Memorial Day is a chance to show gratitude

By Franklin Humber
Summerville Baptist Church

Memorials are all about reminding us of important and significant people, places and particular events that have shaped our history to where we are today. Our calendar is filled with special days of recognition. In fact, some days are recognized for more than one thing.

However, this coming weekend stands out as a significant and special day in our nation as we remember the men and women who have gone on into eternity from this earth who have served our nation in the United States Armed Forces. It was originally known as Decoration Day because of the traditional act of decorating the graves of veterans with U.S. flags and flowers. The first organized event recorded in history for this purpose was held on May 5, 1866, in Waterloo, New York. Two years later, Gen. John A. Logan declared May 30, 1868, as a nationwide day to remember those who died in the Civil War battles in our nation.

It is fitting that those who selflessly serve to protect others are remembered and honored for their service. It is wholly appropriate that the people of our nation are called to remember these heroes who have lived, served and left us so their services and their existence are not forgotten. It is right and proper that those who benefit from their service take time to recognize their service and express their gratitude for the price of their freedom. In churches all over the nation this Sunday, time will be dedicated in the worship service to remember those who have served our nation, and I hope you will take time to participate.

This coming Monday, in cemeteries all across our great nation, there will be services to honor those who have been laid to rest in those hallowed grounds, and I wish to encourage you to take your family to experience one. Here in the Grande Ronde Valley, we host two such events at two different times in two different cemeteries.

The first is held at Summerville Cemetery at 8 a.m. and it is hosted by Summerville Cemetery and Summerville Baptist Church. Each year we gather together to raise the American flag to recognize those who have served and departed from us. There are veterans from every war the U.S. military has engaged in buried in that cemetery. Each year we try to share stories of hometown heroes who have served in combat to help protect our nation. This year Doran Hopkins, longtime resident of Summerville, is going to share stories of four of his relatives from our area who served in the armed forces. We would love to have you join us and many others from the Summerville/Imbler area, as well from other communities around the Grande Ronde Valley.

The other event has been going on annually for longer than I can remember, and it is hosted by the VFW at 11 a.m. at the Grandview Cemetery of La Grande. Each year, Roger Cochran, VFW member and pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, shares a wonderful tribute to those who have served and sacrificed for our freedoms. I will be at both events, and I would love to have you take part in either or both as well.

I want to encourage you, as a citizen of our country and a resident of our community, to not allow Memorial Day to deteriorate in your life or your family to merely a day off from work or school and a good excuse for a barbecue. Don't get me wrong, there is nothing wrong with a day off or a good picnic or cookout, but it is important that we remember the intent of this holiday. Let us keep our focus on our appreciation for those who have served our nation to protect our freedoms and are an important part of our nation's history. ■

Do you have the joy of God in your heart?

By Billy Holland
Billy Holland Ministries

Do you remember that old song in Vacation Bible School that said, "I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart?" Well, I do agree that humanity is searching as hard as they can to find contentment and desperately longs to discover peace, but rebellion and the lack of knowledge is preventing them from having it. What type of knowledge am I talking about? Spiritual understanding and holy wisdom about God and his instructions.

In the first part of Hosea 4:6, the Lord declares, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge," and he continues to talk about how the masses reject his truth. We notice God uses the word "destroyed" because without knowing about the divine realities of absolute truth, we will not comprehend the danger of living and dying without spiritual security. Sure, people can be moral and even somewhat religious, but many have never experienced a real encounter with the one who created them. On the outside they might seem to be normal, but spiritually they are not building from the blueprint that God has planned for them to become.

One reason people are not filled with joy is because they do not understand God's plan for them, and when left to controlling their own destiny, they become dirty on the inside. Another reason is that since their spiritual eyes have not been opened, they cannot understand how happy they would be if they would surrender their old life and accept God's new way of living. This passage actually reveals how much he loves all people and wants them to realize what the meaning of life really is. He is waiting for someone to ask him for this knowledge and will graciously give it.

There are three important steps toward becoming filled with joy: Joy is spiritual strength, joy is easily accessible, and joy is our responsibility to maintain. Let us look at the first one in Nehemiah 8:10, which says, "Then he said unto them, go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength." Scholars agree this verse is probably Nehemiah telling the people to enjoy themselves on this day and be happy as they celebrate the abundance of God's blessings. He also reminds them that sharing and blessing others is a vital part of demonstrating love. The last part of this verse refers to joy being associated with our ability to stand strong in our faith. There are several commentaries that reveal the original language to be "delight in Jehovah as a strong refuge or stronghold," which makes wonderful sense and continues to bring an emphasis on having confidence in God's word and to know that he desires for us to be filled with his spirit.

But how does joy transform into strength? Well, this is an excellent question. I think we could sum it up by saying we cannot be saturated with joy and sin at the same time. Joy and purity go hand in hand, and it goes all the way to back to when we were innocent children and did not have evil motives or hidden secrets and generally speaking were happy. ■

HIGHLIGHTS

Rev. Mary Royes will officiate at St. Peter's

LA GRANDE — St. Peter's Episcopal Church in La Grande will celebrate Holy Eucharist at 11 a.m. Sunday. Rev. Mary Royes will officiate. Fellowship and coffee hour will follow in the Parish Hall.

Sermon explores life in a fallen world

LA GRANDE, ENTERPRISE — Sunday's sermon at Faith Lutheran Church will expound on John 16:23-33. In these verses, Jesus explains the conditions of life in a sinful world. In Christ we are offered peace because he has overcome the world. Services will be at 10 a.m. in La Grande and 2 p.m. in Enterprise.

Faith Lutheran is planning its annual Mission Benefit Yard Sale for June 8 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in La Grande.

Mobile app provides scriptures

LA GRANDE — The lesson for the week of May 27 to June 2 for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be "Come Follow Me," with scriptures from Joseph Smith, Matthew 1 and 25, Mark 12-13 and Luke 21. The focus will be on prophecies of the Savior's second coming and the Lord's parable of the talents. Electronic copies of all scriptures can be obtained by downloading the mobile app, "Gospel Library," or by visiting www.ChurchofJesusChrist.org/scriptures.

Guest speaker comes from Baker City

COVE — The Cove Methodist Church will host its regular worship service at 9 a.m. Sunday. Certified Lay Minister Cindy Abbey from Baker City will lead the worship and provide the message. Fellowship with treats, coffee and juice will follow the service in the Fellowship Hall.

Every Tuesday the church hosts Cove's Fresh Alliance from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., offering free perishable food to the community. The Cove Food Pantry is open at the church from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. the fourth Saturday of the month.

Non-denominational Bible study meets at Zion

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church in La Grande will worship at 9 a.m. Sunday. Fellowship and coffee will follow the service.

The ZLCW Bible study is held at 9:30 a.m. and a non-denominational Bible study begins at 6:15 p.m., both on Tuesday at the church.

La Grande Nazarene welcomes new pastor

LA GRANDE — Meet the new pastor, Kevin Goss, as he brings a series entitled "Grace Is Greater" at La Grande's Church of the Nazarene. The message this Sunday will be based on Romans 5:1-11 and will cover the abundance available to us through Christ. The service will begin at 10:30 a.m.

Vacation Bible School for the entire family will be held June 7-9 with the theme "Roar! Life Is Wild, God Is Good!" The times will be Friday from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with lunch provided, and Sunday 9:15 a.m. to noon with breakfast provided.

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*

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

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)
ZION LUTHERAN LA GRANDE
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

1531 S. Main Street, Union 541-562-5531
UNION BAPTIST CHURCH
www.UnionBaptistOregon.org
Sunday School 9:45 am
Morning Worship 11:00 am
Thursday AWANA 6:30 pm
Birthing, Building and Being the Body of Christ

First Baptist Church
SIXTH & SPRING, LA GRANDE
541-963-3911
LOVING God · SHARING Life · SERVING People · LEARNING Truth
Building Together On Christ Alone
Sun. 9:00 AM - **Worship**
Sun. 10:30 AM - **Exploring the Bible**
Wed. 6:15 PM - **AWANA**

CALVARY CHAPEL
1433 Jefferson Ave.
963-5884
Contemporary Worship
Expositional Teaching
Sunday Service - 10:30 a.m.
Studying The Book of Romans
Wednesday Service - 7:00 p.m.
Studying The Book of Revelation
Wednesday Night Youth - 6:00 p.m.
Tune in to Calvary Radio 88.1 CSN

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

La Grande 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 •