

HIGHLIGHTS

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

LA GRANDE — Revelations given through the Prophet Joseph Smith about the second coming of Jesus Christ, as recorded in Doctrine and Covenants section 45, is the subject of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' "Come, Follow Me" lesson for the week of April 26. These revelations were received at a time when many false reports and foolish stories were published and circulated about the young church, which had been organized for less than a year. All lesson material is available from the free Gospel Library mobile app.

The 2021 BYU Women's Conference, which is cosponsored by the Relief Society of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Brigham Young University, will be held

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).

Thursday and Friday, April 29-30. The annual conference, in its 45th year, will be online and will include both free and paid experiences. The theme is "I Am a Child of God, His Promises Are Sure" and no registration is required for the free sessions. Anyone 16 and older is invited to participate. Learn more at www.newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org/event/2021-byu-women-s-conference.

Zion Lutheran Church

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church will meet for an in-person worship service Sunday, April 25, at 9 a.m. COVID precautions will be in place, including masks and social

distancing, and there will not be a coffee hour. The service will include Holy Communion. Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP to the office via email or phone by noon Saturday. The service will be livestreamed to Youtube, and the link for that stream will be posted Saturday on Zion's Facebook and website.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

LA GRANDE — St. Peter's Episcopal Church will not worship in person until at least mid-May due to COVID-19.

A link to the livestreamed Zion Lutheran service will be posted Saturday on the church's Facebook page.

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Faith Lutheran Church

LA GRANDE — Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd" (John 10:11). Many

churches recognize this comforting truth on the fourth Sunday of Easter. Faith Lutheran Church's sermon Sunday, April 25, will draw from John 10:11-18. In these verses Christ highlights the need for a shepherd who would lay down his life for his sheep. However, there are false spiritual beliefs in which the one overseeing the people "flees" in the face

of trouble "because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep" (verse 13). Faith Lutheran will hold services in La Grande at 10 a.m. and in Enterprise at 2 p.m.

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.lgfaithlcms.org/shine-preschool to learn more.

Book review

What would Jesus do? Are you sure you want to know?

By **RENEE STRUTHERS**
East Oregonian

There's a battle going on, and I'm not talking about the coronavirus pandemic.

Full disclosure, I'm not a religious person; I do enjoy a well-researched book that gets me thinking about religion in a different way. And I love it when the religious juggernaut that dominates our faith system gets a poke in the eye. Chris Kaufman's first book does just that.

Churches around the globe think they have a lock on the truth of who, or what, God is. Wars have been fought over it. Millions have died to defend their interpretation of what God wants his followers to do, and be, and believe. But what does the New Testament really say about Jesus, and his message to his followers?

Kaufman, a youth pastor at the Free Methodist Church in Pendleton, outlined his take on the age-old debate in a book geared toward young people — but adults can



Chris Kaufman/Contributed Photo

Chris Kaufman, youth pastor at the Free Methodist Church in Pendleton, outlined his take on the debate about what the New Testament says about Jesus and his message to his followers in "Kingdom Over Empire: Following Jesus in the American Empire."

get just as much out of his no-nonsense, straightforward approach to the story of Jesus and his impact on a group of struggling Jews trying to survive under the yoke of Roman tyranny.

"Kingdom Over Empire: Following Jesus in the American Empire" is a

call to not just step outside your comfort zone, but to truly live as Jesus says we must in order to enter the kingdom promised to his followers.

Though Kaufman has an upbeat style that will resonate with young people, it's not a flowery, feel-good story. Following the Ten Commandments and going to church every Sunday isn't enough to get you through. Feeding the poor and ministering to the sick isn't going to win you that golden ticket.

Jesus called his disciples to give up everything — even their lives — in order to understand true sacrifice. Most of them turned away rather than meet his fate; they couldn't give up the oppressive empire that was holding them down even for the promise of heaven. But Jesus loved them anyway. And that, Kaufman says, is really the key.

Renee Struthers is the community records editor for the East Oregonian.

WORDS OF THE BUDDHA

Delight in heedfulness! Guard well your thoughts! Draw yourself out of this bog of evil, even as an elephant draws itself out of the mud.

— Dhammapada 23.327

Things that are empty make a noise, the full is always quiet. The fool is like a half-filled pot, the wise one is like a deep still pool.

— Sutta Nipata 3.726

Having killed anger you sleep in ease. Having killed anger you do not grieve. The noble ones praise the slaying of anger, with its honeyed crest & poison root, for having killed it you do not grieve.

— Samyutta Nikaya 1.71

Think not lightly of good, saying, "It will not come to me." Drop by drop is the water pot filled. Likewise, the wise one, gathering it little by little, fills oneself with good.

— Dhammapada 9.122

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

A church for your whole family
Visit us at 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

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
lagrande.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
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.flmbc.org