



CONRAD LUTHERAN PARISH

LOGOS



BEDTIME, MARCH 7th!
Move your clocks forward 1 hour!

Pastor Jeff Driscoll
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Monday - Thursday, 9-4
In an emergency call:
Pastor Jeff, 360-631-4707 or
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WORSHIP TIMES

8:30 a.m. Golden West, fellowship at 8 a.m.

10 a.m. Pondera Valley, fellowship afterward

I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. Psalm 18:1-2



PV Members! Scholarship Applications are on the website! They are due back April 1st!

www.conradlutheran.com/informed

This year's topic for the **NOON LENTEN LUNCHES** will be on Henri Nouwen's book, "The Prodigal Son". The soup lunches are on **Thursdays at NOON**. Everyone is invited to attend.

The remaining schedule is:

February 26th at the **First Presbyterian Church**, with **Pastor Judy Sibley** speaking.

March 5th & 12th at **St. Michael's Catholic Church** with **Father Nicetas** speaking.

March 19th & 26th at **Pondera Valley Lutheran Church** with **Pastor Jeff Driscoll** speaking.



PALM SUNDAY is March 29th.



- ⌘ **The kids will sing at Pondera Valley and walk in with palm branches**
- ⌘ **At Pondera Valley following 10 a.m. Worship there will be a BAKE SALE to raise money for VBS this summer! (VBS is July 13-17)**
- ⌘ **Bowling & Pizza Party 12—2 p.m. @ Branding Iron, Preschool - High School**



Thank you to the radio broadcast sponsors on February 1st at 11 a.m. on KZIN, 96.7 FM: Krista Keiper, Bryce, Kelci & Liam Watterud in loving memory of: *Brian, Lisa, Nell, Larry and Landon Watterud and Faye Keiper.*

God bless the hearing of His word!

From the Pastor

The season of Lent changed for me the year of my sister's death. A season of soup and bread suppers where we sang my favorite Holden Evening service made my countdown to Easter among my favorite times of the church year. Then in the Fall of 1992, my youngest sister was killed by a drunk driver. I was not prepared for how heavy Lent would become as a result. Suddenly, Lent became a season of death. All the readings focused on Jesus going to his death in Jerusalem. Each week it was as if I were having to exhume my sister. My grief had turned into anger. I went to church twice a week, but it was difficult. It felt as if God and I were locked in a wrestling match. I gained an appreciation for Jacob striving with God and man and prevailing to receive his blessing and a new name. And, I couldn't talk to God. Prayer was difficult.

That year our church decided to hold a prayer vigil from the end of the Maundy Thursday service until the beginning of the Good Friday service. I signed up for an hour of prayer at an odd time so as to leave the good prayer times for those with less flexible schedules. I entered the church expecting silence. A large rugged wooden cross had been placed at the entrance to the altar. It was draped in black with a crown of thorns around its top. At the foot of that cross, kneeling on the floor and praying out loud, was our organist, who was raised Eastern Orthodox. I sat down in the pew behind him, but he gave no indication he had heard me enter. What was I supposed to do? Should I tag him? Clear my throat to let him know his hour was up? He kept praying. I finally decided to go forward and join him on my knees at the foot of the cross. Soon after I knelt, he said his Amen and left me there on Good Friday literally at the foot of the cross.

I didn't know how to start. I had signed up for a full hour of prayer, but my grief hardly allowed me to choke out a single word. Then my anger overtook me. I prayed angry. It was as if I was vomiting up everything that was poisonous inside. I began by praying, "God, I don't know if I want you to be my God..."

which quickly turned into my list of grievances. I told him he was an unfair God. I laid out how the death of my sister had made a hollow shell of my parents. My Grandfather had given up his physical therapy after her death and would soon die. I had laid hold of God and the wrestling match had begun. Focusing further on all the loss that had occurred in the wake of her death, I continued my attack, but something changed in the prayer. I began praying faster and faster until my mind was racing so far ahead of my mouth that it became less my own words and I became an observer of the prayer rather than the one praying. And in this state, where everything inside of me was pouring out in grief and anger I heard myself praying for the man responsible for her death. My mind split. Half of me was screaming NO inside. The peace of the Spirit, however was whispering in my heart, "This is the only way." I continued to allow the Spirit to pray through me for the offender, for healing for my family, and for healing for myself.

This Word that we cling to is a living Word. It is not static. It does not abandon. It finds you, takes you deep into your sin and releases you from it. Sometimes it does so right in the midst of our sinning as Roman's 5:8 states, "God demonstrates his love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." In the middle of my accusations, my pain and anger, God gave me the gift of his Spirit to pray for me as I ought. He turned my despair into hope. He brought me safely back to the sheepfold. My Lenten journey that year ended literally on my knees at the foot of the cross. Grief is tricky. It comes on so strong and unexpectedly sometimes. Yes, I grieved after that day, but all my future tears were cried with the living Word who would never leave me or forsake me as he promised in Hebrews 13:5. Likewise, I encourage you to cling to his word, wrestle for your blessing, and stay near the cross. He will bring you to peace and resurrection.

— Pastor Jeff



In Loving Memory

PONDERA VALLEY

Office Equipment: *In loving memory of Maynard Van Tongeren—*
Larry & Rose Banka, Marian Turk, Rona & Steve Matheson, John & Jean Brekke, Mark & Michelle Ghekiere, Ralph & Roma Lee Fuson, Helen & Ralph Stordahl, Rosie Mack, Raylene Stark, Pat Lee, Gary & Vicki Henry, Wayne & Christy Norman, Connie & Doug Denler, Wendy Wedum, Ramsey & Betty Offerdal, Phyllis Lincoln

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

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Online:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>By phone:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted, say, "Thrivent Choice". 2. When prompted, say, "Choice Dollars." | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. |
|--|---|---|



♥ Thank you to Dick Kinyon and Sandy, Kim Hofstad, Rock & Janeil Perkins, Wylie Gustafson, Carol Gunderson, Susan Gustafson, Ruth Erickson, Jason DeVries, Linda Welch, Denise Elings, any who helped make the Valentine Dinner so special. Thanks also to all who attended!

♥ Thank you June Hovde for organizing volunteers to deliver Meals on Wheels for many years! June is taking a break for now and we need someone to step forward to organize it. We also need more volunteers to deliver the meals. Please call the office if you can help, 406-271-3934.

⚔ We also **need ushers** for the month of December this year at Pondera Valley. If you can do this, let the office know! Thank you!

♥ **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**

FEBRUARY Pastoral Acts:
Maynard Van Tongeren 2/16 @ funeral home
Pondera Valley Offering: **\$6,730.00**
PV Average Sunday Attendance: **63**
Ash Wednesday Service: **23**



WEDNESDAY EDUCATION CLASS
 Wednesday, at 3:45 p.m.—5 p.m. for 3 year olds - 5th grade
 in the Youth Room

CONFIRMATION Class for 7th & 8th grades
 6-7:30 p.m. Sundays
 with Pastor Driscoll in the Fellowship Hall

March 29th– Palm Sunday: sing in church

⌘ **Bake Sale to raise money for VBS this Summer AND...**

⌘ **Bowling & Pizza Party for ages Preschool—High School 12-2 p.m. at the Branding Iron Lanes!**

⌘ **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE APRIL 1st for PV members!**

⌘ **MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR VBS!!! JULY 13-17, 2026**



JOIN US FOR

BIBLE STUDIES

FOR MEN — Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. for breakfast and Bible Study

FOR WOMEN — Sundays at 9 a.m. in church library

-- Mondays at Noon in church library

— Tuesdays at 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

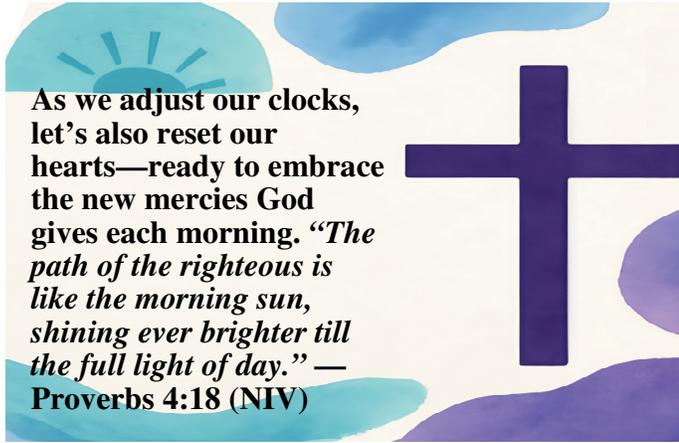
— 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. @ Golden West Church

Pondera Valley Council had a meeting February 9th. The Valentine Dinner has been sold out! Ash Wednesday Breakfast on Feb. 18th is at 9 a.m. and the worship service at 6 p.m.. The first Lenten lunch will be at 1st Presbyterian Feb. 19th. Community worship at the H.S. auditorium will be Feb. 22nd. NW Energy will be installing a light on a pole in the alley. It will cost us \$6.40 monthly but will improve the lighting in the back and the side of the church. The committees were told to look at the policy book job descriptions for their committee to be sure they're covering what they need to. **The next meeting for PV Council will be March 9, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.**



Golden West had their annual meeting

February 1st. The church did a major steeple repair this year. The Endowment fund did well in 2025. The committee recommended several groups to receive funds and the congregation approved them. Pastor's report was in the book and he said he is excited for what the future holds. Internet has been installed. Getting a sound system has been tabled as Pastor has a very good one that he offered us to use any time. The benevolence committee's recommendations were approved. There was discussion of unmarked graves at the cemetery, suggesting that the cost of the burial in the future include gravestones or plaques and that the families of the 6 unmarked graves be contacted. The election was held with a unanimous ballot. The meeting was adjourned to enjoy a waffle dinner!



Lenten READING PLAN

Lenten Reading Plan: A Countdown of Hope

Get ready for Easter with this family Bible Reading Plan. From Ash Wednesday to Resurrection Sunday, read a promise from God each day. May God bless you as you discover his love and faithfulness through Scripture.

- The **Promise** of a Savior, *Genesis 3:15*
- The **Promise** to Never Again Flood the Earth, *Genesis 9:13-15*
- The **Promise** to Bless Abraham, *Genesis 12:1-3*
- The **Promise** to Multiply Abraham's Offspring, *Genesis 22:17-18*
- The **Promise** of Deliverance, *Exodus 3:7-8*
- The **Promise** of God's Presence, *Exodus 33:14*
- The **Promise** of Blessing for Obedience, *Leviticus 26:3-12*
- The **Promise** to Raise Up a Prophet, *Deuteronomy 18:15*
- The **Promise** of Strength Through God, *Joshua 1:6-9*
- The **Promise** of an Everlasting Covenant, *2 Samuel 7:12-16*
- The **Promise** of a Shepherd, *Psalms 23*
- The **Promise** of Wisdom, *Proverbs 2:1-6*
- The **Promise** of a Messiah, *Isaiah 9:1-7*
- The **Promise** to Strengthen and Help, *Isaiah 41:9-10*
- The **Promise** of a Suffering Servant, *Isaiah 53*
- The **Promise** of Restoration, *Jeremiah 29:10-14*
- The **Promise** of a New Covenant, *Jeremiah 31:31-34*
- The **Promise** of Renewal, *Ezekiel 37:1-14*
- The **Promise** of the Spirit, *Joel 2:28-29*
- The **Promise** of Jesus, *Luke 2:1-20*
- The **Promise** of Provision, *Matthew 6:25-34*
- The **Promise** of Rest, *Matthew 11:28-29*
- The **Promise** of Eternal Life, *John 3:16-17*
- The **Promise** of Christ's Return, *John 14:1-3*
- The **Promise** of Peace, *John 14:27*
- The **Promise** of Answered Prayer, *John 15:7*
- The **Promise** of Guidance, *John 16:13*
- The **Promise** of Power from on High, *Acts 1:8*
- The **Promise** of Grace, *Romans 6:14*
- The **Promise** of Freedom from Condemnation, *Romans 8:1-4*
- The **Promise** of Adoption, *Romans 8:15-17*
- The **Promise** of Purpose, *Romans 8:28*
- The **Promise** of Victory Over Death, *1 Corinthians 15:54-57*
- The **Promise** of Comfort, *2 Corinthians 1:3-4*
- The **Promise** of New Life, *2 Corinthians 5:17*
- The **Promise** of God's Faithfulness, *2 Thessalonians 3:3-5*
- The **Promise** of Eternal Glory, *2 Timothy 2:11-13*
- The **Promise** of Perseverance, *James 1:2-4*
- The **Promise** of a New Heaven and a New Earth, *Revelation 21:1-4*

Try the bonus activities to make Lent more meaningful

Family Lenten Activities

Make promise stones. Paint and display small stones that remind you how God keeps his promises.

Fill a jar with blessings. During Lent, jot down ways that God is faithful to you. On Easter, read aloud the slips of paper as a family.



I BELIEVE...

I believe in the God of fruit time and harvest who makes the land to bear gifts in its time and fills our tables with the bounty of his hand;

I believe in Jesus Christ his Son, who was the first fruit of those that slept, and brings us to spiritual tables where our cups are always full;

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who causes us to remember all for which we are grateful

and teaches us to see a relationship between our gifts and the giver;

I believe in the world as the arena of my spiritual life, where I am to share hospitality with the stranger; for in so doing I shall fulfill the desires of him who has given me everything, and of his Son and the Holy Spirit.

—John Killinger in Lost in Wonder, Love

The Choice to Be Human

Both Adam and Jesus faced the same temptation—the lure to “be like God.” Adam reached for divinity and stepped over the line, bringing sin and separation into the world. Jesus, however, chose humility. He remained obedient, fully human, and through His obedience brought redemption to all.

Adam’s choice turned humanity into a burden; Jesus’ faithfulness made humanity a blessing. The irony is striking: the one who tried to be God failed even to live as a man, while the one who was content to be human became known as the Son of God.

As Philippians 2:6-8 (NIV) reminds us, “[Christ Jesus],

being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage ... he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross.” May we follow His example in humility and obedience.



The rooster reminds us of Peter’s threefold denial of Jesus on the night of his trial (Matthew 26:34, NIV). Because of this, it often symbolizes human weakness and faithlessness—especially when faith is tested. Yet, the rooster also calls to mind watchfulness. Its early-morning crowing echoes Jesus’ words about being alert for his return: “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn” (Mark 13:35, NIV).

Special Dates for March 2026

- World Day of Prayer, March 6
- Daylight saving time begins, March 8
- St. Patrick's Day, March 17
- First day of spring, March 20
- Holy Week, March 29-April 5
- Palm/Passion Sunday, March 29

Pondera Valley Women are selling RADA (Made in the USA kitchen tools) to raise money for benevolent projects! Check out the RADA catalog online:

<https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=1818332.f1ff6>



www.holyfamilytime.com A great resource!



In Bible times, shepherds spent most of their days with their sheep—guiding them to food and water and guarding them from danger. When a sheep was injured, the shepherd treated the wound with a special liquid. What was it?

- A. Water
- B. Honey
- C. A salt solution
- D. Olive oil

Answer: D (See Psalm 23:5)

Puzzle!

HOW'S THE WEATHER?

Use the code below to fill in these forecasts in places where Jesus traveled:

CODE:

| | | | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| A = ☺ | D = ❄️ | H = ☁️ | M = ☆ | P = ◆ | T = ■ | W = ☂️ |
| B = ● | E = + | I = ✨ | N = ↑ | R = ● | U = □ | Y = 🌬️ |
| C = ⚙️ | G = ✨ | L = ★ | O = ↓ | S = ○ | V = ☒ | Z = 🌬️ |

Mt. Hermon ○ ↑ ↓ ☒

Jericho ❄️ ↓ ■

Jerusalem ☆ ✨ ★ ❄️

Dead Sea Area ■ ● ↓ ◆ ✨ ⚙️ ☺️ ★ ❄️ + ☺️ ■

Sea of Galilee ✨ □ ○ ■ 🌬️ ☒ ✨ ↑ ❄️ ○

Mediterranean Coast ● ● + + 🌬️ 🌬️



Answers: snow, hot, mild, tropical heat, gusty winds, breezy

PRAYER list

PLEASE UPLIFT IN PRAYER... **Illnesses or other concerns:**

Karen Sutton (*Ruth Erickson*), John Gray, Cindy Fuson, Kelly Johns Leisinger, Molly Donath Kavanagh, Lori Wetendorf, Tiller Judisch, Bob & Sue Kovatch, Virginia & Dave Bliss, Kathy Hodgson, George Wood, Christopher Burns, Chris Ketterling, (*Karla Breding*), Don Dezelsky, Jim Skipper (*Linda O'Brien*), Art & Lori Pearson, Dave Kluver, Casey Kluver, (*Rona Matheson*), the Alicia Wood Family, Mary, (*Carol Wood*), Sara

McLean, Ann Glimm, Kaitlyn and John Russett (*Tom Russett*), Tristan West, David Larson, Rebekah Thaut, Kariann Thaut (*Pinky Thaut*), Butch Johns, Kailey Judisch, Brenda Rhone, Loretta (*Louise Glimm*), Roger Brastrup, Teagan Bartoo, Faith Birnel Crouch (*Ruth 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, war and other issues, CASA-the kids and all who work with them

All those who mourn: Maynard Van Tongeren, and others...grief has no time table; please keep all who come to mind in your prayers...

Those deployed in the service abroad: Brett Christensen (*Central Republic of Africa*), Tyler Rauscher (*Ben's wife, in the Middle East*)

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

Prayers to Prepare for Worship

- ◇ Make our minds receptive to your Word, Lord. Help us to hear it, to spiritually digest it, and to live by it. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.
- ◇ Gracious God, as we spring forward into a new season, awaken our hearts to your presence. Even when our bodies feel weary, renew our spirits with your joy. Help us to use every moment you give us for your glory, trusting that your light shines brighter than any lost hour of sleep. Prepare us now to worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.
- ◇ If there is any hardness in our hearts today, Lord, please remove it from us. We desire to have hearts ready to fully receive your grace and mercy. Amen.
- ◇ As we worship you, Lord, unite us in heart and purpose. Let our songs rise as one voice, our prayers blend as one offering and our faith be strengthened through our fellowship. May our worship today draw us closer to you and to one another. Amen.
- ◇ [Palm Sunday] Hosanna in the highest! Lord Jesus, as we remember your triumphal entry, prepare our hearts to welcome you with joy and humility. Clear away our distractions so we may follow you in both triumph and trial. May our worship today honor you, our gracious King. Amen.



So let's learn, let's press on
to know the LORD.
His appearance is as sure as the dawn;
And He will come to us like the rain,
As the spring rain waters the earth.

Hosea 6:3, NASB

GOLDEN WEST SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:30 a.m.

Ushers: Ron & Cathi Hemry; Reader: Cathi Hemry;

Communion Assistant: Bill McLean; Communion Preparer: Cathi Hemry

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. Instructions would be made available.

| PONDERA VALLEY SUNDAY WORSHIP 10 a.m. | March 1st | March 8th | March 15th | March 22nd | March 29th |
|---|--|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Reader | Kim Hofstad | Kim Hofstad | David Berg | Dick Kinyon | Dick Kinyon |
| Communion Assistants | | Kim & Ray Hofstad | | Dick Kinyon & Kim Wiest | |
| Usher & Greet | Mike & Linda O'Brien | | | | |
| Communion Preparer | Wanda Bollinger & Betty Olson | | | | |
| Sound Tech. | Erik Eneboe | | | | |
| Offering Custodian | Faith Weber | | | | |



READ IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

March 1—Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-8, 13-17; John 3:1-17

March 8—Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95:1-9; Romans 5:1-8; John 4:5-30, 39-42

March 15—Isaiah 42:14-21; Psalm 142; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

March 22—Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:1-11; John 11:1-53

March 29—John 12:12-19; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:19-29; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26 & 27

