

HIGHLIGHTS

Sermon looks at all that is left behind

LA GRANDE, ENTERPRISE — The sermon at Faith Lutheran Church on Sunday will consider the response of Jesus' disciples as "they left everything and followed Him" (Luke 5:11). Christianity involves leaving one way and following God's better way. There will be a 10 a.m. service in La Grande and a 2 p.m. Divine service in Enterprise.

Following the La Grande morning service will be the annual cake walk put on by Koinonia, Faith's women's group. There will be many wonderful treats for Valentine's Day.

Can we do it ourselves?

LA GRANDE — Pastor Al Trachsel will preach from Luke 5:1-11 during the 10 a.m. service at the La Grande First United Methodist Church, as the congregation celebrates the fifth Sunday after Epiphany. The sermon is titled "When We Couldn't Do It Ourselves."

Tomorrow, Saturday the

9th, the church is having its annual "I'm Tired of Winter" indoor yard sale from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The public is welcome.

Jesus' visit with Mary and Martha is focus of message

LA GRANDE — Pastor Ray Smith will speak on “First Things First” at the La Grande First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on Sunday. His message, from Luke 10:38-42, will examine the story of Jesus’ visit with Mary and Martha. Worship begins at 10 a.m.

Guest speaker teaches at Zion service Sunday

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church of La Grande will hold a worship service this Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Pastor Paul Teyler of Tigard will be the guest preacher. Members of St. Peter's Episcopal Church of La Grande have been invited to join the worship. A time of fellowship will follow the service. Adult Forum begins at 11 a.m.

Neighbors Together will
have a meeting at

5:30 p.m. Monday at Zion.
The evening Bible study
meets at 7 p.m. Monday at
Cathy Lease's residence.

Pastor talks about God's system of justice Saturday

LA GRANDE — At the La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church this Saturday, Pastor Mike will ask: Is the Bible really serious when it claims paradise and eternity was lost over “forbidden fruit”? And further, is God’s system of justice different from most legal systems in our world, allowing one person to pay the penalty for someone else’s crime? The service begins at 11 a.m.

Free perishable food available at Cove church

COVE — Mary Cloutier will be the worship leader for the 9 a.m. Sunday service at the Cove United Methodist Church. Her message will be "Divine Order," based on Jeremiah 29 and John 14. There will be coffee, treats and fellowship immediately following the service.

On Tuesdays, the church hosts Cove's Fresh Alli-

ance from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., 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.

Episcopal book club meets Sunday evening

LA GRANDE — St. Peter's Episcopal Church in La Grande will celebrate the fifth Sunday after Epiphany with Morning Prayer at 9 a.m. A coffee hour will follow the service. The book club will meet at 6 p.m. Sunday evening.

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), by fax to 541-963-7804, or by hand to the office.

Words of the Buddha

If by renouncing a lesser happiness
one may realize a greater happiness,
let the wise one renounce the lesser,
having regard for the greater.
(Dhammapada 21.290)

Entangled by the bonds of hate,
one who seeks one's own happiness
by inflicting pain on others
is never delivered from hatred.
(Dhammapada 21.291)

One by one, little by little, moment by moment,
a wise one should remove one's own impurities,
as a smith removes dross from silver.
(Dhammapada 18.239)

Things that are empty make a noise,
the full is always quiet.
The fool is like a half-filled pot,
the wise one is like a deep still pool.
(Sutta Nipata 3.726)

Think not lightly of good, saying, "It will not come to me."
Drop by drop is the water pot filled.
Likewise, the wise one, gathering it little by little,
fills oneself with good.
(Dhammapada 9.122)

Live without covetous greed,
fill your mind with benevolence.
Be mindful and one-pointed,
inwardly stable and concentrated.
(Anguttara Nikaya 4.29)

–www.pariyatti.com

We must take our spiritual life seriously

Is God always happy? This is an unusual question, but I would say probably not. Since he is not made of flesh, we assume he does not have emotions like us. But, on the other hand, we read about his demonstrations of compassion and anger so I guess this is still up for debate. It is my opinion some things please him and others cause him disappointment, and most of it is associated with the way people live. So, what do you think makes him happy? We have the scriptures, which reveal his thoughts and these explain his desires. Remember, there was a time he became outraged when the people of Noah's day were living like sinful Barbarians and



LIVING ON PURPOSE
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he brought a flood that destroyed the whole world except for eight people. So, we can clearly see that individuals following sin instead of submitting to his voice makes him very upset. Basically, he's glad when we live for him and aggravated when we do whatever we want.

Here is a two-part question: Do you believe he is happy with you, and do you really care what he thinks about you? Anyone can take the time to learn about God and what he expects from us. Yes, there is a problem with the world's lack of spiritual

understanding, but there is also a huge issue with people who realize what is right but arrogantly refuse to do it. These individuals walk in the shadows and avoid God's light on purpose because his holy truth exposes more than what they want to deal with. They know deep down he is not happy with them, yet they are content to live in denial far away from anything that will cause feelings of guilt. You see, the Bible was given to us so we could understand right and wrong. God wants us to be good, and he is not shy about explaining the consequences will happen when we choose to be bad. One reason why it is so important to read his word (and exactly why many do

not even open the Bible) is it empowers us to live up to God's standards while eliminating our excuses. Charles Stanley is quoted, "To discipline ourselves is to simply say no to our desires when they conflict with God's will."

With God being the creator and judge of all things, our soul being priceless, and eternity just a breath away, why are so few interested? I am not necessarily a single-minded, hellfire and brimstone preacher — even though there is nothing wrong with presenting much-needed biblical truth — but my desire is to emphasize and relay the message of God's great love. He has a beautiful and wonderful plan for everyone, but many sadly do

not care. How can I make such a statement? Look around: Do you see people interested in God? The Lord desires to give us all we could ask or imagine but instead of us living for ourselves, he is calling us to live for him. Until we turn away from our selfish independence and realize he created us and bought us with a great price, we will not be concerned with our allegiance to him. How can we take our spiritual life seriously until we refuse to be controlled by our own will? There is good news, though: We can be transformed into a new person with a new lifestyle when we ask Jesus to change our mind.

Luke 12 says, "To whom much is given, much is required." This means the

more we discover about what God wants from us, the more responsibility we have to obey him — and the amount he is pleased with us will be measured by how committed we are to his instructions. Knowing his plan is one thing, but demonstrating our knowledge is something completely different. When we choose to take that first step of faith to live for Jesus, we are accepting the basic fundamentals of salvation and can sincerely pray, “Lord, all things are possible with you. Please save me, renew my mind, fill me with your spirit. Whatever you tell me to do, may I react according to your will — not mine.”

Read more at
billyhollandministries.com.

 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 <i>(Disciples of Christ)</i> 901 Penn Avenue 963-2623 lgdisciples@gmail.com Worship 10:00 a.m.  ~Join us at The Lord's Table~	 SUMMERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH <i>A Place for You</i> 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 summersvillebaptistchurch.org	Amazing Grace Fellowship 1316 T St., La Grande, OR 541-568-4567 Sunday 10:30 a.m.  <i>2 Cor 12:9 My Grace is sufficient for you.</i> <i>IS 40:31</i>	GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH <i>LCMC</i> 667 N. Main in Union <i>"We are called to Serve"</i> Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 am Sunday Worship 10:00 am Pastor Carl Sedhoff 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 <i>La Grande - Our Lady of the Valley</i> 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 <i>(just east of city pool)</i> Sunday Worship 10:02 am <i>Come and share in a time of worship, prayer and the study of God's word with us. Worship includes communion on Sunday.</i> www.valleyfellowship.church Email: vfcchurch2@gmail.com	 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 <i>"OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS"</i> 1612 4th Street - 963-2498 Pastor Al Trachsel lgumc@eon.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 <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	FIRST LANDMARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH 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	Zion Lutheran Church <i>(an ELCA church)</i>  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 <i>Building Together On Christ Alone</i> Sun. 8:45 AM - Bible Classes Sun. 10:00 AM - Worship Wed. 6:15 PM - AWANA