

HIGHLIGHTS

Gospel warns us to 'be on guard'

LA GRANDE, ENTERPRISE — This Sunday is the last Sunday of the Church Year and Faith Lutheran Church will have services at 10 a.m. in La Grande and 2 p.m. in Enterprise. The sermon will be based on Mark 13:24-37, in which we are told to "Be on guard, keep awake" (verse 33).
Koinonia, Faith Lutheran

Church's women's group, will have its Christmas Bazaar Dec. 1 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. The bazaar will offer many gift ideas and baked goods.

'Light the World' through service, kindness

As the holidays approach, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints encourages the community to help one

another to "Light the World" through service, kindness and love.

The website www.lighttheworld.org provides ideas on how to share your time, talents and resources in ways that will empower each of us to strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ through service to one another. The site also includes a four-week calendar containing many ideas on ways to serve,

beginning with Dec. 1, which has been set aside as a worldwide day of service.

Church leader presents message of thanksgiving

LA GRANDE — During the 11 a.m. Saturday service at the La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church, church leader Roger Akers will present a heartwarming message of

thanksgiving from the Bible.

Pastor Mike's prophecy seminar, which is open to the public, continues on Wednesday evenings at 7 in the church seminar room. Each attendee will receive a complimentary KJV Bible and a study guide for each subject.

Congregation decks the halls after service

LA GRANDE — Sally

Wiens will deliver the sermon at the La Grande First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at the 10 a.m. Sunday service. She will speak from Psalm 100 and Colossians 1:9-14 in a message titled, "Thanks for the Hero Within Us."

Hanging of the Greens will take place after worship, decking the sanctuary and halls for a beautiful Advent season, which begins Dec. 2.

Giving thanks for God's beautiful Earth

Imagine if you were the creator of the Earth with all of its breathtaking beauty and gave each living creature the gift of life. For every human, you provided a book of your promises that gives a detailed description of how they are to live. And then, you sent your only son to sacrifice his life and raised him from the dead to redeem the souls of all who would believe. Your invitation to deliver those who would believe from the bondage of sin and welcome them to live with you in heaven forever is beyond words.

As you patiently wait for the masses to respond, you notice that only a few individuals actually have a desire to know you and even less are showing an appreciation for your offer. What would you do? Of course, you would be disappointed, but you gave them free will to live however they want. You will just have to let them decide their own path.

Even though we have been given free will I am relieved to know that God rules on his throne and is in total control, and nothing can keep us from his love. The Bible declares that his mercy endures forever, and whether the masses will admit it or not, we are all very fortunate to receive his grace and patience.

I was looking through a world atlas the other day with all the many different places on our planet that are filled with such awe-inspiring beauty and astonishing creatures: the rainforest of the Congo river basin and the gigantic Sahara Desert that covers nearly a third of



LIVING ON PURPOSE
DR. BILLY HOLLAND

the African continent, and then on to the wonders of the oceans that are another astonishing realm of bewilderment. The vastness of nature is overwhelming, much like the mysteries of the universe are beyond our imagination — then I noticed the title that said, "Our World," and I wondered, is it really? Yes, the Earth is our habitation in the sense that we are temporarily camped out here and allowed to enjoy everything it has to offer, but in reality, God is the rightful owner and generously gives us the privilege to be an invited guest.

Psalm 24:1 says, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof: the world and they that dwell there." This statement is quite different from the perspective of many humans who have aggressively staked their claim.

It's remarkable how some individuals actually believe a real-estate deed proves they are the rightful owner without humbly considering who gave them the privilege to occupy and use the resources.

How often do we appreciate that each breath of oxygen was created and given by his kindness so that our lungs would not collapse? Every clean glass of water we drink was made by God as a gracious gift to satisfy our body's demand for hydration. The thermostat for the atmosphere is monitored by his hand in order that we might survive deadly temperature

fluctuations, and it's his law of gravity that keeps everything perfectly balanced and in place. Though most humans think they are strong and in control, we are actually very fragile and dependent on his compassion every moment.

According to the Bible, God is not only the maker of all things but willingly turned humankind loose upon his beautiful paradise even though he realized how uncaring and destructive we can be. He knew that we would pollute, deplete and ruin his masterpiece with our greed and selfishness. Not only would we abuse it, but many arrogantly deny that he is not the author and designer who spoke it all into existence.

It is so breathtaking to witness whales and elephants moving gracefully with such magnificence. The honor to watch a glorious sunrise or to walk along a sun-drenched beach and feel the majestic power of the sea is given for all of us to admire, respect and be grateful for. It's truly sad when humans declare how the almighty God is not real and that everything we see somehow evolved from nothing.

How could anyone not be humbled with a sense of reverence and adoration to this divine architect who is called the Alpha and the Omega?

"The sea is his and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land. O come, and let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker" (Psalm 95:5-6).

To read more visit:
billyhollandministries.com

We are to cultivate generosity and develop gratitude

Nowadays, the Thanksgiving holiday may evoke thoughts of bargain hunting more than its original purpose: generously giving and sharing gratitude.

According to Bhikkhu Bodhi in his introduction in "Dana: The Practice of Giving," giving is "the foundation and seed of spiritual development," and the Buddha always emphasized the importance of cultivating generosity through giving.

Dana (generosity) is one of the 10 parami (perfections) necessary for aspirants to enlightenment to develop. Fulfilling the dana parami is influenced by three primary factors. Most important is the volition of the donor before, during and after the act of generosity.

The next factor is the purity of the recipient. The worthier the receiver, the greater the benefits that

will accrue to the donor.

Dhammapada XXIV says: "Weeds damage fields; lust spoils all beings. Therefore, giving to those free from lust yields great benefit. Weeds damage fields; ill will spoils all beings. Therefore, giving to those free from ill will yields great benefit. Weeds damage fields; ignorance spoils all beings. Therefore, giving to those free from ignorance yields great benefit. Weeds damage fields; covetousness spoils all beings. Therefore, giving to those free from covetousness yields great benefit."

The third factor is the gift itself, whether material or immaterial. Dhamma Dana (the gift of the noble teaching) is said by the Buddha to excel all other gifts. Those who teach Dhamma practice the highest kind of generosity, as well as do those who

inspire others to walk on the path.

Susan Elbaum Jootla writes in her essay in "Dana: The Practice of Giving": "Gifts untainted by craving can only be made during a Buddha-Sasana, the period when the teachings of a Buddha are available. So when we give now, during such a time, we should do so with the aim of putting an end to craving. With the end of craving, suffering ceases, and that is liberation."

Pariyatti is a charitable, non-profit, educational support system for the Dhamma community. The aim of Pariyatti is to enrich the world by disseminating the words of the Buddha, providing sustenance for the seeker's journey and illuminating the meditator's path. For more, go to www.pariyatti.org.

ICE arrests man who left church after a year

By Jonathan Drew
Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — An immigrant who sought refuge from deportation in a North Carolina church for 11 months was arrested Friday after arriving at an appointment with immigration officials.

Mexican national Samuel Oliver-Bruno, 47, was detained at a Raleigh-area immigration office, according to a U.S. Immigration

and Customs enforcement news release.

The advocacy group Alerta Migratoria NC said in a statement that Oliver-Bruno went to have fingerprints taken so he could apply to stay in North Carolina with his wife and son. He has been living in CityWell United Methodist Church in Durham since late 2017 to avoid the reach of immigration officers, who generally avoid mak-

ing arrests at churches and other sensitive locations.

ICE said Oliver-Bruno, who has lived in North Carolina for two decades, had no legal basis to be in the U.S. and had exhausted his "extensive" appeals. Oliver-Bruno pleaded guilty in 2014 to using false documents to try to re-enter the U.S. in Texas after a trip outside the country, according to court documents.

<h1 style="text-align: center;">Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches</h1> <h2 style="text-align: center;">Services This Week</h2>				
<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 A Place for You</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>IS 40:31</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.lutheranrove@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>La Grande Nazarene 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@comi.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 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</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.flmbclagrande.com</p>	<p>Zion Lutheran Church (an ELCA church) 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</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>