

HIGHLIGHTS

Coronavirus prevents communal in-person worship

LA GRANDE — In an action meant to curb the spread of the coronavirus, Gov. Kate Brown on Monday banned gatherings in Oregon of more than 25 people, and urged Oregonians to avoid gatherings of more than 10 people.

In adherence to the executive order and out of concern for fellow congregants and the larger community, local churches will be suspending in-person worship services.

The ban began Tuesday and is scheduled to last at least four weeks.

The following churches notified The Observer about how they plan to proceed:

Zion Lutheran Church, La Grande: No worship services or

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.

midweek soup supper. ZLCW Bible study will meet at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday at the church.

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), La Grande: No worship services, and all non-essential church gatherings are canceled or postponed. The church office will remain open at this time.

United Methodist Church, La Grande: All in-person activities are suspended.

St. Peter’s Episcopal Church,

vices. A special message from President Russell M. Nelson is available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=ElI5-ew2l9k&feature=youtube. The “Come, Follow Me” curriculum emphasizes scripture study in the home as individuals and families. The lesson for the week of March 23-29 is based on the Books of Enos in the Book of Mormon. For a copy of these scriptures and lesson material, download a mobile app called “Gospel Library”.

Church of the Nazarene, La Grande: Worship can be viewed online on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. (join in the livestream on the church’s YouTube channel). Pastor Kevin Goss will continue with the Lenten sermon series “For God

So Loved...” The message from Hosea 11-9, “The Loving Father,” examines what it’s like to have a heavenly father whose love for us is exactly the kind of love we need.

Faith Center, Island City:
A new sermon with announcements and worship will be posted weekly at www.lg4square.com. Smaller gatherings will continue, including Youth Group, Celebrate Recovery and Southside Friday Nights. The Team Leadership Summit this Sunday at 12:30 p.m. will be held. Small groups and Bible studies will continue at the discretion of the host and leader. Sunday evening parenting discipleship class at Southside are suspended. Office hours will remain normal.

Yielding yourself into his God’s care requires a deliberate act of faith

Fear and anxiety are negative byproducts of modern life that unfortunately attempt to influence us every day. Our jobs, relationships and finances are often stressful, and even our children struggle with social pressures we hardly faced when we were their age. Some people turn to natural remedies, like the newly popular cannabidiol products, while others find relief in meditation, but there is even better news that can give us peace in this troubled world. The Bible remains an unfailing source of hope and comfort in the seasons when we are discouraged and perplexed.

Psalm 46:1-3 declares that even in the darkest times, we can stand strong in the light of God’s confidence because we are trusting that his promises are true: “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth



LIVING ON PURPOSE
BILLY HOLLAND

give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.”

The new virus has become the topic of the news and no doubt this is a serious situation. There is nothing wrong with being cautious if we can prevent our emotions from leading us into fear. Whenever anyone’s life is in danger we are called to pray and ask God to stop the destruction, and this is certainly the time to do that.

Another wave of worry includes the negative impact on the economy and how this will affect us. In times like these, we are reminded that wealth is vul-

nerable to loss and many people all over the world are aware that their life savings are more vulnerable than they want to admit. I can definitely understand this concern because no one wants to go through this.

To many, their wealth is their security and they cannot fathom the thought of losing what they are depending on. But may we remember that God is our ultimate security, and even though his people live in this world, we are citizens of heaven. What an encouragement to know this temporary life is not all there is. “He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler. You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at

noonday” (Psalms 91:4-6).

When we are overwhelmed with fear and feel as if the walls are closing in on us, we can know that God is with us and will always take care of us. Yielding ourselves into his care is a deliberate act. Inviting him to become our Lord means submitting ourselves completely under his authority, wisdom and mercy, as we are directed by his will alone. We cannot always control what is happening, but we can control how we react. In this light, it is our choice to stand on faith or fear.

When we truly believe his eye is watching us, we will learn to stop doubting his desire or ability to deliver us. Let’s remember that God loves us and wants everyone to understand and believe that he is who he says he is. In John 14:27 Christ promises, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto

you: not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” He is saying the world cannot give us the spiritual peace that he offers, because the world is based on emotions and materialism. When Christ sits on the throne of our heart, we are no longer frantically trying to figure out our own strategies, but in faith we can trust in his power to manage our life, family and future.

I believe that optimism can help transform the mind when one chooses to embrace it. Since fear is a learned behavior, can we not train our mind to accept faith instead? When we reach out to God and receive his great love and grace, we can then enjoy his peace that passes all understanding.

— William “Billy” F. Holland Jr. is the founder of an independent Christian ministry in central Kentucky.



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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... <i>Catch the Spirit!</i> 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	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.
Cove United Methodist Church 1708 Jasper St., Cove, OR North Powder United Methodist Church 390 E. St., North Powder, OR JOIN US... <i>Catch the Spirit!</i> 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 <i>The Place</i> 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
La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church <i>A Place where hope is found in Jesus</i> 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 <i>Learning for Today and Eternity</i> 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 <i>We use the King James Version Bible</i> 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 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 <i>Birthing, Building and Being the Body of Christ</i>	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
CALVARY CHAPEL 1433 Jefferson Ave. 963-5884 Contemporary Worship Expositional Teaching Sunday Service - 10:30 a.m. <i>Studying The Book of Galatians</i> Wednesday Service - 7:00 p.m. <i>Studying The Book of Joshua</i> 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 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) <i>All are welcome</i>	