

HIGHLIGHTS

Our whole lives looked at in sermon

LA GRANDE — Pastor Ray Smith will expound on John 3:14-21 Sunday at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). His message, "I Can't Find my Keys Here," will look at bringing our whole lives, even the dark places, to the light of God. The service will begin at 10 a.m.

Cove Christian Camp for grades kindergarten through second will open Sunday evening at 5 p.m. Parents or guardians may register children at the door. Go to covechristiancamp.org for complete information.

Public invited to study on Revelation

LA GRANDE — The La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church will meet at 11 a.m. Saturday. Guest speaker, John Panches, will address the nature of our relationship with the Holy Spirit.

A seminar, "Prophecy Countdown,"

will begin Monday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Union County Senior Center conference room. There will be a systematic focus on all the major themes, symbols and vital messages in the book of Revelation. This series will continue on Mondays and Wednesdays. It is free to the public, including materials. All are welcome.

ZLCW Bible study meets on Tuesday

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church in La Grande will worship Sunday at 9 a.m. A time of fellowship will follow.

The ZLCW Bible study group will meet at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday at Zion.

Unity in Christ is focus of Ward Sacrament meeting

LA GRANDE — La Grande Stake High Council members will be speaking in Ward Sacrament meetings Sunday at the Church of Jesus Christ

of Latter-day Saints. Their remarks will focus on being one in Christ. The "Come Follow Me" lesson for the week of June 24-30 will be based on Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24 and John 20-21. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the theme. The lesson will focus on preparing for the day we will also be resurrected. The second hour of the services will be Priesthood and Relief Society meetings.

Free Interfaith Celebration takes place in Nampa

NAMPA — All are invited to attend a free Interfaith Celebration Saturday, July 27, at the Ford Idaho Center in Nampa, Idaho. There will be performances by Alex Boye, Marie Osmond, David Archuleta and more. The purpose of the event is to provide opportunity for all Christian faiths to unite and celebrate a love for each other and Jesus Christ. Visit <http://comevents.org> to learn more.

Supreme Court upholds cross on public land in Maryland

The Associated Press

A World War I memorial in the shape of a 40-foot-tall cross can continue to stand on public land in Maryland, the Supreme Court ruled Thursday.

The justices, in ruling 7-2 in favor of the cross' backers, concluded that the nearly 100-year-old memorial's presence on a grassy highway median doesn't violate the First Amendment's establishment clause, which prohibits the government from favoring one religion over others.

The case had been closely watched because it involves the place of religious symbols in public life. Defenders of the cross in Bladensburg had argued that a ruling against them could doom of

hundreds of war memorials that use crosses to commemorate soldiers who died.

"The cross is undoubtedly a Christian symbol, but that fact should not blind us to everything else that the Bladensburg Cross has come to represent," Justice Samuel Alito wrote.

Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor dissented. The cross' challengers included three area residents and the District of Columbia-based American Humanist Association, which includes atheists and agnostics. They argued that the cross, in a suburb near the nation's capital, should be moved to private property or modified into a nonreligious monument.

Want more of God? Choose to deliberately pursue him

When we are truly in love with someone, nothing can keep us from them. It sounds like the beginning of a beautiful romantic love story, doesn't it? Actually, it is a love story, but it's between us and God. The Lord is inviting us today to spend more time with him and to fall in love with him so deeply that nothing in this world can interfere with this bond of holy intimacy. We can be as close to God as we want and be filled with his spirit with a constant awareness of his presence if we choose him as the love of our life. If this is what you are seeking today, then you have found the meaning and purpose of your existence. Our free-will decision to refuse is the only obstacle that can prevent us from becoming what Jesus died for us to be.

Our nature comes fully equipped with the ability to be infatuated and controlled with whatever we love and is more than willing to bow down to whatever is our highest priority. We usually deny that we are our own king, which helps to explain why we rarely consider the fact that idolatry has more to do



LIVING ON PURPOSE
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with the one we see in the mirror than an external influence or master. God will compel but does not force anyone to worship him, and according to his truth, the dark side also abides by the same principles. In other words, you and I are constantly being influenced and choosing whom we will serve and obey every moment.

The more that God is on our mind, the more we will become like him. When all is said and done and we stand before his throne, the amount of our conscience we allowed him to occupy will reveal what meant the most to us. We realize it's difficult to serve and worship someone we cannot see, and our carnal desires hate the idea of submitting to anything that interferes with our independence. The Christian life includes having a passion to be with Jesus every moment, and if we do not have this, somewhere we have drifted away. As we draw nearer to

him, he will open our spiritual eyes and allow us to see and know his plans. Our attitude exposes the vast difference between living in a default religious experience or becoming a sincere follower of Christ. The question for all of us is how much of God do we want and how desperate are we to know him?

The school of Christian living is our daily classroom and within our prayers should be the request to understand what we are learning. Without wisdom, knowledge is just a collection of facts, and in the Christian journey it's not how much we know but how much we apply. We love and worship God not because of what he can do or how much he will give, but simply because we are infatuated with who he is. Our joy overflows when we meditate about his love, as our broken and contrite heart releases a sweet-smelling aroma in the beauty of his holiness. It is with trusting innocence that we can snuggle into the lap of our loving heavenly father, where we are content as he places his arms around us and gently holds us and gives us his peace

that passes all understanding. In the essence of his glory we become supernaturally entwined with the creator and ruler of the universe who longs to mold us as soft clay on the potter's wheel.

This miracle of transformation can happen when we sincerely abandon our old nature and embrace him as the Lord of our destiny. Only then can our life finally begin its humble decent so that Christ can increase and be manifested within us. If we want more of God, we must choose to deliberately pursue him. Spending time with him allows us to know him personally and to learn more about our calling. When he becomes the focus of our purpose, the awareness of his presence will become as natural as breathing. To know God is the meaning of our existence, to worship him is our most precious gift, and to love him is our greatest honor and privilege. "Then you will call upon me and go and pray to me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek me and find me, when you search for me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:12-13).

Words of the Buddha

- Speak not harshly to anyone, for those thus spoken to might retort. Indeed, angry speech hurts, and retaliation may overtake you. (Dhammapada 10.133)
- You have to do your own work; enlightened Ones will only show the way. Those who practise meditation will free themselves from the chains of death. (Dhammapada 20.276)
- Know this, O good one: evil things are difficult to control. Let not greed and wickedness drag you to protracted misery. (Dhammapada 18.248)
- Who gives, one's virtues shall increase; who is self-curbed, no hatred bears; who is skilled in virtue, evil shuns; and by the rooting out of lust and hate and all delusion, comes to be at peace. (Digha Nikaya 2.197)

www.pariyatti.com

Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches

Services This Week

<p>IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH 440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201 www.imblerchristianchurch.org</p> <p>Sunday Services 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service</p>	<p>First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 901 Penn Avenue 963-2623 lgdisciples@gmail.com</p> <p>Worship 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>~Join us at The Lord's Table~</p>	<p>SUMMERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH A Place for All</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>A church for your whole family Visit us at summervillebaptistchurch.org</p>	<p>Service</p> <p>DIRECTORY</p>	
<p>COVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1708 Jasper St., Cove, OR</p> <p>NORTH POWDER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 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>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</p> <p>Union - Sacred Heart 340 South 10th Avenue Sunday 8:00 am Mass No Weekdays</p> <p>Elgin - Saint Mary's 12th and Alder Sunday 12:30 pm Mass No Weekdays</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>First Baptist Church</p> <p>1531 S. Main Street, Union UNION BAPTIST CHURCH 541-562-5531</p> <p>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</p> <p>SIXTH & SPRING, LA GRANDE 541-963-3911</p> <p>Sun. 9:00 AM - Worship Sun. 10:30 AM - Exploring the Bible Wed. 6:15 PM - AWANA</p>	
<p>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></p> <p>Little Friends Christian Preschool/Childcare 963-6390 La Grande Adventist Christian School Christian Education K-8th Grade 963-6203</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Zion Lutheran Church (an ELCA church) 902 Fourth Street, La Grande, OR (541) 963-5998</p> <p>9:00 am - Worship 10:00 am - Fellowship & Refreshments 10:30 am - Classes Pastor: www.zionlagrande.org</p>	<p>LA GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH <i>"OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS"</i> 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 •</p>	
<p>CALVARY CHAPEL 1433 Jefferson Ave. 963-5884</p> <p>Contemporary Worship Expositional Teaching</p> <p>Sunday Service - 10:30 a.m. <i>Studying The Book of First Corinthians</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>Amazing Grace Fellowship 1316 T St., La Grande, OR 541-568-4567 Sunday 10:30 a.m.</p> <p><i>2 Cor 12:9 My Grace is sufficient for you.</i></p> <p>IS 40:31</p>	<p>GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMC 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 Seelhoff Phone: 541-786-0447 grace.lutheranrove@gmail.com</p>	<p>LaGrande CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p>109 18th Street • 963-3402</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	