

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Sermon given from book of Ephesians

LA GRANDE — The La Grande Church of the Nazarene will have Sunday school at 9:15 a.m. and a worship service at 10:30 a.m. Al Mortimer will deliver a sermon based on Ephesians 3:14-21 entitled "A Pastor's Prayer."

### Transportation available for Cove Grace Community

COVE — Grace Community Lutheran Church in Cove will celebrate God's word Sunday with a worship service beginning at 10 a.m. Pastor Carl's sermon title will be "Jesus Came Seeking You," taken from Mark 6:34. Fellowship will follow. Sunday school

will precede the service at 9 a.m. Transportation is available for all church activities.

### Sermon looks at Elijah and Paul

COVE — Lay Pastor Gerald Hopkins will speak Sunday on the correlation of Elijah and Paul at the Cove United Methodist Church. The message, "Lest the Journey Be Too Great," will be based on I Kings 19:1-10 and II Corinthians 12:8-10. The service will begin at 9 a.m. and will be followed by fellowship, coffee and treats.

### ZLCW Bible study takes place on Tuesday

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church in

La Grande will worship Sunday at 9:30 a.m. with Pastor Colleen Nelson. Fellowship and fair trade coffee will follow.

A ZLCW Bible study will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday and a non-denominational Bible study will be at 6:15 that evening.

### See Jesus as you've never seen him before

LA GRANDE — The Saturday service at the La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church will begin at 11 a.m.

Pastor Mike's message will show "Jesus as never seen before on earth," the one who exposed the hypocritical religious leaders of his time.

Bible study is held

before the service at 9:30 a.m.

### Fifth Sunday Sing and Summer Picnic open to community

ELGIN — The Elgin United Methodist Church welcomes all to their Fifth Sunday Sing and Summer Picnic/Potluck. The fun will begin Sunday with a barbecue and potluck at 4:30 p.m.

A service will begin at 6 p.m. Plan to share your talents with others.

### Pastor speaks about 'mountaintop experiences' with God

LA GRANDE — Pastor Ray Smith's message will be "The Mountain and the Valley" Sunday at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Referring

to Matthew 17:1-9, his focus will be on using "mountaintop experiences" with God to see the service he calls us to with fresh eyes. Worship will begin at 10 a.m.

### Jesus has compassion on the crowd

LA GRANDE, ENTERPRISE — The sermon at Faith Lutheran Church Sunday will be

from Mark 6:30-44. In these verses Christ attempts to retreat with his disciples but finds people waiting ahead for them. Jesus has compassion and performs the miracle of feeding more than 5,000 people while he teaches them.

Services are in La Grande at 10 a.m. every Sunday and in Enterprise on the second and fourth Sundays at 2 p.m.

### Submissions

Churches and faith-based groups are encouraged to submit Highlights for the Spiritual Life page by noon Thursday for publication on Friday. Submit your Spiritual Life announcements by email to news@lagrandeobserver.com (with Highlights in the subject line) by fax to 541-963-7804, or by hand to the office at 1406 Fifth St., La Grande. Highlights will be published as space allows.

# When praying for rain, don't forget an umbrella

I've heard the old saying that "life is not a bed of roses" for as long as I can remember. I understand what it's trying to convey but I've also thought that it would not really be all that great to lay down on a bed of sharp thorns.

Nevertheless, it's safe to say our journey will have its ups and downs and, unfortunately, most of us will experience our share of hard times. Whether it's a financial worry, a medical situation, family problems, a concern for the world or just being discouraged from the relentless grind of our job, life can be tough. However, in the midst of all that is going on, we can always turn to God who is filled with an endless source of strength, hope and love. We can choose to embrace the encouraging truth that God cares about our problems and how he has the power and the solutions to give us the victory no matter the size of our mountain or how dark the night. "And God is able to



**LIVING ON PURPOSE**  
DR. BILLY HOLLAND

bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work" (II Corinthians 9:8).

Yes, there are bumps in the road that can help us learn about faith and patience, but whatever the crisis it was not God's intention for us to dwell in a state of defeat. In spite of being surrounded by negative forces, we have been given the opportunity through Christ to abide in his presence, where there is an abundance of joy, security, and peace.

In John 10:10-11 we find the words of Christ, "The thief comes not but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy; but I (Jesus) have come that you might have life and that you might have it more abundantly. I am the good shep-

herd: the good shepherd gives his life for the sheep." Whatever the situation, he has promised that he wants to save you and bring you through your trials stronger and more confident than ever.

The concept of God supplying our needs is wonderful and a true spiritual reality, but there is also a very important component to receiving his abundant blessings and that is our responsibility to believe. If we do not have faith, it's not only impossible to please Him but highly unlikely that His miracles can be activated into our life.

In Jeremiah 29:11 that we are always on His mind and he has planned very good things for us to enjoy. But continuing in the context, the next two verses mention for us to take the initiative to call upon him, pray, and seek his presence with all of our heart which of course includes the element of trust and

assurance.

I recall a story about a small farming community that had been experiencing a terrible drought. The crops were dying in the fields and everyone was very worried because this is how they made their living. The pastor of the local church called a special prayer service for all the people of the town to gather in front of the church and spend some time agreeing in faith that God would send some rain. Many people arrived and you could sense the seriousness among the crowd. As the pastor was getting ready to begin the meeting, he noticed a young girl standing quietly in the front. Her face was beaming with excitement, and then he saw beside her, open and ready for use, a large umbrella. As he stared at the umbrella, he was a little ashamed that he did not bring one but also felt a sudden surge of hope and confidence. The little girl's childlike

innocence warmed his heart as he realized how much faith she possessed. Though the town had come together to pray for rain, it seemed no one else had thought that maybe they should bring an umbrella to keep from getting wet.

A life without a positive expectation and a hopeful anticipation of goodness is an example of the miserable pessimist who abides in the shadows of fear and sadness.

The world and our own human nature are constantly telling us it's impossible, it's risky, it's hopeless, but we will believe that nothing is too difficult for God and all things are possible with him.

Dr. Holland lives in Central Kentucky with his wife, Cheryl, where he is a Christian author, outreach minister and community chaplain. See more at [billyhollandministries.com](http://billyhollandministries.com).

# Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches

## Services This Week

<p><b>IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> 440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201 <a href="http://www.imblerchristianchurch.org">www.imblerchristianchurch.org</a></p> <p><b>Sunday Services</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service</p>	<p><b>First Christian Church</b> (Disciples of Christ) 901 Penn Avenue 963-2623 <a href="mailto:lgdisciples@gmail.com">lgdisciples@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Worship 10:00 a.m.</b></p> <p>~Join us at The Lord's Table~</p>	<p><b>Calvary Baptist Church</b></p> <p><b>Sunday Services</b> Sunday School 10:00 am Morning Worship 11:00 am Sunday Evening 06:30 pm</p> <p><b>Wednesday Services</b> Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm</p> <p>707 Main St, Cove 541-568-4888</p>	<p><b>Amazing Grace Fellowship</b> 1316 T St., La Grande, OR 541-568-4567 Sunday 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>2 Cor 12:9 My Grace is sufficient for you.</p>	
<p><b>COVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 1708 Jasper St., Cove, OR</p> <p><b>NORTH POWDER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 390 E. St., North Powder, OR</p> <p>JOIN US... <i>Catch the Spirit!</i> Worship: 9:00 a.m. Cove Worship: 10:00 a.m. N. Powder</p>	<p><b>ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES</b> La Grande - Our Lady of the Valley 1002 L Avenue Saturday 5:30 pm Mass Sunday 10:00 am Mass Weekdays 8:00 am Mass <b>Union - Sacred Heart</b> 340 South 10th Avenue Sunday 8:00 am Mass No Weekdays <b>Elgin - Saint Mary's</b> 12th and Alder Sunday 12:30 pm Mass No Weekdays</p>	<p><b>VALLEY FELLOWSHIP</b> 963-0340 507 Palmer Ave (just east of city pool) Sunday Worship 10:02 am Come and share in a time of worship, prayer and the study of God's word with us. Worship includes communion on Sunday. <a href="http://www.valleyfellowship.church">www.valleyfellowship.church</a> Email: <a href="mailto:vfchurch2@gmail.com">vfchurch2@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>LaGrande CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> 109 18th Street • 963-3402 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>First Baptist Church</b> SIXTH &amp; SPRING, LA GRANDE 541-963-3911</p> <p>Sun. 8:45 AM - Bible Classes Sun. 10:00 AM - Worship Wed. 6:15 PM - AWANA</p>
<p><b>La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church</b> <i>A Place where hope is found in Jesus</i> Join us in Fellowship &amp; Worship Every Saturday 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study/Fellowship 10:45 a.m. - Worship Service 2702 Adams Avenue, La Grande • 963-4018 Pastor: Mike Armayor <a href="http://www.lagrande22adventistchurchconnect.org">www.lagrande22adventistchurchconnect.org</a> <i>Learning for Today and Eternity</i> Little Friends Christian Preschool/Childcare 963-6390 La Grande Adventist Christian School Christian Education K-8th Grade 963-6203</p>	<p><b>FIRST LANDMARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 1812 1st St. La Grande Pastor Dave Tierce • 541-605-0215 <i>We use the King James Version Bible</i> Sunday School - 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Sunday Evening Bible Study - 3:00 pm (Effective June 10) Wednesday Evening - 6:30 pm "Where you can find TRUTH according to the scriptures" <a href="http://www.flmbclagrande.com">www.flmbclagrande.com</a></p>	<p><b>Zion Lutheran Church</b> (an ELCA church) 902 Fourth Street, La Grande, OR (541) 963-5998</p> <p>9:30 am - Worship 10:30 am - Fellowship &amp; Refreshments 11:00 am - Classes Pastor: Rev. Colleen Nelson <a href="http://www.zionlagrande.org">www.zionlagrande.org</a></p>	<p><b>Union Baptist Church</b> 1531 S. Main St., Union 541-562-5531 <a href="http://www.unionbaptistoregon.org">www.unionbaptistoregon.org</a> Sunday School 9:45 am Morning Worship 11:00 am Sunday Night 6:30 pm Thursday AWANA 6:30 pm <i>Knowing, Loving and Proclaiming Jesus Christ</i></p>	<p><b>GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> L.C.M.C. 502 Main Street In Cove (in the Seventh Day Adventist Church building) <i>"We are called to Serve"</i> Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 am Sunday Worship 10:00 am Pastor Carl Seelhoff Phone: 541-805-0764 <a href="mailto:grace.lutherancove@gmail.com">grace.lutherancove@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>Agape Christian Fellowship</b> 870 Alder Street, Elgin, OR 97827 541-910-5193 Pastor Glen Carter Service times: Sunday 10:45 AM All are welcome</p>		<p><b>SUMMERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Sunday Services: Sunday School &amp; Adult Bible Classes 9:45AM Children's Church &amp; Worship Service 11:00AM Family Worship Service 6:00PM</p> <p>Wednesday: Prayer Mtg, Children's Bible Club, Youth Group 7:00PM</p> <p>A church for your whole family Visit us at <a href="http://summervillebaptistchurch.org">summervillebaptistchurch.org</a></p>	<p><b>LA GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> "OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS" 1612 4th Street - 963-2498 Pastor Al Trachsel <a href="mailto:lgumc@con1.com">lgumc@con1.com</a> <a href="http://www.lgumchurch.org">www.lgumchurch.org</a> Office Hours: Mon-Thur 9am-Noon <b>Worship 10:00 am</b> Fellowship Coffee Hour 11:00 am - Nursery provided -</p>	