

## HIGHLIGHTS

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

LA GRANDE — Special events this week by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints include the 2021 BYU Women's Conference, which will be broadcast starting at 9 a.m. Thursday and Friday, April 29-30, along with a Worldwide Devotional for Young Adults on Sunday, May 2, at 5 p.m. Elder and Sister Rasband will speak Friday at the Women's Conference and Elder and Sister Stevenson will be the guest speakers at the Young Adult Devotional. All who wish to attend are welcome to these vir-

### 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).

tual meetings; visit [www.churchofjesuschrist.org](http://www.churchofjesuschrist.org) for ways to access them. This Sunday, May 2 also is Fast Sunday for members.

The "Come, Follow Me" lesson for the week of May 3 is on Doctrine and Covenants sections 46-48. These instructions to early members directed them to welcome visitors to worship services, provided information on the "gifts of the spirit" and declared the need for members to

keep a history of the church.

### Zion Lutheran Church

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church will meet for an in-person worship service Sunday, May 2, at 9 a.m. COVID precautions will be in place, including masks and social distancing. Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP to the office via email or phone by noon Saturday. The ser-

vice will be livestreamed to YouTube, and the link for that stream will be posted Saturday on Zion's Facebook page and website.

### Faith Lutheran Church

LA GRANDE — The sermon at Faith Lutheran Church Sunday, May 2, will expound on John 15:1-8. In these verses Jesus identifies that he is the source of proper spiritual thoughts, beliefs and actions. He uses the imagery of being the grapevine that provides sustenance to the branches and assures us that we "are already clean because of the Word that I have spoken to you" (vs. 3).

God's word is surely powerful and effective. After the service is a First Sunday meal followed by a meeting of the elders.

### St. Peter's Episcopal Church

LA GRAND — St. Peter's Episcopal Church will resume in-person worship Sunday, May 2, with a service of Morning Prayer at 11 a.m. COVID-19 precautions will be in place, including the requirement of masks and social distancing. The service will be recorded, and that video will be posted to the church's Facebook page and member emails on Sunday afternoon or evening.

## A year without knocking on doors

The Observer

In March 2020, the some 1.3 million Jehovah's Witnesses in the United States suspended its door-to-door and face-to-face forms of public ministry and moved congregation meetings to video conferencing.

It's now been more than a year since the church worldwide adjusted its methods due to the pandemic.

For many, the change from ringing doorbells and knocking on doors to making phone calls and writing letters expanded and invigorated the ministry, according to the United States branch of the Jehovah's Witnesses Public Information Desk.

Pausing door-to-door ministry "has been a very deliberate decision based on two principles: our respect for life and love of neighbor," said Robert Hendriks, U.S. spokesperson for Jehovah's Witnesses. "But we are still witnesses and, as such, we must testify about our faith. So it was inevitable that we would find a way to continue our work."

It was 33 years ago that Trish McCauley of Central Oregon was baptized into the church. She enjoyed spending full days preaching door-to-door and conducting in-home Bible studies. Then a health crisis changed her life dramatically.

"My energy level was so low, it took all I had just to use my walker to get to the door," McCauley said.

During the pandemic, she has regularly participated in virtual ministry groups, making dozens of phone calls and writing letters.

"By staying in my own home I feel less draw on my energy," she said. "I truly enjoy talking with others on the phone and receiving encouragement."



Jehovah's Witnesses Public Information Desk/Contributed Photo

Trish McCauley of Central Oregon, a member of the Jehovah's Witnesses, pursues virtual ministry in her home in this 2021 photo. The church paused its door-to-door ministry for more than a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

McCauley said after door-to-door ministry resumes, she won't stop writing letters and calling people.

"I feel this is truly a

friendships with several in my community by our phone visits. We talk about the day we can finally meet face-to-face, when it's safe to do so. I feel like

I have learned new skills that I will continue to use even when we are able to resume the public ministry."

Nearly 51,000 people in the United States last year made a request for a Witness to contact them, either

through a local congregation or [jw.org](http://jw.org), the organization's official website, according to Hendriks. Since the outbreak, the Witnesses have followed up on these requests via letters and phone calls instead of in-person visits.

"Our love for our neighbors is stronger than ever," Hendriks said. "In fact, I think we have needed each other more than ever. We are finding that people are perplexed, stressed and feeling isolated. Our work has helped many regain a sense of footing — even normalcy — at a very unsettled time."

Witnesses also made an effort to check on distant friends and family — sometimes texting links to Bible-based articles on [jw.org](http://jw.org).

great way to reach people. It's helped me think outside the box."

Robin Kuenzi, also of Central Oregon, began her full-time volunteer work nearly 38 years ago, according to the church. She enjoyed preaching from door-to-door, conducting in-home Bible studies and standing at cart displays in city parks.

During the pandemic she had to learn new ways to reach people.

"At first I was apprehensive. However my experience has been overwhelmingly positive," she said. "Many express appreciation for the interest shown to them and are clearly relaxed speaking with me on the phone. Some say they prefer it. I feel I have built

*"In fact, I think we have needed each other more than ever. We are finding that people are perplexed, stressed and feeling isolated."*

— Robert Hendriks, U.S. spokesman for Jehovah's Witnesses

## Elie Wiesel gets seat at National Cathedral

Image of Nobel prize winner and Holocaust survivor joins other prominent figures

By ASHRAF KHALIL  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Washington National Cathedral, the massive Episcopal house of worship that prides itself on being an unfinished work-in-progress whose stones and stained glass tell the story of the 20th and 21st centuries, is unveiling its newest addition: a carving of iconic author, human rights campaigner and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel.

The carving completes a quartet of heads of prominent figures sprouting from the four corners of an alcove known as the Human Rights Porch, joining Mother Teresa, Rosa Parks and Jonathan Myrick Daniels, a young Episcopal theologian and civil rights crusader who was shot to death in Alabama in 1965, giving his life to protect a 17-year-old Black woman.

"This is the space where we celebrate human aspiration," cathedral spokesman Kevin Eckstrom said.



Carolyn Kaster/Associated Press

Stone carver Sean Callahan uses a chisel and mallet as he works on a limestone head of Holocaust survivor and Nobel Peace Prize winning author Elie Wiesel in the Human Rights Porch at the Washington National Cathedral, Thursday, April 1, 2021.

Wiesel, who died in 2016, was the author of 57 books including "Night," which is based on his experiences as a Jewish prisoner in the Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps. He became an outspoken advocate for human rights causes around the world, helped found the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986.

The Rev. Randy Hollerith, the cathedral's dean, chose Wiesel for the alcove's final corner, calling him "the living embodiment of resilience in the face of hatred." Wiesel's inclusion is particularly important as the number of living Holocaust survivors dwindles, he added.

"We have to make sure that we keep that reality in front of people," Hollerith said. "Those who stood for human rights and human dignity ought to be part of this sacred space."

Artist Chas Fagan, who created all the sculptures in the Human Rights Porch, worked off photos and videos provided by Wiesel's family to fashion a clay image of Wiesel's head that cathedral stone carver Sean Callahan and head stonemason Joe Alonso used to make a plaster model. Then Callahan, using specialized calibration equipment, painstakingly carved the image into a small slab of rock that has been sticking out of the wall for years awaiting a fourth face.

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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](mailto: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](mailto:grace.lutherancove@gmail.com)

**IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201  
[www.imblercc@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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  
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  
"Where you can find TRUTH according to the scriptures"  
[www.flmbclagrande.com](http://www.flmbclagrande.com)