

HIGHLIGHTS



These quilts on display at Zion Lutheran Church will be donated to Lutheran World Relief.

Zion Lutheran donates items to World Relief

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church in La Grande will worship at 9:30 a.m. Sunday. During the worship service Lutheran World Relief items — quilts and kits (school, baby care, fabric, personal care) — will be blessed.

These items will be shipped to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse and then sent to third-world countries and the United States following disasters, such as fires and floods.

During the week, the Quilters will meet at Zion at 9 a.m. Tuesday.

Prophecy seminar continues on Wednesdays

LA GRANDE — The guest speaker during the 11 a.m. Saturday service at the La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church will be Jim Harris. Harris will share his passion for surveying and sharing the great and relevant themes of the Bible.

On Wednesday evenings, Pastor Mike is leading a prophecy seminar at 7 p.m. in the church seminar room. The public is invited, though seating is limited. Each attendee will receive a complimentary KJV Bible, study guide for each subject and a binder to organize the study guides.

Christian Women's Fellowship prepares for Harvest Bazaar

LA GRANDE — "Using Our Blessings" will be the message Pastor Ray Smith will share at First Christian

Church (Disciples of Christ) at the 10 a.m. Sunday service. The message will be drawn from Matthew 25:14-30, with emphasis on being thankful and responding with our blessings.

The Christian Women's Fellowship is preparing for the annual Harvest Bazaar, to be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 3.

Cove Methodist Church makes a 'joyful noise'

COVE — The congregation of the Cove Methodist Church will make a "joyful noise to the Lord" during a celebration in song at the 9 a.m. worship service. A list of favorite hymns and scriptures will be the base of the service, led by Vickie Hill-Brown. Following the service will be a coffee fellowship.

The church hosts the Cove Food Pantry from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Oct. 27. The Food Pantry is open every fourth

Saturday of the month. The church also hosts Fresh Food Alliance, which offers perishable food to the community, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Tuesdays.

God's word leads to freedom

LA GRANDE — Faith Lutheran Church in La Grande will observe Reformation Sunday at 10 a.m. The sermon will expound on being free through the words of Jesus Christ. In John 8:31-32, Jesus said, "If you abide in My Word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free" — teaching us that freedom, now and forevermore, is in God's word. This concept is what motivated the Reformation, which began in 1517.

What would you have Jesus do for you?

LA GRANDE — The La Grande First United

Methodist Church will celebrate the 23rd Sunday of Pentecost at 10 a.m. Pastor Al Trachsel will preach from Mark 10:46-52 in a sermon titled "What Would You Have Him Do for You?" These verses tell of a blind man, Bartimaeus, who is healed after Jesus asks, "What do you want me to do for you?" If you were to meet Jesus, what would he do for you?

Submissions

Churches and faith-based groups are encouraged to submit Highlights for the Spiritual Life page by noon Thursday for publication Friday. Submit by email to news@lagrandeobserver.com (with Highlights in the subject line), by fax to 541-963-7804, or by hand to the office.

A new understanding of the special love for grandchildren

It seems like yesterday that my son and daughter-in-law announced they were going to have a baby and today I am declaring to the world what a wonderful miracle has happened. The joy of this news was beyond words, and the anticipation grew every week until our grandson finally entered the world. I remember seeing him for the first time, and this little man has absolutely captured my heart. He's not even six weeks old yet and I am thinking about him all the time. We love to buy him toys and clothes, and I'm already planning the things I want to experience with him.

When my wife and I were young parents, I did not understand why people were so excited about their grandchildren and about sharing the never-ending albums of pictures. Now I am feeling this overflowing fountain of love, and I get it. They are beaming with pride and thanksgiving and want the whole world to see these beautiful individuals who have no limits to what they can do or who they can be. Lately, I've found myself



LIVING ON PURPOSE
DR. BILLY HOLLAND

repeating the exact same comments I heard others say all of my life, like: "He has long arms and legs, probably going to be a basketball player" or "He is so alert, he must be very smart." I am captivated with a love that will provide unlimited cuddles and kisses and an endless supply of cookies and candy. I probably will not pay attention to bedtime curfews, and I will always have time for one more story.

There is so much I want to see and know about his life. I want to encourage and inspire him and talk with him about everything and share what I've learned about the mysteries and joys of this life. At the same time, this relationship reminds me of what a serious responsibility I have to be a good role model, to demonstrate and help point him in the right direction to the best of my ability.

When my children were small, I would tuck them in

at night and pray over them because I wanted God and his angels to protect them from harm. I would also ask the Lord to give them wisdom and favor and to bless and help them in their decisions and opportunities. I feel the same fervency for this next generation, and I will also intercede for this young man as he explores and searches for his place in the world. Most of all I will pray that he will know God and have a special relationship with him, that he will grow up to be a man of integrity and honesty, a good son, and eventually a good husband and father. I hope I am around long enough to be a special part of his life and to watch him develop into the man God has called him to be.

I remember my grandfather and how much he meant to me as a little boy. I can still hear him singing little songs about me that he would make up and how special it made me feel. I was the first grandchild and I remember how my grandparents would hug and kiss me every time they saw me,

and I know they were filled with joy and love for me. When I was about 8 years old, I started spending the weekends with them and it was so much fun. They lived way out in the country, and to a small boy this environment was an enchanted place filled with adventure and exciting new experiences. They are gone but those moments are still in my heart, and now I'm so looking forward to making new delightful memories together with my grandson.

As I close with a poem by Teri Harrison, I am united with all the other proud and grateful grandparents who since the beginning of time have enjoyed this great honor:

*I stroked your little hand,
perfect sweetness as we touched.*

*I whispered that I loved you...loved you so very much.
I held you close to me,
memorized your darling face.*

I've waited so long, my heart now touched by grace.

*As papaw and grandson,
an amazing journey has begun.*

*You're my heart, you're my joy,
my precious little one.*

Why believing in ghosts can make you a better person

By Tok Thompson
University of Southern California

Halloween is a time when ghosts and spooky decorations are on public display, reminding us of the realm of the dead. But could they also be instructing us in important lessons on how to lead moral lives?

Roots of Halloween

The origins of modern-day Halloween go back to "samhain," a Celtic celebration for the beginning of the dark half of the year when, it was widely believed, the realm between the living and the dead overlapped and ghosts could be commonly encountered.

In 601 A.D., to help his drive to Christianize northern Europe, Pope Gregory I directed missionaries not to stop pagan celebrations, but rather to Christianize them.

Accordingly, over time, the celebrations of samhain became All Souls' Day and All Saint's Day, when speaking with the dead was considered religiously appropriate. All Saint's Day was also known as All Hallows' Day and the night before became All Hallows' Evening, or "Hallowe'en."

Christian ghosts

Not only did the pagan beliefs around spirits of the dead continue, but they also became part of many of early church practices.

Pope Gregory I himself suggested that people seeing ghosts should say Masses for them. The dead, in this view, might require help from the living to make their journey toward Heaven.

During the Middle Ages, beliefs around souls trapped in purgatory led to the church's increasing practice of selling indulgences — payments to the church to reduce penalties for sins. The widespread belief in ghosts turned the sale of indulgences into a lucrative practice for the church.

It was such beliefs that contributed to the Reformation, the division of Christianity into Protestantism and Catholicism led by German theologian Martin Luther. Indeed, Luther's "95 Theses," that he nailed to the All Saints Church in Wittenburg on Oct. 31, 1517, was largely a protest against the selling of indulgences.



Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches

Services This Week



<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 (Disciples of Christ) 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</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>2 Cor 12:9 My Grace is sufficient for you.</p>	<p>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</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 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</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>LaGrande CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 109 18th Street • 963-3402 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>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 •</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> 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 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.flmbcagrande.com</p>	<p>Zion Lutheran Church (an ELCA church) 902 Fourth Street, La Grande, OR (541) 963-5998</p> <p>9:30 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</p> <p>541-963-3911</p> <p>Sun. 8:45 AM - Bible Classes Sun. 10:00 AM - Worship Wed. 6:15 PM - AWANA</p>