

HIGHLIGHTS

An imperfect messenger can deliver a perfect gospel

LA GRANDE — The sermon at Faith Lutheran Church will expound on Jesus' words in Matthew 5 dealing with his followers being the "light of the world" — to give "light to all" who are near them. Christians are human and sometimes fail, but we are equipped to share God's love in Jesus. May that message be received even when the messenger is not perfect. The service begins at 10 a.m. Sunday in La Grande.

On the following Sunday, Feb. 16, following the Divine Service, Faith Lutheran Church will have its Benefit Cake Walk, a great activity with wonderful desserts.

Weekly lesson focuses on prophecies of Christ's atonement

LA GRANDE — The Book of Mormon's prophecies of Jesus Christ's atonement, which were made in about 550 B.C., will be the subject of next week's "Come, Follow Me" lesson for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, based on 2 Nephi 6-10. The lesson

focuses on how this atonement would bless all mankind and would deliver all people from spiritual and physical death.

The second hour of meetings on Sunday will be Relief Society and Priesthood meetings. Download an app called "Gospel Library" to obtain all lesson material.

Thursday morning Bible study offered

ISLAND CITY — Grace Community Lutheran Church will worship at 10 a.m. Sunday at "The Place" in Island City. Adult Bible study begins at 9 a.m. The sermon will be drawn from Matthew 5:13-20.

A weekly Bible study is held at 10 a.m. on Thursdays, also at The Place.

St. Peter's book club meets Sunday evening

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.

St. Peter's book club will meet Sunday at 6 p.m.

Agape Christian Fellowship holds movie nights

ELGIN — Agape Christian Fellowship in Elgin will gather at 10:45 a.m. Sunday. Pastor Glen will share the message "The Mind of God," addressing our human understanding and knowing in relationship to God's mind.

The women's book club meets at 7 p.m. Monday. The church hosts movie nights on various Thursdays throughout the month. For more details on dates and movie titles, call 541-805-7126.

Sunday is the last day to order Cookie Grams

LA GRANDE — Pastor Shari Eggleston will speak on "Going Home" during the 10 a.m. Sunday worship service at the La Grande First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The message comes from Mark 6:1-13, which tells of Jesus calling his disciples after a visit to his hometown.

Sunday is the last day to order Cookie Grams. Orders will be accepted at the church between 8:45 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. that day. Call the church office for more informa-

tion at 541-963-2623.

Also on Sunday, all are welcome to join a no-host lunch at the Smokehouse Restaurant after the service at 11:45 a.m.

Housing Matters Union County meets Monday at Zion

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

On Monday, Housing Matters Union County will meet from noon to 2 p.m. at the church building. Lunch will be provided. The evening Bible study will gather at 7 p.m. Monday at Cathy Lease's residence.

First Presbyterian Church hosts community dinners on Wednesdays

LA GRANDE — During the 9:30 a.m. Sunday worship service at the La Grande First Presbyterian Church, Pastor Laura Hudson will present a sermon titled "Of-

fensive Jesus," based on scripture readings from Mark 6. A time of fellowship will follow. Pastor Keith Hudson is traveling in Israel and will share his adventures when he returns.

The church hosts Community Fellowship Night dinners at 6 p.m. Wednesdays in the Presbyterian Friendship Center, 1204 Spring Ave., La Grande, with a suggested donation of \$3. All are welcome to join in the food and fellowship each week. The dinners will continue until March 18.

Jesus is the pioneer and perfecter of our faith

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. Sunday. Pastor Kevin Goss will continue the "Name Above All Names" sermon series with a message from Hebrews 12:1-11 titled "The Pioneer and Perfecter." It is sometimes easier to settle than it is to keep pressing on, but since Jesus is both the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, he is able to take every step of the journey with us and keep us moving in the right direction.

A new life in Christ brings many changes for the believer

When we come to Christ in faith, confessing our sins and declaring ourselves his followers, we begin a new life. As the apostle Paul exhorts: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Let us consider several ways in which this newness in Christ expresses itself for every Christian — though not always in the same way and not always at the same rate of development. I hope this will help you or that you will pass it on to new Christians.

1. We have a new Lord. Before the change we were largely our own lord, seeking our own pleasures, captive to our own sometimes empty interests. Now, we bow before the lordship of the one who gave up his life for our salvation. His lordship brings us to a surprisingly enlightened state of mind. Our



JUST CALL ME PASTOR
DONALD N. BASTIAN

understanding deepens, and we are able to say with Paul: "No one who is speaking by the Spirit of God ... can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:3).

2. The Holy Spirit becomes our new spiritual guide: He guides us, leading us in a righteous life. As Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit" (John 3:5). Spirit here refers to the third person of the Trinity. He is a personal, spiritual presence. How personal? Paul exhorted reverently: "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption" (Ephesians 4:30).

3. We have a new guidebook.

When we were dead in our sins and alienated from God we had little thought of the Bible, unless it was to speak of it casually or with disdain. But the new life in Christ awakens in us a commitment to the Bible as the primary source of saving truth and also the guide for righteous living.

The Christian scriptures are inspired by God as the source of his truth. It's the book describing God's redemptive purpose for our lives. Paul had this practical goal in mind when he wrote: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16,17). New Christians not yet well instructed in Bible truth may begin acquainting themselves with the Bible by first reading through one or more of the

four gospels, preferably beginning with Mark, the shortest of the four.

4. As we live the new life, some old relationships may fade and new ones take their place. When we experience Christ in a saving way, friends will either show keen interest in our story, asking sincere questions, or they will appear skeptical, disinterested or even hostile. Friendship may become difficult. The prophet Amos asks: "How can two walk together unless they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3) In such situations, the Holy Spirit will lead and comfort.

5. With the blooming of the new life, we find ourselves drawn toward a new community. Call it the local church. Most often, when we read the word "church" in the New Testament it is a translation of the Greek word meaning "called out." That is, it is an assembly of believers who are called to gather regularly to understand and

deepen their faith in Christ. We may also find new friends in such an assembly of Christians.

6. The end result of these life changes will be the natural development of Christian character. It's what Paul had in mind when he compared the wonder of Christian growth to a beautiful collection of developing fruit: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23).

If you are challenged and encouraged in your faith by these six points of change prompted by the new life in Christ, I wish you God's rich blessings as you ponder and receive ongoing Christian guidance from them.

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~

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

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

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

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

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.

Zion Lutheran Church
(an ELCA church)

**ZION LUTHERAN**

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

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