HIGHLIGHTS

Churches worship together on World Communion Sunday

LA GRANDE — First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of La Grande will host an ecumenical service at 10 a.m. in celebration of World Communion Sunday, joined by the congregations of the United Methodist, Zion Lutheran and First Presbyterian churches. Pastor Al Traschsel will share "Motorcycles, Marriages and a Message of Hope," referring to Mark 10:2-9. A special ecumenical choir will perform two pieces under the direction of Danny Bailey and accompanied by Elizabeth Cooper. An offering will be taken for the Week of Compassion Disaster Relief.

Soloists sought for Christmas performance

LA GRANDE — The 2018 'Messiah' performance in La Grande will take place Dec. 16 in the La Grande High School auditorium. Anyone interested in auditioning for a vocal solo is asked to email lagrandemessiah@gmail.com. Rehearsals will be held on Sunday evenings starting Oct. 7.

Sermon looks at Jesus' answers about divorce

UNION — The Union United Methodist Church and Grace Community Church will celebrate the word of God together with a worship service beginning at 10 a.m. Sunday. Pastor Carl's sermon will be taken from Mark 10 where Jesus answers questions about divorce. Sunday school is held at 9 a.m. A time of fellowship follows the service. Transportation is available from La Grande.

There is consistency in the work of God

LA GRANDE — The Sunday service at Faith Lutheran Church in La Grande begins at 10 a.m. The sermon will be based on Mark 10: 2-16, which tells of Jesus being tested by those who were against him. There is consistency in the work of God, so Jesus began his response with "But from the beginning of creation...." This consistency brings great stability and comfort in knowing that God does not change.

Following the Divine Service, there will be a First Sunday potluck and an elders' meeting.

Zion plans weekly Bible studies

LA GRANDE — Oct. 7 is World Communion Sunday, and the members of La Grande's Zion Lutheran Church will worship at the La Grande First Christian Church at 10 a.m.

On Monday, Zion's evening Bible study will meet at Cathy Lease's home, 67038 Hunter Road, Imbler, at 7 p.m. On Tuesday, a non-denominational Bible study group meets at Zion at 6:15 p.m.

Observer seeks Spiritual Life submissions

The Observer is seeking comments from community members on spiritual matters. If you would like to share how you experience spirituality or have announcements or other news, email news@lagrandeobserver.com or call Observer Editor Cherise Kaechele at 541-963-3161. An ongoing monthly column is preferred but one-time submissions will also be considered. Columns are generally 500-600 words and will include a photo of the writer.

Prayer is not just a one-sided conversation with God

LIVING ON PURPOSE
DR. BILLY HOLLAND

Sometimes life is so difficult that we can barely keep it together. All of us have faced serious trials, and for those who are Christians, we have appreciated the comfort and peace of God's presence. As wonderful as this is, we are still often left with unanswered questions and painful wounds. Yes, we have friends and family members who try to encourage us and we listen to suggestions that attempt to explain why things happen, but in the back of our mind we are reminded that we actually understand very little.

Sometimes listening to God is not easy, and it is difficult to differentiate between what he is saying and our own thoughts. I find it interesting that when our lives are rolling along without any problems, we do not seem to be concerned with his advice or suggestions. But when we are facing a serious crisis and desperately crying out for answers, we beg for him to intervene. Even though the Bible is filled with scriptures that encourage us to listen for God's voice, we discover he is not like a radio where we can just turn the knob and hear him explain why this is happening. So, why are we still in the dark about certain events? It could be that we are forgetting some important principles within the context of our natural and spiritual reality.

Jeremiah 29:13 says, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all of your heart." To many people, this brings up an uncertainty about how to seek God and the fear that they are doing it incorrectly. Rest assured, dear brother and sister, it's normal to feel perplexed and fainthearted when we are knocked off our feet. We are made of flesh and blood and most of our considerations are based on our emotions. Humans have amazing mental capabilities but are also very vulnerable when it comes to being led by their feelings, which is usually not a help in times of need.

In order for any of us to comprehend what God is saying, we are reminded in the first chapter of Romans that as a part of our born-again experience, our mind must also be renewed and transformed into his way of knowing and understanding. We no longer depend on our reasoning but learn to trust his plans for us.

As followers of Christ, many of us will spend the rest of our lives trying to listen and discern the will of God for our lives and for situations all around us. The extent of our success will depend on how serious we are about it. We can agree that if we desire to hear from the Lord, it would be wise to place this subject at the top of our priority list. I keep prayer journals and believe we can simply ask God to reveal what he wants us to do in order that we might know his will.

Of course, there is more to hearing God's voice than just asking him to make it happen — and, by the way, miracles do not always happen automatically. It's each individual's responsibility to pray and ask forgiveness every day so that we can live holy before him, and then we must have patience as we wait for him to respond. The Lord promises in Jeremiah 33: "Call unto Me, and I will answer thee and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not" — but it will take perseverance, desire and determination to develop this level of self-discipline and spiritual awareness.

When we are troubled about something we should not be intimidated or afraid to ask for clarification. There are times when we might need to fast and spend some time away from everyone so that we can hear God more clearly. It's good to also remember that God has infinite power and we should not limit his abilities. God wants to mold us into his image so that we demonstrate his character. Prayer is not just a one-sided conversation where we do all the asking but rather a beautiful part of our intimate relationship where God freely speaks and intervenes.

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me" (John 10:27).

Read more at: billyhollandministries.com.

Pro-lifers link together in prayer across North America

By Tammy Malgesini
East Oregonian

Pro-life advocates are linking together to bear witness to their belief in the sanctity of human life by participating in Life Chain events across North America.

The annual event draws thousands of participants from throughout the United States and Canada to honor millions of babies whose lives have been lost to abortion. The event also features prayer for those in crisis situations.

"I think that it's important that the unborn, who have no voice, have a voice," said Deanna Leonard, who coordinates the event in Hermiston.

In its 31st year, the gatherings feature people spreading out in a human chain along the side of a major thoroughfare. Participants are silent and prayerful as they hold signs with pro-life messages.

Local Life Chain activities are being held in Hermiston and Pendleton on Sunday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Participants should arrive 30 minutes before the event.

•Meet at 2 p.m. in the parking lot at First Church of God, 712 SW 27th St., Pendleton; with the Life Chain along Southgate (Highway 395) near Southwest Hailey Avenue.

•Meet at 2 p.m. in the parking lot behind Banner Bank, 101 E. Main St., Hermiston; with the Life Chain along North First Street (Highway 395) near Gladys and Hermiston avenues.

Leonard has coordinated the event in Hermiston for at least a dozen years. Reaching out to local pastors, she provides information they can pass along to their congregations. Leonard said the Hermiston Life Chain typically draws 75-100 people.

Life Chain organizers, Leonard said, urge local coordinators to arrange for the event on the busiest roadways for optimum exposure. While participants don't interact with traffic, she said the purpose is to publicly display their beliefs. The response of motorists is typically positive, Leonard said, with people honking and waving. However, there is a small percentage that react negatively, she added.

Organizers support the use of signs, including a basic one that reads, "Abortion Kills Children." They don't endorse the use of graphic photos or sayings. Other popular signs, Leonard said, include, "Adoption is a loving option" and "Life, the first unalienable right."

For more information about the local events, call Leonard at 541-667-8537 or Tiffany LeGore at 541-276-9013. Additional details about the Life Chain Network is available at www.lifechain.net.

Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches

Church Service Directory

Services This Week

IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH
440 Ruckman, Imbler 534-2201
www.imblerchristianchurch.org
Sunday Services
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
901 Penn Avenue 963-2623
lgdisciples@gmail.com
Worship 10:00 a.m.
~Join us at The Lord's Table~

SUMMERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
A Place for You
Sunday Services:
Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes 9:45AM
Children's Church & Worship Service 11:00AM
Family Worship Service 6:00PM
Wednesday:
Prayer Mtg, Children's Bible Club, Youth Group 7:00PM
A church for your whole family
Visit us at *summervillebaptistchurch.org*

Amazing Grace Fellowship
1316 T St., La Grande, OR
541-568-4567
Sunday 10:30 a.m.
2 Cor 12:9 My Grace is sufficient for you.
IS 40:31

GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
LCMC
667 N. Main in Union
"We are called to Serve"
Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 am
Sunday Worship 10:00 am
Pastor *Carl Seelhoff*
Phone: 541-786-0447
grace.lutherancove@gmail.com

Cove United Methodist Church
1708 Jasper St., Cove, OR
North Powder United Methodist Church
390 E. St., North Powder, OR
JOIN US... *Catch the Spirit!*
Worship: 9:00 a.m. Cove
Worship: 10:00 a.m. N. Powder

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES
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
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

VALLEY FELLOWSHIP
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.
www.valleyfellowship.church
Email: vfchurch2@gmail.com

La Grande Church of the Nazarene
109 18th Street • 963-3402
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

LA GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
"OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS"
1612 4th Street – 963-2498
Pastor Al Trachsel
lgumc@eoni.com
www.lgumchurch.org
Office Hours: Mon-Thur 9am-Noon
Worship 10:00 am
Fellowship Coffee Hour 11:00 am
• Nursery provided •

La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church
A Place where hope is found in Jesus
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
Learning for Today and Eternity
Little Friends
Christian Preschool/Childcare 963-6390
La Grande Adventist Christian School
Christian Education K-8th Grade 963-6203

FIRST LANDMARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
1812 1st St. La Grande
Pastor Dave Tierce • 541-605-0215
We use the King James Version Bible
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"
www.flmbclagrande.com

Zion Lutheran Church
(an ELCA church)
Zion Lutheran La Grande
902 Fourth Street, La Grande, OR (541) 963-5998
9:30 am - Worship
10:30 am - Fellowship & Refreshments
11:00 am - Classes
Pastor: Rev. Colleen Nelson
www.zionlagrande.org

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

First Baptist Church
SIXTH & SPRING, LA GRANDE
541-963-3911
Loving God · Sharing Life · Serving People · Learning Truth
Building Together On Christ Alone
Sun. 8:45 AM - **Bible Classes**
Sun. 10:00 AM - **Worship**
Wed. 6:15 PM - **AWANA**