

## HIGHLIGHTS

### St. Peter's Episcopal Church

LA GRANDE — St. Peter's Episcopal Church will not worship in person until at least mid-May. A link to a pre-recorded Sunday service of Morning Prayer will be posted on St. Peter's Facebook page on Saturday, April 17.

### Zion Lutheran Church

LA GRANDE — A worship service at Zion Lutheran Church will begin at 9 a.m. Sunday, April 18. COVID-19 precautions will be in place, including

### 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).

masks and social distancing, and there will not be a coffee hour. People who are planning to attend are asked RSVP to the office via email or phone by noon Saturday. The service will also be streamed live to YouTube; the link will be posted Saturday on Zion's Facebook page and website.

### Faith Lutheran Church

LA GRANDE — The sermon Sunday, April 18, at Faith Lutheran Church will be drawn from Luke 24, which tells of the actions and words of Jesus following his resurrection, assuring people he truly did rise from the dead. A church council meeting

follows the Divine Service.

Faith Lutheran's SHINE Preschool is now registering children ages 3-4 for the 2021-22 school year. Stop by the church, call, or visit [www.lgfaithlems.org/shine-preschool](http://www.lgfaithlems.org/shine-preschool) to learn more.

### Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

LA GRANDE — On Sunday, April 18, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Stake High Council will speak in individual wards with remarks based on President Henry

B. Eyring's October 2020 General Conference talk titled "Tested, Proved and Polished."

Revelations given to Joseph Smith in early 1831 regarding the organization of the church is the subject of the "Come, Follow Me" lesson for the week of April 19. This lesson covers Doctrine and Covenants Sections 41-44, covering a time when the early saints were gathering in Kirkland, Ohio. These sections provided guiding principles and structure to the rapidly growing church that was less than a year old.

## Religious leaders recall Prince Philip's spiritual curiosity

By JILL LAWLESS  
Associated Press

LONDON — Churches in Britain held services Sunday, April 11, to remember Prince Philip as people of many religions reflected on a man whose gruff exterior hid a strong personal faith and deep curiosity about others' beliefs.

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby led a service of remembrance at Canterbury Cathedral in southeast England for the husband of Queen Elizabeth II, who died April 9 at the age of 99.

Welby led prayers for Philip, also known as the Duke of Edinburgh, and contemplated "a very long life, remarkably led."

In London's Westminster Abbey, where Philip had married the then-Princess Elizabeth in 1947, Dean of Westminster David Hoyle remembered the former naval officer's "self-effacing sense of service."

Most people's glimpses of Philip in a religious setting were of him beside the queen at commemorative services, or walking to church with the royal family on Christmas Day. But his religious background and interests were more varied than his conventional role might suggest.

Born into the Greek royal family as Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark, he was baptized in the Greek Orthodox Church. His father was exiled and his family left Greece when Philip was young. He became an Anglican when he married Elizabeth, who as queen is supreme governor of the Church of England.

In the 1960s, he helped set up St. George's House, a religious study center at the royal family's Windsor Castle seat, where Philip would join clergy, academics, businesspeople and politicians to discuss the state of the world.

He was a regular visitor to Mount Athos, a monastic community and religious sanctuary in Greece, and was a long-time patron of the Templeton Prize, a



Steve Parsons/Pool Photo via AP

Britain's Prince Edward, Sophie Countess of Wessex and their daughter Lady Louise Windsor attend the service for Prince Philip on Sunday, April 11, 2021, at the Royal Chapel of All Saints at Royal Lodge, Windsor, England.

lucrative award for contribution to life's "spiritual dimension" whose winners include Mother Teresa.

Philip's long-standing environmentalism, which saw him serve as patron of the Worldwide Fund for Nature, was connected to his faith. He organized a 1986 summit in Assisi, Italy, where representatives of Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism and Hinduism pledged to protect the environment. Philip said at the time that "a new and powerful alliance has been forged between the forces of religion and the forces of conservation."

Blunt-spoken and quick-witted, Philip also was known for making remarks that could be offensive, some of them sexist and racist. But former Archbishop of York John Sentamu, who was born in Uganda, said those who saw Philip as a bigot were wide of the mark.

"If somebody challenged him, you would enter into an amazing conversation," Sentamu told the BBC. "The trouble was that because he was the Duke of Edinburgh, the husband of the queen, people had this deference."

"I'm sure sometimes he regretted some of those phrases, but in the end it's a pity that people saw him as somebody who makes gaffes," Sentamu said.

"Behind those gaffes was an expectation of a comeback, but nobody came back, and the gaffe, unfortunately, stayed."

Inderjit Singh, a prominent British Sikh leader, said Philip had a strong knowledge of Sikhism and "contributed to the understanding and harmony between differing faith communities."

"He recognized what we should all recognize. ... We are all of one common humanity," Singh said.

Philip's faith may have been partly a legacy of his mother, Princess Alice of Battenberg, who established an order of nuns, sheltered Jews in Nazi-occupied Greece during World War II and is buried below a Russian Orthodox church in east Jerusalem.

"I suspect that it never occurred to her that her action was in any way special," Philip said in 1994. "She was a person with deep religious faith, and she would have considered it to be a totally human action to fellow human beings in distress."

His interests in religion and ecology have been passed on to his eldest son, Prince Charles. The heir to the throne is a strong environmentalist who has said he wants to be a "defender of faiths" when he takes the throne, rather than the monarch's official title as defender of the Anglican faith.

## 'Everything is possible for one who has faith'



LAURA HUDSON  
BELIEVING AND BECOMING

"I believe; help my unbelief." These words from Mark 9:24 constitute one of the most important prayers I know. In this scripture, the desperate father of a sick child cries out, longing to see his child healed. He wants to trust Jesus with his child's healing, but the problem seems so big, he doesn't believe anything can change it.

Jesus has said to this man, "Everything is possible for one who has faith." What is this faith Jesus speaks of? Some define faith as an assent to a set of religious principles, which acts like a contract agreement saying, "I'm in the club." This is faith as a loyalty relationship that merits a reward.

However, experience has taught me that faith is less about my agreement to specific principles and more about the posture with which I approach relationships with the divine and other people.

I live in faith as I approach others with the openness to experience them as they are, the willingness to risk vulnerability, and the trusting confidence that our relationship with each other leads toward something beautiful and good.

Sometimes staying open and available to others is easy. Sometimes it's desperately hard. When life goes awry, holding faith is a struggle. A child gets sick, a beloved person dies, a major pandemic causes cataclysmic changes.

Your prayers are not answered in the way you desired. It's hard to stay open to God and others when situations like

these contradict the assumptions you previously had about these relationships. Nothing seems to make sense anymore, and there's a great big hole where the feelings of connection used to dwell.

In my early 20s, disillusioned with my childhood religion, I spent years away from church, unsure that I could believe in Jesus.

Since I was the daughter of a pastor, harboring such doubts felt disloyal to my own family. Thankfully, though, my pastor dad was always willing to hear my questions. He kept his own heart open as listened to my doubts, and he allowed me room to express my confusion and pain.

Then, Dad gave me the Mark 9:24 prayer: "I believe; help my unbelief." It was a turning point. Dad trusted that my longing to believe, in and of itself, represented God reaching toward me with grace for my particular situation. God's love included me, even when I didn't trust God. Dad's faith brought me back to my own, and the prayer helped me talk to Jesus through my unbelief.

No matter who you are, whether you follow a particular religious tradition, you can learn this kind of faith. It usually takes the help of at least one person whose faith mirrors God's grace back to you. Mature faith allows and includes doubt as an intrinsic part of spiritual growth. Grounded in this kind of faith, even in the most difficult times, you can begin to experience pain transformed into blessing.

The Rev. Laura Elly Hudson is co-pastor of First Presbyterian Church in La Grande and founder of Story Journey. You can find her at [fpclagrande.org](http://fpclagrande.org) or at [lauraellyhudson.com](http://lauraellyhudson.com).

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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

A church for your whole family  
Visit us at [summervillebaptistchurch.org](http://summervillebaptistchurch.org)

**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](http://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](http://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

**LaGrande 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  
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  
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[www.flmbclagrande.com](http://www.flmbclagrande.com)