

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Retirement party for Pastor Ray Smith follows service

LA GRANDE — The second Sunday of Advent focuses on peace. At the La Grande First Christian Church, Pastor Ray Smith's message will be "Do We Recognize Peace?" at the 10 a.m. service. The sermon will come from Philippians 4:1-9. Larry and Karen Campbell will light the second Advent candle.

Pastor Smith will be retiring at the end of December. There will be a reception to celebrate his retirement from 1-3 p.m. Sunday in the fellowship hall. All are welcome to come and wish him well.

### Don't lose sight of joy, love, hope amid busyness of holidays

LA GRANDE — Christmas is now hurtling toward us, but do not miss the joy, love and hope found in the significance of the "Three Trees of Christmas." Pastor Mike will share this wonder-

filled message during the 11 a.m. Saturday service at the La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The church's annual Living Nativity will take place from 5-8 p.m. Dec. 13 and 14, on Adams Avenue just south of Bi-Mart. This event is open to the public.

### Mini-bazaar held after service at Zion Lutheran

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church in La Grande will worship at 9 a.m. on the second Sunday of Advent. Holy Communion will be served and Pastor Roberta Smythe will officiate. After the service there will be a time of fellowship and a mini-bazaar.

Monday at 7 p.m. the evening Bible study will be held at Cathy Lease's.

### 'A Thrill of Hope' sermon series draws from Isaiah 7

LA GRANDE — Sunday school begins at 9:15 a.m. and worship follows at

10:30 a.m. at the La Grande Church of the Nazarene. Pastor Kevin Goss will continue the "A Thrill of Hope" series with a message from Isaiah 7:10-16 titled "Till He Appeared." Generally we think of Christmas as a season that is merry and bright, but for many the festivities only heighten anxiety, fear and grief. The meaning of Christmas can encompass the fears — it is a season where the "hopes and fears of all the years" find their fulfillment in the birth of our savior.

### Candle for second Sunday of Advent lit during service

LA GRANDE — La Grande's First Presbyterian Church will celebrate the second Sunday of Advent during its 9:30 a.m. service. Pastor Laura Hudson's sermon, "Coming Home to Christ's Peace," is based on scripture readings from Isaiah and Ezra. Judy Martin, Connie Ingerson and Larry Munkres will light the

second Advent candle. A fellowship hour will follow the worship service.

Next Sunday's worship will feature the annual Spontaneous Christmas Pageant — a lighter-hearted version of the Christmas story — which asks if there can ever be too many Marys or if the Wise Women came to worship Baby Jesus too.

### Annual Christmas Devotional can be viewed online

LA GRANDE — The First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will present the annual Christmas Devotional at 5 p.m. Sunday, with music by the Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra at Temple Square. Christmas messages will be provided by General Authorities and General Officers of the Church. This event can be viewed at [www.churchofjesuschrist.org](http://www.churchofjesuschrist.org), on BYUtv or at local meeting-houses.

The "Light the World" suggestion for this Sunday

is to "share a scripture with a friend or a loved one who may need a boost today."

Visit [www.lighttheworld.org](http://www.lighttheworld.org) for more information. Members of the congregation will be the speakers for the local Sacrament services, followed by Relief Society and Priesthood meetings during the second hour.

The "Come, Follow Me" lesson for the week of Dec. 9-15 will be based on Revelation 1-11, which will then be discussed during Sunday School on the third Sunday of the month.

### St. Ann's group meets for Christmas lunch Dec. 13

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

Sunday evening, St. Peter's Book Club will meet at 6 p.m. St. Ann's Christmas luncheon will be held next Friday, Dec. 13, at noon.

### John the Baptist is focus of sermon

NORTHEAST OREGON — The sermon at Faith Lutheran Church on Sunday will expound on John the Baptist's role as the forerunner for Jesus Christ. Services will be held at 10 a.m. in La Grande and 2 p.m. in Enterprise.

In La Grande on Wednesday, Dec. 11, there will be a soup supper at 5:30 p.m. and a Vespers Advent Service at 6:30 p.m. The sermon at the evening service will be "Behold the Child, Who Set You Free From All Your Sorrows."

Faith Lutheran Church's women's group, called Koinonia, is having its annual Christmas Bazaar from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 7 in La Grande. There will be a new issue of a cookbook with some of the best recipes for all types of food, plus a variety of gift ideas and baked goods. Lunch also will be available.

— Observer staff

# The Shrouded Mountain: The Sin of Gossip, Part 3

## A Portrait of a Gossip

Gossipers think they are invisible, untouchable, yet decades of scientific research and study provide us today with the "portrait" of a gossip.

Their general characteristics and behaviors have been cataloged for us into six traits (quoted from "The 6 Toxic Traits of Gossips," Dr. Sherrie Campbell, Entrepreneur Magazine, July 2016).

- Immaturity
- Embellishment
- Emotionally violent
- Seductive
- Insecure
- Parasitic

The author M. W. Turner wrote, "A liar thinks everyone else lies. A thief thinks everyone else is stealing from him" (Megan Whalen Turner, "The Queen of Attolia," HarperCollins Publishing 2017).



JAN VARNEY

Gossipers spend their lives plotting ways to harm those they view as threats, those they are jealous of or those they just want out of the way.

In such minds it is only natural for them to imagine that others are seeking to hurt them, plotting and gossiping about them too, all with the goal in mind of hurting them and bringing them down.

## The Dark Triad

Beyond these six traits, psychologists have also referenced a "darkness" especially within one group of people who test high in "the Dark Triad" of narcissism, Machiavellianism and psychopathy.

The research of Hartung, Krohn & Pirschat of Rhine-Waal University in Germany demonstrated that Dark Triad personality traits "are related to a variety of negative ... behaviors" including "a higher tendency to tell lies and to cheat. They value themselves over the others and are less concerned with others' welfare and with fairness, they are willing to dismiss commonly accepted social norms and harm others for their own good, are more ready to use gossip for their own sake without caring about potentially negative effects for others, readily use gossip to negatively influence another person's reputation and demonstrate a strong desire for power, control, and dominance over others" ("Better Than Its Reputation? Gossip and the Reasons Why Individuals with 'Dark' Personalities Talk About Others," by Hartung,

Krohn & Pirschat, published in *Frontiers in Psychology*, May 2019).

## An Escape from the Trap of Gossip

This short look at gossip shows us how ugly it really is and why God hates it so deeply. It is why there are so many warnings and commands against it. Gossip truly is the sum total of the things that are an abomination to God: "Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run rapidly to evil, a false witness who utters lies and one who spreads strife among brothers" (Proverbs 6:16-19).

Donna Jones was correct when she said that "there is something dark in the human soul," but gossip doesn't have to continue to rule the hearts and minds of gossipers. In

the end, gossip hurts both the gossipers and their innocent victims. Yet, for those of the faith, the critical truth is that there is hope, for God is more powerful even than gossip.

With God all things are indeed possible and the gossipers, who have spent their lives in the effort to trap and hurt others, are provided with an escape from the trap of gossip, if they want it. God is their escape. He promises that if we sincerely confess our sins he will forgive us and he will cleanse us from all unrighteousness. This is my prayer for every Christian who practices the abomination of gossip.

Jan Varney, 57, lives in La Grande. He has studied history and theology extensively and has written and spoken on both subjects numerous times. This is the final part of the series.

## Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches

**Service**  
**DIRECTORY**

### 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~

**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

**Service**  
**DIRECTORY**

### LA GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS"

1612 4th Street - 963-2498

Pastor Taylor Gould

[lgumc@conline.com](mailto:lgumc@conline.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 -

### 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](mailto:grace.lutherancove@gmail.com)

### 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

### 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](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

Building Together On Christ Alone

### LaGrande CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

109 18th Street • 963-3402

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

All are welcome

### St. Katherine's Catholic Church

Fr. Thomas Puduppalliparamban

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

### 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 [summersvillebaptistchurch.org](http://summersvillebaptistchurch.org)