## HIGHLIGHTS

### Local LDS wards hold annual conference

LA GRANDE — The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' La Grande Third, Fourth and Union wards will hold their annual Ward Conference during Sacrament Meeting this Sunday. Members of the congregation will be the speakers in the other area wards. The second hour will be Relief Society and Priesthood meetings.

The "Come, Follow Me" lesson for the week of Jan. 27-Feb. 2 is based on the Book of Mormon, 1 Nephi, chapters 16-22, which tells of Nephi being commanded to build a ship and the family arriving on this continent, guided by the Liahona.

The Red Cross will hold a community blood draw on Tuesday in the gymnasium of the Stake Center at 1802 Gekeler Lane in La Grande.

### 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.

### Zion Lutheran's women's Bible study meets Tuesday

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church in La Grande will worship Sunday at 9 a.m. Holy Communion will be served, and Pastor Roberta Smythe will officiate. A time of fellowship will follow the service.

On Tuesday at 9:30 a.m., the ZLCW Bible study will meet at Zion.

### Christian Church now taking Cookie Gram orders

LA GRANDE — Pastor Sharon Eggleston will speak on "Enough" at the 10 a.m. service at the La Grande First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Her message comes from Matthew 14:13-21, which tells the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000.

The Christian Women's Fellowship group is now taking Cookie Gram orders. Cost is $6 for a one-dozen plate and $10 for a two-dozen plate. The plates will be wrapped in red cellophane, with your personal message attached, and delivered on Valentine's Day. Order forms are available in the church office. Call 541-963-2623 for more information.

### Service focuses on the Great High Priest

LA GRANDE — The La Grande Church of the Nazarene will have Sunday school at 9:15 a.m. and worship at 10:30 a.m. Sunday. Pastor Kevin Goss will continue the "Name Above All Names" sermon series with a message from Hebrews 7:18-28, "The Great High Priest."

The sermon will examine the holy and awesome gift of being allowed access to the very presence of God.

### Episcopalians enjoy fellowship

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 and fellowship will follow the service.

### Guest presents message

LA GRANDE — La Grande's Seventh-day Adventist Church will have a guest speaker Saturday at the 11 a.m. service.

His message will be "Frankincense and Myrrh."

Final Empire continues tonight, Saturday morning and Saturday night. All are welcome to attend.

*— Observer staff*

# Listening to God before we pray

**LIVING ON PURPOSE**
DR. BILLY HOLLAND

Many people who are not familiar with having a personal relationship with God do not understand the fundamentals of prayer. Praying has more to do with listening to God and knowing him than pleading with him to fix what is broken. He already knows everything about the situation and is more concerned about us sincerely loving and trusting him.

Without a desire to listen to what God is saying, our prayers are nothing more than an emotional wish list. Rarely do we consider that God established prayer as a sincere avenue of communication that enables us to draw closer to him. This amazing opportunity has everything to do with discerning God's voice and understanding that we are interceding according to his desires.

Within the process of petitioning God, we must confess that his perfect plans are much more important than our desires. Since most of the time we are thinking only about what we want, we seldom realize that he has carefully designed everyone's destiny in accordance with the big picture of accomplishing his will — not ours. When Jesus died and rose from the dead, our heavenly father did not just hand over all authority and control to our vain imaginations. Everything that God desires to do in this life has already been sanctioned and ordained through his spirit so that he might receive all the glory for the inspiration and the result.

There have been times in my life when I have earnestly prayed for a certain situation and felt confident in my heart that I would receive it. I recall a couple of employment positions I applied for and throughout the application and interview stages I was "humbly" convinced that I was the obvious person for the job. When it did not happen, I was stung with disappointment (which, by the way, if not dealt with can lead to serious resentment issues). I was aggravated with the Lord and blamed the evils of politics like it was his fault for not stepping in and making a way for me.

What I had not considered was that maybe he did not want me to apply for the position in the first place. Since he can see into the future, he knew this job would be bad for me, but I was just not listening. This is an illustration of how unanswered prayers can actually be God's mercy protecting us from failure. God loves us and wants the best for us, and it's difficult to imagine just how complex his plans really are. At best, we can only see through a crack in the fence and are very limited in our understanding. This is also the perfect reason why it's necessary to live by faith. If we could see the unknown, we would not need to trust God.

Wondering if we are being led by our emotions or following God's still small voice can apply to everything from relationships, financial decisions, and even our eating habits. A crucial pillar of the Christian life is the ability to comprehend his voice, which leads to the opportunity for him to influence our decisions. However, to be honest, it seems that many times we are not all that excited about this process. The times when it's obvious I have missed his instructions causes me to seriously wonder about my lack of perception or willingness to yield my will. Was I that headstrong and so filled with pride that I could not hear him warning me? I know that like sheep we humans are vulnerable to being led astray, and when we are distracted with our emotional ideas, God allows us to make these painful mistakes so we can hopefully learn valuable lessons about obedience.

God is sovereign and this means he can do whatever he desires. He has the ultimate authority over all things but also has installed a critical component within the human conscience called "free will" that allows us to make our own decisions. Can we prevent God's will from happening? That is a great question, but for now we can agree that he opens and closes doors and at other times stands back and allows us to make a mess of things. Nonetheless, we can rejoice in knowing that Jesus loves us more than anything and is waiting for us to listen and follow his voice.

# Muslim women occupy India streets against citizenship law

**By Sheikh Saaliq**
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — In the Indian capital's Shaheen Bagh neighborhood, beside open sewers and dangerously dangling electricity wires, a group of Muslim women in colorful headscarves sit in resistance to a new citizenship law that has unleashed protests across the country.

For more than a month the women have taken turns maintaining an around the clock sit-in on a highway that passes through their neighborhood. They sing songs of protest and chant anti-government slogans, some cradling babies, others laying down rugs to make space for more people to sit.

The movement has slowly spread nationwide, with many women across the country staging their own sit-ins.

The women, like demonstrators elsewhere in the country, have been demanding the revocation of the citizenship law approved last month. The law provides a fast-track to naturalization for persecuted religious minorities from some neighboring Islamic countries, but excludes Muslims.

Nationwide protests have brought tens of thousands of people from different faiths and backgrounds together, in part because the law is seen by critics as part of a larger threat to the secular fabric of Indian society.

"Someone had to tell the government that their black laws won't be accepted. So, as mothers, we decided to protest," said Najma Khatoon, 62.

Khatoon and other protesters in Shaheen Bagh view the citizenship law as part of a bigger plan by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu-nationalist government to implement a nationwide register of citizens, which they fear could lead to the deportation and detention of Muslims.

Modi and other leaders of his Bharatiya Janata Party have repeatedly said Indian citizens won't be affected by the new law, and that if a nationwide register is ever conducted, there will be no religion column.


## Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches

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~

**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

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

**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**
*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*

**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**

**Zion Lutheran Church**
*(an ELCA church)*
ZION LUTHERAN LA GRANDE
**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
***Birthing, Building and Being the Body of Christ***

**First Baptist Church**
SIXTH & SPRING, LA GRANDE
541-963-3911
LOVING God · SHARING Life · SERVING People · LEARNING Truth
Building Together On Christ Alone
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.
*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

**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)
*All are welcome*

**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*