

HIGHLIGHTS

Congregations come together for service

LA GRANDE — La Grande’s First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will host an ecumenical Epiphany service at 10 a.m. Sunday.

Pastor Taylor Gould from the United Methodist Church will deliver the message, “A Light for Everyone,” referencing Matthew 2:1-12 and John 1:1-18. B.J. Brown will sing “Bethlehem Star.” Pastors from the First Presbyterian, Zion Lutheran and St. Peter’s Episcopal churches will also be leading in the worship. All are welcome to participate in the Communion of the Lord’s Supper. Refreshments to follow worship.

Altar Guild and St. Ann’s meet next week

LA GRANDE — St. Peter’s Episcopal Church will worship at the La Grande First Christian Church at 10 a.m. Sunday as part of an ecumenical Epiphany service. On Tuesday there will be a Girl Scout leader meeting at 10 a.m. in the Parish Hall. The Altar Guild

Submissions

Churches and faith-based groups are encouraged to submit Highlights for the Spiritual Life page by 4 p.m. Wednesday 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.

meets at 9 a.m. Thursday, and St. Ann’s meets at 2 p.m. Friday.

Presbyterian congregation joins in joint service

LA GRANDE — The congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of La Grande will join together with other congregations to celebrate the Epiphany at a joint worship service at 10 a.m. at the First Christian Church. A service will not be held at the Presbyterian Church.

Zion Quilters group gets together Tuesday

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church of La Grande members will join a 10 a.m. ecumenical service at the First Christian Church to celebrate the first Sunday of Epiphany with worship and fellowship.

The Zion Quilters will meet at 9 a.m. Tuesday at the church.

Message examines ‘The Perfect Word’

LA GRANDE — Sunday school begins at 9:15 a.m. followed by a 10:30 a.m. worship service at the La Grande Church of the Nazarene. This week Pastor Kevin Goss will begin a new sermon series, “Name Above All Names,” with a message titled “The Perfect Word,” drawn from Hebrews 1:1-4. Since the very beginning of time God has had his ways of making himself known to us. At no point does God get his point across more clearly and completely than in the Word made flesh. Communion will be celebrated immediately following the sermon. On the second Friday of the

month, there is a Ladies Night led by Candy Blackman at the Nazarene Church. The gatherings include a devotion, activity and potluck dinner. The next Ladies Night happens Jan. 11.

Ward meeting times rotate in 2020

LA GRANDE — The Sunday meetings at the Church Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in La Grande and surrounding areas will consist of a Sacrament meeting for the first hour, when all members can share their testimony, and then Sunday school classes for the second hour. This is Fast Sunday and all members are encouraged to fast for two meals and then donate the value of the meals as a fast offering to help the less fortunate. In the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints church buildings where more than one ward meets, the individual ward meeting start times will rotate for the upcoming year. The “Come Follow Me for Individuals & Families” lesson for the week of Jan. 6-12 will be

on chapters 1-7 of 1 Nephi, which is the first book in the Book of Mormon. The lesson will focus on trusting the Lord and the great worth of scriptures.

For those interested in researching family history, the church’s Family History Center (genealogy library) at 1802 Gekeler Lane, La Grande, is open to the public on Monday and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon, Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Wednesday evening from 6-9 p.m.

Tale of a young Jesus is focus of sermon

LA GRANDE — At La Grande’s Faith Lutheran Church, the sermon will use Luke 2:40-52. These verses give the account of Jesus at 12 years old staying in his “Father’s House” to ask further questions. Faith Lutheran’s SHINE (Serving Him IN Everything) Preschool resumes classes on Jan. 6, which is the Twelfth Day of Christmas known as Epiphany.

— Observer staff

Jesus heals the ‘Island of Broken People’

By Nancy McCoy
Special to The Observer

Live in a very inspirational place. On the outside it is a subsidized senior-disabled housing — typical but nice. However, on the inside, instead of the “Island of Misfit Toys” it is the “Island of Broken People.” Our looks have faded, we don’t get around well, our eyesight isn’t what it used to be, our joints ache.... There are those of us who suffer physical or mental illness and have deep emotional wounds. A wide range of feelings are shared in our eyes and actions. It is sad and very beautiful at the same time. Beautiful because as each of us struggle to be useful, to take care of ourselves or simply to stay out of the way, we tend to misunderstand or offend one another. This ultimately sets the stage for the beautiful gift of humility: saying “I’m sorry” and receiving the spirit of understanding that comes with forgiveness. Some days, easy things are hard and a

helping hand appears. Day after day, caregivers are welcomed with grace and give care with grace. We try to protect our privacy yet something in us wants to reach out and connect, so we decorate our entries — maybe we will welcome a friend or relative, perhaps bring a smile or find someone like-minded. There are times when our hopes are realized by a surprise gift or a kind knock. A few days after moving in, someone said to me: “Oh, you must have moved here to die like the rest.” On the contrary, we are on the journey of life! We have so many lessons to learn as we connect with our good neighbors. This journey of life is only possible because Jesus, born of a virgin, connected with us when he put on the flesh of humanity. He came to heal the “Island of Broken People” and teach us to love and forgive. He came to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world and to give us eternal life. I’m glad you came, Jesus.

My father’s heavenly voice

Music figured prominently in the worship of the small congregation where I grew up. To begin Sunday morning worship the pastor might call the congregation to stand and sing and they would respond with conviction: “Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.” On Sunday evenings we sang gospel songs from a book entitled Worship in Song. It had a variety from simple choruses to the more complex gospel song that I remember began: “Wonderful grace of Jesus, greater than all my sin. How shall my tongue describe it, where shall its praise begin?” Lines from some of these songs remain with me even at age 94. They linger in my memory and may come forth spontaneously at any moment of the day. One song, along with the circumstance in which I heard it, is etched indelibly in my mind. It was a song I heard my father sing. My father honored gospel values although at times he struggled to give himself fully to a faith in the Lord Jesus that



JUST CALL ME
PASTOR
DONALD N. BASTIAN

brings deliverance. By the grace of God, one Sunday evening his hunger to belong to the Lord compelled him to “go forward” to the altar. It was his turning point. The next morning I awakened early to the sound of his stirring up the coal-fired cook stove in the kitchen. I slept in the adjoining room. As he fed the fire, I heard him singing in a lovely tenor voice that I don’t think I was aware of before that time. It was a song with a line about Jesus calling a blind man to him and delivering him of his blindness. It was a simple song that rose up like a tendril of worship from a humble kitchen and became part of the music of the spheres. For more writings by Donald N. Bastian, bishop emeritus of the Free Methodist Church of North America, go to justcallmepastor.wordpress.com.

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

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~

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

Services This Week

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 -

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

Sunday Services

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

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

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

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

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

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

LaGrande 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 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

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