

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Faith Lutheran hosts New Year's Eve game night

LA GRANDE — This Sunday the sermon at Faith Lutheran Church in La Grande will highlight the words of a man named Simeon, who was privileged when the Lord came to him. Simeon's response is referred to as the "Nunc Dimittis," which means "now, dismiss/release/deliver us." Jesus Christ does release us from the result of sin. Jesus has "prepared (this deliverance) in the presence of all peoples" (Luke 2:31). Faith Lutheran Church will

be hosting a game night from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Dec. 31. Everyone is invited. The church is located at 104 S. 12th St., La Grande.

### 'Lessons and Carols' service held

LA GRANDE — St. Peter's Episcopal Church in La Grande will celebrate a traditional Lessons and Carols service beginning at 9 a.m. Sunday. The Christmas story will be shared and favorite carols from the parish will be included. Coffee fellowship will follow the service in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome

to bring leftover Christmas treats to share.

### Submissions

Churches and faith-based groups are encouraged to submit Highlights for the Spiritual Life page by 4 p.m. Tuesday for publication Friday. Submit by email to news@lagrandeobserver.com (with Highlights in the subject line), or by hand to the office.

## Daily Words of the Buddha

Look not to the faults of others, nor to their omissions and commissions. But rather look to your own acts, to what you have done and left undone. (Dhammapada 4.50)

With desire the world is tied down. With the subduing of desire it's freed. With the abandoning of desire all bonds are cut through. (Samyutta Nikaya 1.69)

Train yourself in doing good that lasts and brings happiness. Cultivate generosity, the life of peace,

and a mind of boundless love. (Itivuttaka 1.22)

Generosity, kind words, doing a good turn for others, and treating all people alike: these bonds of sympathy are to the world what the linchpin is to the chariot wheel. (Jataka 20)

Wonderful it is to train the mind, so swiftly moving, seizing whatever it wants.

Good is it to have a well-trained mind, for a well-trained mind brings happiness. (Dhammapada 3.35)

—www.pariyatti.com

## Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Christ is called Emmanuel, which means "God is with us" — and we are so grateful that he came to save us. At Christmastime, we celebrate the Nativity, but he's not a baby anymore. He was born, lived and was willing to be crucified because he loved us more than anything in the world. Whatever you are going through today, be encouraged to know that God wants to be with you and is more than able to take care of you. He is El Shaddai, God Almighty, the All Sufficient One.

Here are six attributes of our creator that remind us why we celebrate the incarnation and sing, "O come, let us adore him."

1. God knows: God is omniscient and is fully aware when we are going through difficult times.

He knows our worries and fears and even what we are thinking. Actually, he is the only one who really knows how we feel, and we can always trust that he has the perfect plan to help us. There are three answers to our prayers: yes, no, and keep waiting. Whatever the situation, we know that he is in total control and always has our best interest in mind.

2. God loves: The love and grace of God is greater than all of our sin. Jesus died a cruel and painful



**LIVING ON PURPOSE**  
DR. BILLY HOLLAND

death in order to save us from ourselves. The good news today is that whoever embraces this gospel about God's love and receives it into their life by faith can obtain his mercy and be redeemed and transformed into a child of our heavenly father. Read Romans 8:37-39.

3. God cares: He sees every tear and knows all about the problems we are going through. God wants everyone to believe that he cares about them and desires to be a part of their life. His word promises that his eye is watching every sparrow, which allows us to realize he is always watching over us. He is sensitive and compassionate about our circumstances and longs to have a close personal relationship with us. "Casting all your care upon him; for he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

4. God provides: The Lord always supplies peace, comfort, joy, or whatever we need, whenever we need it. Jesus can bring what no one else can give, and he is always more than enough. We can place all of our trust in God and believe with all of our heart that he

will do more than we could ask or imagine. Philippians 4:19 declares, "But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

5. God desires: What is God's desire? For us to love him and follow his voice. He also wants us to succeed, to be an overcomer and to live an abundant life. When we were born, he designed our personal blueprint, and within this wonderful plan includes a possible destiny of victory and joy. He created us to be filled with his power and intended for us to walk confidently in his love and peace. Deuteronomy 31:8 says, "It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

6. God heals: Jesus is the great physician and has all power and authority in heaven and earth. He gives instruction and wisdom to doctors. He creates medicines and knows the solutions to every problem. God has the miracle power to take care of all our needs — physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. Whether in this life or in heaven, we can know that God will eventually heal his children perfectly and completely. In Exodus 15:26 God declares, "I am the Lord that heals you."

## Opposites don't always attract

By Franklin Humber  
Summerville Baptist Church

There are varying forms of logic and reasoning. The difference is the premise from which you are looking at the information that you are analyzing. There is a logic that is based upon the truth of God and his wisdom about life found in his Word, and there is a logic of the world based upon human reasoning and understanding. If you analyze the same information from these two different world views, you will most often come to different conclusions of what is most logical.

This same dichotomy applies in other areas as well. The Bible declares there are also very different perspectives on the matter of pleasure, wisdom and the way to live life in general. The fact is that the truths of the Bible are the antithesis of most of the conclusions of humans in the cultures of the world in most areas of life.

Take, for instance, the matter of pleasure. God declares in his word that there is pleasure in sin (Hebrews 11:25), but it also says those pleasures are enjoyed only for a season. The satisfaction of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life may offer pleasure, but that fulfill-

ment is merely temporary. Afterward, there are usually regrets and guilt and often negative consequences. However, there is another kind of pleasure mentioned in the Bible in Psalm 16:11, as well as in other places. It is the pleasure that comes from a right relationship with the Holy God of Heaven in your life. It is the pleasure of time and eternity that only comes from being in the presence of the Lord. This is a pleasure that is not short-lived, nor is it limited to the effects of some chemical to our brain that must be repeated over again. This is also a pleasure that has no regret, no guilt, and has no negative results at all.

The Bible also refers to two opposing sources of wisdom in James 3:13-18. There is a wisdom of this world and a wisdom that comes only from God through his word and his spirit. The evidence of the source of wisdom a person lives by is found in the fruit of that wisdom in his or her life. The wisdom from God produces fruit of righteousness, living a good, moral life, and having peace in your life. The wisdom of the world, God says, produces the fruit of envy, strife, confusion and evil activity in one's life. These two different kinds

of wisdom are diametrically opposed. They are not complementary to each other and totally differ. Their source is different, their result is different, and what they counsel us to do in life is totally opposite of each other. To live according to one will cause the other one to be repulsive to you and not reasonable at all.

This brings me to another area of two differing realities the Bible refers to: how to live life. The Bible refers to a way of life that seems to be right to our human understanding contrasted with the path of life in living God's ways and truth. These two ways to live life are vastly opposite and also opposing to each other.

Throughout history there is record of people doing things that they completely believed were right and even good. Some were in the name of culture, others in the name of religion, and others in regard to society. However, in the end, the reasoning, belief and logic that caused these actions was clearly faulty and perverse, which led to destruction in the end.

These opposing views are what causes much of the conflict that we see today in wars, politics, families and even senseless violence in our society.



# Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches

## 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**

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](http://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.

**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

**LaGrande 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@eonl.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)  
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

Sun. 8:45 AM - Bible Classes  
Sun. 10:00 AM - Worship  
Wed. 6:15 PM - AWANA