

HIGHLIGHTS

St. Ann's group meets Friday

LA GRANDE — St. Peter's Episcopal Church in La Grande offers a morning prayer service at 11 a.m. Sunday. Coffee and fellowship will follow.

St. Ann's will meet Friday at 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Congregants welcome back Pastor Hudson

LA GRANDE — Pastor Keith Hudson will present a message on being "Clean Inside and Out" on Sunday at the 9:30 a.m. worship service at the First Presbyterian Church, La Grande. The

service also include Communion. Hudson recently returned from traveling in Israel and will share a little of his experiences. A fellowship time will follow the service.

Be 'Watchful Unto Prayer'

NORTHEAST OREGON — The three Baker City wards of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will hold their annual Ward Conference on Sunday with the bishop and a member of the stake presidency speaking during the sacrament service, while members of the High Council will be the

speakers in all other wards and branches. The "Come, Follow Me" lesson for Feb. 17-23 is based on 2 Nephi 11-25, which are chapters from the Book of Mormon that include the writings of Isaiah 2-14. Readers are encouraged to seek inspiration and guidance through prayer and study as they search for the deep spiritual meaning of Isaiah's teachings and how they apply to our own situations in life.

Jesus teaches us we are not in control

LA GRANDE — During the 10 a.m. Faith Lutheran

Church Sunday service in La Grande, the sermon will expound on Jesus' proper interpretation of Scripture, as related in the fifth chapter of Matthew. In these verses, Jesus has several teachings beginning with "You have heard that it was said..." This week's sermon will focus on "You shall not swear falsely" — Jesus explains, "And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black" (verses 33-36). Christ further reminds us that we are not in total control.

Following the service, Faith's women's group, Koi-

nonia, will put on its annual cake walk, a fun activity for all ages with desserts.

God has already drawn near to us

LA GRANDE — Sunday school begins at 9:15 a.m. followed by a worship service at 10:30 a.m. at the La Grande Church of the Nazarene. Pastor Kevin Goss will continue the "Name Above All Names" sermon series with a message from Hebrews 12:18-29 titled, "The AWE-ful Presence." In worship we draw near to the God who has already drawn near to us. Thus,

worship is the way we avail ourselves to the immediacy of his very presence.

On Feb. 22, the Women's Winter Luncheon will be held at 11 a.m. in the church fellowship hall. Lunch will be a potluck of soup, salad, bread and dessert. The theme will be "Stitched Together" and will feature an assortment of vintage sewing machines and quilts. All women are invited to attend and asked to bring something for the potluck if able and asked to bring something for the potluck if able.

Is anything too hard for the Lord?

The biblical account of Abraham and Sarah having a baby has been cherished throughout the ages.

The story, found in Genesis 17-18, reveals how God planned to establish a covenant with Israel through this child named Isaac. According to the holy scriptures, the Lord and two angels appeared one day to Abraham, who was 100 years old, and explained his plans about this covenant and how Abraham's future child will be the beginning of a great nation. Sarah, who was 90, happens to overhear this conversation about her having a baby and snickers within herself at how ridiculous this sounds. It's not known for sure, but Sarah probably does not realize this is God who is talking. She had been barren her entire adult life and this prediction about becoming pregnant at 90 years old was clearly impossible. Or was it?

In Genesis 18:13, the Lord told Abraham that Sarah had doubted in her heart and actually laughed at the idea of having a child. (By the way, how ironic that the name Isaac means "laughter.") I'm not critical of Sarah or her husband because we would have probably reacted the same way. Then God asks an astounding question: "Is there anything too hard for the Lord?"

I will gladly be the spoiler and announce that God's promise to Sarah about her having a son named Isaac



LIVING ON PURPOSE
BILLY HOLLAND

did come true, and as the patriarch of the Jewish nation, he was the father of Jacob and the grandfather of the 12 tribes of Israel.

As we continue meditating about the authority and ability of God, we are presented with some very serious thoughts about our spiritual views. Do we believe that God can do anything? Do we believe he desires to help us and to give us the miracles we desperately need? We understand that faith is a component of receiving — but can faith develop to a level where we accept and embrace the fact that nothing is impossible with God?

Many individuals today are facing very challenging situations and some are reaching deep within their hearts and souls to find the strength to believe. Well, this is a lot to consider, but personally, I'm convinced that God created everything in the universe and certainly would have no problem creating anything we might need.

You see, the God of the Bible has several attributes associated with his character: He is omniscient, which means he knows everything, and omnipotent, meaning he has unlimited power and is able to do anything. These two distinctions alone should encourage and reinforce our confi-

dence as we turn to him in prayer. When we read true accounts like that of Abraham and Sarah and realize that he is willing and able to do great and mighty miracles for others, it fills us with his joy and peace in knowing that he can also help us. Jeremiah 32:17 declares, "Ah, Lord God, behold thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out thy arm, and there is nothing too difficult for thee."

When fear and doubt comes upon you, remember that God specializes in doing the impossible. Everything from health or financial problems to restoring relationships or finding our destiny, the Lord is perfectly aware of our worries and has more than enough wisdom and power to take care of it.

Believe me, I understand about the intimidating giants and mountains, but I'm learning the importance of absorbing faith and hope from his unfailing truth. Yes, there are certain things we can do to help ourselves, but there is no substitute for trusting God.

As Jesus said, "with God, all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

Dr. William "Billy" Holland is the founder of an independent Christian ministry in central Kentucky. An ordained and licensed minister and chaplain, he is the author of "Convictions and Considerations: Encouragement for the Soul."

Feeding faith's fire

I'm told that in a grassland area in Africa, people may walk long distances to Sunday worship with scraps of wood in hand. The people conclude worship by lighting a large bonfire to symbolize their fellowship.

A visitor from North America witnessed the event and asked villagers how they could create such a fire week after week when there was very little wood in their area. Their reply was that every worshipper was on the lookout the prior week for scraps of wood to take for the church in anticipation of the weekly bonfire.

The concept of coming supplied has merit for enlivening worship. What each individual brings to corporate worship has a large bearing on how vital the gathering together will be. And what we bring can be something invisible, reverent and of the heart.

When I was a child, my parents, younger sister and I would walk to church. We were usually among the first to arrive. Before my parents took their seats, they knelt to pray. It was a worship custom for that congregation. My sister and I sat in silence waiting for the service to begin.

As the worshippers gathered, there was no talking and no music filled the air. None of this was



JUST CALL ME PASTOR
DONALD N. BASTIAN

enforced, and it felt natural. The reverence and silence were what the worshippers contributed to the sense of awe they would share.

Gathering wood for the bonfire also can in a sense be what we are doing when we put our houses on Saturday to avoid haste and stress on Sunday morning. Or when we arrive at church early in order to sit quietly in prayerful reflection on a Psalm or hymn.

I realize some who come to worship may arrive depleted with hardly the energy to lift their eyes to heaven. Others whose faith is little more than an inherited tradition may not have much to bring. At the same time, every congregation likely has a core of believers who are inwardly energized daily by meditation, prayer and praise, who invoke the energy of the Spirit when they come to worship. Such believers might bring an extra piece of wood to build the fire for those who come empty-handed.

Donald N. Bastian is the bishop emeritus of the Free Methodist Church of North America.

Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches

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

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.lagrandede.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)
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

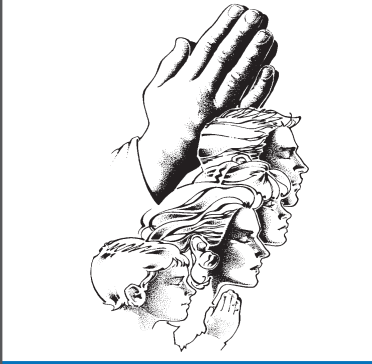
SIXTH & SPRING,
LA GRANDE
541-963-3911
Sun. 10:00 AM - **Worship**
Sun. 8:45 AM - Exploring the Bible
Wed. 6:15 PM - AWANA

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.



St. Katherine's Catholic Church

Fr. Thomas Puduppilliparamban
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