

Protecting others demonstrates Jesus' compassion



WILLIAM HOLLAND
LIVING ON PURPOSE

Every year in early June, we observe the anniversary of the Normandy invasion of World War II commonly called D-Day. By the way, the "D" simply stands for whatever day a military assault is planned. For example, D-3 meant three days before a D-Day, while D+7 meant seven days after a D-Day. On June 6, 1944, America and its allies engaged in one of the most significant military operations of the 20th century.

I have personally suffered loss from war and have a deep appreciation for the service and sacrifice that men and women give to protect our country. My mother's youngest brother, Kenny Maye, was killed in Korea, and I have his dog tag and casket flag and a rare picture of him. He was only 20 years old in 1950. Sadly, his existence is nearly unknown and I often wonder about the life he could have had. For everyone who has sacrificed for this great nation, thank you for your service.

I live a couple of miles from a national military cemetery. From the highway, you can see many of the more than 12,000 perfectly lined white marble tombstones. I admit I've often driven past without hardly thinking about how each of these individuals at one time or another accepted the call of duty. And what is that call? To defend and protect our freedom whatever the cost.

These brave soldiers were willing to give their life for their country and I cannot help but wonder how many of us have convictions that strong? The First Amendment was not only signed into existence with ink but with the blood of more than 1.1 million Americans who have died in U.S. wars along with even more who have suffered from physical and mental difficulties. The privilege and freedom each of us has to share what is on our mind are liberties that have come at a great price, and we should always remember the cost of this blessing.

As a volunteer chaplain for a veteran health care facility, I have the opportunity and honor to sit and talk with many fine men and women who have served in our nation's military. The World War II veterans who are still alive are now in their 80s and 90s,

and I believe it's important not only to record and preserve their amazing war stories but to sincerely listen and respect who they are as individuals.

One of these residents is a man named Edward Hicks who willingly stepped forward when his country needed him the most. He was only 22 years old and had married his bride, Mary Lou, only four months earlier. He received the call to join the front line and bravely responded to what would be known around the world as "Operation Overlord." The American soldiers knew the difference between right and wrong, and they refused to allow a world in which wrong prevailed.

Edward and his company were assigned to 6 miles of beach that was codenamed "Omaha." Recorded as one of the bloodiest first wave battles of Normandy, only 600 men survived out of 2,600 who came ashore. He recalls when he jumped out of the amphibious vehicle, how the water was up to his neck and icy cold. Loaded down with full gear that was now waterlogged, he said it was very difficult to keep from drowning. As bullets were splashing the water and whizzing past his head, all he knew to do was to stay as low as possible. Using floating bodies as shields, he was numb with fear. As he slowly crawled upon the sand, he immediately began to dig a hole where he could partially avoid the onslaught of constant machine gunfire. Somehow throughout the day and thankfully with the Germans running out of ammunition, the small group managed to slowly make their way inland, and went on to accomplish the mission.

Edward received several medals for bravery including a silver star and four bronze stars — but there is much more to be a hero than human fortitude and earning awards. It is recognizing the depth of spiritual love. The love that Jesus demonstrated on the cross is the type of compassion that inspires individuals to love and protect others as much as they love themselves. John 15:13 reminds us: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Dr. William Holland lives in Central Kentucky with his wife Cheryl, where he is a minister, Christian author, and community chaplain. To learn more visit: billyhollandministries.com.

SPIRITUAL LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

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).

St. Peter's resumes in-person worship

LA GRANDE — St. Peter's Episcopal Church of La Grande has resumed in-person worship and will meet at 11 a.m. Sunday, June 13, for a service of Morning Prayer. 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 Sunday evening.

Faith Lutheran services held in La Grande, Enterprise

LA GRANDE — Faith Lutheran Church will have a Matins service in La Grande at 10 a.m. Sunday, June 13, and then a Divine service in Enterprise at 2 p.m. The sermon will expound upon Mark 4:26-34 in which Jesus explains about the kingdom of God with parables concerning agri-

culture. Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how" (vs. 26-27). Our responsibility as Christians is to "scatter the seed," which is sharing the Word of God. God uses that "seed" to enhance His kingdom.

Faith Lutheran Church is planning its annual yard sale, which will take place in La Grande June 26.

Zion service streamed live Sunday, June 13

LA GRANDE — The Sunday, June 13, service at Zion Lutheran Church in La Grande begins at 9 a.m. COVID-19 precautions will be in place, including

masks and social distancing. The service will also be livestreamed to YouTube, and the link for that stream will be posted Saturday to Zion's Facebook page and website.

Special broadcast set for single adults age 31 and older

LA GRANDE — The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' "Come, Follow Me" lesson for the week of June 14 is based on Doctrine and Covenants sections 64-66, which are revelations given through Joseph Smith in September and October of 1831.

This Sunday, June 13, at 3 p.m. there will be a special broadcast for single adults age 31 and older hosted by Elder Andersen, Sister Bingham and Sister

Eubank. Participants are asked to visit the church's website to view a special invitation in preparation for this meeting, and then again on Sunday to connect to the broadcast.

A Red Cross blood drive will be held June 15-16 in the gym at the Gekeler address. Visit the Red Cross website or mobile app to make an appointment as there is an urgent need for blood donations.

Christian Church message drawn from Ecclesiastes

LA GRANDE — The La Grande First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meets at 10 a.m. Sunday, June 13, for worship.

Pastor Archie Hook's message — "Have You Found Purpose?" — will explore Ecclesiastes 3:9-14.

The Christian Women's Fellowship is putting on a giant rummage sale June 19 from 8 a.m. to noon on the back lawn and parking area.

— *The Observer*

WORDS OF THE BUDDHA

Look not to the faults of others, nor to their omissions and commissions. But rather look to your own acts, to what you have done and left undone.

—Dhammapada 4.50

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

With all one's attachments cut, with the heart's pining subdued, calm and serene and happy is one, for one has attained peace of mind.

—Samyutta Nikaya 1.242

One is not wise because one speaks much. One who is peaceable, friendly and fearless is called wise.

—Dhammapada 19.258

— *Source: www.pariyatti.org*

BEST OF HAWAII FOUR-ISLAND TOUR

12 days, departs year-round



FROM \$2,599

\$2,349*

1-888-817-0676

promo code N7017

*Free date changes anytime up to 45 days prior to departure for land tours, up to 95 days prior to departure for cruise tours. Deposits and final payments remain non-refundable. Prices are per person based on double occupancy plus \$299 in taxes & fees. Single supplement and seasonal surcharges may apply. Add-on airfare available. Offers apply to new bookings only, made by 6/30/21. Other terms & conditions may apply. Ask your Travel Consultant for details.

One solution for oxygen at home, away, and for travel

Introducing the INOGEN ONE - It's oxygen therapy on your terms



No more tanks to refill. No more deliveries. No more hassles with travel. The INOGEN ONE portable oxygen concentrator is designed to provide unparalleled freedom for oxygen therapy users. It's small, lightweight, clinically proven for stationary and portable use, during the day and at night, and can go virtually anywhere — even on most airlines. Inogen accepts Medicare and many private insurances!



Reclaim Your Freedom And Independence NOW!

inogen

Call Inogen Today To Request Your FREE Info Kit

1-855-839-0752

© 2020 Inogen, Inc. All rights reserved. MKT-P0108

2021 EASTERN OREGON PHOTO CONTEST

Official Rules:

Photo Contest open now and closes at 11:59 pm Sunday, June 20, 2021.

Staff will choose the top 10. The public can vote online for People's Choice from 12:01 am Monday, June 21 through 11:59 pm Thursday, June 30.

Digital or scanned photos only, uploaded to the online platform. No physical copies.

Only photographers from Oregon may participate.

The contest subject matter is wide open but we're looking for images that capture life in Eastern Oregon.

Entrants may crop, tone, adjust saturation and make minor enhancements, but may not add or remove objects within the frame, or doctor images such that the final product doesn't represent what's actually before the camera.

The winners will appear in the July 8th edition of Go Magazine; the top 25 will appear online.

Gift cards to a restaurant of your choice will be awarded for first, second and third place.

Submit all photos online at: lagrandeobserver.com/photocontest

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)

ZION LUTHERAN

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
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