

HIGHLIGHTS

Knowing Jesus has benefits

LA GRANDE — At the Saturday morning service at La Grande's Seventh-day Adventist Church, Pastor Mike will talk about the amazing things that happened when Jesus was at the cross and how those things impact our lives. These benefits will be the theme of the service, which begins at 11 a.m.

Jesus brought the blessing of healing

LA GRANDE — Faith Lutheran Church's sermon at the 10 a.m. Sunday service in La Grande will use Luke 6:17-26. In these verses, Jesus attracted people "who came to hear Him and to be healed of

their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured." Jesus then provided the people with teachings of "blessings" and "woes." The message will focus on how Jesus brings healing and strength to all through his word. Following the Divine Service will be the monthly Church Council meeting.

Communion is part of Presbyterian service

LA GRANDE — This Sunday, Pastor Keith Hudson will present the message "Living with the Parables" at the First Presbyterian Church's 9:30 a.m. service in La Grande. Communion will be served during the service, and a fellowship hour will follow.

Zion Lutheran adult class studies healing the world

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church in La Grande will worship Sunday at 9:30 a.m., followed by a time of fellowship. The 11 a.m. Adult Forum will continue to study "Caring for Creation Now! For the Healing of the World."

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

St. Peter's offers Morning Prayer services

LA GRANDE — St. Peter's Episcopal Church in La Grande will celebrate Morning Prayer at 9 a.m. The following Sunday, Feb. 24, Morning Prayer will again be offered at 9 a.m.,

and Holy Communion service will be held at the Ascension Chapel in Cove at 11 a.m.

Summerville Baptist hosts 'Beast Feast' and night service

SUMMERVILLE — The 11th annual Men's Beast Feast will begin at 6 p.m. Feb. 19 in the Fellowship Hall at Summerville Baptist Church. The event's guest speaker will be Chad Shearer, a hunting guide and outfitter from Great Falls, Montana, who hosts Shoot Straight TV. He will be speaking about hunting and outdoors adventures as well as shooting straight about the issues of life and faith. The event, which is open to all men, is free but

space is limited and tickets are required. To reserve a ticket, call 541-534-9155.

Also, the church invites any who are looking for a Sunday evening worship service to come out to Summerville at 6 p.m. for singing, prayer, praises and teaching. This Sunday evening's service will continue the theme of being "Steadfast with the Lord."

What does spirituality mean to you?

LA GRANDE — The Observer is seeking comments from community members on spiritual matters. If you would like to share how you experience spirituality, email news@lagrandeobserver.com or call Observer Editor Cherise

Kaechele at 541-963-3161. Ongoing monthly columns and one-time submissions will be considered. Columns are generally 500-600 words and include a photo of the writer.

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.

If you 'let go and let God,' you will be restored

We all stand on common ground when it comes to making bad choices and terrible decisions, but this does not have to be the end of our story. Missing the mark is common when we give our emotions the power to guide and lead us, and we can make a mess out of things in a hurry. However, there is a huge difference between allowing our mistakes to keep us in the bondage of hopelessness and believing that the Lord can save and deliver us. Since many of our problems come from obeying our carnal influences, our true success depends on how much we are willing to surrender our desires, reach out to him by faith and live according to his plans. Of all the decisions we will make in our lifetime, there is no better resolution than to walk with our savior and obey his voice. Proverbs 3:3-4 says, "Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man." God knows us better than we know ourselves, and our



LIVING ON PURPOSE
DR. BILLY HOLLAND

life can be a journey of hope and joy when we know that we can trust him with everything.

When we suffer because of our bad decisions, we have yet another choice: To either accept being defeated or to ask Jesus to do a deep work in us and bring us out the other side victorious. Many will scoff at this statement because they believe their situation is beyond help, and that even God cannot fix their mess. Some might say, "Even if God can hear me, what do I say to him?" Well, first we can realize there are consequences for our negative thoughts and actions and that our idea of recovery and restoration is probably not a part of the same plan that he has. We can also humbly accept that it was our twisted plots and schemes that caused the problem in the first place. Conviction is good because it allows us to see the truth, and when we ask Christ to forgive us he will remove the condemna-

tion. Within this restoring process, the best thing we can do is to "let go and let God." In other words, we have already tried it our way and now it's time to be respectful and submissive so that he can heal, re-create and lead us into our perfect destiny.

For those who are familiar with professional basketball, I'm sure you will remember a player named Vinny Baker. He was a 6-foot-11 power forward and a top-10 draft pick in 1993. In his first five years he averaged around 20 points per game, and in 1999 he signed a seven-year \$86 million contract with the Seattle Supersonics. You would think this would be the ultimate summit for someone who had worked so hard, but in this case, there was also another type of high: the one that comes from drugs and alcohol. Influenced by his friends and other players, he started smoking pot and drinking, and the life of a professional athlete involves a lot of opportunities to party. He was getting wasted before games, and before long was even drinking during games. One night he was so stoned that

he wondered if he could even function but somehow ended up scoring 41 points. Eventually, the partying began to take its toll on his mental and physical health and after being traded a few times he was out of the league by 2006.

After struggling with several rehab failures, Vin started going to a Bible study and his lifestyle changed. One day as he was crying out to God, he felt an urgency to contact his old boss who owned the Seattle team. During a meeting with Howard Schultz, Vinny told the owner he just wanted a fresh start, which led him to humbly accept a barista position at a Starbucks. After losing more than \$100 million, he was now at peace with God and himself. Through a series of miracles, Mr. Baker has now moved on to broadcasting and development work with the Milwaukee Bucks, and he's also working with an organization to open rehabilitation centers around the country.

Whatever has happened and wherever you are today, God wants to forgive you, restore you and fill you with his love and peace.

Words of the Buddha

No mother nor father nor any other kin can do greater good for oneself than a mind directed well. (Dhammapada 3.43)

Solitude is happiness for one who is content, who has heard the Dhamma and clearly sees. Non-affliction is happiness in the world — harmlessness toward all living beings. (Udana 2.11)

One is not wise because one speaks much. One who is peaceable, friendly and fearless is called "wise." (Dhammapada 19.258)

Silent in body, silent in speech, silent in mind, without defilement, blessed with silence is the sage. One is truly washed of evil. (Itivuttaka 3.67)

Arise! Do not be heedless! Lead a righteous life. The righteous live happily both in this world and the next. (Dhammapada 13.168)

Though one may conquer a thousand times a thousand people in battle, yet one indeed is the noblest victor who conquers oneself. (Dhammapada 10.103)

—www.pariyatti.com

Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches

Services This Week

<p style="text-align: center;">IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH</p> <p>440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201 www.imblerchristianchurch.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday Services</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">First Christian Church <i>(Disciples of Christ)</i></p> <p>901 Penn Avenue 963-2623 lgdisciples@gmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Worship 10:00 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">~Join us at The Lord's Table~</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SUMMERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>A Place for You</i></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 style="text-align: center;">A church for your whole family</p> <p>Visit us at summervillebaptistchurch.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Amazing Grace Fellowship</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: right;"><small>IS 40:31</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH <i>L.C.M.C.</i></p> <p>667 N. Main in Union "We are called to Serve"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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;">COVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1708 Jasper St., Cove, OR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NORTH POWDER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 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;">ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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;">Union - Sacred Heart 340 South 10th Avenue Sunday 8:00 am Mass No Weekdays</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Elgin - Saint Mary's 12th and Alder Sunday 12:30 pm Mass No Weekdays</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">VALLEY FELLOWSHIP</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</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><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></p> <p>www.valleyfellowship.church Email: vfchurch2@gmail.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">La Grande CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p>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;">LA GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH <i>"OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS"</i></p> <p>1612 4th Street - 963-2498 Pastor Al Trachsel lgumc@eonl.com www.lgumchurch.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Office Hours: Mon-Thur 9am-Noon Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Coffee Hour 11:00 am - Nursery provided -</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church <i>A Place where hope is found in Jesus</i></p> <p>Join us in Fellowship & Worship Every Saturday 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study/Fellowship 10:45 a.m. - Worship Service</p> <p>2702 Adams Avenue, La Grande • 963-4018 Pastor: Mike Armayor www.lagrande22adventistchurchconnect.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><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;">FIRST LANDMARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH</p> <p>1812 1st St. La Grande Pastor Dave Tierce • 541-605-0215 <i>We use the King James Version Bible</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">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;">Zion Lutheran Church <i>(an ELCA church)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">902 Fourth Street, La Grande, OR (541) 963-5998</p> <p>9:30 am - Fellowship 10:30 am - Worship & Refreshments 11:00 am - Classes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pastor: Rev. Colleen Nelson www.zionlagrande.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Union Baptist Church</p> <p>1531 S. Main St., Union 541-562-5531</p> <p>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</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Knowing, Loving and Proclaiming Jesus Christ</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">First Baptist Church</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SIXTH & SPRING, LA GRANDE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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>