the first woman in response to the serpent’s question. The snake asks, “Did God really say that?” Here we find the heart of confession because in order for us to answer we must have first been taught. Her words could have been the repetition of what God said, but instead sin twists the matter and we all know what happens next... After death enters into the picture as the consequence for disbelieving in the Word we witness the chosen nation of Israel needing the incessant reminder that God loves them and will never leave them. The Lord shows up again and again repeating His promise so that they do not forget it in the best or worst circumstance.

In the New Testament Jesus arrives to make the Word flesh. Christ is the living testimony of all we confess. In the Gospels we learn that the Messiah fulfills all the Law, Prophets, and Psalms as He takes each teaching to its furthest extent while fulfilling every part. All the while he is constantly asking his disciples, “**Who do you say I am?**” This is asking for a statement of faith much like the confirmation students will do on the last Sunday of October. After spending years studying and experiencing who God is and what he says, have they learned anything yet? Peter confesses when Jesus asks him “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” Paul in the letter to the

Corinthians gives a straightforward breakdown concerning the basics of Christianity. In chapter 15 he writes that the things of utmost importance were “**that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to...**”

Yet, what does all this and more throughout the Holy Writ mean for us? *All this is spread throughout Scripture, how am I supposed to know and organize all this so that there is confidence what I believe is true? Won't I just fall into sin and disbelief like Adam, Eve, Israel, the disciples, and everyone else in history? How can I even begin to grasp everything God has given me to believe in?*

Thankfully the answer is as simple as it was initially. Romans chapter 10 steers us to what needs to happen. Verse 17 is one I constantly repeat so that we never forget, “Faith comes by hearing.” So for a person to receive salvation there are some requirements. A preacher is needed and that could be not only me but you. We each need to hear from a person as appointed in their own vocation for us to simply listen and witness. In our daily life and work these opportunities will arise for us to do and vitally confess what we hold to be true and dear for others benefit. As the same chapter asks, “How can they hear unless someone tells them?”

The lips spill out what the heart contains but the Word has to be placed there by the Holy Spirit. We believe that not only the people of the Bible are given this chance but that every person has been called into the royal and holy priesthood. We confess our faith because we heard it from someone else and have experience the way, truth, and life ourselves. The same pattern happened to everyone before us. We can trace this all the way back to those who first gathered together in the name of Jesus. Three

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creeds were developed faithfully by those that follow the records of Scripture. They are known to be ecumenical, catholic, and universal, all meaning the same thing. We believe the Christian faith can be summarized sufficiently by these traditional words we often say together on Sunday. They are each respectively called the **Apostle's, Nicene, and Athanasian Creed**. Each has sincerely been brought solely from Scripture so that we are repeating not our interpretation but the Word of God, Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

If a person were to ask you what you believe, how would you respond? Please go read these three creeds to see if common questions could be answered there. Also, what other questions are there about Christianity you or the world may have that you feel the Church and Bible should respond to? Why does what we as believers say matter?

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. + 1 Timothy 6:12

In Christ, Pastor Drew Nelson

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At Home with Christ

In *The Longing for Home*, Frederick Buechner writes: “The word *longing* comes from the same root as the word *long* in the sense of length in either time or space and also the word *belong*, so that in its full richness to long suggests to yearn for a long time for something that is a long way off and something that we feel we belong to and that belongs to us. ... The home we long for and belong to is finally where Christ is. I believe that home is Christ’s kingdom, which exists both within us and among us as we wend our prodigal ways through the world in search of it.”

While awaiting our heavenly home, we pray: Most High God, be our shelter from the storm and our dwelling place. May we always be at home with you in the eternal household you have prepared for those who love you. And may Christ always find a pleasant home in and among us. As you have welcomed us into your family, give us the compassion to welcome others into our own homes and lives, knowing that as we do it unto the least of these, we do it unto Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

—adapted from *The Wired Word*

Worth Celebrating

While going through the so-called “daily grind,” it’s fun to anticipate special occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries and holiday meals — especially when other people cook and clean up! Although *every* day is full of countless reasons to rejoice, we may not always feel like celebrating. Life’s concerns pile high, distracting us from gratitude, joy and intentional acknowledgment of our blessings.

When you need a reason to smile and celebrate, head to www.NationalDayCalendar.com. Almost every food item and hobby now has its own day, and you’ll even find gems such as National Be Late for Something Day (September 5, if you want to plan ahead!).

These fun “occasions” can help you embrace small joys and may even inspire you to celebrate them with family or friends. As you do, consider what it is about today and each gift from God that makes this day special.

Pondera Valley Members: If you are interested in volunteering to help with ushering, greeting, reading the scripture lessons, serving or helping with communion set-up, please call the church office, 271-3934. Info / instructions would be made available and we welcome you to this ministry!

MAY Calendar Reminders:

Pondera Valley Worship Leaders 9 a.m. - *Linda Carlson* (Sound); *Mary Jane Kinyon* (Comm. Prep.); *Mary Jane* (Greeter); *Olson & Bollingers* (Ushers); *Carol Johns* (Offering Custodian); *Kim Hofstad* (Reader May 2nd); *Stacy Eneboe* (Reader May 9th); *David Berg* (Reader May 16th); *Grace Weber* (Reader May 23rd and 30th); *Eneboes* (C. Servers May 9th); *Barb & Jack Judisch* (C. Servers April 11th);

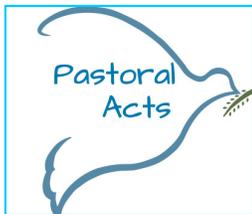
Golden West Worship Leaders 11 a.m. - *Bill & Elaine McLean* (Ushers); *Elaine* (Reader & Communion Preparer); *Bill* (Comm. Assistant)

Bible Studies at Pondera Valley - Women's Mondays Noon, PV Library
- Men's Tuesdays 6:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
- Women's Tuesdays 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Bible Studies at Golden West - Women's Coffee First Tuesday of each month

Pondera Valley Council will meet at **6 p.m. May 10th** in the Fellowship Hall

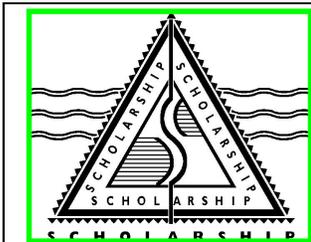
May 23rd is Graduation Sunday at PV... Those graduating from high school are:
McKenna Arvidson Kade Harwood Jonna Myre Shariden Richter



In April, there was an interment for Martha Bauman.

Pondera Valley Offering in April: \$ 19,035
PV Average Sunday Attendance in April 53
Maundy Thursday 47 Good Friday 31
Easter 130

MEMORIALS Received: FELLOWSHIP HALL DECORATIONS, in memory of *Clarice Aakre*:
Jim & Shauna Ellefsen



Pondera Valley Lutheran Church will be presenting scholarships to Faith Weber and Grace Weber. Grace will also receive the Berg Dommer Scholarship. Congratulations!



Mark your calendars for June 21-25!



- ♥ Thank you to ALL the women who nurture others!
- ♥ “There is no way to be a perfect mother, and a million ways to be a good one.” —Jill Churchill
- ♥ “The art of mothering is to teach the art of living to children.” —Elaine Heffner
- ♥ “An ounce of mother is worth a ton of priest.” —Spanish proverb
- ♥ “When your mother asks, ‘Do you want a piece of advice?’ it’s a mere formality. It doesn’t matter if you answer yes or no. You’re going to get it anyway.” —Erma Bombeck
- ♥ “The mother’s heart is the child’s schoolroom.” —Henry Ward Beecher
- ♥ “Mother love is the fuel that enables a normal human being to do the impossible.” —Marion C. Garretty
- ♥ “Being a mother is learning about strengths you didn’t know you had.” —Linda Wooten



Pondera Valley Council met on April 12th. We have been asked to join in a Community Worship in the Park during Whoop-Up Days, June 6th. (*Watch for more information.*) Also, Stone's Cry

will be here for Worship in the Park August 8th. Pastor has been preaching every other Saturday night in Valier and will continue through August 8th. **The council is currently accepting applications for the church janitorial position.** (*The applications can be picked up at the church office.*) Easter breakfast was a hit. There was a free-will offering of \$100. There is a benefit account set up for

Dakota Suta at Stockman Bank. Bank signatures were updated and will be from now on each February once the council officers have been elected. Looking for someone to head-up a pictorial directory. Neil Weisgram will be contacted about egress windows for the parsonage. The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting set for **Monday, May 10th at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.**



Knowing God holds us, each one, in His hand.

Knowing God loves us, each one.

HOW do we steward our time?

Each of us can be swept away with everyday life, responsibilities, concerns and appointments until time is not even ours. Do you feel you as if you need an extra hour each day?! Martin Luther is quoted as saying, *"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible to be alive without breathing."* Actually, I will disagree with that. While that statement could make you proud because you do spend time in prayer or guilty because you don't spend time in prayer, the message God wants us to hear is, *"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."* (Mt 11:28) That's ALL of us! Let's give Him our time. He will give us rest and help us use our time well.

We are so blessed in our congregations with people who give of their time in so many ways. Take some time to notice! No names to list here but start wondering...how did that get done? Who was here? How could I help? That was beautiful! Could I do that? Who needs me today? Look OUTside of our

church family....Who needs prayer? Who needs a meal? How are they doing now? Are they through with school? Could they use a sitter to get out for a bit? (whether it be an aging parent or a young child) Who hasn't heard from you in a while?

These are all uplifting "dos"...uplifting to you as well as to others.

Also, use your time for God's loving correctives. Ask yourself and God, Did I gossip just then? Did I slander someone? (EVEN if these are truths...they are still gossip and slander!) Do I spend too much time on my phone/tv/video games? Change it up! Correct it! I don't anyone who LOVES correction. But God says that it is HIS LOVE for us that corrects. Hebrews 12:6 says, *"For the Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes each one he accepts as his child."* Perhaps our attitude needs adjustment! 1 Cor. 11:32 says, *"Yet when we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned along with the world."*

LORD, our time is in Your hands. Help us to steward our time well so that we honor You in ALL we do. Amen



- May 2 - Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 150; 1 John 4:1-21; John 15:1-8
- May 9 - Acts 10:34-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-8; John 15:9-17
- May 13 - ASCENSION OF OUR LORD Acts 1:1-11; Ps. 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53
- May 16 - Acts 1:12-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-15; John 17:11b-19
- May 23 - PENTECOST Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 139:1-16; Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15
- May 30 - HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Acts 2:14a, 22-36; John 3:1-17

Loving an EGR

During a conversation over coffee, a friend mentioned an “EGR.” I had to interrupt and ask for a definition: Extra Grace Required — in other words, people who can seem tough to love. Often, they’re the most in *need* of love because they’re hurting. Perhaps Jesus was referring to EGRs when he said, “If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much” (Matthew 5:46, NLT).



Truly loving others — even EGRs — might not be as tough as we think. Simple gestures such as smiling, truly listening, sending a note or extending an invitation go a long way toward expressing care and softening hearts. At times, we all require extra grace. Thankfully, God has an unlimited amount to extend *to* us and then *through* us. Out of joy, we can find ways — even simple ones — to share God’s grace and love with people who need it.
—Janna Firestone

Thank you to Carol Wood and Sharon Parks for cleaning out the flower beds at Pondera Valley! They look so nice!



Thank you to Tom Russett who provided an Easter breakfast for all to enjoy this year!

GIVE THANKS

*Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son*

*And now let the weak say, I am strong
Let the poor say, I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us-*

GIVE THANKS

♥ **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.



Follow the Sun

Make a sunflower, which turns its head to follow the sun.

What you need:

- Paper plate
- Yellow marker
- Scissors
- Yarn (black and brown)



What you do:

1. Color the entire plate yellow.
2. Around the edge, cut out an odd number of triangles. Evenly space the cuts to form flower petals.
3. Poke a hole in the plate's center. String black yarn through the hole and over one triangle cut. Tie a knot at the back of the plate.
4. Continue looping yarn through the hole and over the remaining cuts. Secure the end. The flower should look like a wagon wheel with black spokes.
5. Tie the brown yarn to a black "spoke." Weave the brown yarn over and under the spokes in a circle. Continue until the sunflower has a large center. Then tie the end.
6. Display your craft as a reminder to follow the Sun, Jesus!

KIDS! Ask your parents to plant sunflowers this spring so you can see how they do follow the sun!

PUZZLE

Conundrums of creation

God's creation is filled with amazing and sometimes puzzling works.

Directions: Use the bank of picture clues to answer the riddles.



You can hold but not touch this. _____

Before using this, you must break it. _____

This falls without getting hurt. _____

This gets bigger the more you take away. _____

This has an eye but cannot see. _____

"In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the _____,
It is like ... a champion rejoicing to run his course.
It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit
to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth."

PSALM 10:4-6, NIV

Answer: a rainbow, a hammer, a stone, a hole, a bird, a wheel

Bible Quiz

Acts 1:1 (NIV) reads: "In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach." What "former book" did the author write to Theophilus?

- A. Matthew
- B. Mark
- C. Luke
- D. John



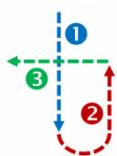
Answer: C (See Luke 1:1-4)



Check out this website: www.holyfamilytime.com

MERCY

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.

Holy Father, you know what we need even before *we* do. Bless us with your Holy Spirit, so we may trust in what we have not seen. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Listen: Pay close attention as these verses from the Bible are read aloud.

J o h n 2 0 : 2 6 - 2 8

A week later the disciples were together again. This time, Thomas was with them. Jesus came in while the doors were still locked and stood in the middle of the group. He greeted his disciples and said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands! Put your hand into my side. Stop doubting and have faith!" Thomas replied, "You are my Lord and my God!" (CEV)

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

Child: What do you think Jesus meant when he said to the disciples, "Peace be with you?" How does knowing Jesus give us peace?

Child: Has there ever been a time when you needed to *see* something to believe it? Tell us about that. Can we believe without seeing?

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

Lord God, you gave Thomas what he needed, so he could believe that Jesus had been raised from the dead. Help us to believe even though we cannot see Jesus with our eyes. In his holy name we pray. Amen.

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

May the Holy Spirit fill you with joy! Amen.

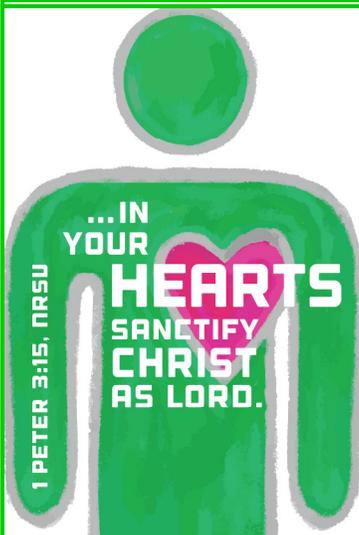


Illnesses or other concerns: (*denotes relation to*)

Beccy Lockyer, Dennis Fladstol, Derek Matheson, Leona Elings, Tim Calcagno (*Betty Offerdal*), Ron Thaut, Ben Knaff, Sara McLean, Don Bandow, Ernestine Olson, Ernestine's friend and family, Amber Miller (*Jesse Parks*), Zach Greene (*Carol Kaldor*), Evan Bell, Hayden Kellogg, Shaun Short (*Stacie Matheson*), Ramona Brastrup, Teagan Bartoo, Faith Birnel Crouch (*Ruth Fladstol*), Madelyn Erickson, Rose Peterman, Mike Buechler, Annie Schlosser, Marvin Baker, Sandy Webb (*JoAnne Unger*), Norman Stordahl, Debbie Ries, Mitchell Moore (*Josita Montgomery*), Wayne Brown (*Carol Wood*), Juelie McLean (*Bill McLean*), Ralph Swan (*Cyndi Johnson*), Poppy Dahl, Audrey Kieft, Gerald Bruner, Melvin Pocock, Matt Mann, (*Wanda Bollinger*), Terry Smith, (*Carolyn Widhalm*), Ashley & William Heavy Runner, BJ Hilyard, Lorie Hasner, Jolene Wynn (*Kim Hofstad*), 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... Ruby Mocko (*Kenny Matheson*)

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



Prayers to Prepare for Worship

- * Holy Spirit, guide my listening and response to the Word of God today, as you did with Philip and the Ethiopian so long ago (Acts 8:26-40).
- * Dear Jesus, you wanted to shelter Jerusalem like a mother hen would her chicks. Shelter me always under your loving wings. Amen.
- * God, thank you for this day and the opportunities it offers to share your love with others. Amen.
- * Breath of God, inspire me by your Word. Fire of God, kindle in me a passion for serving others in your name.
- * Holy Trinity, in your mysterious three-in-one dance you call us to live in rhythm with your music and in harmony with one another. Help me do so in joy!




Community Prayer Night

this month is
NATIONAL DAY of PRAYER
 at the Mission Church at NOON
 Thursday, May 6th
 It's a non-denominational event. Come to pray or listen to others pray!



TRIVIA

Gates, Doors, and Other Openings

1. Whom did God speak to about the "gates of death"?
2. What gate of Jerusalem was rebuilt under Nehemiah's leadership?
3. What faithful soldier, home on furlough, chose to sleep in front of the king's palace door instead of going home to his wife?
4. Who removed the massive doors from the gate of Gaza and carried them to a hill at Hebron?
5. According to what Moses told the Israelites, where were the words of God to be written?
6. Who shut up the door of Noah's ark?
7. What king removed the gold from the doors of the temple and gave it to the king of Assyria?
8. When Lot's two angelic visitors blinded the lecherous men of Sodom, what were the men scrambling to do?
9. At the first Passover, what were the Israelites told to apply to their doorposts?
10. According to Psalm 24, what is to be lifted up so that the king of glory may enter in?
11. Who rolled back the stone from Jesus' tomb?
12. According to Revelation, which of the seven churches in Asia did the Lord say that he had set before it an open door that no man could shut?
13. Who healed a lame man at the temple's Beautiful Gate?
14. In John's vision of the new Jerusalem, how many gates does it have, and of what are they made?



ANSWERS: 1. Job 38:17; 2. The Sheep Gate, Neh.3:1; 3. Uriah, the husband of Bathsheba, 2 Sam. 11:9; 4. Samson, Judges 16:3; 5. On the doorposts of their houses and on their gates, Deut. 11:20; 6. God, Genesis 7:16; 7. Hezekiah, 2 Kings 18:16; 8. Find the door to Lot's home, Genesis 19:11; 9. Lamb's blood, Ex. 12:7; 10. The gates and the everlasting doors, Psalm 24:7-9; 11. The angel of the Lord, Matthew 28:2; 12. Philadelphia, Rev. 3:8; 13. Peter and John, Acts 3:2-7; 14. Twelve, made of pearl, Rev. 21





Memorial Day

Is it enough to think today
Of all our brave, then put away
The thought until a year has sped?
Is this full honor for our dead?

Is it enough to sing a song
And deck a grave; and all year long
Forget the brave who died that we
Might keep our great land proud and free?

Full service needs a greater toll,
That we who live give heart and soul
To keep the land they died to save,
And be ourselves, in turn, the brave!
—Annette Wynne

What comes to mind when you hear the word *Pentecost*? Many people think of a mighty wind, tongues of fire and multiple languages. But Acts 2 begins with another detail that's just as key: Jesus' disciples "were all together in one place." Because they were together physically and spiritually, the early believers didn't miss the life-changing, world-changing birth of the Church. The pandemic, while changing our definition of gathering, also highlighted our need for interaction. If Jesus' first followers hadn't been assembled on Pentecost, they would've missed the outpouring of God's power and the indescribable joy God had for them. Think about what believers today might miss if we neglect to worship with other friends of Christ. Who would want to miss God's blessings, promises and joy?



Follow the lectionary,
see bottom of page 6.

Utilize the Worship Helps
found on the website.

Listen to Pastor's sermon! -Call a friend
to discuss what you read!



Someone has to be missing these! Please check the box and the table!!

LAST CHANCE! There are a few things in the lost and found box and on the back bulletin board and table at Pondera Valley. There are: glasses, a hearing aid, and a couple of single earrings.



Go to our website for videos, updates, materials to use for worship!
PLUS, the newsletter is in COLOR!!

www.conradlutheran.com