

HIGHLIGHTS

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

LA GRANDE — The sermon at Faith Lutheran Church this week will address Jesus’ counsel to stand straight, hold firm and endure in the Christian way of life. He warns us about people who will not appreciate Christians because of his name and encouraged his disciples and all Christians with: “But the one who endures to the end will be saved” (Matthew 10:22). Following the Divine Service will be the monthly Church Council meeting.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

LA GRANDE STAKE — Powerful testimonies of missionary work are provided in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints’ “Come, Follow Me” lesson for the week of June 22-28, which tells of the sons of Mosiah sharing the gospel with the Lamanites, who were a “ferocious people.” This lesson is based on Alma chapters 17-22, which is found in the Book of Mormon and covers the teaching of King Lamoni and his father by both example and by word. In another testimony of missionary work, Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles discusses lessons learned from COVID-19 in a video that can be viewed at www.churchofjesuschrist.org. In our family and individual prayers, let us also remember all those who are suffering the effects of COVID-19 and pray for their recovery as this pandemic sweeps through our communities.

ST. PETER’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

LA GRANDE — St. Peter’s Episcopal Church will not have in-person worship this Sunday. Links to an online worship service will be posted on St. Peter’s Facebook page on Saturday. St. Peter’s will not resume in-person worship until at least mid-July. Offerings may be mailed to the church at P.O. Box 1001, La Grande 97850.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church has not resumed in-person Sunday worship. Links to an online worship service will be posted Saturday on Zion’s website and Facebook page. Zion will not resume in-person worship until at least mid-July. Offerings may be mailed to Zion at 902 Fourth St., La Grande 97850.

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).

His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me

I was working out in the yard the other day and a tiny sparrow landed on the ground just a few feet from me. I watched as it moved its head around and then flew off. I was reminded of the pas-



LIVING ON PURPOSE
BILLY HOLLAND

also watch after her. Martin was a poet, and this conversation became a perfect idea for a poem. She jotted down her thoughts and by the end of the day had completed “His Eye is on the Sparrow.” The poem was sent to a composer of that day, Charles

Gabriel, and his lovely melody has since then carried this encouraging message around the world.

When I write, I not only pray that God will give me the words to relay, but that he will direct those to hear the message he has appointed for them. These divine connections are the result of a savior who loves us and desires to help us. Psalm 121:7-8 promises, “The Lord will keep you from all harm, He will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.”

I enjoy talking to God when I’m by myself. It’s a wonderful contentment to share my personal thoughts and feelings with him and to have an awareness of his listening presence. I will admit there have been times when I’ve been in difficult situations and wondered why he would allow me to fall into such a serious crisis. However, even when we are suffering, he is a constant companion and never fails to respond on our behalf.

In your daily time of prayer and meditation, I encourage you to remember to thank him for not only always seeing you, but also for his endless compassion and mercy. There is joy, peace and hope in knowing that God is with us both on the mountaintop and in the darkest valley. “I sing because I’m happy, I sing because I’m free, for His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.”

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
William “Billy” F. Holland Jr. is the founder of an independent ministry in central Kentucky.

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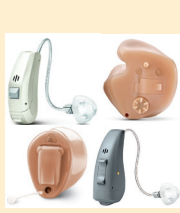
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