

HIGHLIGHTS

St. Peter’s offers online worship

LA GRANDE — Links to St. Peter’s Episcopal Church’s online worship for Sunday will be posted on St. Peter’s Facebook page on Saturday. As directed by Eastern Oregon Bishop Patrick Bell, St. Peter’s will not worship in person until May 31. In the meantime, offerings can be mailed to St. Peter’s at P.O. Box 1001, La Grande 97850.

Lessons available on Gospel Library app

EASTERN OREGON — Mosiah chapters 7-10 are the subject of study for the Church of

Submissions

Churches and faith-based groups are encouraged to submit Highlights for the Spiritual Life page by 4 p.m. Tuesday for publication Thursday. Submit by email to news@lagrandeobserver.com (with Highlights in the subject line), or by hand to the office.

Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints’ “Come, Follow Me” lesson for the week of April 27-May 3. These scriptures are found in the Book of Mormon. A copy of the lesson material and scriptures can be obtained by downloading the “Gospel Library” mobile app. This lesson discusses how Zeniff’s decisions lead to the captivity of his people and how their

faith helped them face their challenges. It also provides a history of the 24 plates that contains the history of the Jaredites, a record that becomes the book of Ether in the Book of Mormon. Church members are encouraged to minister to one another to ensure needs are being met, while continuing to follow social distancing guidelines.

Jesus is revealed through sacraments

LA GRANDE — In this Easter season, Faith Lutheran Church continues to have sermons dealing with Christ in his resurrected body. This Sunday the message will be from Luke 24:13-35, which tells of two men on the road to Emmaus after the crucifixion. Jesus joined them but they didn’t realize who he was. Jesus spoke to them of scripture and when he broke bread and handed it to them, “their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him.” Jesus continually reveals himself in the Word of God and

through his instituted sacraments. The sermon along with weekly devotional ideas can be found on Faith’s website, www.lgfaithlcms.org.

Zion Lutheran congregation continues online service

LA GRANDE — Links to an online worship will be posted on Zion Lutheran Church’s website and Facebook page on Saturday. The Zion Council has decided to cancel in-person worship until May 31. To submit offerings, mail them to the church at 902 Fourth St., La Grande 97850.

No one finds God — he finds us

One of the most profound mysteries of life is how the natural realm and the spiritual realm operate so differently. It’s common for our logical reasoning to be contrary to the way God thinks because we cannot always trust our emotions, and the natural mind cannot comprehend divine truth. We are reminded in John 4:24 that “God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.” This implies that his wisdom can be interpreted only through our new transformed spirit. The Bible declares that God’s ways and thoughts are much higher than ours and also promises that all who search for his truth will find it. However, it’s only when we become dialed-in to this perfect spiritual “frequency” that our conscience can begin to understand who God is, who we are in him, and what he wants us to become. Humans have a natural tendency to run away from God. We are afraid if we respond to his call, we will become a miserable slave, yet most of us do not realize we are already a prisoner to sin. The ultimate freedom is spiritual liberty in God, and this can be experienced only when we abandon our carnal nature and allows Christ to become the Lord and master of our lives. Divine truth includes the power of his love to set us free from our lost condition, and this new identity provides the highest form of peace and security: God’s compassion and grace. For those who desire to know the meaning and purpose of life, it will simply come down to believing that God can save us or continue to hold on to the idea that we can somehow save ourselves. The creator of heaven and earth desires to intervene in everyone’s life. Why? Because God loves us. John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever will believe on Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” This is one of the most



LIVING ON PURPOSE
BILLY HOLLAND

“Jesus was crucified and rose from the dead so that all who believe could be forgiven and live with him forever.”

popular verses in God’s word, and it should be. It’s called the gospel and is a compact summary of the best news that has ever been told in the history of the world: Jesus was crucified and rose from the dead so that all who believe could be forgiven and live with him forever. There is nothing better than that. Remember the words to “Amazing Grace”? “Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now I’m found, was blind but now I see.” Everyone is searching for contentment and happiness in this world but all will eventually discover that life is disappointing without nurturing a personal relationship with God. His plan for a blind and hopelessly lost world was to establish an open line of communication, and he did that through Christ. Without this intervention, we would have continued down the path of being spiritually doomed forever. In our desperate need, his amazing grace provided a way for us to be found when we did not even realize we were lost. We are now invited to receive his salvation by faith. All who sense him drawing them with his convicting power have the choice to either abandon their will and accept him or remain established in their own rebellious independence. It’s true, the Lord works in mysterious ways to interrupt our thoughts and plans, but he will never force us to love Him. Ephesians 2: 8-9 declares: “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is a gift of God: not of anything we could accomplish lest any person should boast.” This simply means that no one finds God — he finds us. ABOUT THE AUTHOR An ordained minister and chaplain, William “Billy” F. Holland Jr. is the founder of an independent Christian ministry in central Kentucky. For more writings and original music, visit www.billyhollandministries.com.

Can I get an ‘Amen’?

I like the word “amen” and wonder if we use it in Christian worship as often and with as much intensity as we should. After all, it is used in the scriptures of the Old and New testaments 100 or more times. Amen is a strong word of affirmation. It is like a verbal stamp of approval or a solemn declaration of truthfulness. It means “so be it” or “may it become true.” In 1 Chronicles 16:7-37 we see how the term was used in worship. David is now king. He is putting the country in order. He has constructed a tent to give cover to the Ark of the Covenant. Structured worship is being revived. Offerings are restored, and musicians are on hand. A great gathering of the nation had been called and the celebration is underway. An extended prayer in poetic form is the climax of the occasion. David assigns Asaph and his company to lead in the praise. The specially composed psalm is filled with declarations that elevate emotions. It begins, “Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done” (verse 8). Such a prayer would certainly introduce a review of restored blessings. More exaltation of God follows: “Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice” (verse 10). Yet again: “He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth” (verse 14). Again and again the priest declaims: Our God reigns! Emotions of praise have become strong. The congregation, not the priests, conclude the prayer. Chronicles tells us in verse 37 that all the people said “Amen and praise the Lord!” I can imagine the sound of thousands of inspired voices rending the air with that response: “Amen and praise the Lord!”

They had focused their praise on the Lord who ruled over all the earth. They had also affirmed the truth about the Lord and his world. And then they said “Amen!” — May it be so! The New Testament reports no similar liturgical event to this one convened by King David. But in the New Testament there is also abundant use of the word “amen.” For example, the word is repeated in the Gospel of John 25 times. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus introduced his teachings with a declaration of their truthfulness: “Verily, Verily I say...” (In the King James Version, this is the translation of “Amen, amen.”) Jesus over and over again affirmed his own teachings as the truth that is eternal. Paul also included the word in some benedictions: “For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen” (Romans 11:36). In my opinion, we need more amens from the body of Christ’s followers during worship in this fallen world. In both testaments it is uttered as a strong and solemn response to words of divine truth. The substitution of applause is second best, in my view. What better way to respond to truth, than to say “Amen!” when it is uttered? In heaven the word will ring out often. I imagine a throng of countless resurrected believers. They reach far beyond sight. Perhaps Moses or Isaiah or someone we worshipped with on Sunday will speak words of truth and the throngs in response will fill the heavens with the one word: “Amen!” — It is so! ABOUT THE AUTHOR Donald N. Bastian is bishop emeritus of the Free Methodist Church of North America. For more of his writings, go to justcallmepastor.wordpress.com.



CALL ME PASTOR
DONALD BASTIAN

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Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches

Services This Week

LaGrande CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 109 18th Street • 963-3402 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.	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~	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	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	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
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	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	LA GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH “OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS” 1612 4th Street – 963-2498 Pastor Taylor Gould lgumc@eoni.com www.lagrandeumc.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 Phone: 541-568-4230 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) 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 Building Together On Christ Alone All services have been temporarily cancelled. Live-streaming Sunday mornings at 10:00 am. People can watch at: lagrandefbc.org