

HIGHLIGHTS

Gospel Library app provides lesson materials

LA GRANDE — Members of the congregation will speak at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints’ Sunday Sacrament Service in La Grande and surrounding communities. Relief Society and Priesthood meetings will be held during the second hour. The “Come, Follow Me” lesson for the week of Dec. 30-Jan. 5 will be based on the introductory pages of the Book of Mormon. Copies of lesson materials and Scripture can be obtained by downloading the Gospel Library mobile app or by visiting www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/come-follow-me-for-individuals-and-families-book-of-mormon-2020.

Starting Sunday, the historic Salt Lake City Temple, built between 1853 and 1893, will be closed for four years for renovations.

Prophecies fulfilled through Jesus

LA GRANDE — The sermon at Faith Lutheran Church in La Grande Sunday will expound on Matthew 2. There are several examples of Jesus’ birth and early life fulfilling what prophets predicted hundreds of years previously. The truth of fulfilled divine prophecy gives Christians hope. The service will begin at 10 a.m.

Faith Lutheran is having a New Year’s Eve Game Night beginning at 7 p.m. Following the games, youth and chaperones will have a sleepover with breakfast New Year’s Day at 9 a.m.

Churches hold joint service

LA GRANDE — St. Peter’s Episcopal Church will join Zion Lutheran Church at 10 a.m. in La Grande Sunday for a special carol service. There will be Christmas carols and summaries of how the songs came to be. Holy Eucharist will be offered, and Pastor Roberta Smythe will officiate. Fellowship and coffee will follow. There will not be a service at St. Peter’s.

Pastor Ray Smith delivers final sermon in La Grande

LA GRANDE — Pastor Ray Smith will deliver his final sermon Sunday at La Grande’s First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) before he retires. His message, “Saying Hello,” will refer to Luke 24:13-25. Worship will begin at 10 a.m. The community is invited to join in wishing Pastor Ray and Wendy farewell as they return to their home in Pasco, Washington.

— Observer staff

Youth pastor locks in New Year’s Eve fun

By Tammy Malgesini
EO Media Group

HERMISTON — A journey in youth ministry recently brought a Chicago-area man to Hermiston Church of the Nazarene.

Michael Castello and his wife, Claudia, moved to town in September. The worship and student ministries pastor is gearing up to provide a fun and safe New Year’s Eve for area youths.

The New Year’s Lock-In is Tuesday from 4 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the church, 1520 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. Youths in sixth grade through high school are invited to attend. The cost is \$10.

“We want to give students a positive alternative to going to a party or place where they can spend time with other like-minded kids who are looking for

a good time but not looking to drink,” Castello said. “It’s just an opportunity to hang out and have some fun, and be in a safe environment on New Year’s Eve.”

The evening, Castello said, features Nerf gun wars, several variations of dodgeball, food and loads of fun. The event is open to all teens in the community. In addition, Castello said about a dozen adult volunteers will be on hand.

The youth program at the Nazarene church is called Elevate Student Ministry. Castello said the moniker reflects the geographical location of not being far from the mountains, but more importantly an urging for youths to share their faith with their peers and families.

The overall theme, Castello said, comes from Luke 15:1-10, which shares through parables about loss and

redemption. He said it’s important for believers of all ages to take opportunities presented to them to share about Jesus.

Castello has been in the ministry for 10 years — serving in Illinois, New Mexico, Wisconsin, Indiana, Oklahoma and now Oregon.

“I can’t imagine doing anything else,” he said.

Elevate Student Ministry meets Sundays from 5-7 p.m. It features a time of games, life groups, prayer and lessons. In addition, the ministry also includes camps, retreats, conferences and mission trips.

For more information about the youth ministry or the New Year’s Eve event, contact Castello at 541-567-3677, michael.hermnaz@gmail.com or visit www.hermistonnazarene.org.

A new year with unlimited possibilities

Do you believe that God intervenes in the affairs of humankind or do you hold the philosophy that he stands back and calmly watches everything happen? I admit that sometimes it seems like he chooses not to be involved, but I’m convinced the Bible reveals his passionate desire to personally help and guide everyone’s life.

Deists conclude that God created the world and then left it to operate under the natural laws he devised, allowing each person to control his or her own destiny, and the deciding factor in every event is associated with our deliberate decisions. This concept places each of us as the pilot and captain of our own fate and eliminates the need to call or depend on God. This is true to a certain extent, according to free will, but there is another theological view that also declares God the Omnipotent Creator is always available to respond and is in total control and the ultimate authority of all things. I believe that God gives us the choice to decide our own destiny, but this does not mean we are alone and drifting on the sea of random chance.



LIVING ON PURPOSE
DR. BILLY HOLLAND

There are several variations of these worldviews but, in general, followers of Christ understand and accept that Jesus went to the cross to redeem and restore the fellowship between God and humankind with the intention of him becoming a personal Lord and savior to those who believe.

If your prayer life is like fighting a battle, then congratulations, you are perfectly normal. We have worthy spiritual intentions but our flesh is weak and it’s very difficult to ask and believe for a miracle from someone we cannot see. Unfortunately, humans have a tendency to spend their time trying to figure things out on their own. Human nature has a built-in desire to use intelligence and logic to find a solution even if it means settling for less and being wrong. I’ve personally seen individuals throughout their lives always grabbing the bull by the horns and attempting to force their problems into submission instead of yielding to God and trusting him to take care of their problems.

What the follower of Christ needs to consider in every circumstance is that it’s much better to have God as our highest priority as we invite him to intervene and lead us in the way he wants us to go. There is no shame or embarrassment to admit that we are unable to carry our burdens and that we desperately need God to help us every moment. The Lord perfectly realizes we are very limited in

power, which is why Paul proclaims that God can be strong in our weakness if we will just let it go and trust him: “But He said to me, my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weakness, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me” (II Corinthians 12:9).

It’s important to consider our spiritual life within our own conscience in order to advance in our spiritual relationship with God. I propose the first question we must ask ourselves is how much do we really care about God and our soul? Yes, of course we have questions, like how do we know if we are praying according to his will and does having more faith mean that we are more likely to receive our request? Just because people speak loudly or pray for long periods of time does not necessarily mean God listens to them more than someone whose prayers are quiet and short. So, what makes the difference? With prayer, it’s a matter of motives and the attitudes of our heart. Matthew 17:20 tells us that if anyone has even the tiniest amount of faith, they can move mountains and nothing will be impossible to them. Nonetheless, we are also reminded in Psalm 66:18 about the importance of purity and sincerity: “If I choose to harbor sin in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.”

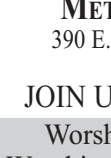
Wherever you are in your journey, you can talk to God anytime as he longs to be your best friend. This coming year is filled with unlimited possibilities, and he is waiting for you to embrace him as the Lord and master of your life.



Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches



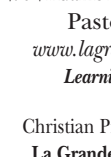
COVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1708 Jasper St., Cove, OR



NORTH POWDER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
390 E. St., North Powder, OR



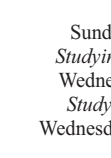
JOIN US... Catch the Spirit!
Worship: 9:00 a.m. Cove
Worship: 10:00 a.m. N. Powder



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A Place where hope is found in Jesus
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www.lagrandeor.adventistchurch.org
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Little Friends
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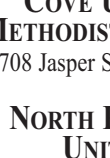
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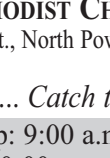
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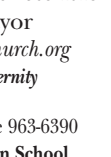
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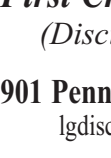
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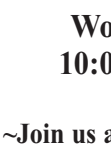
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
(an ELCA church)
902 Fourth Street, La Grande, OR (541) 963-5998



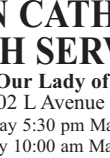
9:00 am - Worship
10:00 am - Fellowship & Refreshments
10:30 am - Classes
Pastor: Roberta Smythe
www.zionlagrande.org



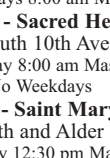
IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH
440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201
www.imblerchristianchurch.org



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9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship Service



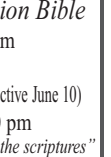
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Sunday Worship 10:00 am
Pastor Carl Seelhoff
Phone: 541-786-0447
grace.lutherancove@gmail.com



Amazing Grace Fellowship
1316 T St., La Grande, OR
541-568-4567
Sunday 10:30 a.m.



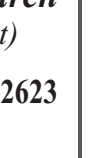
2 Cor 12:9 My Grace is sufficient for you.
IS 40:31



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



St. Katherine's Catholic Church
Fr. Thomas Pudupulliparamban
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



Sundays
9:45 am
11:00 am
6:00 PM



Wednesday:
Prayer Mtg, Children's Bible Club, Youth Group 7:00PM



A church for your whole family
Visit us at summervillebaptistchurch.org



Services This Week



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(an ELCA church)
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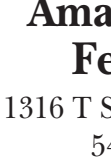


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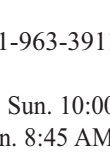
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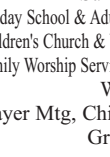
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Expositional Teaching



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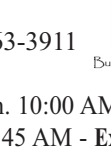
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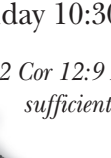
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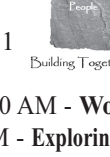
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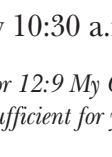
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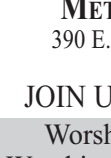
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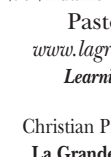
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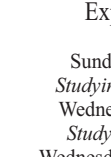
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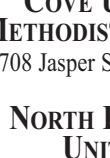
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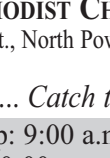
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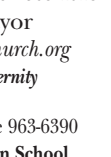
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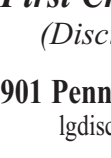
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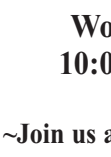
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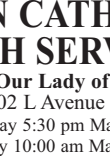
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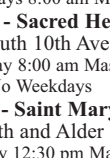
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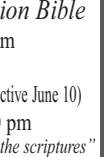
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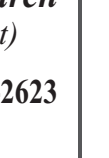
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Sundays
9:45 am
11:00 am
6:00 PM



Wednesday:
Prayer Mtg, Children's Bible Club, Youth Group 7:00PM



A church for your whole family
Visit us at summervillebaptistchurch.org



Services This Week



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



St. Katherine's Catholic Church
Fr. Thomas Pudupulliparamban
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



Sundays
9:45 am
11:00 am
6:00 PM

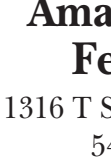


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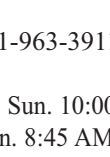
COVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1708 Jasper St., Cove, OR



NORTH POWDER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
390 E. St., North Powder, OR



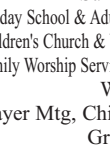
JOIN US... Catch the Spirit!
Worship: 9:00 a.m. Cove
Worship: 10:00 a.m. N. Powder



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.lagrandeor.adventistchurch.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



CALVARY CHAPEL
1433 Jefferson Ave.
963-5884



Contemporary Worship
Expositional Teaching



Sunday Service - 10:30 a.m.
Studying The Book of Galatians
Wednesday Service - 7:00 p.m.
Studying The Book of Joshua
Wednesday Night Youth - 6:00 p.m.



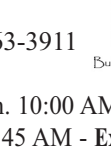
Tune in to Calvary Radio 88.1 CSN



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



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



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
(an ELCA church)
902 Fourth Street, La Grande, OR (541) 963-5998