

SPIRITUAL LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

Midweek Advent service features preschool presentation

LA GRANDE, ENTERPRISE — Faith Lutheran's sermon this week will consider the important role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for the Lord. Jesus commented on the great importance of John's assignment: "I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John" (Luke 7:28a). Yet through Jesus Christ's ministry we are offered greater positions. In the second portion of Luke 7:28 we read, "Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." The Sunday, Dec. 12, service in La Grande begins at 10 a.m. and in Enterprise at 2 p.m.

The midweek Advent Service on Wednesday, Dec. 15, will look at the call of Gideon as a symbol of salvation, and Shine Preschool

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).

will provide a presentation. A soup supper is served at 5:30 p.m., and the service begins at 6:30 p.m.

Worship service streamed live on YouTube

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church's worship service on Sunday, Dec. 12, begins at 9 a.m. The service, which will include Holy Communion, will be followed by a time of fellowship. Masks and social distancing are required.

The service will be streamed live to YouTube, and the link for that stream will be posted on Zion's Facebook page and website on Saturday, Dec. 11.

Ideas on how to 'Light the World with Love' available online

NORTHEASTERN OREGON — Speakers for Sunday's Sacrament Service on Dec. 12 at wards of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be members of the congregation. The second hour will be Priesthood and Relief Society meetings.

For ideas on ways to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ through service to one another, members are encouraged to visit "Light the World with Love," which can be found on the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' website. Also available is a link to a

touching video called "The Christ Child: A Nativity Story."

The "Come, Follow Me" lesson for the week of Dec. 13 is based on "The Family: A Proclamation to the World," a 1995 statement about the importance of the family unit by the First Presidency and Council of the Twelve Apostles. Download the free "Gospel Library" for all lesson materials.

Brass ensemble provides special music in Advent service

LA GRANDE — The First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will celebrate joy on the

third Sunday of Advent, Dec. 12, beginning at 10 a.m. Pastor Archie Hook's message, "Shout for Joy," comes from Psalm 98:7-9. Kari, Samantha, Halia and Owsley Baybado will light the Advent candles, and a brass ensemble will provide special music.

Communion served at in-person service

LA GRANDE — St. Peter's Episcopal Church will meet for worship at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 12. The service will include Holy Communion. Masks and social distancing are required.

The service will be streamed live, and the link to that stream will be posted on the church's Facebook page on Saturday, Dec. 11. That same link can be used to watch the service at a later time.

— The Observer



The Living Nativity, hosted by the La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church, returns on Friday, Dec. 10, and Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021, from 5-8 p.m.

Living Nativity re-creates Bethlehem in La Grande

Walk-through event returns after canceled last year due to COVID

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

LA GRANDE — A treasured holiday tradition takes visitors back to Bethlehem.

The La Grande Living Nativity, hosted by the La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church, is set to be held from 5-8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 10-11. After a year off due to the pandemic, the free event is back for community members and visitors to come enjoy the celebration.

"People are excited to help out and take part," said Jack St. Clair, organizer of the Living Nativity.

The event began around 2004 and has grown in size and popularity since



The La Grande Living Nativity, hosted by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, re-creates Bethlehem at the time of Christ's birth.

then. A group of actors will re-create the township of Bethlehem and the nativity scene at the La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church, 2702 Adams Ave. The outside walk-through is open for two nights to ring in the holiday season.

According to St. Clair, roughly 75-100 participants and volunteers help make

the holiday event come to life. Multiple local churches of varying denominations combine efforts to make the event possible.

In past years, upward of 2,400 people have attended the event. St. Clair said turnout might be a bit low with the pandemic still ongoing, but he expects a solid showing.

'The Chosen' Christmas episode to air in Enterprise

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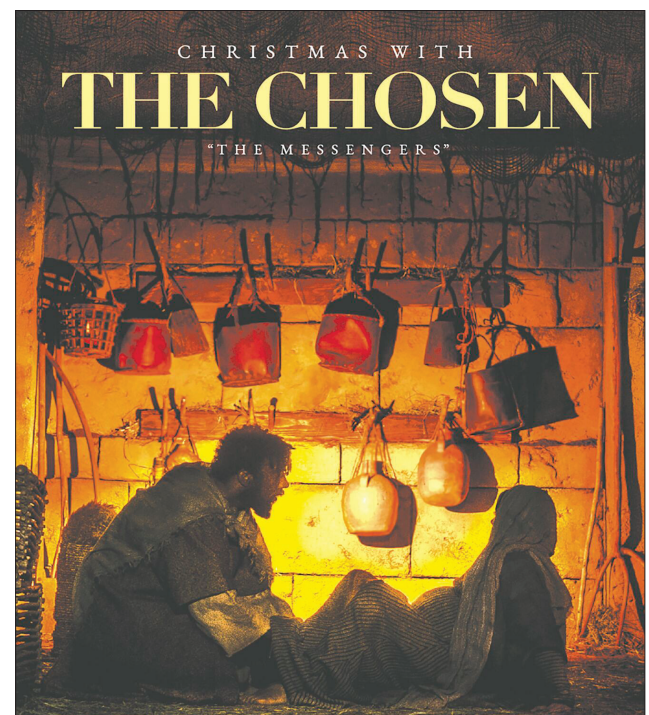
ENTERPRISE — The popular series "The Chosen" — about the life of Jesus Christ — is putting on a special Christmas episode, "The Messengers," that will be shown at the Enterprise Christian Church on Wednesday, Dec. 15, according to a press release.

The episode is playing in theaters in large metropolitan areas, and the producers have made it possible for smaller areas without such cinemas to host showings. ECC has chosen to do so and is inviting all of Wallowa County to attend.

"The Messengers" episode depicts the Christmas Story through the eyes of Mary and Joseph. Through Faith Content Network, the Enterprise church was able to purchase the showing.

"The Messengers" begins at 6:30 p.m., but those attending are urged to get their seats by 6 p.m. Popcorn will be available in the church foyer.

"The Messengers" will include musical performances of new and classic Christmas songs from the set of "The Chosen" by For King & Country, Phil Wickham, Jordan Feliz,



The birth of Christ is portrayed in a special episode of "The Chosen" to be shown Dec. 15, 2021, at the Enterprise Christian Church.

Brandon Lake, Maverick City, Cain, Matt Maher, Bryan and Katie Torwalt, We the Kingdom, The Bonner Family, Leanna Crawford and One Voice Choir.

Also, viewers will hear from cast members about the message of Christmas.

"This is the perfect opportunity to bring friends and family — including those who haven't seen "The Chosen" — for a

unique Christmas experience," the release stated.

Face masks and social distancing will be recommended at the church as part of COVID-19 pandemic precautions.

Cost is \$12.55 for adults and \$10.40 for children. The church expects to be able to host about 200 people. For information contact the Enterprise Christian Church or visit <https://faith-contentnetwork.com>.

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

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 summersvillebaptistchurch.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

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
Sunday 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

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.flmbcagrande.com

Services This Week