

HIGHLIGHTS

Good Friday Stations of the Cross

LA GRANDE — An ecumenical Stations of the Cross event will take place on Good Friday, April 2, in La Grande. All are welcome to pick up a map at the United Methodist Church, where the route through the stations begins. Other stations will be at the First Christian Church, Zion Lutheran Church and First Presbyterian Church. The stations will be available from noon until 6 p.m. on Friday.

Faith Lutheran Church

LA GRANDE — Faith Lutheran Church will gather for services and activities during Passion Week and on Easter Sunday. A Maundy Thursday service begins at 6:30 p.m. April 1 (“maundy” refers to the mandates Jesus gave at the Last Supper to “love one another” and to “take, eat and drink” — to participate in Communion — in remembrance

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).

of him). A Good Friday Tenebrae service will be held at 6:30 p.m. April 2 (“tenebrae” is a service of darkness focusing on Jesus’ words from the cross).

On Easter Sunday, April 4, a 7 a.m. sunrise service is followed by a continental breakfast at 7:45 a.m. Easter Art Sunday school begins at 8:45 a.m., and the Easter service will be at 10 a.m. After the service there will be an Easter egg hunt and a meal. The elders will meet at 1 p.m.

Catholic churches’ Holy Week and Easter services

UNION COUNTY — The Catholic churches of the Grande Ronde Valley are holding special services during Holy Week, which leads to Easter, April 4.

At Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church in La Grande, Mass of the Last Supper begins at 7 p.m. on Holy Thursday, April 1. The Good Friday service on April 2 also begins at 7 p.m. An Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday, April 3, will be held at 8 p.m. And on Sunday, April 4, Our Lady of the Valley will hold Easter Mass at 10 a.m.

Easter Mass will be celebrated at 8 a.m. Sunday, April 4, at Union’s Sacred Heart Catholic Church and at 12:30 p.m. at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Elgin.

Zion Lutheran Church

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran will meet in person on Easter Sunday, April 4, at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. COVID-19 precau-

tions will be in place. Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP to Zion via email or phone by noon Saturday, indicating which service they will be attending.

The 9 a.m. service will be livestreamed to YouTube. The link for that will be posted on Zion’s Facebook page and website on Saturday.

St. Peter’s Episcopal Church

LA GRANDE — St. Peter’s Episcopal Church will not have in-person worship this Sunday, April 4, due to COVID-19. A link to the livestream of Zion Lutheran’s 9 a.m. service will be posted to St. Peter’s Facebook page on Saturday.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

LA GRANDE — All are welcome to participate in the General Conference of The Church of

Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on April 3-4.

Visit www.churchofjesus-christ.org to view and hear a special invitation from President Russel M. Nelson, where he testifies that “Jesus Christ lives! As our resurrected and atoning Savior, He stands ready to help us grow from the dramatic, unexpected events in our lives. At this Easter season, let us worship and praise Him for the peace, hope, light, and truth He brings to us.”

Conference sessions will be broadcast on Saturday at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., with a priesthood session at 6 p.m. On Easter Sunday, a special event is planned for the 9 a.m. morning session, and the conference concludes with a 1 p.m. session.

The “Come, Follow Me” lesson for the week of April 5 is based on Doctrine and Covenants 30-36 in which early members of the church are called by revelation to serve as missionaries.

Exploring the link between faith and foolishness



ROBERTA SMYTHE
WALKING WITH THE SHEPHERD

As this is April Fools’ Day, it seems fitting to consider the link between faith and foolishness. Certainly, there are those folks who think that belief in God, or in Jesus as God’s son and our savior, is indeed foolish. Once a woman I worked with asked me how anyone who was intelligent could possibly be a believer. After all, how could anyone with a rational mind believe in such things? How could someone believe all those miracles in the Bible?

For some folks, faith seems incompatible with reason, logic, science, intellect, etc. This is not anything new. In fact, Thomas Jefferson, though a believer in God, didn’t believe in Jesus’ miracles. He even took a razor to his Bible to remove all mentions of Jesus’ miracles and most references to Jesus’ divinity.

And then there are the values held by most people of faith. Values that are often in conflict with those held by much of our society. People of faith value concern for and service to our neighbors, especially the disenfranchised, while our society tends to value profit, power and self-reliance. And so those of faith may be thought of as fools to donate time and money helping others instead of enriching themselves. Again, this is nothing new. In the decades after Jesus’ death and resurrection, the Apostle Paul wrote to the

Corinthians, cautioning them about following “the wisdom of the world.” Paul states that “God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom,” and that “God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise.” I don’t know that people of faith help others in order to shame the wise, though that may be an effect.

In addition to this being April Fools’ Day, this is also Maundy Thursday, or Holy Thursday, which is the day the church remembers Jesus’ last meal with his disciples. That meal was when Jesus bent down to wash the feet of his disciples, humbling himself for their benefit. That meal is also when Jesus gave his disciples, both those in the room then and those who follow him now, a “new” commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Jesus showed his love for the disciples by being of service to them.

Another way Jesus showed his (and God’s) love for others was to help those in our world who were most in need: Jesus fed the poor, healed the sick, mingled with outcasts and socialized with the sinners and tax collectors. If we are to love as Jesus loved, those are the behaviors we are called to emulate, no matter how foolish they may seem to the rest of the world.

The Rev. Roberta Smythe has been the pastor at Zion Lutheran and St. Peter’s Episcopal churches in La Grande since September 2019. She previously served churches in north-central and northwest Montana. She was raised in the Oregon City area and has degrees from the University of Oregon and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Words of the Buddha

As a mother would risk her life to protect her child, her only child, even so should one cultivate a limitless heart with regard to all beings.

— *Sutta Nipata 1.149*

Ever grows the glory of one who is energetic, mindful and pure in conduct, discerning and self-controlled, righteous and heedful.

— *Dhammapada 2.24*

If you fear pain, if you dislike pain, don’t do an evil deed in open or secret. If you’re doing or will do an evil deed, you won’t escape pain: It will catch you even as you run away.

— *Udana 5.44*

Source: www.pariyatti.org

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Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches

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

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~

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

IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH

440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201
www.imblercc@gmail.com

Sunday Services
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Services This Week

CHURCH Service DIRECTORY

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

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LA GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

“OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS”

1612 4th Street – 963-2498

Pastor Taylor Gould

For service information go to
www.lagrandeumc.org

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

La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church
A Place where hope is found in Jesus

Join us in Fellowship & Worship
Saturday all age classes 9:30 am
Saturday Worship 11:00 am

2702 Adams Avenue, La Grande 963-4018
lagrandeor.adventistchurch.org

Learning for Today and Eternity
Little Friends
Christian Preschool/Childcare 963-6390
La Grande Adventist Christian School
K-8th Grade 963-6203

La Grande CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

109 18th Street • 963-3402

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

FIRST LANDMARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1812 1st St. La Grande
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Wednesday Evening - 6:30 pm
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