

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Christian Women's Fellowship plans luncheon

LA GRANDE — "Learning from the Son of Timaeus" is the message Pastor Ray Smith will deliver Sunday at La Grande's First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The pastor will be sharing from Mark 10:46-52 at the 10 a.m. service.

The Christian Women's Fellowship will hold its annual Spring Friendship Luncheon April 6. "A Song of Spring" will be the theme. Special readings

and music are planned.

### Guest preacher speaks at First Presbyterian

LA GRANDE — Guest preacher Jonathan Mitchell will present a sermon called "Expectations" at the La Grande First Presbyterian Church's 9:30 a.m. Sunday service. The message will be based on scripture from Mark and II Samuel. Mitchell is a candidate for a pastor position in Pendleton. Fellowship will follow the service.

The Presbyterian women will hold a rummage sale at the Presbyterian Friendship Center from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 6.

### Quilters meet at Zion Lutheran

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church in La Grande will worship at 9 a.m. Sunday. A time of fellowship will follow. The Adult Forum at 10:30 a.m. will study the last segment of "Caring for Creation Now! For the Healing of the World."

The Quilters will meet

Tuesday at 9 a.m. The LG-BTQ Community Group will meet Thursday at 6 p.m.

### Altar Guild gathers on Tuesday

LA GRANDE — St. Peter's Episcopal Church in La Grande will celebrate Morning Prayer 11 a.m. Sunday.

Centering Prayer will be offered on Tuesday and Morning Prayer on Thursday, both at 8:30 a.m. in the chapel. The Altar Guild will meet Tuesday at 9 a.m. and the Girl

Scout leaders will meet at 10 a.m.

### Because of his death, the benefits are many

LA GRANDE — At the 11 a.m. Saturday service at the La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church, Pastor Mike will ask: Did you know Christ's death was a fulfillment of prophecy foretold hundreds of years prior, and because of his death the benefits are many? In his message, he will explore these benefits in scripture.

### 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.

## Imagine what we are missing if we don't follow God

When we hold a tiny baby in our arms, do we consider how devoted they will be to God, or do we just see the natural and physical possibilities? As Christians, we have the opportunity to become as close to God and as spiritually sensitive as we desire with the potential to discern wisdom that is hidden from our earthly understanding. An important question is how many people, including all those tiny babies, will make the most important decision to follow this type of lifestyle? I realize it's a sobering subject, but one that I believe is worth considering.

In Luke chapter two, we read about an individual named Simeon who was a spiritually dedicated man of prayer and fasting as he is described in verse 25, "righteous and devout with the Holy Spirit upon him." He was there when Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus (who was probably no older than three months) to be dedicated at the temple according to the Law of Moses. God had promised this elderly man he would not pass away until he had seen the king of all kings and on the very same day that Mary and Joseph went



**LIVING ON PURPOSE**  
DR. BILLY HOLLAND

to the temple, Simeon encountered the divine appointment of meeting this special family. When he looked at Jesus, he reached out and held him and said, "For with my eyes I have seen the Lord's salvation." Simeon proceeded to prophesy over the child and even though Mary and Joseph were already aware Jesus was the Savior of the world, they still marveled at Simeon's words. Allow us to pause a moment and consider this man would not have recognized the Christ child if he had not been walking in a high level of spiritual sensitivity. Mary and Joseph appeared to be just another average normal family that blended in with the massive crowd and yet Simeon immediately was able to identify the Lord.

Later in the same chapter, we learn about an elderly prophetess named Anna who also worshiped and prayed to God in the temple night and day. It just so happened she was there

that day and she too recognized baby Jesus as the Son of God. Anna, who some have calculated to have been more than 100 years old, began to boldly tell the crowd about how this child would be the redeemer of God's people. Now I realize older people usually go on and on when they see an infant and say things like, "they are really going to be amazing" but this was definitely different. Those who passed by probably thought, "Now isn't that touching, a nice elderly lady making over a tiny baby" and then went on about their business. However, let us note the reason they were not absolutely ecstatic about what she is saying is because they were unable to perceive the reality God was right in front of them. Could it be the lack of spiritual sensitivity is the reason why many times we do not notice the presence of God in our busy everyday life?

We realize Christians are to live in a high level of awareness, but we must admit we are weak and easily distracted. I have a question; if we are called to develop a deeper spiritual cognizance where we know what is going on around us, then

what is the consequence if we refuse? By thinking, feeling, deciding, and walking in our default nature, we are literally rebelling against the way God intended for us to exist. Since we are actually saying we are not interested in listening to, or following, God's plans and are not passionate about doing his will, how could he possibly be pleased with us? Being devoted to follow the Lord is what being His disciple is all about. Drawing nearer to God enables us to be filled with His Spirit and this allows us to more keenly understand the spiritual realm. So why do we refuse to draw near to God? Because we are more concerned with what we want to do. We can no longer blame anyone but ourselves as our real hindrance has everything to do with our own rebellion. If spiritual awareness is not a priority, we will simply not be able to discern truth. Within the sin of omission is the convicting thought God is disappointed with what might have been if only we had taken our spiritual responsibility more seriously.

Read more at [billyhollandministries.com](http://billyhollandministries.com)

### WORDS OF THE BUDDHA

[www.pariyatti.com](http://www.pariyatti.com)

Little though one recites the sacred texts, but puts the Teaching into practice, forsaking lust, hatred, and delusion, with true wisdom and emancipated mind, clinging to nothing of this or any other world — one indeed partakes of the blessings of a holy life. (Dhammapada 1.20)

Rouse yourself! Sit up! Resolutely train yourself to attain peace. Do not let the king of death, seeing you are careless, lead you astray and dominate you. (Sutta Nipata 2.334)

Ever grows the glory of one who is energetic, mindful and pure in conduct, discerning and self-controlled, righteous and heedful. (Dhammapada 2.24)

Though all one's life a fool associates with a wise person, one no more comprehends the Truth than a spoon tastes the flavor of the soup. (Dhammapada 5.64)

## Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches

### Services This Week

<p><b>IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> 440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201 <a href="http://www.imblerchristianchurch.org">www.imblerchristianchurch.org</a></p> <p><b>Sunday Services</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service</p>	<p><b>First Christian Church</b> (Disciples of Christ) 901 Penn Avenue 963-2623 <a href="mailto:lgdisciples@gmail.com">lgdisciples@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Worship 10:00 a.m.</b></p> <p>~Join us at The Lord's Table~</p>	<p><b>SUMMERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> A Church for the World</p> <p>Sunday Services: Sunday School &amp; Adult Bible Classes 9:45AM Children's Church &amp; Worship Service 11:00AM Family Worship Service 6:00PM</p> <p>Wednesday: Prayer Mtg. Children's Bible Club, Youth Group 7:00PM</p> <p>A church for your whole family Visit us at <a href="http://summervillebaptistchurch.org">summervillebaptistchurch.org</a></p>		
<p><b>COVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 1708 Jasper St., Cove, OR</p> <p><b>NORTH POWDER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 390 E. St., North Powder, OR</p> <p>JOIN US... <i>Catch the Spirit!</i> Worship: 9:00 a.m. Cove Worship: 10:00 a.m. N. Powder</p>	<p><b>ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES</b> 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 <b>Union - Sacred Heart</b> 340 South 10th Avenue Sunday 8:00 am Mass No Weekdays <b>Elgin - Saint Mary's</b> 12th and Alder Sunday 12:30 pm Mass No Weekdays</p>	<p><b>VALLEY FELLOWSHIP</b> 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. <a href="http://www.valleyfellowship.church">www.valleyfellowship.church</a> Email: <a href="mailto:vfchurch2@gmail.com">vfchurch2@gmail.com</a></p>		
<p><b>La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church</b> A Place where hope is found in Jesus Join us in Fellowship &amp; 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 <a href="http://www.lagrande22adventistchurchconnect.org">www.lagrande22adventistchurchconnect.org</a> Learning for Today and Eternity <b>Little Friends</b> Christian Preschool/Childcare 963-6390 <b>La Grande Adventist Christian School</b> Christian Education K-8th Grade 963-6203</p>	<p><b>FIRST LANDMARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 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" <a href="http://www.flmbclagrande.com">www.flmbclagrande.com</a></p>	<p><b>Zion Lutheran Church</b> (an ELCA church) 902 Fourth Street, La Grande, OR (541) 963-5998</p> <p>9:00 am - Worship 10:00 am - Fellowship &amp; Refreshments 10:30 am - Classes Pastor: <a href="http://www.zionlagrande.org">www.zionlagrande.org</a></p>		
<p><b>CALVARY CHAPEL</b> 1433 Jefferson Ave. 963-5884</p> <p>Contemporary Worship Expositional Teaching</p> <p>Sunday Service - 10:30 a.m. <i>Studying The Book of Romans</i> Wednesday Service - 7:00 p.m. <i>Studying The Book of Revelation</i> Wednesday Night Youth - 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Tune in to Calvary Radio 88.1 CSN</p>	<p><b>Amazing Grace Fellowship</b> 1316 T St., La Grande, OR 541-568-4567 Sunday 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>2 Cor 12:9 My Grace is sufficient for you.</p> <p>IS 40:31</p>	<p><b>GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 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 <a href="mailto:grace.lutherancove@gmail.com">grace.lutherancove@gmail.com</a></p>		
<p><b>Union Baptist Church</b> 1531 S. Main St., Union 541-562-5531 <a href="http://www.unionbaptistoregon.org">www.unionbaptistoregon.org</a> 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><b>First Baptist Church</b> SIXTH &amp; SPRING, LA GRANDE  Building Together On Christ Alone 541-963-3911 Sun. 8:45 AM - Bible Classes Sun. 10:00 AM - Worship Wed. 6:15 PM - AWANA</p>	<p><b>La Grande Church of the Nazarene</b> 109 18th Street • 963-3402 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>		
			<p><b>LA GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> "OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS" 1612 4th Street - 963-2498 Pastor Al Trachsel <a href="mailto:lgumc@eoni.com">lgumc@eoni.com</a> <a href="http://www.lgumchurch.org">www.lgumchurch.org</a> Office Hours: Mon-Thur 9am-Noon <b>Worship 10:00 am</b> Fellowship Coffee Hour 11:00 am • Nursery provided •</p>	