

## SPIRITUAL LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

### Bring in the new year with game night, breakfast

LA GRANDE — Faith Lutheran Church will be having a game night Friday, Dec. 31, from 7-9 p.m. Bring your favorite board or table game and snacks. There will be an opportunity for the youth for a sleepover following the games. On Saturday, a New Year's Day breakfast will be served at 9 a.m.

On Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022, the sermon at Faith Lutheran's 10 a.m. service will be drawn from Luke 2:40-52. Verse 40 reads: "The Child (Jesus) grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of the Lord was upon Him." As we grow through childhood to adulthood, we can pursue efforts to be strong and wise. God offers us his wisdom and favor through

### 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).

the ministry of Jesus Christ. After the service will be the First Sunday Potluck, Junior Confirmation and a meeting of the elders.

### Worship service celebrates the coming of the three kings

LA GRANDE — First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will celebrate Epiphany on Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022, in honor of the coming of the three kings to the infant Jesus Christ.

Pastor Arche Hook's message, "Standing on the Promises," comes from James 1:5: "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault." Worship begins at 10 a.m.

### Weekly lesson covers beginning of the world

NORTHEASTERN OREGON — Those who are seeking to develop a better relationship with God are welcome to join any worship services at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Sunday services begin at 9 a.m. and noon at the church buildings on Gekeler Lane in La Grande and McAlister Road in Island City; services are held at the same time on Hughes Lane in Baker City. Services in Union, Elgin, Enterprise, Halfway and

John Day start at 10 a.m. There is also a singles group that meets at 11:30 a.m. in La Grande and another ward that meets at 10:30 a.m. in Baker.

The "Come, Follow Me" lesson for the week of Jan. 3, 2022, is based on Genesis 1-2 (found in the Old Testament) and on Moses 2-3 and Abraham 4-5 (found in the Pearl of Great Price), all of which cover God's creation of humankind and the world we live in.

Members are reminded that wards sharing the same buildings will rotate starting times for their worship services as of Jan. 1.

### Join service in person or virtually

LA GRANDE — St. Peter's Episcopal Church will meet for worship at 11 a.m. Sunday, Jan.

2, 2022. 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 to the church's Facebook page on Jan. 1. That same link can also be used to watch the service at a later time.

### Fellowship time follows service

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church's 9 a.m. service on Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022, will include Holy Communion. Fellowship time will follow. Masks and social distancing are required. The service will also be streamed live to YouTube. The link for that stream will be posted Jan. 1 on Zion's Facebook page and website.

— The Observer

## Lord of all, or not at all



**BILLY HOLLAND**  
LIVING ON PURPOSE

The beginning of a new year is a perfect time to rededicate our commitment to our creator and make new resolutions that bring us peace and joy. So, how do we intensify our awareness of God's presence? Fire in the Bible is often used to describe spiritual adoration for the Lord. A raging blaze within a heart for God describes a stronger faith and excitement, while being lukewarm is related to discouragement, apathy and defeat. Ask him to rekindle your embers.

For those who ponder about the requirements for developing and maintaining a deeper relationship with God, we must consider some vital components — one of the most critical is desire. Ask any business person or athlete about what it takes to accomplish a goal and they will always testify about the importance of vision, perseverance and determination. Likewise, when it comes to drawing nearer to the Lord we must begin with old-fashioned enthusiasm.

The next question is where does this passion come from? Most Christians will agree that Christ draws people to himself — if you are having thoughts about

your spiritual life, this is evidence that you are being stirred by his grace. God created us so that he could have a close personal relationship with us.

An important nugget of wisdom is to know that we can be as close to God as we want. Nothing is preventing

*"An important nugget of wisdom is to know that we can be as close to God as we want. Nothing is preventing us from walking with him except our resistance."*

— Dr. Billy Holland

us from walking with him except our resistance. We've heard the passage in Romans 12:2 that talks about not being conformed to the world but being transformed by the renewing of our mind. We worship the things we love, and until our mind is changed we will not change our behavior. God warns us that in order for anyone to advance with him, we must make him our highest priority.

Living however we want while using God as a backup

plan, in case our arrangements do not work out, is not what God had in mind when he sent his son to the cross to restore us back to him. Whatever the reasons or excuses people make to refuse Christ as their Lord and king, each person will be held accountable for the way they lived. When it comes to choosing what or whom we serve, he is either Lord of all or he is not our Lord at all.

Let's look at some practical actions we can take that will make an immediate improvement in our personal intimacy with God. Before we build we must have a blueprint, and changing your lifestyle will require a fresh agenda. Find a quiet place where you can read a certain portion of the Bible every day. Begin a prayer journal and in this time of meditation, express your deepest thoughts to him, ask him to fill you with his Spirit, and begin to think about others and pray for them. If you desire to go even deeper, you can seek out the power of fasting, which increases your spiritual discernment and proves that you desire to know him more than anything in the world.

*Dr. Holland is a Christian author, outreach minister and community chaplain. To learn more visit [www.billyhollandministries.com](http://www.billyhollandministries.com).*

## COVID-19 Vaccine

### Other vaccine events offered in December:

Location: Center for Human Development

Time: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm every Friday with the exception of New Year's Eve in addition to Christmas Eve.

Additional options: Scheduled appointments available throughout the week.

Vaccines offered: 1st dose, 2nd dose, 3rd doses and booster vaccines. All Covid vaccine configurations will be available including pediatric vaccination. Other pediatric and adult immunizations also available at CHD.

### CDC General Vaccine Info:

COVID-19 vaccines are effective

COVID 19-vaccines are effective and can reduce the risk of getting and spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. Learn more about the different COVID-19 vaccines.

COVID-19 vaccines also help children and adults from getting seriously ill even if they do get COVID-19.

While COVID-19 tends to be milder in children than adults, it can make children very sick, require hospitalization, and some children have even died. Children with underlying medical conditions are more at risk for severe illness compared to children without underlying medical conditions.

Getting children ages 5 years and older vaccinated can help protect them from serious short- and long-term complications.

Getting everyone ages 5 years and older vaccinated can protect families and communities, including friends and family who are not eligible for vaccination and people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

### Booster Information from CDC:

Fast Facts Everyone age 18 and older is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine booster beginning Nov. 20, 2021. Some people are strongly advised get a booster dose to protect themselves and others. You can choose which vaccine to get. The COVID-19 vaccines are extraordinarily effective at preventing serious illness, hospitalization and death. That said, we are seeing immunity drop over time, especially in people over age 50 and those with compromised immune systems who are more likely to experience severe disease, hospitalization and death. For these people, another dose boosts their immunity, sometimes greater than what was achieved after the primary, two-dose series. Health experts strongly recommend people over age 50, people over 18 who live in long-term care facilities, and anyone who received one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine get a booster dose. Younger, healthy people may also get a booster dose to protect themselves and others. A booster will re-build neutralizing antibodies that strengthen the body's ability to fight getting a breakthrough case. Even if you're not at high risk, you could be infected and then pass it on to others, such as children too young to be vaccinated, the elderly, or people who are immunocompromised. Booster doses help people maintain strong immunity to disease longer. The first vaccine series built up the immune system to make the antibodies needed to fight the disease. Over time, the immune response weakens. A booster dose stimulates the initial response and tends to result in higher antibody levels that help people maintain their immunity longer. Boosters take about two weeks to bring up the immune response. This continues to be studied, but we can reliably say it takes two weeks to bring the immune response up to or better than that after the primary series.

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*Your Community*  
www.chdinc.org  
541-962-8800

VISIT US ON THE WEB  
[LaGrandeObserver.com](http://LaGrandeObserver.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](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*