

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Chainbreakers host barbecue

LA GRANDE — The New Hope Worship Center of La Grande invites the community to a Chainbreakers barbecue from noon to 4 p.m. Aug. 24. The church is at 2630 Bearco Loop.

### Guest speaks at First Presbyterian

LA GRANDE — Kate Loftus will be filling in at the pulpit at La Grande's First Presbyterian Church Sunday at the 9:30 a.m. service. Her sermon will be about choices. A fellowship hour will follow.

### ZLCW Bible Study meets Tuesday

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church in La Grande will worship at

9 a.m. Sunday. Holy Communion will be celebrated. Pastor Roberta Smythe will be the guest preacher. A time of fellowship will take place after the service.

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

### Helplessness and hope examined

LA GRANDE — Pastor Ray Smith will speak on helplessness and hope at the 10 a.m. service Sunday at La Grande's First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). His message will be based on Matthew 21:1-11, which tells of Jesus' mixed feelings as he entered Jerusalem.

### Faith Lutheran looks at the 'narrow door'

LA GRANDE, ENTER-

PRISE — The sermon at Faith Lutheran Church Sunday will expound on Luke 13:22-30, in which Jesus calls people to "enter through the narrow door." Services will be at 10 a.m. in La Grande and 2 p.m. in Enterprise.

### Holy Communion offered during service

LA GRANDE — St. Peter's Episcopal Church of La Grande will celebrate Holy Communion at 11 a.m. Sunday. The Reverend Roberta Smythe will officiate. Coffee hour and fellowship will follow in the Parish Hall.

### Sermon based on the book of Matthew

COVE — The Cove United Methodist Church will wor-

ship at 9 a.m. Sunday. Mary Cloutier will provide the message, "A Call for Compassion," based on Matthew 9 and 25. Fellowship with treats, coffee and juice will follow the service in the Fellowship Hall.

Hosted by the church the fourth Saturday of every month, the Cove Food Pantry will be open from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Aug. 24. Cove's Fresh Alliance, offering free perishable food to the community, is held at the church from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Tuesdays.

### Couple presents message

LA GRANDE — The La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church will worship at 11 a.m. Saturday. The service will feature

one of the congregation's couples.

### Members of congregation serve as speakers

LA GRANDE — The "Come Follow Me" lesson for the week of Aug. 26 through Sept. 1 for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be based on 1 Corinthians 8-13. It will focus on finding unity as followers of Jesus Christ and the blessings of the sacrament. Members of the congregation will be the speakers for the Sacrament Service and Priesthood and Relief Society meetings during the second hour. Electronic copies of all scriptures and lesson materials can be obtained on the "Gospel Library" app or at [www.ChurchofJesusChrist.org/scriptures?lang=eng&cid=rdsc](http://www.ChurchofJesusChrist.org/scriptures?lang=eng&cid=rdsc).

ChurchofJesusChrist.org/scriptures?lang=eng&cid=rdsc riptures.

### Outdoor worship followed by Family Bash

LA GRANDE — The La Grande Church of the Nazarene will worship outdoors this Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Pastor Kevin Goss continues the Altar in the Word series with a message entitled, "God in One Another," drawn from Genesis 18:1-15. There is no doubt that God uses people to make himself known, and we're never sure where he may reveal himself next. Sunday school begins at 9:15 a.m. After the service is the End of Summer Family Bash with food for all and activities for kids.

# We can't see God, so how do we know he is real?

I've been asked many times through the years: How do we know God is real when we cannot see him, touch him or hear him? I admit this is a logical question and there are several things we need to consider in the conversation. I know what God can do, but I've never walked up to him and shook his hand or had a cup of coffee with him. I can sense the still small voice of the Holy Spirit speak within my spirit, and I listen to other people relay what they believe God is saying, but I have not heard God speak from the clouds or a burning bush like he did in the Old Testament.

However, just because I have not had experiences like many others have had, this does not in any way diminish my enthusiasm to believe he is who the Bible says he is. Those who are blind and cannot see the moon and the stars still believe they are there. The Christian life contains unexplainable occurrences and occasional supernatural phenomenon including angel visitations and mind-boggling miracles, but in general, following God is to be lived



**LIVING ON PURPOSE**  
BILLY HOLLAND

by faith. Yes, this is much more difficult, but also much more rewarding. The Bible declares that God surrounds us whether we can see him or not and desires that we attempt to develop our spiritual awareness through keeping our mind focused on him.

There is a story in the Bible about a man who placed a high priority on being able to see Jesus before he could believe. Christ had just been publicly crucified and, after three days, it was being told that his tomb was empty and that he had risen from the dead. Thomas, who was one of Jesus' disciples, was overwhelmed from all that had happened and declared he would not believe unless he could see his teacher's nail-scarred hands and be able to literally touch him. Soon after this, it just so happened that Jesus miraculously appeared to him one evening and reached out his hands and said,

"Thomas, because you have seen me, you have believed; however, blessed are those who have not seen and yet still have believed" (John 20:29).

Everything related to God is not presented in clear sight on purpose, including the understanding of scripture. The idea is the Lord draws and leads us, then it's our responsibility to believe in him with all of our heart. He is not withholding from us to frustrate us, but our determination to know him is directly associated with how much we love and trust him. To the masses, this may seem like a foolish game of hide and seek with an invisible man — however, to those who know God, this intimate relationship is the meaning of life. Our experiences, even the difficult times, are meant to teach us how to understand God and are a critical part of us becoming what he wants us to be. II Corinthians 4:18 says, "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

When it comes to wisdom and

understanding, there has never been a more important message to the world than to discover and experience the presence of God. The beautiful symbolism in the Tabernacle of Moses invites us to enjoy a spiritual reality that is as tangible as anything we could ever know. Today, this secret dwelling place with God is not a geographic location, but rather a state of being where we can communicate, worship and freely rejoice in the glories of his love. Meditating and focusing within on the peace and security of knowing that Jesus died and rose from the dead to save us is a truth more valuable than anything in this world.

We cannot make people know God. We can only encourage them to look around and notice his work. C.S. Lewis is quoted as saying, "I believe in God as I believe the sun has risen, not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else." Nothing can separate us from the privilege to walk with God except our refusal to believe he is real.

To read more visit [billyhollandministries.com](http://billyhollandministries.com).

### Words of the Buddha

• You are your own master, you make your future. Therefore discipline yourself as a horse-dealer trains a thoroughbred.

(Dhammapada 25.380)

• Irrigators direct the water, fletchers fashion the shaft, carpenters bend the wood, the wise control themselves.

(Dhammapada 6.80)

• No mother nor father nor any other kin can do greater good for oneself than a mind directed well.

(Dhammapada 3.43)

• One who destroys life, utters lies, takes what is not given — such a person digs up one's own root even in this world.

(Dhammapada 18.246-47)

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

# Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches

## Services This Week

**IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201  
[www.imblerchristianchurch.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.valleyfellowship.church)  
Email: [vfchurch2@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://www.zionlagrande.org)

**UNION BAPTIST CHURCH**  
1531 S. Main Street, Union 541-562-5531

[www.UnionBaptistOregon.org](http://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

Sun. 10:00 AM - **Worship**  
Sun. 8:45 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 First Corinthians*  
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](mailto:grace.lutherancove@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 Taylor Gould  
[lgumc@conl.com](mailto:lgumc@conl.com)  
[www.lgumchurch.org](http://www.lgumchurch.org)  
Office Hours: Mon-Thur 9am-Noon  
**Worship 10:00 am**  
Fellowship Coffee Hour 11:00 am  
-Nursery provided -