

HIGHLIGHTS

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

LA GRANDE, ENTERPRISE — Faith Lutheran Church plans to have Sunday school at 8:45 a.m., a Divine service in La Grande at 10 a.m. followed by a Church Council meeting, and then a Divine service with a baptism and confirmation in Enterprise at 2:30 p.m. State guidelines will be respected as these events are planned. Confirm attendance by calling 541-963-2831 or email fglcmspastor@gmail.com. The sermon will be based on John 14:15-21, which teaches that the father and his son together have sent the Holy Spirit, our

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).

“helper” who dwells with us and will be in us (verse 17). The message will give praise to the triune God for his great care and love.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran will not have in-person worship this Sunday. Links to an online worship will be posted on

Zion’s website and Facebook page on Saturday. Offerings can be mailed to Zion at 902 Fourth St., La Grande 97850.

ST. PETER’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

LA GRANDE — St. Peter’s Episcopal Church will not worship in-person through May. Links to an online worship for

Sunday will be posted on St. Peter’s Facebook page on Saturday. Offerings can be mailed to St. Peter’s at P.O. Box 1001, La Grande 97850.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

NORTHEAST OREGON — The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints’ “Come, Follow Me” lesson for the week of May 18-24 is based on Mosiah chapters 25-28, which is found in the Book of Mormon. This week’s lesson includes the story of Alma the younger (100-92 B.C.), the “very vilest of sinners” who went about

“to destroy the church of God” (Mosiah 28:4, 27:10) and how the appearance of an angel brought about his conversion and testimony that “all mankind ... must be born again” (Mosiah 27:25) and brought to an end his parents’ heartache over a wayward child. Various temples have started reopening, including the Boise, Idaho, Temple. Refer to the article at <https://newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/first-presidency-limited-reopening-temples-for-information-on-the-phased-reopening-of-temples-which-temples-are-in-phase-1-of-the-reopening-process-and-which-ordinances-are-being-performed>.

Ancient poem honors women for their strengths of head, heart and hand

As Mother’s Day passes, I think of Kathleen, my wife of 72 years, my daughter, Carolyn, daughters-in-law, June and Jan, and the younger mothers in the family. I pay them all tribute with these words of wisdom from Proverbs 31: “Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all” (verses 28-29).



CALL ME PASTOR
DONALD BASTIAN

This chapter is entitled in the New International Version “The Wife of Noble Character.” It is cast in the form of Hebrew

poetry and is lodged in the ancient wisdom literature of the Bible.

There is nothing in this poem about faith or salvation or the life to come. Only once “the fear of the Lord” is mentioned. There is not even a word about romance. It focuses instead on character traits.

Proverbs 31 was written well over two thousand years ago and yet appears to extol what I taught my children to look for in their life partners, whether husband or wife — strengths of head, heart and hand. That is, look for someone who has a thoughtful grasp on life, who at the same

time has deep moral and relational principles, and who is energetic and not afraid of hard work. Such a partner will bring blessings on their spouse and family in their work and relationships.

I have read this wisdom poem many times across a lifetime, but my most recent reading left me at first perplexed: Where is the young woman who meets all these qualifications: She gets up while it is still night; she provides food for her family (verse 15). She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard (verse 16). She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue (verse 26). And so on. The demands on her are overwhelming. Can such specific

qualifications be met?

But looking deeper into these many fine qualities sheds more light. I look more clearly and see that the issue is not the specific actions but the traits they represent: She is to be energetic, wise, resourceful, noble, and so forth. She has much to bring to a marriage, family, the work world, and society: “When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet” (verse 21).

The composer of this poem closes with a cautionary word plus a generous commendation.

The warning: “Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting” (verse 30a). That is, as enticing as charm or beauty may be, don’t

let them be primary goals in your search for a noble partner. Look rather for the deeper strengths of head, heart, and hand. “She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue” (verse 26).

The poet’s commendation follows: “But a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised” (verse 30b). “Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate” (verse 31). And don’t overlook the central requirement that she have a heart that fears the Lord.

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.

Poll shows a partisan split over coronavirus-era religious freedom

By Elana Schor and Emily Swanson
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — As the nation’s houses of worship weigh how and when to resume in-person gatherings while coronavirus stay-at-home orders ease in some areas, a new poll points to a partisan divide over whether restricting those services violates religious freedom.

Questions about whether states and localities could restrict religious gatherings to protect public health during the pandemic while permitting other secular activities have swirled for weeks and resulted in more than a dozen legal challenges that touch on freedom to worship.

President Donald Trump’s administration has sided with two churches contesting limits on in-person and drive-in services — a stance that appeals to his conservative

base, according to the new poll by The University of Chicago Divinity School and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

The poll found Republicans are more likely than Democrats to say prohibiting in-person services during the coronavirus outbreak violates religious freedom, 49% to 21%.

A majority of Democrats, 58%, say they think in-person religious services should not be allowed at all during the pandemic, compared with 34% of Republicans who say the same. Among Republicans, most of the remainder — 48% — think they should be allowed with restrictions, while 15% think they should be allowed without restrictions. Just 5% of Democrats favor unrestricted in-person worship, and 38% think it should be permitted with restrictions.

Caught between the

poles of the debate are Americans like Stanley Maslowski, 83, a retired Catholic priest in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Maslowski was of two minds about a court challenge by Kentucky churches that successfully exempted in-person religious services from the temporary gathering ban issued by that state’s Democratic governor.

“On the one hand, I think it restricts religious freedom,” Maslowski said of the Kentucky ban. “On the other hand, I’m not sure if some of that restriction is warranted because of the severity of the contagious virus. It’s a whole new situation.”

The unprecedented circumstance of a highly contagious virus whose spread was traced back, in some regions, to religious gatherings prompted most leaders across faiths to suspend in-person worship during

the early weeks of the pandemic. But it wasn’t long before worship restrictions prompted legal skirmishes from Kansas to California, with several high-profile cases championed by conservative legal nonprofits that have allied with the Trump administration’s past elevation of religious liberty.

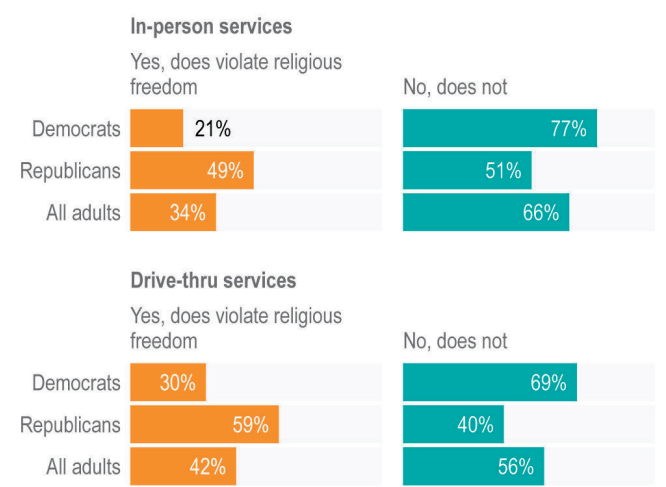
One of those conservative nonprofits, the First Liberty Institute, spearheaded a Tuesday letter asking federal lawmakers to extend liability protections from coronavirus-related negligence lawsuits to religious organizations in their next coronavirus relief legislation.

Shielding houses of worship from potential legal liability would “reassure ministries that voluntarily closed that they can reopen in order to resume serving their communities,” the First Liberty-led letter states.

Republicans divided over whether barring services violates religious freedom

A new UChicago Divinity School/AP-NORC poll finds that a majority of Americans say prohibiting in-person religious services during the coronavirus outbreak doesn’t violate religious freedom. More Republicans than Democrats say that barring services violates religious freedom.

During the coronavirus outbreak, would you say prohibiting _____ violates freedom of religion in the United States?



Results based on interviews with 1,002 U.S. adults conducted April 30–May 4. The margin of error is ±4.2 percentage points for the full sample. Source: AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research



Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches

<h1>Services This Week</h1>		<h3>First Christian Church</h3> <p>(Disciples of Christ)</p> <p>901 Penn Avenue 963-2623 lgdisciples@gmail.com</p> <p>Worship 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>~Join us at The Lord’s Table~</p>		<h3>FIRST LANDMARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH</h3> <p>1812 1st St. La Grande Pastor Dave Tierce • 541-605-0215 We use the King James Version Bible</p> <p>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</p>			
<h3>Zion Lutheran Church</h3> <p>(an ELCA church)</p> <p>902 Fourth Street, La Grande, OR (541) 963-5998</p> <p>9:00 am - Worship 10:00 am - Fellowship & Refreshments 10:30 am - Classes Pastor: Roberta Smythe www.zionlagrande.org</p>	<h3>First Baptist Church</h3> <p>SIXTH & SPRING, LA GRANDE</p> <p>541-963-3911</p> <p>All services have been temporarily cancelled. Live-streaming Sunday mornings at 10:00 am. People can watch at: lagrandefbc.org</p>	<p>1531 S. Main Street, Union 541-562-5531</p> <p>www.UnionBaptistOregon.org</p> <p>Sunday School 9:45 am Morning Worship 11:00 am Thursday AWANA 6:30 pm</p> <p>Birthing, Building and Being the Body of Christ</p>	<h3>LA GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</h3> <p>“OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS”</p> <p>1612 4th Street – 963-2498 Pastor Taylor Gould lgumc@comi.com www.lagrandeumc.org</p> <p>Office Hours: Mon-Thur 9am-Noon Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Coffee Hour 11:00 am - Nursery provided -</p>	<h3>Amazing Grace Fellowship</h3> <p>1316 T St., La Grande, OR 541-568-4567 Sunday 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>2 Cor 12:9 My Grace is sufficient for you. IS 40:31</p>	<h3>COVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</h3> <p>1708 Jasper St., Cove, OR</p> <h3>NORTH POWDER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</h3> <p>390 E. St., North Powder, OR</p> <p>JOIN US... Catch the Spirit! Worship: 9:00 a.m. Cove Worship: 10:00 a.m. N. Powder</p>		
<h3>St. Katherine’s Catholic Church</h3> <p>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</p>	<p>109 18th Street • 963-3402 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<h3>GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH</h3> <p>The Place 62848 Philynda Loop in Island City “We are called to Serve”</p> <p>Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 am Sunday Worship 10:00 am</p> <p>Phone: 541-568-4230 grace.lutherancove@gmail.com</p>	<h3>IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH</h3> <p>440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201 www.imblerchristianchurch.org</p> <p>Sunday Services 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service</p>	<h3>SUMMERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH</h3> <p>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</p> <p>A church for your whole family Visit us at summervillebaptistchurch.org</p>	<h3>La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church</h3> <p>A Place where hope is found in Jesus Join us in Fellowship & Worship Every Saturday</p> <p>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</p> <p>Little Friends Christian Preschool/Childcare 963-6390 La Grande Adventist Christian School Christian Education K-8th Grade 963-6203</p>		