

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Let Christ be your mentor

LA GRANDE — Pastor Ray Smith will speak on “Unmasking” at Sunday’s 10 a.m. service at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in La Grande. His message, taken from 1 Timothy 2:1-7, will explore opening ourselves up to Christ as our mentor, mediator and master. During the worship service, there will be a Commissioning of Leadership for 2019.

### Congregational meeting follows Zion service

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church in La Grande will worship Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Fellowship and a semi-annual congregational meeting will follow the service. During the week, Neighbors Together will meet at Zion at 5:30 p.m. Monday. The evening Bible study will meet at 7 p.m. Monday at Ruth Zemke’s, and on

Tuesday the Quilters meet at 9 a.m. at the church.

### Creation vs. Evolution seminar begins tonight

LA GRANDE — The community is invited to attend a two-day “Creation vs. Evolution” seminar, today and tomorrow, at the La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church. The teaching begins at 7 p.m. this evening with “In the Beginning... There Was

Water.” A 9:30 a.m. Saturday session is titled “In the Beginning... Dragons and Dinosaurs,” and the theme of the 11 a.m. corporate worship will be “A Call to Worship the God of Genesis,” focusing on Revelation 14:6-7. The final session begins at 2 p.m. Saturday: “In the Beginning... When Was That?” will look at radiometric dating and question whether it tells us the exact age of the Earth. The presentations will be given

by Dr. Stan Hudson at the church, located at 2702 Adams Ave., just south of Bi-Mart.

### John the Baptist prepared people for Jesus’ grace

LA GRANDE — This Sunday during the 10 a.m. service, Faith Lutheran Church’s sermon will deal with John the Baptist preparing the people for Jesus Christ and his ways of administering grace.

Luke 3:18 says John used “many exhortations” (an exhortation is to incite people by giving warning). The verse also says that with those exhortations John “preached the good news to the people.” This shows that people benefit from being incited through warnings so they will desire the “good news” to receive God’s grace. Koinonia, Faith Lutheran’s ladies group, will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday.

## Walk with God one step at a time

A brand-new year, and I hope it will be filled with health and happiness for all of us. I realize there are many things that will happen this coming year and some of it might not be pleasant, but whatever may come, let us declare that we will obey the voice of our heavenly father and continue to dedicate our life to him.

We had a heartbreaking end to last year as just before Christmas we had to put down one of our most beloved dogs. China was a brush-coat Sharpei and the most intelligent and loyal dog a family could ask for. She had a protective personality and felt it was her job to guard our property and to be constantly on the look out for intruders. We have secure fences but every now and then a wild animal would climb into our yard and that was always a huge mistake on their part. China was jet-black and was difficult to see in the night as she patrolled the premises in stealth mode until we told



**LIVING ON PURPOSE**  
DR. BILLY HOLLAND

her it was bedtime. We took her keen hearing for granted and how she would bark even when people were walking or talking across the street. China was so athletic and loved to run through the fields and investigate everything, and after 10 years we miss her terribly. I can just imagine her running in the fields and forest of an endless heaven with all the other animals who are there.

So far in this first week of the new year, things have not been much better as we are now dealing with a serious personal setback. Sometimes it seems that trouble comes in waves and that we are being attacked from every side, but these are the occasions when we must stand strong in our faith, keep our armor buckled on tight and stay focused on God’s promises. Yes, life has its share of ups

and downs, but through the worries and discouragements we must remember that Christ loves us. He is aware of our circumstances and will take care of us.

It can be difficult to understand what is going on or why this is happening, though, when we are feeling traumatized. Psalm 119:105 says, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path,” and this is a comforting reminder that God wants us to have confidence in where we are going and he will help us so we don’t stumble on our way there. The world is filled with darkness, and he is offering the light of his truth so we can see and follow his path.

Another important part of this analogy is that he wants us to walk a specific path that he has arranged and not one of our own makings. His desire is for us to listen to his voice and obey him in every situation. Sometimes this path is confusing and fearful, but the light of God’s love

encourages us to trust him even when it appears to be heading straight up a cliff. Even though many times it may not seem like it, he always has our best interest in mind. We are told that faith is the evidence of things not seen, which means we must trust where he is leading us.

Also, this light is not like a powerful spotlight illuminating what is up ahead. The lamp or lantern of his word lights the way one step at a time, so we will go slowly as we hold tightly to his hand. Doing so allows us to believe he is leading us into his perfect will. The reason and meaning of life is to know God and to follow him — so whatever happens in our journey, let us stay as close to him as possible and live in his confidence and his peace which passes all understanding. “Then spake Jesus again unto them saying, I am the light of the world: he that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” (John 8:12).

## How do you define God?

By Franklin Humber  
Summerville Baptist Church

The answer to this question determines a lot for your experience of life and everything about your destiny for eternity.

Does your God change who he is and what is right and true from time to time, or is he eternally the same in his character? Does your God obscure who he is and what he desires for you, or does he clearly reveal himself so you can know him personally and intimately? Is your God consistent, patient, loving, kind, gracious, merciful, holy and righteous? Does he want you to know him and his love for you? Or is he constantly changing, temperamental, demanding, keeping you guessing where you stand with him?

There are so many religions in the world today, and no doubt more coming in the future, and they are not even close to being the same. They cannot all be saying the same thing in a different way, as many people try to pretend. The god they worship, believe in and are following is also very different.

Many religions believe in a god that once was a completely normal human man who had a sin nature just like us and then became good enough through his own righteous works to change his state from human to deity. Many religions believe in a god that is merely a god among many, and they are all very

similar to us sinful humans. Some religions believe in a god that is unpredictable in what is expected and required of followers, so much so that their followers have no real confidence in their eternal state. Some of the gods people worship are cruel, ruthless and unloving to the point that all their followers hope for is to appease them but never please them.

I could go on about all the different gods that religions are proclaiming, but my point has been clearly made already. The fact is that the gods religions believe in are not all the same. They are very different, therefore, their beliefs are also different and their books of truth are also different. It is very naive to say all religions are the same, since they are all so different in who they believe in, what they believe, where they believe they will spend eternity, and the books from which they get their belief.

The God of the Bible presents himself in detail and clarity in his book of truth. He presents himself as holy, righteous, sinless and eternal, while at the same time being loving, merciful and kind in who he is and all he does. If you will just read the Bible and let it speak to you personally and simply, you can know this one, true God who is the creator of all things and all people and who wants all people to know him in their lives personally as well as live with him eternally in his heaven.

### Words of the Buddha

To have much wealth and ample gold and food, but to enjoy one’s luxuries alone — this is a cause of one’s downfall. (Sutta Nipata 1.102)

Mind precedes all things; mind is their chief, mind is their maker. If one speaks or does a deed with a mind that is pure within, happiness then follows along like a never departing shadow. (Dhammapada 1.2)

The worse of the two is one,

who, when abused, retaliates. One who does not retaliate, wins a battle hard to win. (Samyutta Nikaya 1.188)

If you hold yourself dear then don’t fetter yourself with evil, for happiness isn’t easily gained by one who commits a

wrong-doing. (Samyutta Nikaya 1.115)

Who is wise and virtuous, Gentle and keen-witted, Humble and amenable, Such a one to honour may attain. (Digha Nikaya 3.273)

—www.pariyatti.com

# Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches

## Services This Week

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b></p> <p>440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201 www.imblerchristianchurch.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday Services</b></p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>First Christian Church</b> <i>(Disciples of Christ)</i></p> <p>901 Penn Avenue 963-2623 lgdisciples@gmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Worship 10:00 a.m.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">~Join us at The Lord’s Table~</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SUMMERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday Services:</p> <p>Sunday School &amp; Adult Bible Classes 9:45AM Children’s Church &amp; Worship Service 11:00AM Family Worship Service 6:00PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday:</p> <p>Prayer Mtg., Children’s Bible Club, Youth Group 7:00PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A church for your whole family</p> <p>Visit us at <a href="http://summervillebaptistchurch.org">summervillebaptistchurch.org</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Amazing Grace Fellowship</b></p> <p>1316 T St., La Grande, OR 541-568-4567 Sunday 10:30 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>2 Cor 12:9 My Grace is sufficient for you.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">IS 40:31</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> <i>LCMC</i></p> <p>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 style="text-align: center;"><b>COVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 1708 Jasper St., Cove, OR</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NORTH POWDER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 390 E. St., North Powder, OR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JOIN US... <i>Catch the Spirit!</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Worship: 9:00 a.m. Cove Worship: 10:00 a.m. N. Powder</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES</b></p> <p>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</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Union - Sacred Heart</b> 340 South 10th Avenue Sunday 8:00 am Mass No Weekdays</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Elgin - Saint Mary’s</b> 12th and Alder Sunday 12:30 pm Mass No Weekdays</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>VALLEY FELLOWSHIP</b></p> <p>963-0340 507 Palmer Ave <i>(just east of city pool)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">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: vfchurch2@gmail.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>La Grande CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">109 18th Street • 963-3402</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LA GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> “OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS”</p> <p>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 style="text-align: center;"><b>La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church</b> <i>A Place where hope is found in Jesus</i></p> <p>Join us in Fellowship &amp; Worship Every Saturday 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study / Fellowship 10:45 a.m. - Worship Service</p> <p>2702 Adams Avenue, La Grande • 963-6318 Pastor: Mike Armayor www.lagrande22adventistchurchconnect.org <i>Learning for Today and Eternity</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Little Friends Christian Preschool/Childcare 963-6390 La Grande Adventist Christian School Christian Education K-8th Grade 963-6203</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FIRST LANDMARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH</b></p> <p>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.flmbclagrande.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Zion Lutheran Church</b> <i>(an ELCA church)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>902 Fourth Street, La Grande, OR (541) 963-5998</b></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 style="text-align: center;"><b>Union Baptist Church</b></p> <p>1531 S. Main St., Union 541-562-5531 www.unionbaptistoregon.org</p> <p>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 style="text-align: center;"><b>First Baptist Church</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">SIXTH &amp; SPRING, LA GRANDE</p> <p>541-963-3911</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sun. 8:45 AM - Bible Classes Sun. 10:00 AM - Worship Wed. 6:15 PM - AWANA</p>