

HIGHLIGHTS

Community invited to End-of-Summer Family Bash Sunday

LA GRANDE — The La Grande Church of the Nazarene will have an outdoor worship service at 10:30 a.m. Sunday. The community is invited to join in a End-of-Summer Family Bash after the service. Activities begin at noon and will include a BBQ lunch, 50-foot banana split, horse and pony rides, carnival games, bouncy house, slip-n-slide, face painting and balloon animals. Bring your family and lawn chairs.

Confirmation celebrated Sunday

LA GRANDE — St. Peter's Episcopal Church in La Grande will celebrate Confirmation Sunday at 9 a.m. Bishop Patrick Bell will preside. Coffee and fellowship will follow the service.

The practices of Jesus scrutinized

LA GRANDE, ENTERPRISE — The sermon at Faith Lutheran Church this Sunday will focus on Mark 7. In these verses, some people were critical of Jesus and

his disciples because of their practices. The lesson will show that we are supposed to build our practices on God's word, not on tradition. The service in La Grande will begin at 10 a.m., and the service in Enterprise will be held at 2 p.m.

Pureness of heart is important

UNION — Grace Community Lutheran Church and Union Methodist Church will celebrate God's word together on Sunday with a worship service in Union at 10 a.m. The United Methodist

Church will be Grace Community's new location. Pastor Carl's sermon will be taken from Mark 7, in which Jesus tells the Pharisees that pureness of the heart is important. Bible study will precede the service at 9 a.m. and fellowship will follow the service.

On Tuesdays the community is welcome to a senior meal served at noon at the Union Methodist Church.

Message of faith based on 1 Timothy

LA GRANDE — "Take Hold of Your Faith" is the message Pastor Ray Smith

will share Sunday at the La Grande First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The message will be based on 1 Timothy 6:11-16. Worship will begin at 10 a.m.

Put on the 'full armor of God'

LA GRANDE — The La Grande First United Methodist Church will be celebrating the 14th Sunday of Pentecost at 10 a.m. with Pastor Al Trachsel. He will be preaching from Ephesians 6:10-20 with a sermon titled "Advice for Soldiers at the Front." The message will

examine what Paul meant when he said we are called upon to fight spiritual battles and to put on the full armor of God. A time of fellowship will follow the service.

'Jesus Challenges Faith' is theme

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church in La Grande will worship at 9:30 a.m. Sunday with Pastor Colleen Nelson. The theme will be "Jesus Challenges Faith." Fellowship and coffee will follow the service.

ZLCW Bible study will be held at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Following God's plans instead of our own

The more we venture out of our comfort zone and look around in this great big world, the more we will run into people who are hurting. Yes, many of us are blessed and some of us have led sheltered lives, but if we desire to become more sensitive to those around us, we will notice there are individuals who have not had it so easy. There are so many places to serve and so much desperate need that sometimes it seems overwhelming.

As a community chaplain, I am often aware of disturbing situations, and within my personal writing and music ministry, I am constantly being approached by those in this country and around the world who are crying out for assistance. Like you, I have compassion and want



LIVING ON PURPOSE
DR. BILLY HOLLAND

to help everyone, but there is only so much we can do. It's our responsibility to pray for everyone, but it's also critical that we listen to God's response and react according to his directions. When we turn away from considering the burden of human suffering, this coldness turns our prayers into a private "bless me" confession and reduces the big picture of the world's needs into a tiny peep-hole that is easier to ignore. I realize it's more comfortable to live in denial and focus only on our desires, but is this truly following Christ? We read about selfless individuals like Mother Teresa who abandoned her life so

that she could help others, and we recognize she not only had a compassionate heart but was actually willing to sacrifice her plans in obedience to God's voice.

From God's perspective, it's not how many good deeds we do, how much money we give or how much we accomplish that matters — it's all about us knowing what God is saying and then being obedient to his instructions. In Mark 12:43-44, we read the account of the poor widow who contributed two cents to the church offering while some of the wealthy members were donating large amounts of money. Jesus was watching and made a very interesting comment: "And He called unto Him His disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, that this

poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living."

The old saying "things are not always as they seem" comes around on a regular basis and when we are sensitive to recognize what is happening, we can begin to understand the deeper meanings of life. The widow realized that her two cents were not a significant amount but instead of being discouraged or embarrassed she stepped forward in faith because she heard God's voice and was expressing her love and worship to him as an act of obedience. This is an example of why we are encouraged

to develop our spiritual awareness — so that we can be equipped to comprehend God's divine reality. In Isaiah 55:8-9, the Lord is gracious to explain, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

When it comes to our ideas about giving, it's important to realize that God is not always impressed with what we think. Our old nature has a strong and stubborn desire to be in total control, and this includes our labors and contributions associated with his work. We must guard against the temptation to decide what we should do

without first consulting the one for whom we are doing it.

Our task is to listen for him to speak and be willing to do what he says. In this lifestyle, we can appreciate his grace and wisdom and know that he will receive all the glory. We can also be assured that if God is leading us, there is no such thing as a prayer that is not important or a compassionate gesture that is insignificant. Learning and accepting that God desires to be in control of everything in our life is a difficult lesson. His way is for us to surrender our ideas, opinions and justifications so that we can humbly submit to his perfect instructions and walk in his spirit.

Read more at billyhollandministries.com.

Fasting and prayer concludes with action at Portland ICE

PORTLAND — Clergy and people of faith with the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice participated in a day of fasting and prayer for immigrants detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Portland Thursday. Leaders from around the state concluded their fast with an action at the ICE office in Portland

calling for an end to immigrant detention.

Rev. Erika Spaet of Bend said she felt called to take action in solidarity with the detained immigrants in Oregon.

"People like me, those with privilege, have to choose to be reminded of this injustice in our state; those seeking asylum do not have that choice. In this small way, I

let my hunger be an offering that says: We are with you. You are not alone. You are beloved."

Wednesday, faith leaders joined Innovation Law Lab and five of the recently released asylum-seekers previously detained at Sheridan FCI for a press conference.

"I am ecstatic for the release of these eight men,

yet my heart still has a seed of fear that lingers as I think about the men still detained inside Sheridan. Every day matters and we need to get them out," said Navneet Kaur, a Sikh leader from Salem.

Last Tuesday, for six hours, clergy and faith leaders stood outside the ICE building and read stories and testimony from immigrants

detained at Sheridan FCI, NORCOR in The Dalles, and families separated at the border, hoping that employees inside and Acting Regional Director Elizabeth Godfrey would hear them.

"We read more than 70 stories from asylum-seekers in Sheridan on Tuesday. Each one had their name redacted and replaced with a number. Just a day later,

it was powerful to put a face and name with the stories as we stood side by side at the press conference," said Rev. Ron Werner Jr. of Portland. "Yet, many remain inside Sheridan stripped of their humanity and reduced to a number, which is why we continue to call for ICE Director Elizabeth Godfrey to release them into the care of the community."

<h2 style="text-align: center;">Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Services This Week</p>				
<p>IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH 440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201 www.imblerchristianchurch.org</p> <p>Sunday Services 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service</p>	<p>First Christian Church <i>(Disciples of Christ)</i> 901 Penn Avenue 963-2623 lgdisciples@gmail.com</p> <p>Worship 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>~Join us at The Lord's Table~</p>	<p>SUMMERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH <i>(A Church for All)</i></p> <p>Sunday Services: Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes 9:45AM Children's Church & 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 summervillebaptistchurch.org</p>	<p>Amazing Grace Fellowship 1316 T St., La Grande, OR 541-568-4567 Sunday 10:30 a.m.</p> <p><i>2 Cor 12:9 My Grace is sufficient for you.</i></p> <p><i>— IS 40:31</i></p>	<p>GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH <i>LCMC</i> 667 N. Main in Union <i>"We are called to Serve"</i> Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 am Sunday Worship 10:00 am Pastor Carl Seelhoff Phone: 541-786-0447 grace.lutheran.cove@gmail.com</p>
<p>COVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1708 Jasper St., Cove, OR</p> <p>NORTH POWDER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 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>ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES <i>La Grande - Our Lady of the Valley</i> 1002 L Avenue Saturday 5:30 pm Mass Sunday 10:00 am Mass Weekdays 8:00 am Mass Union - Sacred Heart 340 South 10th Avenue Sunday 8:00 am Mass No Weekdays Elgin - Saint Mary's 12th and Alder Sunday 12:30 pm Mass No Weekdays</p>	<p>VALLEY FELLOWSHIP 963-0340 507 Palmer Ave <i>(just east of city pool)</i> Sunday Worship 10:02 am <i>Come and share in a time of worship, prayer and the study of God's word with us. Worship includes communion on Sunday.</i> www.valleyfellowship.church Email: vfchurch2@gmail.com</p>	<p>La Grande CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 109 18th Street • 963-3402</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>LA GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH <i>"OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS"</i> 1612 4th Street - 963-2498 Pastor Al Trachsel lgumc@conl.com www.lgumchurch.org Office Hours: Mon-Thur 9am-Noon Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Coffee Hour 11:00 am - Nursery provided -</p>
<p>La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church <i>A Place where hope is found in Jesus</i> Join us in Fellowship & 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 www.lagrande22adventistchurchconnect.org <i>Learning for Today and Eternity</i></p> <p>Little Friends Christian Preschool/Childcare 963-6390 La Grande Adventist Christian School Christian Education K-8th Grade 963-6203</p>	<p>FIRST LANDMARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH 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 <i>"Where you can find TRUTH according to the scriptures"</i> www.flmbclagrande.com</p>	<p>Zion Lutheran Church <i>(an ELCA church)</i> 930 am - Worship 10:30 am - Fellowship & Refreshments 11:00 am - Classes Pastor: Rev. Colleen Nelson www.zionlagrande.org</p>	<p>Union Baptist Church 1531 S. Main St., Union 541-562-5531 www.unionbaptistoregon.org Sunday School 9:45 am Morning Worship 11:00 am Sunday Night 6:30 pm Thursday AWANA 6:30 pm Knowing, Loving and Proclaiming Jesus Christ</p>	<p>First Baptist Church SIXTH & SPRING, LA GRANDE 541-963-3911 Sun. 8:45 AM - Bible Classes Sun. 10:00 AM - Worship Wed. 6:15 PM - AWANA</p>