

## SPIRITUAL LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

### BYU Education Week, Aug. 16-20, will offer classes for all ages

LA GRANDE STAKE — The La Grande Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will hold ward conferences for the Enterprise and John Day wards on Sunday Aug. 15. High Council members will be speaking in other area wards on Elder Rasband's April Conference talk titled "Behold! I Am a God of Miracles."

BYU Education Week is Aug. 16-20, with hundreds of

### 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](mailto:news@lagrandeobserver.com) (with Highlights in the subject line).

classes for youth and adults. Elder Uchtdorf will be the devotional speaker on Aug. 17 and his remarks will be broadcast on the BYU affiliated stations. Visit <https://educationweek.byu.edu/> about or call 801-422-8925 for more information.

The "Come, Follow Me" lesson for the week of Aug. 16 is

based on Doctrine & Covenants sections 89-92 and includes the Word of Wisdom (Section 89), which is a law of health for the physical and spiritual benefit of God's children. Called "a principle with promise" (verse 3), it includes instructions about what foods are good for us and those substances to avoid.

### Recording of Episcopal service available on Facebook

LA GRANDE — St. Peter's Episcopal Church in La Grande will meet for worship at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 15. The service will include Holy Communion. Masks are again required, and social distancing will be observed.

The service will be recorded, and that video will be posted to the church's Facebook page and emailed to members sometime Aug. 15.

### Sunday worship at Zion Lutheran offers Communion and fellowship

LA GRANDE — The Sunday morning service at La Grande's Zion Lutheran Church begins at 9 a.m. Aug. 15 and will include Holy Communion. A time of fellowship follows the service. Masks are recommended.

The service will be streamed live to YouTube, and the link for that stream will be posted to Zion's Facebook page and website on Aug. 14.

— The Observer

## Some praise, some doubts as Facebook rolls out prayer tool

By **HOLLY MEYER** and **DAVID CRARY**

Associated Press

Facebook already asks for your thoughts. Now it wants your prayers.

The social media giant has rolled out a new prayer request feature, a tool embraced by some religious leaders as a cutting-edge way to engage the faithful online. Others are eyeing it warily as they weigh its usefulness against the privacy and security concerns they have with Facebook.

In Facebook Groups employing the feature, members can use it to rally prayer power for upcoming job interviews, illnesses and other personal challenges big and small. After they create a post, other users can tap an "I prayed" button, respond with a "like" or other reaction, leave a comment or send a direct message.

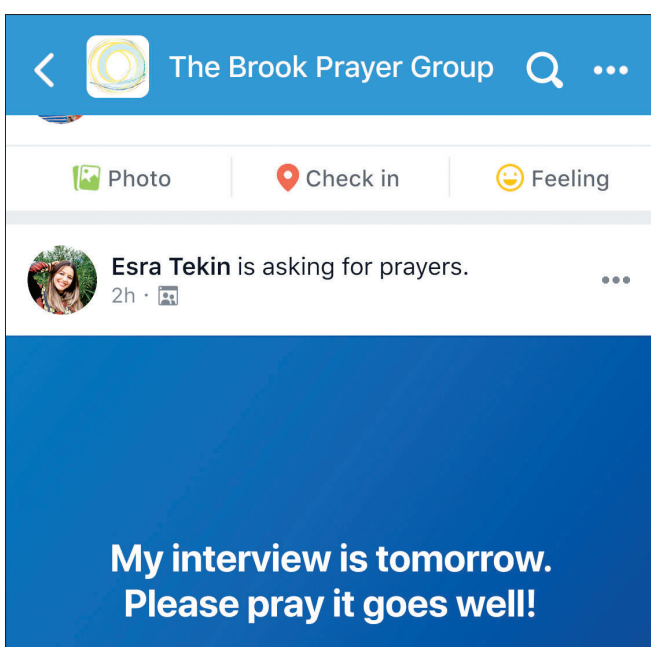
Facebook began testing it in the U.S. in December as part of an ongoing effort to support faith communities, according to a statement attributed to a company spokesperson.

"During the COVID-19 pandemic we've seen many faith and spirituality communities using our services to connect, so we're starting to explore new tools to support them," it said.

The Rev. Robert Jeffress of First Baptist Church in Dallas, a Southern Baptist megachurch, was among the pastors enthusiastically welcoming of the prayer feature.

"Facebook and other social media platforms continue to be tremendous tools to spread the Gospel of Christ and connect believers with one another — especially during this pandemic," he said. "While any tool can be misused, I support any effort like this that encourages people to turn to the one true God in our time of need."

Under its data policy,



Facebook via The Associated Press

This image provided by Facebook in August 2021 shows a simulation of the social media company's prayer request feature. The tool has been embraced by some religious leaders as a cutting-edge way to engage the faithful online. Others are eyeing it warily as they weigh its usefulness against the privacy and security concerns they have with Facebook.

Facebook uses the information it gathers in a variety of ways, including to personalize advertisements. But the company says advertisers are not able to use a person's prayer posts to target ads.

The Rev. Bob Stec, pastor of St. Ambrose Catholic Parish in Brunswick, Ohio, said via email that on one hand, he sees the new feature as a positive affirmation of people's need for an "authentic community" of prayer, support and worship.

But "even while this is a 'good thing,' it is not necessarily the deeply authentic community that we need," he said. "We need to join our voices and hands in prayer. We need to stand shoulder to shoulder with each other and walk through great moments and challenges together."

Stec also worried about privacy concerns surrounding the sharing of deeply personal traumas.

"Is it wise to post everything about everyone for the whole world to see?" he said. "On a good day we would all be reflective

and make wise choices.

When we are under stress or distress or in a difficult moment, it's almost too easy to reach out on Facebook to everyone."

Jacki King, the minister to women at Second Baptist Conway, a Southern Baptist congregation in Conway, Arkansas, sees a benefit for people who are isolated amid the pandemic and struggling with mental health, finances and other issues.

"They're much more likely to get on and make a comment than they are to walk into a church right now," King said. "It opens a line of communication."

Rev. Thomas McKenzie, who leads Church of the Redeemer, an Anglican congregation in Nashville, Tennessee, said he wanted to hate the feature — he views Facebook as willing to exploit anything for money, even people's faith. But he thinks it could be encouraging to those willing to use it: "Facebook's evil motivations might have actually provided a tool that can be for good."

## STORAGE BUILDINGS

[www.CountrysideSheds.com](http://www.CountrysideSheds.com)

### A little bit more room

**(541) 663-0246**  
Locally owned and operated for over 25 years

# Countryside SHEDS LLC

CCB #149931

**"More Than Just a Shed"**

## We Can make it happen!

**RENT to OWN**  
starting at  
**\$68 Month**

**10505 N. McAlister Road**  
(Corner of Hwy 82 & N. McAlister Rd.)

## Are you ready to

- ▶ Purchase a Home in Town?
- ▶ Refinance?
- ▶ Purchase a Rural Home with Acreage?

*We offer competitive pricing and products designed specifically for rural properties.*

### Call one of our Local MORTGAGE SPECIALISTS ▶



**KAITLIN ORCUTT**  
Mortgage Loan Officer  
**541-303-8281**  
NMLS# 1043345



**ARLETTA ARNSPIGER**  
Mortgage Loan Officer  
**509-546-7262**  
NMLS# 508276

Kaitlin and Arletta have over 33 years of experience in the mortgage industry and can tailor a loan for you, *regardless of where you're looking.*

### A LOCAL LENDING TEAM THAT CARES

**INQUIRE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH**  
2514 COVE AVE • LA GRANDE  
541-624-5040

  
Member FDIC



# Bank of Eastern Oregon

NMLS #144459 / RATES & TERMS MAY VARY. ALL LOANS SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL.

## 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

# 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)

**LaGrande CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**

109 18th Street • 963-3402

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

**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

**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)

## Services This Week