

SPIRITUAL LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

Join Morning Prayer service in person or online

LA GRANDE — St. Peter's Episcopal Church will meet for a service of Morning Prayer on Sunday, Jan. 9, at 11 a.m. Masks and social distancing are required. The service will be streamed live. The link to that stream will be posted to the church's Facebook page on Saturday, Jan. 8, and can also be used to watch the service at a later time.

'Digging Out' is topic of Jan. 9 sermon

LA GRANDE — First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) worships at 10 a.m. each Sunday, with all welcome to join the Lord's table. This Sunday, Jan.

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).

9, Pastor Archie Hook will speak on "Digging Out," with reference to Hebrews 6:11-12: "But we passionately want each of you to demonstrate the same eagerness for the fulfillment of your hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and perseverance inherit the promises."

Service streamed to YouTube

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church will offer in-person worship on Sunday,

Jan. 9, at 9 a.m. Masks and social distancing are required. The service will also be livestreamed to YouTube, and the link for that stream will be posted on Zion's Facebook page and website on Saturday, Jan. 8.

Jan. 9 livestream addresses young adults

NORTHEASTERN OREGON — Members of the congregation will be the speakers for the Sacrament Service at the region's wards of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on

Sunday, Jan. 9. The second hour will be Priesthood and Relief Society meetings.

Elder Ronald A. Rasband, of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, will speak to young adults via livestream on Jan. 9 at 4 p.m. He will be joined by his wife, Melanie T. Rasband, and Elder Clark G. Gilbert, General Authority Seventy, and his wife, Christine C. Gilbert.

The livestream can be viewed YouTube or on the church's live broadcast page in English or ASL.

The "Come, Follow Me" lesson for the week of Jan. 10 is based on Genesis 3-4 and Moses 4-5 (found in the Pearl of Great Price). These chapters cover the fall of Adam and Eve with the chapters in Moses providing further insight into how the fall affects, and blesses, each of us.

God revealed himself in Jesus' baptism

LA GRANDE — Thursday, Jan. 6, is the Twelfth Day of Christmas, called Epiphany. Epiphany is a time that follows Christmas to celebrate that God provides us with epiphanies (manifestations) in which Christ reveals himself.

The sermon at Faith Lutheran Church on Sunday, Jan. 9, will expound on God revealing himself through Jesus' baptism in the bold John the Baptist, drawn from Luke 3:15-22.

The reading will be Matthew 2:1-12, which tells of the Magi visiting the Holy Family.

Koinonia, Faith Lutheran's women's group, will meet on Saturday, Jan. 8.

— The Observer

The only wrong way to serve is to do nothing



ROBERTA SMYTHE
WALKING WITH THE SHEPHERD

We must run with patience the race that has been set before us.

That's from Paul, in his letter to the Hebrews. It's a fitting description of where we are regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are currently facing the impact of the latest COVID variant, omicron. So far, it appears that this variant is more contagious, but perhaps less serious, than previous variants. Case counts and hospitalizations continue to rise in our state and around the country.

As a pastor, I think a lot about whether my congregations may need to adjust their worship practices due to this latest variant. Other pastors are likely doing the same, though we may reach different decisions.

You see, Christian leaders are not in agreement on how to best operate during this pandemic, nor are we in agreement on other matters. Even within a given denomination, or a given congregation, there are differences of opinion. In my congregations, I have those who will not return to in-person worship while COVID is so prevalent. I also have those who won't come to worship if they have to wear a mask.

We do a disservice to any religion, any belief system, when we assume all followers are the same.

This is also true of political beliefs. It may be easier to assume that all members of a political party are the same, but they're not. Even those with the same opinion on a candidate or policy may think that way for different reasons.

The same is true of Christians. We all believe in Jesus as Son of God, crucified and risen from the dead for our sake. But that may be the extent of our agreement.

My belief is that God has called us to proclaim the good news: that Jesus came to forgive us and show us God's love for all. My duty as a Christian (not just as a pastor), is to tell how following Jesus has made a difference in my life. But it is not my job to force someone to believe the way I do. So I share my beliefs, my story. It is then up to God to work in the heart of that person in order to do what God has in mind for them.

I also believe that God wants us to care for one another, to be God's hands and feet in this world. How each of us carries out that mission will vary. Some may serve as pastors or lay leaders in the church. Some may serve in community service professions. Some may serve through political action. Some may serve by volunteering time or money to causes that help those in need.

The only wrong way to serve is to do nothing.

Roberta Smythe is the pastor of La Grande's Zion Lutheran and St. Peter's Episcopal churches.

Desmond Tutu, South Africa's moral conscience, dies at 90

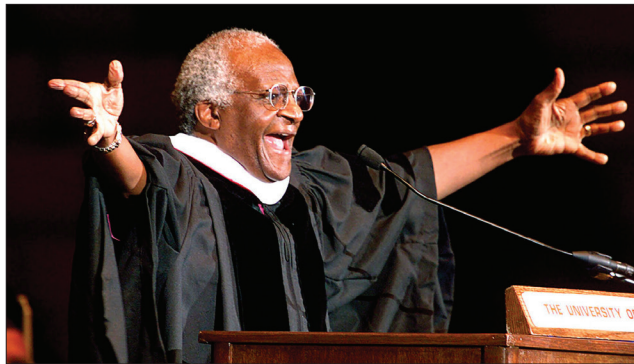
By ANDREW MELDRUM

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — Desmond Tutu, South Africa's Nobel Peace Prize-winning icon, an uncompromising foe of apartheid and a modern-day activist for racial justice and LGBT rights, died Sunday, Dec. 26, 2021, at 90. South Africans, world leaders and people around the globe mourned the death of the man viewed as the country's moral conscience.

Tutu worked passionately, tirelessly and non-violently to tear down apartheid — South Africa's brutal, decades-long regime of oppression against its Black majority that ended only in 1994.

The buoyant, blunt-



J. Pat Carter/Associated Press

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu addresses University of Oklahoma graduates at a ceremony after he received an honorary degree, on Tuesday, April 25, 2000, in Norman, Oklahoma.

spoken clergyman used his pulpit as the first Black bishop of Johannesburg and later as the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, as well as frequent public demonstrations, to galvanize public opinion against racial inequity, both at

home and globally.

Nicknamed "the Arch," the diminutive Tutu became a towering figure in his nation's history, comparable to fellow Nobel laureate Nelson Mandela, a prisoner during white rule who became South Afri-

ca's first Black president. Tutu and Mandela shared a commitment to building a better, more equal South Africa.

Upon becoming president in 1994, Mandela appointed Tutu to be chairman of the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which uncovered the abuses of apartheid.

Former U.S. President Barack Obama hailed Tutu as "a moral compass for me and so many others. A universal spirit, Archbishop Tutu was grounded in the struggle for liberation and justice in his own country, but also concerned with injustice everywhere. He never lost his impish sense of humor and willingness to find humanity in his adversaries."

COVID-19 outpatient infusions are not all the same



- ◆ **Grande Ronde Hospital** is the only provider in Union County that offers our community Monoclonal Antibody Treatments.
- ◆ Monoclonal Antibody Treatments are the best outpatient treatments if diagnosed with COVID-19.
- ◆ Monoclonal Antibody Treatments have been shown to dramatically reduce your risk of both hospitalization or death from COVID-19.

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With ten private, but light-filled infusion rooms, the view is yours to enjoy, or slide the glass partition closed to privately relax in comfort while we care for you.

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grh.org/infusion

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 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

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

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
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www.flmbclagrande.com

Services This Week