

When in doubt, join in the worship of other believers

It's one thing to be racked by our doubts, wondering if God exists, if he cares, if he can do anything for us in our times of uncertainty. But to feel that our doubts are sinful and that we must keep them hidden compounds our distress.

The truth is that doubt is the not infrequent experience of aspiring saints. Smug, narcissistic or spiritually complacent Bible characters like Samson, Absalom and the wicked Herodias give little evidence of wrestling with doubts. They were all supremely self-confident. But the godly prophet Elijah is a different case. So are Jeremiah, Habakkuk and John the Baptist. Even Jesus had his times of doubt. No one ever trusted the father more implicitly than he, yet from his cross he cried, "My God, My God, Why...?"

At least 40 of the 150 of the Psalms are called "psalms of lament," and some are from people wrestling with doubt. Psalm 77 is one of them.

The psalmist is in such distress



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DONALD BASTIAN

that he cannot sleep at night. He holds God responsible for even this, since for the Hebrew mind God is ultimately involved in every human situation. He cries out in his anguish, "Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he in his anger shut up his compassion?" (Psalm 77:9 RSV).

This psalm must have been written as the solitary cry of one believer. But when the psalms were collected, eventually to become the Old Testament hymn book, this one was seen as a cry common to many devout hearts and was made a part of the Old Testament worship literature. Today all readers, New Testament doubters too, may use it.

Doubters want to believe that God is there for them, but they struggle to see how things could be as they are, if God really cared. Doubters have faith, but it is under



Wikipedia Commons

Frederick Robertson, a preacher of an earlier generation, was sometimes subject to profound, overwhelming, doubts.

assault, conflicted, strained.

Frederick Robertson, a great preacher of an earlier generation, was sometimes subject to profound, overwhelming, doubts. His advice? "Obedience! Leave those thoughts (of doubt) for the present.... Force

Words of the Buddha

Agony now, agony hereafter, the wrong-doer suffers agony in both worlds.

Agonized now by the knowledge that one has done wrong, one suffers more agony, gone to a state of woe.

Rejoicing now, rejoicing hereafter, the doer of wholesome actions rejoices in both worlds.

Rejoicing now in the knowledge that one has acted rightly, one rejoices more, gone to a state of bliss.

— (Dhammapada 1.17, 1.18)

Source: www.pariyatti.org

yourselves to abound in little services; try to do good to others; be true to the duty that you know...."

Good advice, but there is an even deeper word in this Psalm 77. The psalmist says: "I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord; yea, I will remember thy wonders of old (Psalm 77:11 RSV). This psalmist avoided the peril of self-absorption by meditating, principally on the mighty acts of God at the Red Sea.

We can go one better. We also call the mighty acts of Jesus to mind — his perfect life, his love for the oppressed, his healings — and

particularly his deliverance from death at Joseph's tomb. The Holy Spirit, by such meditations, can renew our faith.

When trying to overcome oppressive doubts, in addition to personal meditation, it is also good to go where a company of believers is worshipping the living God. Attempt to share in their faith as they sing and pray. Join with them and listen to the word of God preached.

You will be among friends. And, of course, on any given Sunday, there will surely be others there who also need to activate Psalm 77.

HIGHLIGHTS

St. Peter's service includes Eucharist

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

Lutherans recognize Reformation Sunday in joint service

LA GRANDE — Sunday is Reformation Sunday. Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on a church door in Wittenberg, Germany, 502 years ago on Oct. 31. This event marks the beginning of reforming the Church. The sermon at La Grande's Faith Lutheran Church Sunday will focus on Jesus' words in John 8:31-36, teaching us that believing the truth of God's word makes us his children,

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.

forever in his kingdom. The service will be at 10 a.m. In addition, a joint service of Lutheran churches will be held at 4 p.m. at Bethlehem LCMS in Hermiston.

Primary children present program

UNION COUNTY — Primary children will present the Sacrament meeting program in the La Grande Second and Union wards Sunday at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The services will begin at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m., respectively. Members of the congregation will be the

speakers in the other areas. The second hour of services will be Relief Society and Priesthood meetings. The scriptures studied in the Oct. 28 to Nov. 3 "Come Follow Me" lessons will be 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon. The focus is on being an example.

Shipment sent to Lutheran World Relief

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church in La Grande will worship at 9 a.m. on Reformation Sunday. Holy Communion will be served. Pastor Roberta Smythe will officiate. A time of fellow-

ship will follow. Adult Forum meets at 10:30 a.m.

The Quilters will meet at 9 a.m. Tuesday. A shipment of items donated by Zion members for Lutheran World Relief will be sent to Portland on Friday. Items include quilts, baby care kits, school kits and personal care kits for third-world countries.

Sermon considers 'Eternal Investments'

LA GRANDE — The La Grande Church of the Nazarene offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m. and a worship service at 10:30 a.m. Pastor Kevin Goss will continue the "Upside Down Kingdom" series with a sermon from Matthew 6:19-24 titled, "Eternal Investments." While our world seems to be ruled by the almighty dollar, as citizens of the kingdom of God we serve another king. With one foot in two different economies, we

leverage what we have for a much larger purpose — one that makes an eternal impact.

There is freedom in forgiveness

LA GRANDE — Pastor Ray Smith will speak on "Freedom Through Forgiveness" at the 10 a.m. Sunday service at

La Grande's First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). His message is based on Matthew 18:21-22, in which Jesus tells us to forgive at least 77 times.

The Christian Women's Fellowship is preparing for its Fall Harvest Bazaar, to be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 2.

Grande Ronde Mennonite Church
Cove
Hymn Sing

Place: Ascension School on Church St.

Date: Sunday, October 27, 2019

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Refreshments following • Everyone Welcome

541-786-1289



CHURCH
Service
DIRECTORY

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~



CHURCH
Service
DIRECTORY

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



CHURCH
Service
DIRECTORY

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



CHURCH
Service
DIRECTORY

LA GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
"OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS"
1612 4th Street – 963-2498
Pastor Taylor Gould
lgumc@eon.com
www.lgumchurch.org
Office Hours: Mon-Thur 9am-Noon
Worship 10:00 am
Fellowship Coffee Hour 11:00 am
- Nursery provided -



CHURCH
Service
DIRECTORY

GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Place
62848 Philynda Loop in Island City
"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



CHURCH
Service
DIRECTORY

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



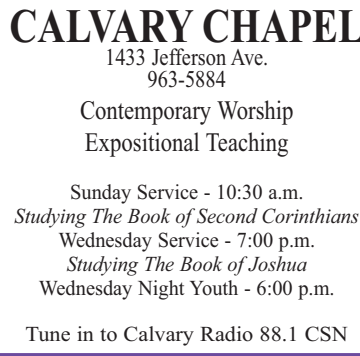
CHURCH
Service
DIRECTORY

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



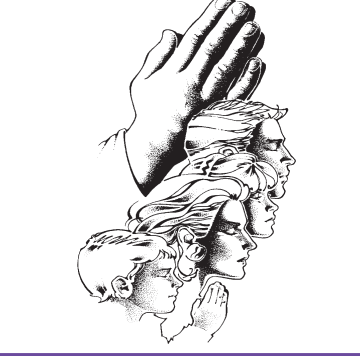
CHURCH
Service
DIRECTORY

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



CHURCH
Service
DIRECTORY

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



CHURCH
Service
DIRECTORY

LaGrande CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
109 18th Street • 963-3402
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.



CHURCH
Service
DIRECTORY

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)
All are welcome



CHURCH
Service
DIRECTORY

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



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CHURCH
Service
DIRECTORY

SUMMERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
A Place for You
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