

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Message looks at hopes and fears

**LA GRANDE** — The La Grande First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will celebrate the second Sunday of Advent at 10 a.m. Pastor Ray Smith will reflect on the contrast of darkness and light and finding peace. His message, "Hopes and Fears of All Those Years," will refer to John 1:1-5. Special music will be provided by Stacy Webster.

### Bible Study examines heaven

**UNION** — The Union Methodist and Grace Community churches of Union will worship together at 10 a.m. Sunday. Pastor Carl is presenting a four-part series on Jesus' coming, and this week's sermon title will be "How Will He Arrive?" Adult Sunday school meets at 9 a.m., and a time of fellowship follows the worship service.

The weekly Bible study on heaven continues at 10 a.m. Thursday at Urban Vines in Island City.

### John the Baptist was 'the last Old Testament prophet'

**LA GRANDE, ENTERPRISE** — Faith Lutheran Church will have services at 10 a.m. in La Grande and at 2 p.m. in Enterprise on Sunday. The sermon, drawn from Luke 3:1-14, will focus on John the Baptist, who is referred to as the last Old Testament prophet, for he pointed forward to Jesus and his ministry. Even though his message included rebukes, many people responded to his proclamations and asked "What shall we do?" (Luke 3:12).

On Wednesday, there will be soup supper at 5:30 p.m. and an Advent service at 6:30 p.m. in La Grande. The message will be "The Virgin's Great Son," building on the

theme hymn "What Child Is This?"

### Congregants 'green the church' Sunday

**LA GRANDE** — St. Peter's Episcopal Church in La Grande will celebrate Morning Prayer at 9 a.m. Sunday followed by the Greening of the Church for Christmas. The book club will meet at 7 p.m. in the parish hall.

During the week at 8:30 a.m. in the chapel, Centering Prayer is offered on Tuesdays and Morning Prayer is offered on Thursdays.

### Service focuses on Jesus' gift

**LA GRANDE** — The Saturday service at the La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church will begin at 11 a.m. The service will celebrate the Christmas season by focusing on the last hours in which Christ gave

all humanity its greatest gift — his life at Calvary.

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

### Event celebrates 'True Meaning of Christmas'

**JOSEPH** — The congregation of the Joseph United Methodist Church invites the community to join them for a free cup of hot chocolate at the corner of S. Main and Third St. between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Dec. 8. According to the church's website, "Christmas is about closeness. It's a time when families, friends, and loved ones come close together to celebrate God coming in the form of the baby Jesus. It's a time to connect with

people in special ways and to discover a feeling of belonging." The True Meaning of Christmas Tour and Hot Chocolate Giveaway will celebrate the joy of togetherness by sharing smiles, conversations and lot of cups of hot cocoa, with the aim of drawing people together by doing good for one another.

### Lutefisk dinner served Sunday evening

**LA GRANDE** — The 9:30 a.m. service at Zion Lutheran Church in La Grande will include Holy Communion. Pastor Paul Teyler of Tigard will be the Pulpit Supply Pastor. Following the service, there will be a time of fellowship and coffee and a Christmas decorating party. At 5 p.m., a Lutefisk dinner is scheduled for members and their guests.

The evening Bible study group will meet at 7 p.m. Monday at Cathy Lease's home.

### Cove Methodist Church hosts food giveaways

**COVE** — Vicki Hill Brown will provide the message "Fear Not" at the 9 a.m. Sunday service at the Cove Methodist Church. The teaching will examine the different kinds of "fear" and "fearing God" in the Bible.

The congregation is planning its annual Community Christmas Service, which will be held this year at 3 p.m. Dec. 23 at the church. The service will include music and Christmas Carols, fellowship, a candle lighting service and refreshments.

During the week, the church hosts Cove's Fresh Food Alliance from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Tuesdays, offering free perishable food to the community. The church also hosts the Cove Food Pantry on the fourth Saturday of the month, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

### Daily Words of the Buddha

With all one's attachments cut, with the heart's pining subdued, calm and serene and happy is one, for one has attained peace of mind. (Saayutta Nikaya 1.242)

One should first establish oneself in what is proper and only then try to instruct others. Doing this, the wise one will not be criticized. (Dhammapada 12.158)

One who does not strike nor makes others strike, who robs not nor makes others rob, sharing love with all that live, finds enmity with none. (Itivuttaka 1.27)

— www.pariyatti.com

# Courage and faith are like muscles: They grow stronger the more we use them

I'm sure that most of us have dreamed about accomplishing something but discovered that our goal was not going to be easy. Some individuals, maybe yourself, became so determined to succeed that nothing could prevent them from achieving their vision. What causes a person to be so passionate and excited about what they love, and where do we find this ability to focus and the internal drive to persevere even in the face of incredible resistance and seemingly impossible challenges? Can anyone develop a persistent never-give-up attitude? Is this only for individuals whose brains are wired a certain way? Well, we are all unique but I'm also convinced that each person has the God-given potential to unlock success when the excitement of achieving becomes greater than the fear of trying.

We all want to experience a sense of worth and



**LIVING ON PURPOSE**  
DR. BILLY HOLLAND

respect, to grow and make a difference through meaningful work, and to live with the joys and peace of contentment. I want to share two simple phrases that I believe can help us reach our goals and encourage us to keep pressing forward.

Number one: know our source. As a Christian, I believe that we should always acknowledge God as our source and believe he works through us by empowering, enabling and equipping us to succeed for him. Since he is the one who is helping us achieve our mission, it only makes sense that he should receive all the glory for whatever we might accomplish. When we reject this wisdom and place our confidence in our own abilities, we are puffed up with pride and wrongly

take the credit for ourselves. Consider this passage: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Number two: know your direction. Until you know where you are going, you will not get there. When we are surrounded by uncertainty, we can feel discouraged, helpless and alone. Some do not know what they have been called to do while others might have a desire to do something but feel afraid and overwhelmed at what seems impossible. So how can we know our purpose and destiny? Whenever we are trying to find something, it pays to know where to look, and in the case of our spiritual purpose, seeking God's voice is always our answer. Matthew 7:7 declares: "Ask and it shall be given you, seek and you

shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you." What a wonderful word of confidence that we can freely ask him to reveal our direction. Unfortunately, many suffer from their negative imaginations more than they do from reality.

Courage and faith are like muscles that grow stronger the more we use them. Victory is not developed in pleasure and comfort. Only through trials can we learn and grow in wisdom and in suffering can our soul be strengthened. A successful person will find a way to lay a confident pathway with the bricks that others throw at them.

Many of you have heard the remarkable sports story about a young girl named Becca Longo. In high school, she was a successful soccer and basketball player, but she also had a desire to play football. Entering into an all-male sport was quite a challenge but after a lot of hard work, she managed

to arrange a tryout for her high school team and was accepted solely for her ability to kick. She was very accurate and scored so many points that she earned the attention of the football coach for Adams State University, a Division 1 college in Alamosa, Colorado. They offered her a full scholarship, which made her the first female in history to earn a football scholarship at the NCAA Division 1 level. This was not a publicity stunt but a legitimate situation where the school needed a good kicker to help them win games.

Longo is quoted, "So many people told me I could not play football and I should just stop and give up. Many have asked for advice and I tell them don't stop just because someone says you cannot do something. No matter how long the odds, no matter how others may criticize and judge, you must always believe!"



# Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches

## Services This Week



<p><b>IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> 440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201 www.imblerchristianchurch.org</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 lgdisciples@gmail.com</p> <p><b>Worship 10:00 a.m.</b></p> <p>~Join us at The Lord's Table~</p>	<p><b>SUMMERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH</b></p> <p>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>Amazing Grace Fellowship</b> 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><b>GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 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><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 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><b>VALLEY FELLOWSHIP</b> 963-0340 507 Palmer Ave (just east of city pool) Sunday Worship 10:02 am <i>Come and share in a time of worship, prayer and the study of God's word with us.</i> Worship includes communion on Sunday. www.valleyfellowship.church 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</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>LA GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> "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 <b>Worship 10:00 am</b> Fellowship Coffee Hour 11:00 am - Nursery provided -</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 www.lagrande22adventistchurchconnect.org <i>Learning for Today and Eternity</i></p> <p><b>Little Friends</b> 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 <i>"Where you can find TRUTH according to the scriptures"</i> www.ftmblagrande.com</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 www.zionlagrande.org</p>	<p><b>Union Baptist Church</b> 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 <b>Knowing, Loving and Proclaiming Jesus Christ</b></p>	<p><b>First Baptist Church</b></p> <p>SIXTH &amp; 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>