

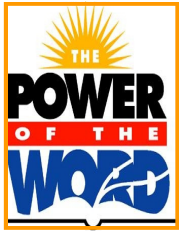


CONRAD LUTHERAN PARISH

LOGOS

WORSHIP TIMES Sept. - Dec.
Pondera Valley at 9 a.m.
Golden West at 11 a.m.

Part-time Interim Pastor
Jeff Stopes, 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, 271-2060.



Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." John 14:23

Who Do You Know ...



- ... Who could use a visit/a letter/ a phone call?
- ... Who you could invite to church?
- ... Who would appreciate a kind word?
- ... Who would like you to pray with them?
- ... Who would like to hear that you need their help?
- ... Who you could share God's Good News with, His love for them?
- ... Who you need to apologize and make amends with?
- ... Who needs a fresh baked cookie and a cup of coffee?
- ... Who needs a meal made with love with no expectations of reciprocation?
- ... Who you're going to connect with TODAY?



Thank you to our sponsors for the RADIO BROADCAST on KZIN, 96.7 FM at 11 am
October 2nd: Nancy Herman Pringle in loving memory of her parents Robert & Evelyn Herman. *May God bless the hearing of His word!*

Pastor's Letter

In Matthew's gospel we hear Jesus saying, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden light" (Matthew 11:28-30). I had these words in mind when I asserted in my message of September 4, "We notice that Jesus' office door was always open ... Jesus was always ready, willing and able to love all the sinners he encountered." When we read the gospels, with special attention to how Jesus interacted with all the people he encountered, we get a picture of compassion and truth-telling on a level we rarely -- if ever! -- see in our ordinary daily life. So much the pity.

As a servant of Christ, as a witness to the saving power of Jesus, as a called and ordained Lutheran Minister, I strive to follow His example of doing ministry. Of course I fall short -- a long, long ways short -- of living up to that example. But Jesus' words continue to ring in my ears, "Come to me ... learn from me ..." His office door is always open to me. To quote myself again from my sermon, "He is not far away, or hiding behind a closed office door, too busy doing God stuff to be bothered with [my

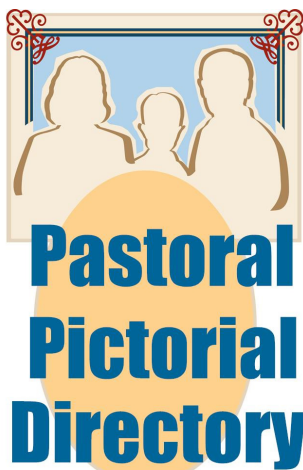


insignificant self". The question is, "Will I open the door of my own heart once I'm inside Jesus' 'office'? Will I listen to him? Will I earnestly try to learn from him or not?" He is a gentleman. He never forces our hearts and minds open against our wills. He is gentle and humble, not rough

and arrogant like so many human "leaders".

As a matter of policy I leave my office door open at all times except when some very good reason presents itself to retreat into privacy. When folks drop by and apologize for "interrupting" me I like to say that my job description includes "willingness to be interrupted at any time". Why? Because my Lord and Master lived out that policy every day of his earthly life. And what about you, my friend? What is your policy?

Pastor Jeff Stoopes

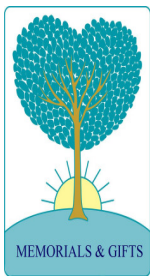


ATTENTION!! Get your photos in!!!

ELECTRONIC DIRECTORY

This will not be a public directory but might morph into one at a later date. This is for the private ministry use of the pastor only.

Please send an email attached photo of yourself or family to: pvlcdirectory@gmail.com OR Faith and others will also be taking photos at church after services at Pondera Valley and we welcome anyone who will do the same out at Golden West. It would be great to get as many as we can! Thank you!



MEMORIALS Received:

GOLDEN WEST WOMEN MEMORIAL *in memory of Michael Alford* - Jim & Chris Bjelland
PONDERA VALLEY LANDSCAPE PROJECT *in memory of Maureen DeVries* - Mark & Devra Grubb, Paul & JoAnn Stenerson, Jerry & Terri Peters, Gary & Becky Gollehon, Jim & Cheryl Judisch, Janet & Wade Spears, Claudia Martin, Mel & Lynda Fretheim, Larry Martin, Yvonne Paulsen

Call Committee Update

The Call Committee continues to work on our behalf. Please continue to keep them and whoever our future pastor will be in your prayers. God is good.

Kim Hofstad, Call Committee Chairman, Betty Olson, Shauna Ellefsen, Faith Weber, Terry Peters, Bill McLean, and Ken Johnson



Who Is Prison Fellowship?

Prison Fellowship (PF) is a nonprofit organization that seeks the transformation of prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families through the power and truth of Jesus Christ. Founded in 1976 by former Nixon aide Chuck Colson, PF was created to “remember the prisoner”. Since then it has become an international leader in prison ministry, bringing the Good News to prisoners in every U.S. state and more than 115 countries worldwide.

From its headquarters near Washington, D.C., PF recruits and equips thousands of volunteers, churches, and partner

organizations to help reconcile prisoners to God, their families, and society, and to advocate for biblical principles of restorative justice.

IS GOD CALLING YOU? With decades of experience, PF has successfully trained thousands of volunteers just like you to join Christ’s work of transforming prisoners, families, and communities. You can become a volunteer in the community, reaching out with the love of Christ to an ex-prisoner or a prisoner’s child. Or go into a correctional setting to discover how prisoners hunger for the grace of God in their lives. PF will equip you with the training, tools and support you need to engage in this unique ministry.

Kim Wiest has been going into Shelby’s prison for Bible Study since 2008. However, COVID-19 interrupted the ministry from March 2020 until now, September 2022. If you are interested in joining her or any of PF’s ministries, please contact her! Thank you for considering this important ministry!

PLEASE CONSIDER: teaching and/or co-teaching with a friend. Also substitutes are needed! Contact a member of the Ed. Board: Donna Fowler, Barb Judisch, Kara Baker, Linda O'Brien, Kathy Walter, Julene Peters or Carol Wood to your help!



**Wednesday Night Education:
Preschool/K - 4th 5-6pm in the
Education Building;
5th-9th 6-7:30 pm
Meal & Class in the Fellowship Hall**

♥ **If you could cook a meal for 10, please sign up in F.H. Thank you!!**



BIBLE STUDIES, All are Welcome!

- ☞ Women's **Noon Mondays** "Putting on a Gentle & Quiet Spirit", a study of 1 Peter, **church library.**
- ☞ Men's **6:30 a.m.** with Breakfast on **Tuesdays, F.H.**
- ☞ Women's **9 a.m. Tuesdays** "A Woman's Heart, God's Dwelling Place" with Beth Moore in the **F.H.**
- ☞ Women's on the **3rd Sunday of each month at 6 p.m.** in the **F.H.**, "Jesus & Women" with Christy McLelland.



On Sept. 13th the Pondera Valley Council met. The council voted to use the \$10,000 gift from the Conrad Christian Reformed Church for parsonage repairs. The church secretary will write a thank you to them. Discussed were the improvements needed with the internet connection and Pastor's office equipment and it was voted to switch to Starlink for internet and update Pastor's computer with a solid state and better software for up to \$2500. Pastor Jeff

has a Pastor/Friend who is willing to come talk to us about the importance of having a capital campaign every decade or so. We will extend to him an invitation. The Building & Grounds Committee will be fixing the ceiling in the Fellowship Hall and putting a street number on the entryway glass of the Education Building. Joint Council will be in November so the Parish Committee and the Nominating Committees need to begin their work and to meet. Many people have stepped up to fix up the church to make it look nice and perform better and they want to remain anonymous so an anonymous thank you will be written for the next newsletter. The council expresses their appreciation too! They closed with the Lord's Prayer. **The next PV Council meeting will be Tuesday, October 11th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.**

No Lone-Ranger Christians

World Communion Sunday, celebrated this year on October 2, reminds us there's no such thing as solitary Christianity. "As Christians we're called to belong, not just to believe," writes Rick Warren. "We are not meant to live lone-ranger lives; instead, we are to belong to Christ's family and be members of his body."

After all, Christian fellowship can't occur without fellow Christians. We can't learn the

intricacies of the Bible and theology without preachers and teachers. We don't baptize ourselves. We don't take Holy Communion alone; in fact, the sacrament's very name refers to interaction with God and others.

The New Testament clearly states that one cannot be Christian all alone. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30). We belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10). We are "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9,

NRSV). So don't be a lone ranger or a stranger — to worship or to Holy Communion!



**PASTORAL Acts in September:
None**

**Pondera Valley Offering
September \$6,308**

**Average PV Sunday Attendance
September: 54;
GW's Average in July: 12
August: 13**

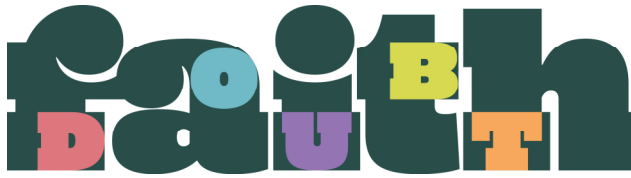


THANK YOU!

- ☺ Thank you to many anonymous people who have given of their time and resources to fix or improve PV by: buying and installing the back door light of church, tree trimming and disposal, weeds pulled, and other details too numerous to mention! You know who you are and it hasn't gone unnoticed. THANK YOU!
- ☺ Thank you to the members of the Conrad Christian Reformed Church of Conrad for donating \$10,000.00 to Pondera Valley Lutheran Church. The council has voted to use it to improve the current parsonage. If you know of someone who had attended this church, thank them! (A formal thank you has been sent.)
- ☺ Thank you to those who have agreed to teach Wednesday Night Education: Julene Peters, Kathy Walter, Amanda Lesnik, Karli Redd, Linda & Mike O'Brien, Kim Wiest and substitute, Betty Olson.

**♥ 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.**

Contrary to popular opinion, faith and doubt aren't opposites.



Instead, "doubt is a way station en route to

faith," writes J. Ellsworth Kalas. "I can't imagine getting to faith at a grand level that raises the hair on your arms without passing through doubt to get there."

Switching metaphors, Kalas explains, "Faith is an edifice in which some of the grandest parts

are the various stones and mortar of doubt." Christians need not worry about doubt, which is "the stuff that goes into the building of faith."

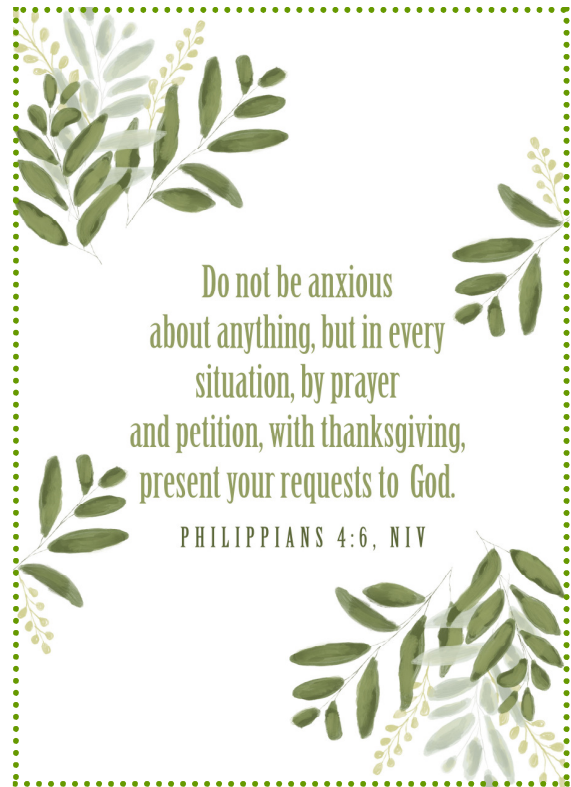
The *real* enemy of faith is unbelief, but it's not a fair fight, says Kalas. Because humans "are made for faith ... unbelief is always an intruder, always working against what is magnificently native to us."

USE YOUR WINGS!

Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard told this parable about a town filled with ducks. In a land inhabited only by ducks, all the residents waddled to church one fine Sunday, with ducklings following behind their parents. They entered the Duck Church doors, got situated in their proper pews, sang from the Duck Hymnal and then listened to Duck Minister preach from the Duck Bible (yes, even ducks have their own preferred version of Scripture).

"Ducks, God has given you wings!" the preacher shouted. "With wings you can fly like eagles! You can soar into the sky! No walls can confine you! No fences can hold you! God has given us wings, and we can know the utter euphoria of unfettered freedom! Do you believe you can fly?" In response, the duck congregation all shouted, "Amen!" Then they left their pews ... and all waddled back home.

LORD, help us to use our wings!



How Do We Handle Compliments or Criticisms?

By taking either compliments or criticism personally, we rob God of glory. Words go deep, either puffing up our pride or threatening our identity. But God intended better. Isaiah 60:21 (NLT) says, "All your people will be righteous. They will possess their land forever, for I will plant them there with my own hands in order to bring myself glory."

Our identity is in God, as his beloved children. Any comments (good or bad) must go through God first, and we can ask him to filter each word and speak his truth to our souls. We can pray: What do you want me to hear, God? Are you inviting me to do something different? How can I point others to you? Do I need to make something right?

This change in mindset provides peace. When we receive people's applause, we want to glorify God, who orchestrates all things. Likewise, constructive criticism can reflect God's work in us, making us teachable. Instead of being tossed to and fro by affirmations and critiques, let's rest secure and shift our focus to bring God glory! -Janna Firestone



www.holyfamilytime.com A great resource!

A puzzle activity titled "SEEING CLEARLY". At the top, the word "PUZZLE" is written in large, outlined letters, with a train illustration to its right. Below this, the words "SEEING CLEARLY" are written in a bold, black font, with a large, stylized eye graphic to the right. Underneath the title, it says "God's character is evident through what he made." Below that, there are instructions: "Directions: Hold up the puzzle to a mirror. Then write the backward words correctly to complete Romans 1:20, NIV". The puzzle text is presented in reverse order, separated by dashed lines. At the bottom, there is a small, illegible line of text.

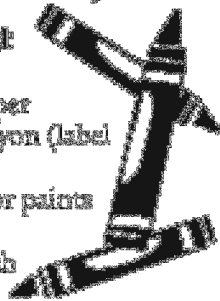
Revealing
 >>> the <<<
 invisible



Creates some invisible art and then reveal the seasonal design.

What you need:

- Leaves
- White paper
- White crayon (label removed)
- Watercolor paints
- Water
- Paintbrush



What you do:

1. Gather leaves of different shapes and sizes. On a table, arrange them flat without overlaps. Set the paper over them.
2. Hold the crayon sideways and use the long edge to color over the leaves. You'll make an invisible rubbing of them.
3. Then paint over the paper with watercolors. The areas with crayon will resist the paint and reveal the hidden leaf designs.

Be-Attitudes

- Be understanding of your enemies. *Be loyal to your friends.
- Be strong enough to face the world each day.
- Be weak enough to know you cannot do everything alone.
- Be generous to those who need your help.
- Be frugal with what you need for yourself.
- Be wise enough to know that you do not know everything.
- Be open enough to believe in miracles. *Be willing to share your joys.
- Be eager to share the sorrows of others.
- Be a leader when you see a path others have missed.
- Be a follower when you are shrouded by uncertainty.
- Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.
- Be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.
- Be loving to those who love you.
- Be loving to those who don't love you; they may change.
- Be led by God to be whom He has created you to be.

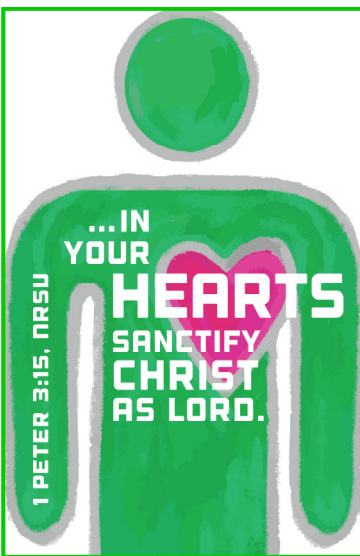


Illnesses or other concerns: *(denotes relation to)*

Art & Lori Pearson, Jack & Marian Larson (*Art Pearson*), Dave Kluver (*Rona Matheson*), Brenda Haun (*Kim Wiest*), Margaret and Bob Lee (*Pastor Stoopes*), Jim Adamson, Loretta, Amy Glimm (*2 Louise Glimm*), Kenny Matheson, Hartley Herndon (*Carol Wood*), Don Bollinger, Roman Ketterling, Brad Stuart (*Kenny Matheson*), Ashley Bissett (*Mark Hinricksen*), Beccy Lockyer, Derek Matheson, Ron Thaut, Tristan West, Sara McLean, Don Bandow, Marilyn Waite, Georgia Smeltzer, (*Carol Kaldor*), Evan Bell, Roger Brastrup, Teagan Bartoo, Faith Birnel Crouch (*3 Ruth Fladstol*), Madelyn Erickson, Rose Peterman, Annie Schlosser, Marvin Baker, Sandy Webb (*JoAnne Unger*), Norman Stordahl, Debbie Ries, Mitchell Moore (*Josita Montgomery*), Juelie McLean (*Bill McLean*), Poppy Dahl, Melvin Pocock, (*Wanda Bollinger*), Terry Smith, (*Carolyn Widhalm*), Jolene Wynn (*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 COVID 19, weather conditions, CASA-the kids and all who work with them;

All those who mourn: Heath Poser;

Those deployed in the service abroad: Cameron Bowen (*England*), Shane Hofstad (*Japan*)




Prayers to Prepare for Worship

- ** I call to mind some people who support me in faith: “[Name], I thank God ... as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers” (2 Timothy 1:3, NIV).
- ** We pray for the well-being of the places we live and this community where we minister, for in their welfare is ours as well (Jeremiah 29:7).
- ** Dear Lord: “How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!” (Psalm 119:103).
- ** “Blessed are those you ... bring near to live in your courts! We are filled with the good things of your house” (Psalm 65:4, NIV).
- ** Wrap us in your warmth like a quilt, O God of love. As days grow colder in the northern hemisphere, make our hearts burn with your love for one another.



**Conrad’s
Community Night of Prayer
Monday, October 3rd
at 6:30 p.m.
at the Conrad Sr. Center
All are welcome!**





Golden West WORSHIP Sundays 11 a.m. Ushers: Sandy Seidler; Reader: Sandy; Communion Assistant: Elaine Gray; Communion Preparer: Sandy

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 9 a.m.	October 2nd	October 9th	October 16th	October 23rd	October 30th
Reader	Dick Kinyon	Dick Kinyon	Barb Judisch	Barb Judisch	Barb Judisch
Communion Assistants		Karla Breeding & Julene Peters		Barb Judisch & Karla Breeding	
Ushers	Tom & Page Russett				
Communion Preparer	Tom & Page Russett				
Sound Tech.	Tom Russett				
Greeters	Linda O'Brien				
Offering Custodian	Susan Gustafson				



Oct. 2nd - Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Psalm 62; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:1-10

Oct. 9th - Ruth 1:1-19a; Psalm 111; 2 Timothy 2:1-13; Luke 17:11-19

Oct. 16th - Genesis 32:22-30; Psalm 121; 2 Timothy 3:14--4:5; Luke 18:1-8

Oct. 23rd - Genesis 4:1-15; Psalm 5; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-17

Oct. 30th - Revelation 14:6-7; Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36