

# LOCAL CHURCHES TOTAL FOURTEEN

## Local Churches Show Increased Activity During The Past Year

Mussolini says in his autobiography: "The British Empire seeks lands everywhere throughout the world; the Russian Empire seeks lands everywhere throughout the world; but there is the Christian Empire, having no lands and seeking none, but possessing an idea that glows like fire, in which over five hundred million, scattered over all the world, are agreed. Of these three, the little ship of the Devine Hebrew, Jesus, floats better than any other on the stormy sea of history." At this time of investigation and a widespread feeling of uneasiness and apprehension, we present to the public this great organization, THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST, with its superstructure fixed upon the Book written many centuries ago. This general knowledge of the church, composed of many denominational families, will illustrate her perseverance, and answer the question "Is the Church dead?" The authors of the following bits of history even venture to hope that some may find here material with which to build up and defend the walls of this, as many believe, Divine organization.

**First Presbyterian Church**  
J. George Wals, minister.  
Among the churches of Christendom the Presbyterian denomination takes no mean place. The following presentation of the church at large, and the church locally, is made to answer many questions that have been asked, to offer facts, that a general knowledge may be had of the nature, history and sanction of the Presbyterian organization and creed.

Tracing her form of government, and her faith, she can reach back to the time of the Apostles. Terms as used by the Presbyterian church today, "general assembly, presbytery, elders" are Scriptural terms, so that the historical origin may be traced along the ages of the Church of Jesus Christ.

The doctrinal system of the Presbyterian church is known as Calvinism, not because it originated with Calvin; it originated with God; but because Calvin, after Paul and possibly Augustine, was its ablest expounder. The doctrinal standards are three: The Westminster Shorter Catechism, the Westminster Longer Catechism, and the Westminster Confession of Faith. They are not three creeds. They are three statements, varying in form, fullness, and purpose, of one and the same creed. Each is complete in itself. Each contains all the essential truths of the Scripture. Of her office-bearers she requires doctrinal soundness, although her only condition of church membership is a credible profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, and in the Bible as the one and only infallible rule of faith and practice.

April 25, 1886, by Rev. J. C. Willert, assisted by Rev. C. L. Shields, with a membership of six, two were immediately elected and ordained to the office of elder. Two weeks later another member was added, and from this small beginning, has grown to a resident membership of 400, a Sunday Bible school with an enrollment of 416, with a complete organization of all departments as required by the general assembly. The present organization has a session composed of twelve selected men as elders; a board of nine deacons; nine trustees. Lee Reynolds is chairman of the board of trustees. The Sunday school has a full quota of 14 officers and 22 teachers.

The Home Department of the school has an enrollment of 46, all of whom give time each week to the study of the lesson, and contribute to the finances of the school. The Cradle Roll department gathers in the names of babies of the home, and at present counts 31. The Beginners' Department holds its separate sessions in the old manse just east of the church building, occupying the entire lower floor, with an enrollment of 57. The Primary group of 9 meets in separate session in the basement of the church. The main school assemblies, the auditorium of the church, three classes of Junior boys holding their class sessions in rooms of the upstairs in the old manse; and one class meeting in the belfry of the church. The heads of the various departments are: Harold Finlay, superintendent of the entire school; Mrs. W. B. Pickett, superintendent of the Home Department; Mrs. Hay F. Murphy, superintendent of the Cradle Roll; Mrs. J. George Wals, superintendent of the Beginners; Miss Alma Cusick, superintendent of the Primary department.

There is a women's missionary society with 41 members. Mrs. Lewis Denham, president, holding regular monthly meetings, raising several hundred dollars each year for home and foreign missions, devoting monthly afternoons to the study of conditions and needs of mission fields, not only within the parish bounds of this particular denomination, but of all the world. A number of the members of this local organization are holding office in the presbytery as well. This organization in co-operation with the session of the church, have for the past five years conducted an annual church school of missions, covering a period of six Wednesday nights during January and February each year. Stewardship has been a part of their curriculum. This society is also in co-operation with church leaders in providing training in organization of young people, seniors and intermediates, as well as children.

The Ladies' Aid society, Mrs. J. P. Morlock, president, devotes its time and efforts to the raising of funds for the local work of the church. The annual bazaar always nets them a considerable sum for their treasury.

The three departments, home, mission and aid, have busied themselves with sewing and other efforts to supply quilts and other useful articles for distribution by the board of deacons to those in need. Mrs. Jennie Thompson, president, so many a home has been made happy, and many a cold body made warm.

The Presbyterian Men's Club, an organization of some 30 men, is organized for the mutual help and social uplift of the membership and other men who are invited to enjoy

the fellowship and profit by the programs. Many different speakers are invited to appear upon the programs during the fall and winter months. This organization has been functioning for more than a quarter century. Thurman Hart is the newly elected president.

Dr. Margaret Ingle and Mrs. Lynne Bohnenkamp have been promoting the work of Junior Endeavor among the children, a large number enrolling and others attending the meetings to receive the benefits of the instruction. Young people have been organized into the three groups, acting in immediate and young people, with Miss Helma Anderson, Mrs. J. C. Bower and Miss Mildred Stoddard serving as advisers. Much interest is found among these older groups in the district and state organizations, conferences, and conventions.

Many of the Sunday school classes are organized with a complete roll of officers. The Bible Searchers club, composed of women, Mrs. Harry Turner, president, and Mrs. E. S. Eakin, teacher, is perhaps outstanding because of their perfect organization and the splendid attendance at class, and the work that is done by them at other times, for the benefit of those who may be in need of help. They devote much time to sewing.

A troop of Boy Scouts meets regularly in the basement of the church, with Dr. Ray F. Murphy, scoutmaster, and a competent committee to supervise the activities of the troop. Services of the church are conducted regularly. Splendid music of various kinds, add much to the worship hour. The service hours are: Sunday, 9:45 a. m., Bible school; 11:00 a. m., morning worship; 3:30 p. m., Junior Christian Endeavor; 6:15 p. m., other Christian Endeavor groups; 7:30 p. m., September 1 to May 31—evening worship.

Several years ago a beautiful church edifice was erected, well furnished, beautifully carpeted, with a splendid pipe organ and accompaniment of a full set of organ chimes installed. One of the desirable residences of the city was purchased four years ago to be used as the manse or residence of the minister. The church building is situated upon a centrally located triangle block of ground, the building facing the west on Washington avenue at Sixth street, the manse is located at 909 Pennsylvania avenue.

Rev. J. George Wals, present minister, assumed his responsibilities as pastor of the church on May 1, 1927, having spent over eight years in his former pastorate in Iowa. During the five years the membership has been substantially increased both in the church and Sunday school.

This church aims to present that great truth "The Believer's relation to Christ and the various stages of genuine Christian experience," in a compact, yet complete, profound yet crystalline clear manner.

The United Lutheran Church in America, the largest English speaking Lutheran body in this country, has 600 mission congregations scattered throughout the United States. Zion Lutheran church in La Grande is one of these missions which is meeting the needs of American Lutherans.

In 1870 Zion church was organized as a German congregation, but by 1908 the German population was so much diminished that the congregation was almost disbanded. With the influx of Scandinavians there arose a need for an English Lutheran congregation in La Grande, and the present church was organized in 1911. Since that time it has been ministering to all branches of Lutherans in the English language.

The church at the present time is enjoying a period of growing interest and increased attendance at the services. This is evidenced by the fact that on May 15, when a class of young people were confirmed and made members of the church, the church was filled almost to capacity.

The auxiliary organizations are also launching something entirely new in their work. A growing Sunday school is helping parents to bring their children up in the Christian religion. A successful Ladies' Aid society is doing a great deal to benefit and develop the church property and equipment.

The young people's society, the Luther League, gathers all the young folks of the church into its devotional and social meetings, which are held regularly. This group is one of the most active in the Columbia district of the Luther League, and are competing successfully with the other leagues in the attainment of the district efficiency goals. In its reading course, missionary and life service work the league is engaging the attention of its entire membership.

Rev. Edwin W. Bunker is the pastor of the church, which is located on M avenue between Third and Fourth streets.

her, constituting the true doctrine of the Christian life as held substantially by evangelical Christendom and the subject-matter of the best evangelical preaching of this and preceding ages. The standards of the church were born, not of controversy, but of consecration. The primary appeal is not to the emotions but to the intellect. The chief purpose is to define truth, not to apply it. A leading characteristic is a prayerful dependence upon God for light and guidance. We gratefully acknowledge the faithful and unflinching testimony which our church has borne throughout her entire history on behalf of the divine inspiration and authority of the Word of God; of which she has been the magnificent defender. A test endorsed by the common sense of Mankind and the authority of Christ, is the test of practical results.

**Baptist Church**  
The Baptist church under the leadership of the pastor, Rev. B. Marcus Godwin, is carrying on the various departments of church activities in co-operation with the Northern Baptist convention and the Baptist World Alliance. Regular morning and evening preaching services are held each Sunday the year round and a prayer meeting service each Thursday evening. A regular feature of the Sunday morning preaching service is a Junior sermon given once a month by the pastor. This sermon is always an illustrated one in which usually one or more of the Juniors assist. It is probably the most popular sermon of the month. It is given each second Sunday in the month.

The Bible school, Mr. J. Jordahl, Supt., is well organized in all departments and in addition to paying its own way assists frequently in meeting missionary calls and other church needs. Some kind of missionary program is given each month and an attendance pendant is awarded each month to the class that shows the highest percentage of attendance on the church services.

The women of the church have a strong and active missionary and aid organization. Mrs. Merville Moore is the president. They have two meetings each month alternating the missionary and aid work. One prominent feature of their missionary work is furnishing white cross supplies to home and foreign fields. They also assume responsibility for one twelfth of the church's missionary budget. After each meeting a social hour is enjoyed.

They take an active part in the reading contest carried on by the women of the state and this year read and reported on 522 books selected by the national missionary committee, and ranked fifth in the state.

The World Wide Guild is a missionary organization of the young women. Miss Jennie Nielson is president. They hold one meeting each month at which time study of missions, white cross work, and other christian work is done. A social hour follows. The name of the local organization is the Lillie McDaddy Chapter. The members also assist in the reading contest.

The music of the church is under the supervision of Mrs. W. H. Parkinson, with Mrs. H. L. S. John, pianist, and is of a very high order.

The young people's organization is the Baptist Young People's Union and is affiliated with the other B. Y. P. U.'s of the state and local association. They present a religious program each Sunday evening preaching the preaching service. Once a year they entertain the Grande Ronde B. Y. P. U. organization at a banquet with a program and address by some outstanding speaker. Usually about 150 young people attend.

Each year a class in leadership training is conducted by the pastor or by denominational specialists furnished by the state convention.

This year a unique "revival meeting" was carried on by Rev. C. W. Cutler, chapel car evangelist. The chapel car, "Messenger of Peace" was

assigned a place on the siding and served through the week days as auditorium for boys' and girls' meetings, and for preaching services in the evening. The evangelist and his wife make their home in the car which is a large sized railroad coach equipped with living quarters.

**Methodist Church**  
The First Methodist Episcopal church, located at Fourth and Spring streets has carried on a very successful year's activities in spite of the financial depression. More and more has its members come to realize that the real church of Christ is not a material thing to be measured by material standards. The average attendance at its services has been the largest for a number of years. The occasion to its membership has more than repaid the ranks of those moving away and dying.

The different departments and auxiliaries have had a correspondingly successful year. The Sunday church school has had the most regular and capable leadership through this past year than for many, and is marked by a growth and improvement.

The missionary activities center around four separate group organizations and each have had exceptional leadership in Miss Lenora Headley, Miss Arta Lawrence, Mrs. E. B. Kendrick and Mrs. W. H. Hertzog.

The distinctively social organizations, the Ladies Aid, Mrs. W. E. Adler, president, and Young Women's Educational auxiliary, Mrs. A. W. Burnett, president, have this year put a unique emphasis upon their social activities in making them interestingly educational and cultural. The program chairman, Mrs. Sherwood Williams for the Ladies Aid and Miss Blanche Clark for the auxiliary, were unusually successful in providing interesting activities that increased attendance marked always every meeting.

And now about the youth organizations. Starting in the fall with but a small group and with many discouragements the Boy Scouts under Dr. James J. D. Haun, scoutmaster, assisted by Harvey Carter, have built up one of the best and most aggressive troops in the city. The Young People's League, the Epworth League, has likewise had an unusual year — not so much in increase in numbers — as in character of work and study. Week after week these young folk have come to grips with such problems as "How to Know More About God," "Race Relationships," "International Peace," "Meaning of Education," and "What Can We Do About a Better World?" To keep a balance with such subjects the league has maintained a high type of social and recreational activities that have consistently brought good attendance. Just now as a culmination to the year's work the League are having their plans for a large delegation to attend their summer institute at Willows Lake July 18 to 24.

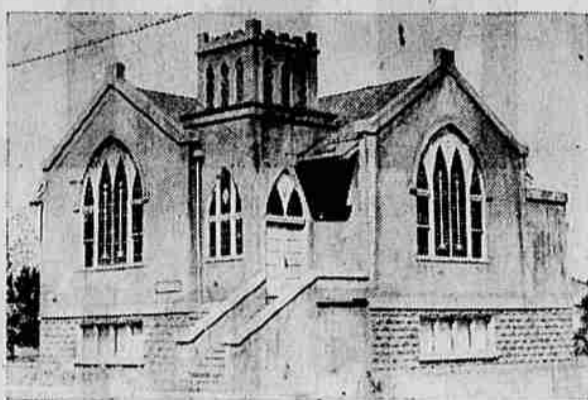
The success of this year's program of the Methodist church, thus far is readily attributed to the commendable co-operation and helpfulness of so large a group of people. From early fall a large volunteer chorus choir, directed by Paul Knautz with Miss Helen Williams at the organ have provided each worship service with an exceptional treat in music. The vocal soloists of the community have Sunday after Sunday rejected the attentions with their selections. The choir has provided cantatas for a packed house on three different occasions and good will and fellowship have resulted in a finer Christian relation. It is therefore to us a real pleasure to say "thank you, one and all."

### FIRST METHODIST CHURCH



The home of the First Methodist church is one of the largest church buildings in La Grande and is located at the corner of Fourth street and Spring avenue.

### METHODIST CHURCH SOUTH



The above photograph shows the home of the Methodist Church South, which is located on the corner of Fir street and U avenue. It is a frame structure well adapted to the needs of the congregation.

thy Smutz is superintendent, has an enrollment of nearly 300 members, 250 of whom are in regular attendance. This school is a thoroughly graded one with an efficient corps of officers and teachers in charge. An unusually large per cent of young people are found to be in attendance at this church and Bible school.

Christian Endeavor activities are carried on. The three societies at present include all ages of young folk from junior to adult. This church furnishes the president for the Union Christian Endeavor as well as other union officers. More than one hundred young people take part in these groups.

The Ladies of the church furnish the various organizations comprising their church work and comprise a large and active part of the church. The main organizations and the missionary group and the general aid group comprise the three divisions.

In musical matters this church is taking a leading part in the city. The chorus choir has been training for nearly two years and is giving some very excellent numbers at the regular church services. An orchestra of twenty pieces composed of some of the outstanding musicians of La Grande produces an unusual musical performance for the Sunday evening service.

The evening services have large audiences contrary to the prevalent condition found in many churches at present.

**Church of the Nazarene**  
The Church of the Nazarene has this distinction. It has the newest pastor of any local church. The new pastor, Rev. Swartz, just moved in May 25, from Boise, Idaho, where he has spent two years in the ministry. Already the church board has met and outlined a tentative program for the coming year. Under the leadership of Louise Swartz we are planning to have a choir that will be an honor to any city, also have prospects for a good orchestra. The Sunday school is fully organized with classes for all ages, beginning the new quarter we are expecting to launch something entirely new in the Sunday school field. We hope to tell you more about this later.

The Nazarene Young People's society under the leadership of Thomas Crader is moving forward, the weekly meetings are of great interest, they also have other activities during the week. The women of the church are improving their time by keeping busy with their sewing societies. In spite of the money problem, the Church of the Nazarene has not backed down one bit in their missionary work, but are even sending more missionaries out than ever before, and it is because the women of the church are keeping at their job.

**M. E. Church South**  
The M. E. Church South is progressing. They have made substantial gains and the Sunday school has many new interested scholars. Superintendent William Elam has the work well in hand. The church has been organized under the new policy of three divisions, the children's, the young people's and the adults.

The young people are progressing in their department and the adult Bible class is an outstanding one. The church services are well attended. Many new members have been added to the congregation.

A new parsonage is being built adjoining the old house and will be completed in July free from debt.

**First Church of Christ, Scientist**  
First Church of Christ, Scientist is located at the corner of First and Washington streets. This church is a branch of the Mother Church, the First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston, Mass.

Sunday services are held at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m. except during the months of July and August, when the evening service is omitted. The Wednesday evening meeting is held at 8 o'clock and includes testimonies of healing, also experiences and remarks on Christian Science.

Sunday school convenes at 9:45 o'clock where pupils up to the age of twenty years are made welcome. A free reading room is maintained by this church in the West-Jacobson building, corner of Adams avenue and Elm street. Here are Bible and all the authorized Christian Science literature may be read, borrowed or purchased.

In such a building.

The regular services on Sundays consist of a celebration of the Holy Communion at 8:00 a. m., a fully graded church school meets at 9:45, the morning service and sermon is at 11:00 o'clock and a young people's meeting at 6:30 p. m. The services are well attended and enthusiastically supported.

St. Peter's parish is a thoroughly modern religious institution, offering all of the church advantages that can be had in any community.

**Catholic Church**  
The Catholic church, located on Fourth street opposite the High school is one of the larger houses of worship in La Grande. The church has a seating capacity of approximately 500 people. In addition to the main auditorium, there is a small chapel where mass services are also held. The Rev. O. Nooy has been the presiding priest for the past nine years, having succeeded the Rev. A. F. Losier.

**Island City Community Church**  
Numbered among La Grande's neighbor churches is the Community church located at Island City, under the supervision of Rev. Maud Cone. Regular church services are being conducted, while the Epworth League holds their meetings at 7:00 p. m. each Sunday night. On June 6 the daily vacation Bible school was inaugurated for the coming season and the attendance indicated the interest and enthusiasm which their young people are displaying in this work. Their staff of instructors, Misses Bowers, Chadwick and Prouty are handling the classes in a most efficient manner. The Ladies' Aid society which meets every two weeks has been carrying on the usual activities during the past season. The local society was highly honored by the selection of Mrs. Orin Anson for the position of president of the Ladies' Aid society of Union county at their annual meeting held at Imbler during the month of October, 1931. Plans are under way at the present time for their meeting to be held at Union during the coming year.

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**  
The La Grande second ward has accomplished more in the past year than any previous year in the history of the ward. The remainder of the indebtedness and incumbrance of the ward was removed last Thanksgiving time by a successful bazaar and chicken supper given by the Relief Society under the leadership of their efficient president, Argenta Salkield. The \$15,000 building now being entirely paid for and the ward out of debt, the ward is progressing very nicely in all of the organizations of the ward. The ward membership has increased about 40 since the beginning of 1932. There has been 12 baptisms of children and members, 19 ordinations in the priesthood. The Sunday school organization, which meets every Sunday at 10:00 a. m., has increased in size until the seating capacity is crowded. The young ladies' and young men's Mutual Improvement associations have had one of the best years they have ever had. Their activities of parties, dances and dramas have been successfully carried out and both organizations had a much larger enrollment than they have had in previous years. The Primary organization for the children of the ages of 4 to 14 have had a successful year and have put over their Primary May festival and are now working on their fall Homecoming program. The ward teachers quorum has been active and regular in their monthly visits this year and to them is given a good deal of the credit for the increase in attendance to the various meetings. Even though the building is used for recreation as well as a place of worship, it has been dedicated to the Lord now and the people of the ward feel very happy in their accomplishments.

**Latter Day Saints—First Ward**  
The first organization in La Grande of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints was perfected about June 17, 1900, it being a branch of the Baker district of the Northwestern States Mission. On Mar. 2, 1902 a stake organization was perfected and a ward organization was made. The ward continued to grow until September, 1925, at which time it was divided and the second ward was organized.

In the year 1902 the present site on O avenue and Fourth street was purchased and since that time the Tabernacle and recreation hall have been constructed, which are some of

the accomplishments of the members of Eastern Oregon and La Grande.

There is now a membership of about 400 in the first ward, 64 of which hold offices in the different auxiliary organizations. The main objective of our work is to develop physical, mental and spiritual growth and to be true and loyal citizens. As our 12th and 13th articles of faith state:

We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers and magistrates; in obeying, honoring and sustaining the law; in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous and doing good to all men; indeed we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul; we believe all things, we hope all things, we have endured many things and hope to be able to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things.

**Church of God**  
The Church of God has been established in La Grande for many years, and is now functioning under the leadership of Rev. Carlos A. Plummer. The church building is located at the corner of Spruce street and X avenue.

The regular worship service of the church is held on Sunday morning throughout the year. There is at present no evening service. The Sunday school provides classes for persons of all ages, meeting every Sunday morning.

**WOMAN RUNS ALASKA'S ONLY RADIO STATION**  
PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Manager of Alaska's only broadcasting plant, Mrs. James Britton of Ketchikan had to come to Portland to buy equipment for a new radio station.

KGBU, her old station at Ketchikan, was destroyed by fire while she and her staff were out to lunch.

Mrs. Britton had just finished installing a new frequency control and was away from the station just a short time when it burned. The fire was of incendiary origin, she said.

**GARDENS PROVIDE WORK FOR COLORADO JOBLESS**  
FORT COLLINS, Colo. (AP)—Planting of emergency gardens to provide work for unemployed and vegetables for the needy has been started in several parts of Colorado.

The Colorado Agricultural college extension service has co-operated with industrial concerns which have made plans for such gardens to aid jobless men.

Alabama Polytechnic Institute's track team has lost but two dual meets in ten years.

**Joe Edenhelm TAILOR SUITS MADE TO ORDER REPAIRING and ALTERATIONS 1319 Jefferson St.**

**SHOW CARDS Commercial Artist C. C. Hyde**

**Flowers For ALL OCCASIONS**  
Our large flower baskets are suitable for banquets, dances and private parties. We can furnish flowers for every occasion. We also have a good variety of potted plants. Flowers Wired Anyplace

**ROHAN'S Flower Shop "SAY IT WITH FLOWERS" Just Phone Main 136**

**CLEANING & PRESSING**

**WE Call for and Deliver**

**RUBE ZWEIFEL**  
1105 ADAMS