

HIGHLIGHTS

St. Peter’s book club meets Sunday night

LA GRANDE — St. Peter’s Episcopal Church of La Grande will celebrate Holy Eucharist at 11 a.m. Sunday. Pastor Roberta Smythe will officiate. Coffee and fellowship follow. St. Peter’s Book Club will meet at 6 p.m. Sunday evening.

Workshop on Jonah held on Saturday, open to all

LA GRANDE — Grace Bible Church of Union County, located at 1114 Y Ave., La Grande, will be hosting a biblical exposition workshop on the book of Jonah, “Discovering God’s Heart in Scripture,” from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 12. Participants are encouraged to review the book of Jonah before attending.

The workshop will feature Dave DeHaan, director of church partnership with Leadership Resources International. A complimentary lunch will be served and catered

by Island City Market and Hines Meat Co. No child care will be provided although a nursery will be available for mothers.

Contact Phil Garwood for more information or to register at pastorphilgarwood@gmail.com or 541-786-4495.

‘What about Thomas?’ asks pastor

LA GRANDE — “What About Thomas?” will be Pastor Ray Smith’s message Sunday at La Grande’s First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The sermon will be based on John 20:19-31. Worship will begin at 10 a.m.

Effectiveness of Adventist education examined

LA GRANDE — Did you know that Seventh-day Adventist Education is the largest Protestant education system in the world? Saturday at 11 a.m. the guest speaker at La Grande’s Seventh-day Adventist Church will be the

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.

recently retired education superintendent of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventist Church, Dr. Larry Blackmer. His message will be “Does Adventist Education Make a Difference?”

Sermon reminds us to give God thanks

LA GRANDE, ENTERPRISE — The sermon at Faith Lutheran Church Sunday will expound on the 10 lepers who were healed in the book of Luke. Only one returned to give thanks. God is

our provider and it is our duty and privilege to praise and thank him. The service will be at 10 a.m. in La Grande and 2 p.m. in Enterprise.

Items for Lutheran World Relief blessed

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church of La Grande will worship at 9 a.m. Sunday. Holy Communion will be observed and Pastor Roberta Smythe will officiate. The service will include the blessing of quilts and kits for Lutheran World Relief. A time of fellowship will follow the service. Adult Forum will be held at 11:30 a.m.

The Evening Bible Study will meet at 7 p.m. Monday at Ruth Zemke’s home. The Quilters will meet at 9 a.m. Tuesday at Zion.

Stake Conference held this weekend

LA GRANDE — The Stake Conference for the La Grande Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be held this

weekend at 1802 Gekeler Lane. There will be a session for adults (18 and older) at 7 p.m. Saturday, followed by a session for the entire family at 10 a.m. Sunday.

The community is welcome to attend. The “Come Follow Me for Individuals & Families” lesson for the week of Oct. 14-20 is based on Paul’s epistles to the Philippians and Colossians and focuses on finding joy in Christ regardless of our circumstances.

The Columbia River Temple in Richland, Washington, remains closed through Oct. 21. Rehearsal for the Messiah chorus will begin at 6 p.m. Oct. 13 at 1802 Gekeler. Auditions for soloists will be held at 5 p.m. Oct. 27. This is a community program and all interested individuals are encouraged to join in.

For additional information on the Messiah production, contact Marie and Wes Rampton at 541-805-8902.

—Observer staff

Good news/bad news: It’s no joke

Good news/bad news jokes can add a touch of humor to our lives.

Like this one: A pastor reports to his congregation on Sunday morning that he has both good news and bad news for them. He tells them, “The bad news is last night’s storm blew a hole in the roof and there is a lot of water damage in the choir room.” The people respond with a concerned murmur. The pastor goes on, “The good news is we have all the money we need to repair the damage.” The people brighten. “However,” the pastor adds, “the bad news is that the money is in your pockets.”

Stories like this may bring a chuckle, but they also reflect the way life often unfolds. Good and bad news both descend on us, sometimes too close to each other for our liking.



JUST CALL ME PASTOR
DONALD N. BASTIAN

This thought came to me some time back when I read an interview with Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in California. You recall that he made news over his runaway bestseller “The Purpose-Driven Life.” The book had brought him fame and great wealth almost overnight. Wonderful news. But shortly thereafter he was in the news again, this time because cancer had struck in his family. After much prayer, he and his wife came to terms with what they were facing.

After receiving the bad news, in an interview Pastor Warren spoke from his own poignant experience, “Life is a series of problems: Either



The Associated Press file photo

Rick Warren, pastor of Orange County’s Saddleback Church, speaks at the Clinton Global Initiative in New York. Warren made news over his runaway bestseller, “The Purpose-Driven Life.” The good news: The book brought him fame and great wealth almost overnight.

you are now in one, or you’re just coming out of one, or you’re getting ready to go into another one.”

He also said, “I believe that life is kind of like two rails on a railroad track, and that at all times you have something good and something bad running in your life.”

Can we draw lessons from his two-rail metaphor for how we

should live? We are enabled to face both good and bad that come so startlingly close together with a measure of equanimity when we see our lives in the context of eternity.

Warren pointed this out when he said, “In a nutshell, life is preparation for eternity.... This is the warm-up act, the dress rehearsal.

God wants us to practice on earth what we will do forever in eternity” — which is to let nothing dim our view of him in all his glory.

This is in complete agreement with what the Apostle Peter teaches.

We are born again into a living hope, he writes (1 Peter 1:3). We have an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade (1:4). We know that our salvation will be fully revealed in the last time (1:5). All this is a treasure trove of reassurance and will sustain us even while we may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials (1:6).

When the bad news comes, we also have God’s word through the Apostle Paul: “For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).

— For more writings by Donald N. Bastian, bishop emeritus of the Free Methodist Church of North America, go to justcallmepastor.wordpress.com.

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COVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1708 Jasper St., Cove, OR NORTH POWDER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 390 E. St., North Powder, OR JOIN US... <i>Catch the Spirit!</i> Worship: 9:00 a.m. Cove Worship: 10:00 a.m. N. Powder	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~	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	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
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> Little Friends Christian Preschool/Childcare 963-6390 La Grande Adventist Christian School Christian Education K-8th Grade 963-6203	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	LA GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH “OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS” 1612 4th Street – 963-2498 Pastor Taylor Gould lgumc@eoni.com www.lgumchurch.org Office Hours: Mon-Thur 9am-Noon Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Coffee Hour 11:00 am - Nursery provided -	GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH <i>The Place</i> 62848 Philynda Loop in Island City <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.lutherancove@gmail.com	
	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 “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: Roberta Smythe www.zionlagrande.org	UNION BAPTIST CHURCH 1531 S. Main Street, Union 541-562-5531 www.UnionBaptistOregon.org Sunday School 9:45 am Morning Worship 11:00 am Thursday AWANA 6:30 pm <i>Birthing, Building and Being the Body of Christ</i>	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. <i>Studying The Book of Second Corinthians</i> Wednesday Service - 7:00 p.m. <i>Studying The Book of Revelation</i> Wednesday Night Youth - 6:00 p.m. Tune in to Calvary Radio 88.1 CSN	La Grande CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 109 18th Street • 963-3402 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.		St. Katherine’s Catholic Church Fr. Thomas Puduppulliparamban 301 E Garfield Enterprise Mass Schedule Sundays: St Pius X, Wallowa – 8:00 am St Katherine of Siena, Enterprise – 10:30 am Saturdays St Katherine of Siena, Enterprise – 5:30 pm Weekdays St Katherine of Siena, Enterprise – 8:00 am (Monday – Thursday and First Friday) <i>All are welcome</i>	SUMMERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH <i>A Place for You</i> 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

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