SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES CHANGE:

Ponndera Valley 9 a.m.
Golden West 11 a.m.

THEREFORE, GET RID OF ALL MORAL FILTH AND THE EVIL THAT IS SO PREVALENT AND HUMBLY ACCEPT THE WORD PLANTED IN YOU, WHICH CAN SAVE YOU. JAMES 1:21 (NIV)

BEGINS SEPTEMBER 23RD!!

7th-9th Confirmation Students will start at 6:15 with a meal and class following from 6:30-8 p.m.

Times are still pending for the younger ages, please respond to the recent letter that went out to help decide the best time, call or text Julene Peters 627--2320 or 788-5562.

✔ We NEED teachers! Call to volunteer!
✔ If the schools go to remote learning, our classes will be canceled, until notified otherwise.

RADIO BROADCAST: 11 am September 6th on KZIN, 96.7 FM  Sponsored by: Leona Elings in memory of her family.
Thank you! May God bless the hearing of His word!
Dear Golden West and Pondera Valley Lutheran Church,

Grace and Peace to you from God the Father and Our Lord Jesus Christ

This summer has been far from normal, but as it nears its end I have to say that I am thankful. With COVID-19 slowing the whole world down many of our ministries have been halted or need to be accomplished with innovation in today’s context. I am glad that we will be beginning our education programs in September. The youth will return slowly, but sometimes that is true for all of us. With ministries restarting there is a need to finish our Revelation bible study and a request for adult confirmation classes. Many things have continued on amidst all this. As we learn what works and doesn’t we will continue to open ministry opportunities further. Many churches are not in this position, and we should remember them.

We know that we cannot predict the future. With a pandemic, protests, election, and worldwide unrest our schedule might change without much warning. Many are still waiting to return to worship with us due to their own health concerns and I look forward to seeing them as soon as you can return. Restarting much of what we had done before may be quite difficult. I pray each of us has the patience and grace to bring each of our brothers and sisters with. Worship will continue as normally as possible and Word and Sacrament will be administered. Please remember that this is a freedom and gift for us, not an obligation and law we are under.

Still this summer a lot of work went on. Most of it occurred online. For the first time I attended the service coordinators meeting. This was supposed to be in St. Charles, IL but do to the virus we all stayed home and used our computers. Attending this meeting, I was able to meet the new LCMC service coordinator, Michael Bradley. We discussed the direction of the LCMC and his vision for our future. I was responsible for giving a report on the NW District, which included news from Springfield and Cove, OR. As a region we are also asking to be given more responsibility over pastoral certification, and planning a regional youth activity for the near future. Also, the group of LCMC MT pastors that meet in Great Falls monthly has been growing and gaining purpose.

With all this still going on I cannot complain much at all. I am blessed. Most of this work has been done from home, while still being able to enjoy the freedoms of being in a small town. I am out and about a bit but for the most part have worked from home in the company of my family. With our baby boy due August 24th, Kori needed help in the hottest part of the season and I was able to be there. Yes, we miss visiting, and have many of you on our mind. At the same time our whole household is ready to welcome our new addition and rest. We still have needs of course. We have asked for an estimate on a housing allowance so that we may begin looking for a larger house. Our car is also small for the five of us so we are looking at our own budget so that we might afford two vehicles. Diapers and wipes were almost gone too, but will begin to arrive again. We appreciate each of the congregations generosity through the years. Thank you.

At the start of the pandemic, the first thing I talked about was the need for each of us to be still. I encouraged each of us to go and find a quiet place to pray. One of my favorite verses says, “Be still, the Lord will fight for you…” (Ex. 14:14) At the end of this summer, I now have my own door opening for this very thing. After our boy is born my family is taking a vacation until Sept. 8th. We will be back in worship Sept. 13th. No matter where my work is there is a need for me to put it down and focus on my family instead. We may stay in Conrad or take a short trip, but are very thankful for being able to do this. It will get me ready for the start of our new year and give me time to discern. I pray that as we are away that all of us are able to take time to hear what God is revealing to us. We will be taking time simply to listen and let God show us where he is calling us. I also pray that we receive support and care after working faithfully through uncertain times so we may continue to faithfully proclaim the Good News of Jesus for the Glory of the Father always.

Pastor Drew Nelson
The PV Council met on July 13th. Pastor shared when he will be gone for the NW District and when their new baby is born. Pulpit supply for those dates have been scheduled. Building & Grounds will need to begin the hiring process for a janitor for the Education building. Pastor has spoken to the radio station about recording when we broadcast the first of each month. They can burn the audio files onto a CD for $10 for anyone who would like to purchase them. (Probably would require advance knowledge of event.) The council, on behalf of the parish, would like to thank Roland & Karen Lee for hosting missionary Abdul and his driving friend, Chris, while they were here. The nominating committee will soon begin looking for volunteers to serve on council. The Education Board is wanting to see what the public schools do and follow their lead in the fall. There will be no August meeting for the council.

The next council meeting will be Monday, September 14th at 6 pm in the Youth Room.

Proverbs 24:30-34 The writer of Proverbs (Solomon) said he was out walking by the field of the lazy, and saw the vineyard of the man who was not thinking when it came to taking care of his field. This man had allowed his field to be overtaken with thorns and weeds. The man had even allowed his fence to be broken down. Solomon said he looked at this field and drew a lesson from it. That lesson was that when men become slack, not taking care of their business, poverty comes on them. This poverty, Solomon said, was like being robbed. And yet the robber was not another, but the man himself through his own lack of action. As Christian stewards, we should take a lesson from this story too. God has given us much, yet if we neglect it, poverty will come. (Poverty in that things can become physically run down.) Church giving can be thought of in the same light. God has given us the responsibility of preaching the Gospel from this church. That responsibility involves the upkeep of our 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 over this church neglect our support, then all of this ministry can come to a halt. However, as we stay faithful in our giving this will never happen, but to the contrary, this church is and will experience prosperity through the diligent care and responsibility of faithful givers like you and I.
I am absolutely humbled and honored to be extended a call to become the new Service Coordinator for LCMC. And I want to thank Mark Vander Tuig for all he has done for LCMC these past 10 years and the encouragement and help he has been to me already.

My wife, Debi, is a Lutheran pastor's daughter (her Dad was my first mentor) and one of the things modeled for Debi by her Dad and Mom was a life of prayer. Debi loves to pray, and I view prayer as one of my chief responsibilities, and one of the great joys I will seek to practice as Service Coordinator. If there is a particular prayer request you'd like me to begin joining with you in praying for, please drop me a note at safeplacemb@gmail.com. I look forward to meeting you in the future, and partnering with you in the kingdom assignment God has given us in LCMC.

The time has come – tomorrow (August 1st) will be my first official day as your Incoming Service Coordinator for LCMC. I am humbled and honored to be extended this call by the association and I am looking forward to getting to know you and to work alongside you in the mission that God has given us.

As my first act as Incoming Service Coordinator, I intend to bow my head and fold my hands in prayer before God tomorrow morning. My experience in prayer is that God often brings some things to mind for me to be praying for and about, but that I also often have some specific things already in mind that I want to bring before Him in prayer.

Tomorrow morning (Aug. 1st) I will be praying that God equip and empower us to come together as an association to develop healthy leaders and disciples in the Church and to equip God's people for lives of effective witness and mission in the world.

I will also be praying this: "Lord God, please blow a fresh breath of Your Spirit throughout LCMC that we might increasingly come together as an association to impact people in every sphere and sector of our nation, and overseas, with Your love and Your power. Mobilize us and release us as a people movement to go be the church in existing and creative expressions. Stir us and enable us through the Holy Spirit's empowering presence to declare and demonstrate the good news concerning the kingdom of God, the news that there is a better way of living life here and now, as well as in eternity. I pray this in the name of Your son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen."

God bless you all sisters and brothers. I am looking forward to meeting you, and working alongside of you. And as you continue to so faithfully serve the Lord in these unusual times, may God bless you with an awareness of just how much He loves you.

- Mike Bradley, Incoming LCMC Service Coordinator
Calendar Reminders:

**Pondera Valley Worship Leaders** - **Linda Carlson** (Sound); **Patty Larson** (Comm. Prep.); **Mary Jane Kinyon** (Greeter, Offering Custodian, Comm. Server Sept. 13th); **Ray & Kim Hofstad** (Ushers); **Judy Ketterling** (Reader Sept. 6th & 20th); **David Berg** (Reader Sept. 13th); **Faith Weber** (Reader Sept. 27th); **Betty Olson** (Comm. Server Sept. 13th & 27th); **Pat Lee** (Comm. Server Sept. 27th); **Mike O’Brien** (Council Devotional Sept. 14th)

**Golden West Worship Leaders** - **Dennis & Ruth Fladstol** (Ushers, Ruth Reader); **Jenny Flesch** (Comm. Prep.); **Jim Bjelland** (Comm. Assistant)

**Bible Studies** - Men’s Tuesday 6:30 a.m. at Pondera Valley  
- Women’s Tuesday 9 a.m. begins Sept. 8th

- **In July and August, Pastor assisted with Bill Campbell’s Memorial service at the Mission Church; baptized Sadie Jean Bliss child of Brandon & Jade Bliss at Golden West on July 12th; a memorial service at Pondera Valley for Donna Sorlie on July 27th (passed on March 31st), and the marriage of Lacey Woldstad & Craig Horn at the Boone & Crockett Club on August 22nd.**

**MEMORIAL Received:**
from Pat Lee in memory of Donna Sorlie to go toward the General Fund

**Congratulations to Pastor Drew, Kori, Abigail & Madelyn on the arrival of baby boy, Uriah Nelson!**

There will be several opportunities to show your love and support for them at this busy time.

**Meal Train Invitations** to participate in preparing an evening meal for their family have been sent to those who have previously been contacted for a Meal Train. **If you didn’t receive an e-mail invitation and would like to make a meal for them, please contact Kim Wiest at 271-3934.**

**Coffee Hour** We plan to have a coffee hour in their honor later in September or October. Please watch for an announcement when the time has been determined. If you wish, you could join the “pool” to purchase Diapers/Wipes (babies go through a lot!) If you would like to help purchase diapers or wipes, please contact Linda Carlson at 271-3507. She will coordinate with Kori for size and brand.

**Pondora Valley Offering in July:** $ 6,756.00  
**Thru August 24:** $ 7,221.00  
**Average Attendance in July:** PV 42; GW 18  
**Thru August 24:**  
PV 34; GW 14

♥ **THANK YOU** to all who continue to send in your offerings!  
They help us continue with our ministry! You can use the enclosed blue envelope for your offering or mail them to PO Box 883, Conrad MT 59425.
WISE TREASURE HUNT

In the Bible, Proverbs says to search for wisdom like it was “hidden treasure.” Everyone loves a treasure hunt, so invite your family or friends to join you in a search for the wisdom found in Proverbs.

Here's what you'll need:
- 2 sheets of 8-1/2" x 11" paper
- 12 pieces of string, yarn or ribbon (12" each)
- pen
- scissors
- hole punch
- Bible

Here's how to play:
1. Fold each paper in half, in half again, and in half again. You should end up with your paper divided into 8 rectangles.
2. Cut out each rectangle.
4. Punch a hole in the corner of each rectangle and tie a piece of string, yarn or ribbon through each hole.
5. Choose one person to hide the Proverb tags, tying them to objects inside or outside your house.
6. Send everyone to look for the tags.
7. After all the tags are found, look up the verses to see why we should treasure wisdom.
8. Create your own hunt by searching your Bible for more verses about wisdom.

WISDOM FROM THE WORD

God makes a special promise to people who study Scripture.

Directions: Arrange the word list in alphabetical order. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Joshua 1:8, NIV.

school  ___  ___  ___  ___  ___  ___
paper  ___  ___  ___
wisdom  ___  ___  ___
read  ___  ___  ___
play  ___  ___  ___  ___
learn  ___  ___  ___  ___
grow  ___  ___  ___  ___  ___  ___
pencils  ___  ___
pray  ___  ___  ___
art  ___  ___  ___  ___  ___
student  ___  ___  ___  ___
kids  ___  ___  ___  ___  ___
apple  ___  ___  ___  ___  ___  ___

“... meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be ___  ___  ___  ___  ___  ___  ___  ___ and successful.”

JOSHUA 1:8, NIV

Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Psalm 90:12
Go to our website for videos, updates, materials to use for worship! PLUS, the newsletter is in COLOR!!
www.conradlutheran.com

♥ LCMC 20th Annual Gathering & Convention will be October 4-7 in Arden Hills, MN, lcmc.net/annual-gathering
Because of COVID-19 it will be limited to 250 attendees and so the business will be done differently this year. It might be a good year to watch it online.

When God Crosses Our Paths
Pastor and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, “God will be constantly crossing our paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions.” Last spring, the whole world had plans canceled, first by Covid-19 and then by God “sending us people with claims and petitions.” Some needed prayers for healing or for coping with grief. Medical staff, teachers, pastors and others serving long hours needed support: meals, check-in calls, “thinking of you” cards. Parents working remotely while helping kids with distance-learning needed encouragement. Crucial nonprofit work still required donations.

Pre-pandemic, you may not have realized that staying home or wearing a face mask could be a ministry. Or that sending a card expresses love in Jesus’ name. Or that buying takeout from a local restaurant can be a gift to the owners. God new ways — both nudge us toward virtually, or 6 feet apart!

WOMEN’S FALL BAZAAR COMING!! Friday, Nov. 6th
Get started now thinking about what you want to bring! And if you have a finished product and wish to bring it to the church now, put it in a Ziploc bag and place in “marked” bin in the basement kitchen of PV. Thank You!

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September 6th - Ezekiel 33:7-9; Psalm 32:1-7; Romans 13:1-10; Matthew 18:1-20
September 13th - Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:1-12; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35
September 20th - Isaiah 55:6-9; Psalm 27:1-9; Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30; Mt 20:1-16
September 27th - Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-10; Phil. 2:1-18; Mt 21:23-32
Illnesses or other concerns: (denotes relation to)
Ron Thaut, Herb & Rose Peterman, Mike Buechler, Annie Schlosser, Zach Greene (Carol Kaldor), Evan Bell, Dennis Fladstol, Teagan Bartoo, Faith Birnel Crouch (Ruth Fladstol), Hayden Kellogg, Ron Widhalm, Shaun Short (Stacie Matheson), Joe Lema, Beth Roen (Kim Wiest), Wayne Smith (Linda VanTongeren), Marvin Baker, Sandy Webb (JoAnne Unger), Norman Stordahl, Debbie Ries, Debbi Gage, Mitchell Moore (Josita Montgomery), Connie Wolf, Wayne Brown (Carol Wood), Juelie McLean (Bill McLean), Don Bandow, Ralph Swan (Cyndi Johnson), Poppy Dahl, Kimberly Peacock, Audrey Kieft, Gerald Bruner, Melvin Pocock, Rose & Molly Grubb + Valora (Wanda 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...Those deployed in the service abroad: Mark Thompson, Brett Christensen, Blake Tornga, Guthrie Oiestad, Cameron Bowen

Prayers to Prepare for Worship

🔹 God, I thank you for the work to which you have called me — at home and beyond. May I glorify you in all I do.
🔹 Lord, you guided Israel with fire and cloud; I see your direction for me too: through prayer, wise friends and here in worship. Thank you!
🔹 Prepare my heart for Worship LORD. Help me to anticipate with joy what You want me to hear today! Amen.
🔹 LORD, keep my thoughts from distractions and firmly on the message of Worship!
🔹 Dear Lord, “I will meditate on your majestic, glorious splendor and your wonderful miracles” (Psalm 145:5, NLT). Amen.
🔹 Thank you for this lovely fall day, Creator God. I praise you for this time of rest and worship.

“Forgive... from your heart.”
Matthew 18:35

Community Prayer Night

Monday, September 14th
6:30pm at the LEGION PARK.
An opportunity for all to come together to pray! Please come! If you would like to attend but not pray out loud, that’s okay! Also, if you have a prayer request, give it to Kim, in the office, beforehand!
Bible Trivia
THE BIBLICAL GREENHOUSE CONTINUED

1. Who was killed after his hair was caught in an oak’s branches?
2. What man met the Lord at the oaks of Mamre?
3. What prophet had a vision of a branch of an almond tree?
4. To what king did Jesus compare the lilies of the field?
5. What plant was used to purify lepers?
6. When Rahab hid the Israelite spies on her rooftop, what did she hide them under?
7. What did Noah’s dove bring back in its beak?
8. What kind of tree was withered by Jesus because it bore no fruit?
9. What tree’s leaves were used to cover the naked Adam and Eve?
10. What tree’s fruit was used to make a plaster to heal the diseased King Hezekiah?
11. What furnishings in the temple were made of olive wood?
12. What epistle uses the grafting of the olive tree as a symbol of God choosing the Gentiles in addition to the Jews?
13. What prophet mentions a gift of ebony wood sent to Tyre?
14. In what land did Moses see a burning bush that was not consumed?
15. On what day of Creation did God make the plants?

16. What kind of flowers were supposed to be carve into the sacred lamp stands?
17. What were Solomon’s Chariots made of?
18. What book mentions “apples of gold”?
19. In the parable of the sower, what unwanted plant causes some of the seeds to die?
20. What was Moses’ basket made of?
21. What plant was used to lift up a sponge to the dying Jesus?
22. What plant was given to Jesus as a mock scepter by the Roman soldiers?
23. What plant food, given to pigs, was wanted by the prodigal son?
24. What plant, according to Isaiah, would not be broken by the Messiah?
25. What leaves were thrown down in front of Jesus on his entry into Jerusalem?

ALPHA & OMEGA
God created this world,
everything that it holds.
And God still is creating
as each day unfolds.
What we once called the future,
we now call the past.
While the present is fleeting,
God stays — first and last!
—Peggy Ferrell

MANY PARTS ONE BODY!
Through the teaching, support,
sacrifice, worship and commitment
of the church, utterly ordinary
people are enabled to do some
rather extraordinary, even heroic
acts, not on the basis of their own
gifts and abilities, but rather by
having a community capable of
sustaining Christian virtue. The
church enables us to be better
people than we could have been if
left to our own devices.
—Stanley Hauerwas and William
Willimon, Resident Aliens

ALL WORKERS ARE ESSENTIAL!
The concept of vocation, Latin for “to call,” previously
referred only to a calling to church work. But then
Martin Luther emphasized the importance — and even
sanctity — of all types of labors. The reformer pointed
out that “God doesn’t need our good works, but our
neighbor does.”
RJ Grunewald, in a blog post titled “God Makes Pizza,”
describes how this looks today: “God is busy about his
work in the midst of your work whether you realize it or
not. The laundry, the spreadsheets, the phone calls and
the cups of coffee are all deeply spiritual because God is
at work in the world. He is serving your family, your
coworkers and your community through the work you
do. God is at work providing ‘daily bread’ through the
work that you do, no matter what that work is.”