



CONRAD LUTHERAN PARISH

NOTE: This newsletter is a combined newsletter for July AND August.

LOGOS

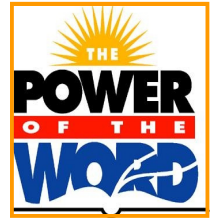
WORSHIP TIMES

8:30 a.m. Golden West

10 a.m. Pondera Valley

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

"You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross." Philippians 2:5-8



There's a variety of newsy articles in this newsletter so be sure you look through it so you don't miss:

- ⚓ Updates on the parsonages, p.5**
- ⚓ Call Committee update, p.5**
- ⚓ Great Falls Voyager Baseball Game invite for July 6th, p.6**
- ⚓ Day Camp & VBS opportunities coming beginning August 4th, p.4**
- ⚓ Women's Noon Potluck & Bible Study August 12th, p.4**
- ⚓ And other important things you might need or like to know!**



Thank you to the radio broadcast sponsors on July 6th at 11 a.m. on KZIN, 96.7 FM: Linda Van Tongeren in loving memory of her late husband Jerry, children: Jeffrey, April and Teresa and grandson, Timothy.

Thank you to the radio broadcast sponsors on August 3rd at 11 a.m. on KZIN, 96.7 FM: Ray & Kim Hofstad in loving memory of their parents: Harris & Bernadine Hofstad and Math & Doris Dasinger and their grandparents.

God bless the hearing of His word!

From the Pastor

Romans 7:14-25 *We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.*

“And More Rats Yet” from *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis: Apparently the rats of resentment and vindictiveness are always there in the cellar of my soul. Now that cellar is out of reach of my conscious will. I can to some extent control my acts: I have no direct control over my temperament. And if (as I said before) what we are matters even more than what we do - if, indeed, what we do matters chiefly as evidence of what we are - then it follows that the change which I most need to undergo is a change that my own direct, voluntary efforts cannot bring about. And this applies to my good actions too. How many of them were done for the right motive? How many for fear of public opinion, or a desire to show off? How many from a sort

of obstinacy or sense of superiority which, in different circumstances, might equally have led to some very bad act? But I cannot, by direct moral effort, give myself new motives. After the first few steps in the Christian life we realize that everything which really needs to be done in our souls can be done only by God.

The thing that St. Paul and C.S. Lewis knew to be true, as seen above, is that we cannot by our own power or will or actions fundamentally change ourselves to conform to God's will. If God does not graciously transform us, we are hopelessly lost in our rebellion and sins.

Luther put it this way in the Small Catechism:

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith; just as He calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives me and all believers all our sins; and at the last day He will raise up me and all the dead, and will grant me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

Christ is our life - now and forever.

Pastor Jeff Stoopes



Please note: Pastor Jeff will be gone July 23rd - August 9th. If there is an emergency, please call Kim Wiest, 406-450-5821 (or Linda Welch, 406-899-1741, if the emergency is July 26- August 2nd.)

PONDERA VALLEY MEMORIALS Received for:

OFFICE EQUIPMENT & TECH UPDATES in memory of **Ernestine Olson** - Jacqueline Bell, Joanne Unger, Carol Miller, Ray & Kim Hofstad, Everett & Karla Breeding, Ryan & Elodie Rauscher; in memory of **Harold Olson** - Nancy Herman Pringle; in memory of **Jerry Kovatch** - Betty Olson, Everett & Karla Breeding, Keith & Helen Hruska; in memory of **Don Bandow** - Roger & Denise Elings, Marian Turk, Larry & Rose Banka

**GOLDEN WEST MEMORIALS Received for:**

GW MEMORIAL FUND in memory of **Kenny Matheson** - Betty Olson
GW WOMEN in memory of **Kenny Matheson** - Carol Gunderson, Ron & Cathi Hemry

If You're a Thrivent Member, You Can Direct Dollars to the church....Here's How!Online:

1. Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice
2. Click on "log in" at the top right of your screen and enter your MyThrivent user ID and password. (If you haven't registered, click on "register now" to register for full access.)
3. Look for your designated Choice Dollars amount on the right side of the screen.
4. Click on "Direct Choice Dollars" in the Thrivent Choice box on your MyThrivent page.

5. Search the catalog of organizations to find your choice, ex. "Pondera Valley Lutheran Church".
6. Click on "Direct Choice Dollars Now" to direct your designated Choice Dollars to benefit that organization.

By phone:

1. Call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted, say, "Thrivent Choice".
2. When prompted, say, "Choice Dollars."

3. Say or enter your Social Security number.
4. Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars or press 2 to hear the Thrivent Choice program terms and conditions.
5. A representative will then work with you to direct Choice Dollars.

Help choose where Thrivent Financial for Lutherans gives back! If you don't, Thrivent Financial chooses.

- ♥ Thank you **Pat Lee** for leading and uplifting the Grief Support classes in our church and community. Your hours of dedication are much appreciated!
- ♥ Thank you **Tanner & Kendra Dyer** for buying the donuts for the Community Worship in the park in June!

♥ **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.

May & June

Pastoral Acts: Funerals for: Jerry Kovatch w/ Pastor Waag 5/8 at PV; Kenny Matheson at GW 5/31; Don Bandow at PV 6/12; Ernestine Olson at CHS 6/14

Pondera Valley May Offering: **\$ 7,760**; June: **\$ 5,914**
 PV Average May Sunday Attendance: **53**; June: **51**
 GW Average May Sunday Attendance: **16**; June: **5**

VBS & DAY CAMP are coming the week of August 4th!



(Registration forms available: www.conradlutheran.com/forms)

Day Camp! August 4th - 8th, 9-1:30 each day here at Pondera Valley. It is for those going into 1st - 6th grade. Each child must bring a sack lunch each day.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP for Day Camp: cookies for refreshments each day; 2-3 Counselor lunches each day; Counselor dinners for Mon. - Weds. nights **CONTACT: Donna Fowler** if you can help

Preschool VBS (3-5 year olds, including those going into Kindergarten) will be held August 4-6 (Mon. - Weds) 9-11 a.m.

BOTH groups will participate in a Program and Potluck Thursday, Aug. 7th at 6 p.m.
and EVERYONE is invited to attend this program and a potluck!

Summer Bible Study Activities

The Men continue through the summer to meet for Breakfast and Bible Study on Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. They would welcome more to their table!

Women: Noon Potluck and Bible Study on Tuesday, August 12th.
Need a ride? Give the office a call, 406-271-3934.



Pondera Valley council met on May 12th. It was discussed how the purchase of the Ketterling home is coming together, more info to come soon. Work on the Audio/Visual Updates are ongoing. Call Committee has a meeting scheduled. The council agreed to host a group of MS Charity bicyclists the end of July. Tom Russett volunteered to set up a church group Voyager Baseball game this summer (*See page 6.*) The council members were pleased with all the "hats for Ernestine" Sunday. Thanks to all who participated. **The next council meeting was held on Monday, June 9th at 6:30 p.m.** It was mentioned that there are pianists available for Carol Johns when she wants to take a break playing organ. We are so grateful to Carol but also grateful we can give her some time off. Kim Hofstad will be the contact person for the MS

Charity bikers when they come through July 29th. We will not be providing meals for them but they are glad to have a place to stay and shower! Day Camp and VBS will start the week of August 4th. There will soon be registration forms on the website, www.conradlutheran.com/forms There will also be info in this newsletter on the old and new parsonages (*See page 5.*) Kim Hofstad got a rough quote to have air conditioners put in our heating vents at the church it would cost approximately \$15,000 for the sanctuary. Discussion varied but it was agreed that at this time it was not feasible. Kim's office will need a new computer before the fall. The old one is at least 13 years old and cannot be updated to meet software requirements. She will have a quote at the next meeting. **The next PV Council Meeting will be Monday, July 14th at 6:30 p.m. with committees meeting first.**

Call Committee Report June 2025

First, we thank Pastor Jeff for his continued service to our parish. We appreciate him and his care for our congregations.

Call committee members continue to meet and reach out to numerous sources for pastoral candidates. We've sent our brochures to pastors on the LCMC available for call and seminarians on LCMC list, We've also called and sent information to 18+ seminaries and training schools for posting.

The Luther House of Study has 90 in the Master of Divinity program. Over 90% are already committed to a congregation. Most of The other 10% have churches they're helping.

The NW District said at the latest gathering, it was stated that we (LCMC) are 300 pastors short for the number of openings in the US. Other denominations are facing similar situations.

The Luther House of Study does offer a program option for \$300 a month for 3 ½ to 5 yrs.. for a pastor in training from within the congregation or area.

Absarokee and Scobey have parishioners in this program.

Julie Smith, NW District coordinator of LCMC offers a 6 week, lay pastoral class to mentor people in the church to assist with services. Anyone interested?

Some churches like Chester have interim pastors. We could post for a contract pastor, an interim...

Some churches have dual rostered to widen the pool for pastors.

The call committee was contacted by a company that does searches to help fill positions.

We are open to any ideas or leads any of you might have. Anyone that would feel led to go through the lay pastor class or go through pastoral studies, please visit with one of us.

Please continue to Pray God's blessing on finding the right pastor for our Parish. We continue moving forward in faith, working, knowing God will provide.

Pondera Valley: Kim Hofstad, Shauna Ellefsen,

Faith Weber, Betty Olson, Terry Peters

Golden West: Bill McLean, Ken Johnson



PVLC is looking for an interested buyer for the "old" parsonage located at 9 South Virginia, Conrad. This dwelling is a two-bedroom, two bath home with central air/AC. The main floor is 882 square ft. The basement is 676 square feet, with two rooms, a laundry room, and storage area. The detached garage was built in 1969 and is 20 ft. x 24 ft. (480 square feet.) The back yard is fenced. This is a fantastic starter home, home for a couple, or would make a nice rental property. If you are interested in viewing this property, please contact Kim Hofstad or any of the PVLC council members.

Dear PVLC Members,

The PVLC Council was authorized, by vote of the congregation on April 14, 2024, last year, to purchase a new parsonage and arrange for a loan, if necessary, to make said purchase. The Council was offered the opportunity to purchase the Roman and Judy Ketterling home located on South Iowa Street. Their daughter, Karla Breding, availed herself to provide showings for the members of the PVLC Council and answer questions pertaining to the home. Once all council members had viewed the property and were satisfied with the answers to their questions, Council voted unanimously to purchase the Ketterling home. A committee was established to

finalize the purchase details of the new home. The purchase of the Ketterling home was made the end of May, 2025, by applying monies which the Church had received for just such purchase, from generous members of the congregation over the years, and a bridge loan to cover the remaining amount was authorized by Stockman Bank. The Council will now sell the parsonage, which was generously gifted to PVLC by Felix and Josita Montgomery, to cover the bridge loan. Council members are most pleased with the new parsonage and are prayerful that within the upcoming year they might have an opportunity to show it to a new potential pastor.

Sincerely, Susan G Gustafson



On Sunday, July 6th immediately following the 10 a.m. Worship ALL are invited to come to the **Great Falls Voyager Baseball Game!** Carpool or meet there! Go to “will call”. Game starts at 11:30 a.m. Besides seating, food and beverages are provided in the price of \$27 for adults and \$21 for kids.

Complete Joy

Because Jesus came to do such serious work, we often imagine him straight-faced. Yet Jesus also enjoyed fun times, such as the wedding celebration at Cana. When the wine ran out, Jesus miraculously produced more.

Jesus also warmly welcomed children. Picture him lifting an infant into the air or tickling a giggling youngster while another child, grinning, climbs on his back.



Summer usually allows more time for fun and play. So use these months to teach the kids in your life — and to remind yourself — that Jesus came so our “joy may be complete” (John 15:11). Laughing, playing, having fun, relaxing and enjoying life are part of living and loving as faithful disciples.

While pondering differences between patriotism and nationalism, Ryan Hamm looks to Jesus’ example in Luke 19:41-44. “Jesus, it seems, loved his people, his city, his nation — so much so that he cried over it,” he writes in Christianity Today. “He didn’t despise his country or wish ill upon it — instead, he wanted nothing but the best for it, and it grieved him to see how his people had rejected his teachings.”

This example of “patriotism perfected” can serve as a guide for modern-day Christians, according to Hamm. “It’s an example that’s both pragmatic and romantic, shot through with

justice, truth and love. It’s not a nationalistic patriotism — it’s a love for nation that doesn’t pit it against other nations. Instead, it’s a recognition of love followed by a mournful recognition of shortcomings.”



Put another way, God doesn’t love America more than any other nation. And he doesn’t want us to worship our nation alongside him, because that is idolatry. Instead, we are to love and proclaim God above any earthly realm.

Special Dates

- Canada Day, July 1, 2025
- U.S. Independence Day, July 4, 2025
- VBS, week of August 4th (see page 4)
- Women’s Noon Potluck & Bible Study, Tues. August 12th, p. 4

www.holyfamilytime.com A great resource!

Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Psalm 105:1




SHOO fly!

Make this candle to keep uninvited insects from your outdoor summer meals.


What you need:

- Lime
- 10-20 whole cloves
- Birthday candle
- 4 toothpicks
- Adult help



What you do:

1. Have an adult slice the lime in half. Cut off the rounded end of one half so it can stand without rolling.
2. Insert 10 cloves into the cut sides of each half.
3. Stand the bottom half on a plate. Insert the candles in the center.
4. Insert the 4 toothpicks in the cut side of the bottom half. Then place the other half atop the toothpicks.
5. Before dinner, have an adult light the candle that's between the two lime halves. The flame's heat will warm the lime and create a smell that insects don't like.
6. Supervise the flame. Blow it out when it reaches the bottom lime.



Puzzle!

For this cryptogram, use the clues to decode Proverbs 27:1, NIV.

1=B 2=G 3=Y
4=R 5-U 6=O
7=T 8=D 9=W
10=F 11=N
12=A 13=S

CLUES:

14=M 15=K
16=H 17-I

$\frac{_}{8} \frac{_}{6} \quad \frac{_}{11} \frac{_}{6} \frac{_}{7} \quad \frac{_}{1} \frac{_}{6} \frac{_}{12} \frac{_}{13} \frac{_}{7} \quad \frac{_}{12} \frac{_}{1} \frac{_}{6} \frac{_}{5} \frac{_}{7}$

$\frac{_}{7} \frac{_}{6} \frac{_}{14} \frac{_}{6} \frac{_}{4} \frac{_}{4} \frac{_}{6} \frac{_}{9} \quad \frac{_}{10} \frac{_}{6} \frac{_}{4} \quad \frac{_}{3} \frac{_}{6} \frac{_}{5}$

$\frac{_}{8} \frac{_}{6} \quad \frac{_}{11} \frac{_}{6} \frac{_}{7} \quad \frac{_}{15} \frac{_}{11} \frac{_}{6} \frac{_}{9} \quad \frac{_}{9} \frac{_}{16} \frac{_}{12} \frac{_}{7}$

$\frac{_}{12} \frac{_}{8} \frac{_}{12} \frac{_}{3} \quad \frac{_}{14} \frac{_}{12} \frac{_}{3} \quad \frac{_}{1} \frac{_}{4} \frac{_}{17} \frac{_}{11} \frac{_}{2}$

Proverbs 27:1, NIV

Also, look up James 4:15
(in The Message Bible if you have that version.)

Answer: Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.
Proverbs 27:1, NIV



PLEASE UPLIFT IN PRAYER... Illnesses or other concerns: *(denotes relation to)* Karen Sutton (*Ruth Erickson*), John Gray, Carol Kaldor, Christopher Burns, Colby Johns, Chris Ketterling, Priscilla Allen (*2Karla Breeding*), Don Dezelsky, Jim Skipper (*Linda O'Brien*), Ron Iverson, Scott Hanson, Rose Peterman, Art & Lori Pearson, Dave Kluver, (*Rona Matheson*), Erik Dommer, the Alicia Wood Family, Mary, Barbara (*3Carol Wood*), Sara McLean, Ruth Fladstol, Tom Robinson, Ann Glimm, Kaitlyn and John Russett (*Tom Russett*), Tristan West, David Larson, Rebekah Thaut, Kariann Thaut (*2Pinky Thaut*), Butch Johns, Karla Breeding, Everett Breeding, Shannon Kaldor, Brenda Rhone, Loretta (*2Louise Glimm*), Roger Brastrup, Teagan Bartoo, Faith Birnel Crouch (*3Ruth Fladstol*), Poppy Dahl, *all* Logan Health Ext. Care, Bee Hive, and Horizon Lodge Residents, Missionaries and Christians all around the world who are being persecuted and their persecutors, All in crisis due to weather conditions and other issues, CASA-the kids and all who work with them

All those who mourn: Don Bandow, and others, there are many, please keep them in your prayers...

Those deployed in the service abroad: Chance Rauscher (*Sicily*), Brett Christensen (*Tunisia*)

For an updated prayer list, inquire at the church office.

Prayers to Prepare for Worship

- ✝ God, you gave free will to all people. As we celebrate independence, help us use our freedom to love our neighbors as ourselves.
- ✝ Everyone who gathers here today brings their own joys and concerns. Dear Jesus, wrap your loving arms around us, providing the unique care we each need. Amen.
- ✝ With a basket of summer fruit, God showed Amos a sign (8:1-2). What summer messages do you have for me, O God, in ripening gardens, starry skies, long bright days, warmer weather?
- ✝ Summer breezes call to mind the Holy Spirit blowing in my life and the world — sometimes soft, sometimes forceful. Help me feel your touch, O God, and move me to respond.
- ✝ Like a kind parent, dear God, you take us in your arms, lift us to your cheek, teach us to walk, heal our injuries and bend down to feed us (Hosea 11:1, 3-4). Thank you for showering us with your love.
- ✝ God, as you did Abram, you urge us not to be afraid, and you point to the sky, where night is the backdrop for countless stars — signs of your shining goodness (Genesis 15:1-6). Thank you.
- ✝ I bring to you, Jesus, the whole mix of emotions of my day and week. Thank you for taking me as I am. Amen.
- ✝ Sometimes I feel like young Jeremiah — clueless about how to share your message, God (Jeremiah 1:6). May something in worship today touch my spirit so I can speak naturally to someone about your love.
- ✝ “[Jesus] has said, ‘I will never leave you or forsake you.’ So we can say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid’” (Hebrews 13:5-6, NRSV).



GOLDEN WEST JULY SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:30 a.m.

**Ushers: Steve & Rona Matheson; Reader: Steve;
Communion Assistant: Steve; Communion Preparer: Rona**

Pondera Valley: VOLUNTEER! to help with ushering, greeting, reading the scripture lessons, serving or helping with communion set-up, call the church office, 271-3934. Info / instructions would be made available.

PONDERA VALLEY SUNDAY WORSHIP 10 a.m.	July 6th	July 13th	July 20th	July 27th
Reader	Jim Adamson	Stacy Eneboe	Jim Adamson	Jim Adamson
Communion Assistants		Erik & Stacy Eneboe		Lyn & Linda Carlson
Usher & Greet	Linda Van Tongeren			
Communion Preparer	Pat Lee			
Sound Tech.	Tom Russett			
Offering Custodian	Linda Welch			



READ IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP



July 6 - Isaiah 66:10-14; Psalm 66:1-7; Galatians 6:1-10, 14-18; Luke 10:1-20
 July 13 - Levit. 18:1-5, 19:9-18; Psalm 41; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37
 July 20 - Genesis 18:1-14; Psalm 27:1-14; Colossians 1:21-29; Luke 10:38-42
 July 27 - Genesis 18:17-33; Psalm 138; Colossians 2:6-19; Luke 11:1-13

GOLDEN WEST AUGUST SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:30 a.m.

Ushers: Sandy Seidler; Reader: ? ;

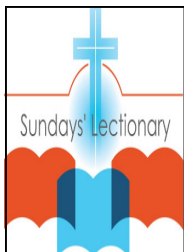
Communion Assistant: Bill McLean; Communion Preparer: Ruth Fladstol

Pondera Valley: VOLUNTEER! to help with ushering, greeting, reading the scripture lessons, serving or helping with communion set-up, call the church office, 271-3934. Info / instructions would be made available.

PONDERA VALLEY SUNDAY WORSHIP 10 a.m.	August 3rd	August 10th	August 17th	August 24th	August 31st
Reader	Jim Morren	Kim Wiest	Susan Gustafson	Kim Wiest	Jim Morren
Communion Assistants		Kim Wiest & June Hovde		Kim Wiest & Page Russett	
Usher & Greet	Linda Welch & Ruth Erickson				
Communion Preparer	Kim Wiest				
Sound Tech.	Linda Carlson				
Offering Custodian	Linda Welch & Ruth Erickson				



READ IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP



August 3 - Ecc. 1:2,12-14,2:18-26; Psalm 100; Coloss. 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21
 August 10 - Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33:12-22; Hebrews 11:1-16; Luke 12:22-40
 August 17 - Jer. 23:16-29; Psm.119:81-88; Heb.11:17-31,12:1-3; Luke 12:49-56
 August 24 - Isaiah 66:18-23; Psalm 50:1-15; Hebrews 12:4-29; Luke 13:22-30
 August 31 - Proverbs 25:2-10; Psalm 131; Hebrews 13:1-17; Luke 14:1-14