

# Parks: House, Senate bills seek to clarify statute

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Foggin pointed out that public bodies indemnify their employees, so the lawsuit ends up being the government's responsibility anyway, thus eliminating immunity.

"What this resolution will do, really, is to send a message to the state legislature saying, please know that recreational immunity ... makes it so people can come and enjoy (parks and open spaces) and we don't have to worry about being sued," Foggin said.

While Polk County has yet to address the issue, Morgan Smith, the county's attorney, said the supreme court's decision is rooted in the long, twisting history of tort cases against government bodies in Oregon branching all the way back to the 1850s.

Then, government agencies could not be sued, only individuals.

That changed in the 1960s when the Oregon Torts Claims Act allowed the government to be sued, but set a cap on how much could be claimed. Individuals — employees of the government — could no longer be sued, he said.

That changed yet again in 2009, when the courts found that individuals could be named in lawsuits, but only if the plaintiff was claiming damages of more than the tort cap, which is now \$691,000.

The government is still re-



Chelsea Ramey, left, pushes Oliver Ramey on a toy in Dallas City Park while Kayce Howard watches.

JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

sponsible for defending employees.

Now Johnson vs. Gibson opens governments to more lawsuits specifically involving parks and other open spaces, he said.

If the legislature doesn't

clarify the statute, Smith thinks public spaces will be closed or more fees will be charged for use.

"It would have an impact on how we would manage parks," he said.

Two identical bills have

been introduced in the Oregon House and Senate to address the issue, Senate Bill 327 and House Bill 2792.

Those bills clarify that employees or agents of landowners are covered by

recreation immunity when acting within the scope of their duties.

Not everyone agrees that public landowners should have the benefit of immunity in all cases. The Oregon Trail Lawyers Association is

supporting a bill that would eliminate recreational immunity for government bodies.

Senate Bill 504 would allow people to sue for negligence if, for example, playground equipment or trails aren't properly maintained.

"All the bill says is that families have a right to have their day in court," said Arthur Tower, OTLA political director. "It states injured families have a right to make their case."

Smith said he thinks recreational immunity is a good policy, providing incentive for opening land to public use.

"I think it's worked well, especially with as outdoorsy as Oregon is," he said.

But he acknowledges that the those lobbying against it have good arguments, too.

Tower said the SB 504 is not intended to put a damper on use of public land and parks, but make sure those spaces are properly maintained for safety. He said agencies can defend themselves against cases if they create and follow a "safety plan" for maintenance at their facilities.

His hope is that lawmakers will be able to find a compromise that public landowners and users can live with.

"Government should accept responsibility, not shirk it," he said. "We have to find a path forward that protects families."



## Polk County Worship Directory

### DALLAS

**Calvary Chapel Dallas** Currently meeting for worship and verse by verse Bible teaching at 628 SE Jefferson St. [www.calvarydallas.com](http://www.calvarydallas.com) Worship service begins at 10 a.m. on Sunday. Sunday school is available from youth ministry and below to nursery. Wednesday evening cafe-style Old Testament study starting at 6:30 pm. Come join us for a relaxed study around a cup of coffee or drink. Mens prayer is Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Womens Bible studies are scheduled also, call for times. The Pastor/Teacher is Larry King. Come join us and be a part of God's family here in Dallas. For more information call 503-831-1074.

**Church of God of Prophecy New Beginnings** - 575 SW Ash St., (corner of Ash & Stump St.) Pastor Travis Clemons, 541-671-0375. Bible Study School 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. We welcome all to come and get acquainted with our Pastor and his wife Christina. Home Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Sunday. Associate Pastor Jim Dickason 503-302-9816.

**Church of Christ** - 691 N.E. Kings Valley Hwy. Sunday Class 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Sunday Afternoon Service 2:00 p.m. Thursday evening Bible Study 7:00 p.m. We follow the New Testament Plan of Salvation in becoming a Christian and the Pattern of the N. T. Church. We would be glad to study the Bible with you and answer any of your questions. We would like to present a very helpful one hour overview of the Bible. Call 503-831-4886.

**Dallas Alliance Church** - 775 E. Ellendale, Dallas, 503-623-2265, Email [office@dallasalliance.org](mailto:office@dallasalliance.org), Lead Pastor Jim Jamieson; and Youth/Children's Pastor Lance Baker; Every Sunday: classes for all ages at 9:15 a.m., Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m., (Nursery provided for a.m. services); Tuesdays: Youth Night 7:00 p.m. in Ediger Hall; Wednesdays: Adult Prayer Meeting 1:00 p.m., Choir practice 6:45 p.m. Call for info on current Bible Studies. Web: [dallasalliance.org](http://dallasalliance.org).

**Dallas Church** - PO Box 462, Dallas, OR 97338, 503-623-2711. Worship Gatherings: Sundays 10am. Meeting at 450 SE Washington St., Dallas OR 97338. Atmosphere is relaxed, families & children welcome, come as you are, current music & relevant teaching about Jesus. Pastor: Ben Bauman. [www.dallaschurch.org](http://www.dallaschurch.org)

**Dallas Foursquare Church** - Located at 976 SW Hayter St. on the corner of Washington and Hayter. Worship Service: Sundays at 10am. Youth Group: Sundays 6pm to 8pm. Pastor: Darrin Hausler. We are a multi-generational church with a heart for our community. Our mission is to Love God and Love People to Extend His Kingdom. For more info call us at 503-623-8277 or you can visit us online at [dallasfour.com](http://dallasfour.com).

**Dallas Presbyterian Church** invites you: Warm, spirit-filled fellowship with traditional Sunday worship 10:30 am, engaging discussion study groups, prayer "chain" and a loving spirit.—Adult Sunday School 9 am, men's breakfasts Tuesdays at 7 am, women's groups, needle crafts group and Indoor Play Park (for children with accompanying parent). Sensitivity to older adult accessibility and needs. 789 SW Levens, Dallas. 623-3397 [dalpreschurch@gmail.com](mailto:dalpreschurch@gmail.com).

**Evangelical Bible Church** - 1175 S.E. Howe, Dallas 503-623-2331. Senior Pastor Jerry Franz, Visitation Pastor Allan Wiebe, Youth Pastor Nathan Ens. Sunday: Worship \*8:00 a.m.; \*10:45 a.m.; \*6:00 p.m.; Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; High School Youth Group 7:00 p.m.; Thursday: Jr. High Youth Group - 7:00 p.m.; 2nd & 4th Tuesday: MOPS \*9:00 a.m.;

Wednesday: AWANA - 6:30 p.m.; Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 7:00 p.m.; Thursday: Bible Studies \*9:00 a.m. & \*7:00 p.m. (women); Thursday Group Bible Study 2:00 p.m. \*Nursery care provided.

**Faith Evangelical Free Church** - 2290 E. Ellendale Ave., Dallas, 503-623-8034; Interim Pastor Dennis Beatty, Associate Pastor Ed Sutter, Worship Pastor Ted Kitzmiller, Youth Pastor Aaron Swank, Ministry of Children & Family Debbie Davies. Sunday School 9:00 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday High School Youth Group 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday Jr. High Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Please call or visit our website for information about other meetings. [www.faithfreechurch.org](http://www.faithfreechurch.org)

**First Baptist Church** - 245 S.W. Church St., Dallas, 503-623-5189; [www.gofbc.org](http://www.gofbc.org); Church Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 6:30 am - 11:30 am; Pastor Rick Bratton 503-551-9561; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:45 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 6-7 p.m.; Everyone Welcome!

**First Christian Church** - Joyfully Worshipping & Serving 1079 S.E. Jefferson Street, Dallas, 503-623-2569. Pastor Darren Anderson. "Live Wire Worship" with Praise Team - 8:30 a.m., Adult, Youth & Children Sunday School - 9:30 a.m., Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m. (Nursery provided), Men's Bible Study - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. Christian Women's Fellowship - 2nd Tuesday, 1:00 pm (Sept through June). Please call church office for information about other meetings.

**Grace Community Church** - 598 E. Ellendale Ave. PO Box 69, Dallas, 503-623-4961. Senior Pastor-Dave Bertolini, Pastor of Worship & Discipleship-Ryan Bucher, Pastor of Student Ministries-Ben Potloff. Sunday Worship: 1st Service-9:00 a.m. with Kids, Youth, & Adult Sunday School running concurrently. 2nd Worship Service-10:45 a.m. with Kids Worship running concurrently. Nursery provided for 0-2 year olds during both services. Office open Tuesday-Friday for office hours visit our website at [www.graceindallas.org](http://www.graceindallas.org). All are welcome!

**Living Hope City Church** - 180 SE Mill St., Dallas. Family Worship 10:30 am. [www.livinghopecitychurch.org](http://www.livinghopecitychurch.org) Equipping Center & Offices 186 SE Mill St., Dallas. For more information call 503-623-6890.

**Living Word Faith Fellowship** - 830 SE Shelton Street, Dallas, 503-623-9062. Pastor Joan Siewert. Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Worship 7:00 p.m. Children's Sunday service 10:00 a.m., nursery provided. Men's fellowship second Saturday of month breakfast at 8:00 a.m. at Murphy's Restaurant, Dallas. Pastor Michael Van Dyke in charge of men's fellowship. Call for additional information. Website: [www.proclaimhim.org](http://www.proclaimhim.org)

**Salt Creek Baptist Church** - 15075 Salt Creek Road, Dallas, 503-623-2976. Senior pastor David Curtis. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning Worship 10:50 a.m. Nursery provided for worship services. Classes for all ages. Wednesday Senior High and Middle School Youth at 6:30 p.m. Please call for information about other meetings or visit our website at [www.saltcreekchurch.org](http://www.saltcreekchurch.org).

**Seventh-Day Adventist Church** - 589 SW Birch, P.O. Box 450, Dallas 97338-0450. 503-623-5872. Services on Saturday: 9:30 A.M. Sabbath School Bible Study for all age groups. 10:50 A.M. Worship Service. Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9 to Noon. Pastor: Lary Brown

**St. Thomas Episcopal Church** - 1486 SW Levens St., Dallas (at the corner of Levens & Cherry) 503-623-8522. Email: [stthomasdallas@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasdallas@gmail.com) or [www.stthomasdallas.org](http://www.stthomasdallas.org) 10 AM worship with Holy Eucharist. Father Fred Heard. Sunday School and Nursery Care available during worship. The church has formally adopted a policy of welcoming and fully affirming individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT). The new policy formalizes and expands on the church's longstanding tradition of radical hospitality towards all people regardless of race or ethnicity, marital status, disability or socio-economic status. St. Thomas Welcomes you—please join us.

**Trinity Lutheran Church** - 320 SE Fir Villa Rd, Dallas, 503-623-2233. Interim Pastor - Al Berg. Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m.; Kids Church during 10:00 a.m. Worship. Youth Group HS/MS 11:30 a.m. Sundays. Wednesday evening Contemporary Service 6:30 pm. Free Medical Clinic 1st & 4th Saturday of each month. [www.dallastlc.org](http://www.dallastlc.org). Catch us on Facebook.

**United Methodist Church** - A church with Open Hearts, Open Minds & Open Doors. 565 SE LaCreole Drive, Dallas, 503-623-2481. Rev. J. Quinton Kimbrow, Minister. Worship Service 11 a.m. Sunday School for Adults & Youth, 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for Children during worship service. Child-care available. Handicap access. All are welcome! Email: [dallasumc@qwestoffice.net](mailto:dallasumc@qwestoffice.net) Website: [www.sites.umcdallas.com](http://www.sites.umcdallas.com)

**Valley Life Center (Assemblies of God)** - 1795 S.E. Miller Ave., Dallas, 503-623-4116. Lead Pastor: Chris Barker; Associate Pastor: Ted Gibson; Children's Director: Crystal Barker; Youth Director: Kirk Bathke. Sunday Morning Service 10:30 a.m., Wednesday Family Night 6:30 p.m. Please call for more information or visit our website at [www.valleylife-center.com](http://www.valleylife-center.com)

**Falls City Christian Church** 233 S. Main Street, Falls City, Oregon 97344, 503-787-3104 Sunday Service: 10 am; [www.fallscc.org](http://www.fallscc.org)

**Falls City United Methodist Church** - 242 N. Main Street, Falls City, 503-851-3213. Pastor Rebecca Strader. Morning worship Sunday 9:20 am. All denominations are welcome. [www.fallsccymc.org](http://www.fallsccymc.org)

**Seventh-Day Adventist Church** - 205 N. Main, Falls City 97344, 503-787-3907. Pastor Lary Brown. Sabbath School Sat. 9:30 am-10:40 am; Worship Service 11 am. Community Service Center (Food Bank) third Wed. of each month, noon-3pm.

**Buena Vista Community Church** - 11355 Church St., Buena Vista, Independence. Pastor Larry Lyon. Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.

**Cornerstone Church of God** - 4395 Independence Hwy, Independence, 503-838-5119. Sunday Service and Children's Church 9:20 a.m. Nursery available. Wednesday Kids Klubs 6:30 p.m.. Thursday Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

**First Baptist Church** - A warm, friendly church that cares about you! Located at 1505 Monmouth St., Independence (across from Central High School); 503-838-1001. Senior Pastor Michael Parks. Sundays: Worship Service 11 am Wednesdays: AWANA 7 pm (during the school year). Thursdays: Youth Group 6:15pm. Join us for small groups and life groups throughout the week. First Baptist Church has ministries for children, youth, adults, families and seniors, throughout the week. Check us out at [www.independence-firstbaptist.com](http://www.independence-firstbaptist.com)

**St. Patrick Parish, Catholic** - 1275 E St., Independence. 503-838-5801. Father Henry Guillen Vega Masses Sat., vigil 5 p.m.; Sunday 9:30 a.m. (English), 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. (Spanish); Weekdays Mon, Tues, Wed, & Thurs. 9am, Saturday 7 p.m. (Spanish). Evergreen Nursing Home; Holy Days 9 a.m. (Eng) & 7

p.m. (Eng/Span). Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 3:30-4:30 p.m. or by appointment. Religious Education: RCIA Mon 7:00-8:30 p.m.; Mid-High & High School Grades Mon 7:00-8:30p.m.; Grades 1-4 Tues. 7:00-8:30 p.m. WOU Campus Ministry: Mass Sun. 5:00 p.m. at 315 N. Knox St., Monmouth followed by a social hour.

**Christ The King Christian Church** - Meets at 959 Church St. W., Monmouth 7:00 pm Saturday Night. Christ The King Christian Church is a conservative, contemporary, charismatic Biblical Church. At Christ the King we learn: the truths of the Bible, how to live Biblical truths, how to please God, and how to be a blessing to all people. Come and join us as we learn and grow together. Everyone is welcome. Wally Wildman, senior pastor. For more information call 503-623-2262. [www.ctkmonmouth.com](http://www.ctkmonmouth.com)

**Christ's Church Methodist & Presbyterian United** - Come care and share with us. 412 Clay Street West, Monmouth, 503-838-1724. Pastor Rebecca Strader. Worship Service 11 a.m. Call for information on small groups.

**Church of Christ** - 127 N. Heffley St., Monmouth, 503-838-2360. Minister - Jon Siegrist. Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Worship Service 10:45 a.m., Wednesday Service 7 p.m.

**Faith Lutheran Church** - 200 Monmouth-Independence Hwy., Monmouth (the church with the lighted cross on the "S" curve). Sunday School and Adult Bible Classes 9:00 am; Divine Service of Holy Communion 10:30 am. During Lent Wednesday Soup Suppers 6:00 pm followed by Lenten Worship at 7:00 pm beginning March 1 (Ash Wednesday), 8, 15, 22, 29, Apr. 5. 503-838-3459. Pastor Dallas C.R. Dubke. [www.FaithLutheranMonmouth.org](http://www.FaithLutheranMonmouth.org); Everyone is welcome!

**Monmouth Christian Church** - (503) 838-1145; [www.mymcc.cc](http://www.mymcc.cc). Lead Pastor: Sean Bitzer. Pastors: Ulysses Vela, Aaron Barnhart & Mary Weinbender. Sunday Service: 10am in Monmouth (959 Church St.), 11am in Independence (301 S. Main St.); Children's programming from birth to 5th grades every Sunday. Questions? email [info@mymcc.cc](mailto:info@mymcc.cc). Join us this Sunday in person or LIVE online at [www.mymcc.cc](http://www.mymcc.cc).

**New LIFE Ministries - we're growing in Polk County!** CHILDREN'S CHURCH NOW AVAILABLE! We are a God-loving, Bible-believing, non-denominational church body. This church is a little different, in that it's not just a church service, but is all about being a "service church". We strive to seek out and serve the needs of the community. It is our hope that God will use us to make a difference. Come join us! We meet at Henry Hill School 750 S. 5th St. in Independence every Sunday morning at 10:00-11:00 am. Our minister is Marion Seick. Feel free to call us at (503) 871-5207. Please come visit and worship with us this Sunday!

**Praise Assembly** 189 Monmouth Ave S., Monmouth (locations in McMinnville and Willamina as well). Our English worship gathering is 11 am on Sundays, followed by a Spanish service at 2 pm. Kid's church available for 12 and under. Youth group meets at 9:30 Sunday morning. Other ministries include: Celebrate Recovery (Tues, 7 pm), College Bible study (Wed, 7 pm), and Spanish Bible study (Thurs, 7 pm). Please check our website for the most up-to-date information, [www.praiseonline.net](http://www.praiseonline.net), or call us at 503-837-0300.

**St. Hilda's Episcopal Church** 245 Main St. W., Monmouth, 503-838-6087, [sthildaschurch.org](http://sthildaschurch.org) Sunday Eucharist - 10:00 am followed by Fellowship. Children's Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 am. Wednesday Worship at 8:00 am and 7:00 pm. Nursery care provided. Call for periodic small groups and celebrations. All are welcome!