

HIGHLIGHTS

Sermon explores good/bad news of Christ's death

LA GRANDE — The La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church will have an 11 a.m. service on Saturday. Pastor Mike will be exploring the death of Christ and the good and bad news his death means for the living and the dead.

St. Peter's now worships at 11 a.m.

LA GRANDE — Beginning March 3, the worship service at La Grande's St. Peter's Episcopal Church will begin at 11 a.m. on Sundays.

The congregation has been invited to join an ecumenical Ash Wednesday celebration on March 6 beginning with a pancake supper at 6 p.m. at

the Presbyterian Friendship Center followed by a service at the Presbyterian Church.

On Friday, March 8, St. Ann's Guild will meet at 2 p.m.

Guest pastor from Tigard preaches at Zion

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church in La Grande will worship at 9 a.m. Sunday, followed by a time of fellowship. Holy Communion will be offered during the service, and Pastor Paul Teyler of Tigard will be the guest preacher. The adult forum follows at 10:30 a.m.

The Girl Scouts meet at the church at 6 p.m. Monday. Tuesday, a non-denominational Bible study group meets. On Thursday, the LGBTQ meets at

Zion at 6 p.m.

Lenten service held Wednesday at Faith Lutheran

LA GRANDE — During the 10 a.m. Divine service on this last Sunday of the Epiphany Season, the sermon at Faith Lutheran Church in La Grande will expound upon Jesus' transfiguration. Luke 9:29 says that "the appearance of His face was altered and His clothing became dazzling white." This was followed by a cloud overshadowing those who were with Jesus, showing that God continues to reach out to us with his saving work through the life, death and continued ministry of Jesus Christ.

After the service will be the church's First Sunday

potluck, followed by an elders' meeting.

At 6:30 p.m. March 6, Faith Lutheran Church will have an Ash Wednesday service that will include the imposition of ashes. A soup supper will be served before the service, at 5:30 p.m.

Shrove Tuesday pancake dinners kick off season of Lent

UNION, ENTERPRISE — Shrove Tuesday, the last day before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, is March 5 this year. Traditionally, Shrove Tuesday is celebrated with pancake suppers (go to www.whyeeaster.com/customs/shrovetuesday to find out why). The community is welcome at a pancake feed at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Union from 5:30 p.m. to

7:30 p.m. For \$5 (age 12 and older), or \$15 for a family, enjoy all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage, applesauce, hashbrowns and coffee, orange or apple juice.

In Wallowa County, Enterprise's St. Patrick Episcopal Church is partnering with the Main Street Garden Initiative for a combined pancake supper and seed swap. Come by to swap seeds, learn more about the Garden Initiative, and dine on pancakes and sausage, between 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Proceeds will benefit local food banks.

Message goes back to the beginning

LA GRANDE — The La Grande First Christian Church will celebrate Transfiguration Sunday

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.

with Pastor Ray Smith's message, "Soaring," taken from Genesis 1:24-31. The worship service begins at 10 a.m.

The Christian Women's Fellowship group has postponed its upcoming rummage sale due to the weather. The new date will be announced soon.

If we feed our faith, our fears will starve

In the recounting of Jesus' resurrection in John 20, we find a beautiful passage that is a wonderful example of how much God loves us and wants to encourage us.

The friends and family of Christ were gathered together after his horrific crucifixion and were grieving over his death when all of a sudden, he appears in their midst.

Even though they remembered how he had promised to return, I'm sure they were still awe-struck. Jesus stretches out his hands and reveals his wounds, and of course, they are overjoyed to see him again. He spoke peace and breathed on them, and before he left, he filled them with the Holy Spirit.

Thomas was not there that night and later when he returned and was told that Jesus had visited them, he said that until he could see Jesus with his own eyes, he would not believe it.



LIVING ON PURPOSE
DR. BILLY HOLLAND

After eight days the group came together again and like last time Jesus miraculously appeared. Christ looked at Thomas and told him to reach out and touch the scars, and he did. Jesus said, "Be not faithless, but believing," and Thomas replied, "My Lord and my God."

When we are discouraged and struggling to believe, we can know that God will always make the extra effort to prove how much he loves us and cares about us.

How many times have you needed the Lord to inject faith into your doubt? I call on him to help me every day. You see, Thomas was not the only person who had problems with doubting.

Actually, he's a perfect example of you and I. God realizes how hard it is for us to believe and understands that we do

not have the luxury of literally seeing him as Thomas could.

This is where faith comes in, understanding that even though we cannot see him physically, he is there.

In John 20: 29 Jesus says to Thomas: "Because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

Faith is having the ultimate optimistic and positive attitude. Faith is choosing to believe when we are walking over bridges that cannot be seen.

Faith is paying our tithes when we have only a small amount of money in our bank account. Faith is resting in peace and completely trusting that God's word cannot fail.

Yes, it's difficult to demonstrate confidence in the Lord when all we can see is discouragement and hopelessness, but let us remember that when Jesus intervenes into your situation, mir-

acles happen and nothing is ever the same. Everything and everyone in heaven and earth are subject to his infinite power and authority.

So, how can we have more faith? We can pray and ask God to give us more courage to believe. Faith is not only a source of spiritual hope and strength, but Hebrews 11:6 reminds us, "Without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that approaches God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

As told in Acts 16, Paul and Silas were being held in a dark and dreary prison, yet they began to worship the Lord. Why? Because joy is not confined to a geographic location, a mood or a feeling, but is activated when the determination to trust God becomes stronger than the temptation to be afraid.

We cannot live in faith and fear at the same time. If we will

feed our faith, our fears will starve. These men made a choice to see reality with the eyes of their spirit instead of being led by their emotions. Whatever trial we are going through today, we have the opportunity to do the same thing.

Our natural senses are connected with our mind, but spiritual faith declares that I will base my hope and trust in God no matter what happens because I know he always wants what's best for me.

Humans have a tendency to rely on their intelligence and have confidence in their own decisions, but this cannot bring true spiritual peace. True peace comes from knowing that God is in control.

Thomas Aquinas is quoted as saying, "To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible."

Read more at billyhollandministries.com.

WORDS OF THE BUDDHA

www.pariyatti.com

Whose mind is like rock, steady, unmoved, dispassionate for things that spark passion, unangered by things that spark anger:

When one's mind is developed like this, from where can there come suffering & stress? (Udana 4.34)

Any sensual bliss in the world, any heavenly bliss, isn't worth one sixteenth-sixteenth of the bliss of the ending of craving. (Udana 2.12)

Delight in heedfulness! Guard well your thoughts! Draw yourself out of this bog of evil, even as an elephant draws itself out of the mud. (Dhammapada 23.327)

Freed from longing through insight, the wise one rid of all desire is calm as a pool unstirred by wind. (Itivuttaka 3.92)

If for company you find a wise and prudent friend who leads a good life, you should, overcoming all impediments, keep their company joyously and mindfully. (Dhammapada 23.328)



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

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.

IS 40:31

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@eoni.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

9:00 am - Worship
10:00 am - Fellowship & Refreshments
10:30 am - Classes
Pastor:
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