

SPIRITUAL LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

Broadcast addresses senior missions

NORTHEASTERN OREGON — Members of the congregation will be speaking during Sacrament Services at the region's Churches of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Sunday, Jan. 23, and the second hour will be Priesthood and Relief Society meetings.

Also on Jan. 23, at 5 p.m. (PST) there will be a special regional broadcast for all senior members of the church with interest in serving a mission. Elder Gifford Nielson will preside and be joined by several area leaders. The link to this broadcast is www.churchofjesuschrist.org/broadcasts/languages/nac-senior-missionary-devotional/2022/01.

The "Come, Follow Me" lesson

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).

for the week of Jan. 24 is based on Moses chapter 7, which is a continuation of the record of Enoch, who is listed in Adam's posterity in Genesis as one who "walked with God" (Genesis 5:22, 24). This is a record of how God's followers successfully built Zion by becoming "of one heart and one mind ... and there was no poor among them" (Moses 7:18).

Join worship service in person or online

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church will offer in-person and online worship on

Sunday, Jan. 23, at 9 a.m. Masks and social distancing are required. The service will be livestreamed to YouTube. The link for that stream will be posted on Zion's Facebook page and website on Saturday, Jan. 22.

Recorded service may be viewed at any time

LA GRANDE — St. Peter's Episcopal Church will meet for worship on Sunday, Jan. 23, at 11 a.m. Masks and social distancing are required. The service will be streamed live and recorded for viewing at a later

time. The link will be posted to the church's Facebook page on Saturday, Jan. 22.

Message drawn from Psalm 37

LA GRANDE — First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meets at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 23. Pastor Archie Hook's message will raise the question, "What Are Your Heart's Desires?" He will speak from Psalm 37:3-6: "Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture" (v. 3).

Jesus is the fulfillment of scripture

LA GRANDE, ENTERPRISE — The sermon at Faith Lutheran Church on Sunday, Jan. 23, will examine Jesus as the fulfillment

of scripture, drawn from Luke 4:16-30. In these verses Jesus is handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah when he was in the house of worship on the appointed day, as was his custom. Jesus read a section of Isaiah and proclaimed, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" (vs. 21). There will be a worship service in La Grande at 10 a.m. and in Enterprise at 2 p.m.

This Sunday is Lutherans for Life Sunday. Lutherans for Life equips Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices for life.

SHINE Preschool, of Faith Lutheran Church, is recognizing Lutheran Schools' Week, January 24-28. SHINE Preschool is one of 1,885 schools of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

— The Observer

Rachel Center provides help and healing

By LISA BRITTON
Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — Vera Grove expected to see an increase in people seeking help at the Rachel Pregnancy Center as the pandemic continued to affect everyday life.

It didn't happen. "It has affected our traffic — it's way down," she said.

Grove is the director of the Rachel Center in Baker City, which offers support for those experiencing an unplanned pregnancy and help for families in need.

The center's mission is "to offer hope, help and healing through the love of Christ to hurting women and men in difficult situations."

Grove attributes the decrease in clients to expanded government benefits over the last year or so. Those are ending, though, and she expects to see more visitors to the center in the coming months.

"We think we'll see an increase in people with needs," she said.

The center, at 2192 Court St., is open Tuesday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is closed from noon to 1 p.m. for lunch.

Resources for pregnancy help including tests, a referral for a free ultrasound, pregnancy options, adoption referrals and maternity clothes.

For parents, the center provides "encouragement and counseling," baby clothes up to size 3, baby furniture, diapers and formula, and referrals for other assistance.

Classes are offered too, on topics including prenatal, infant care, relationships, money management and more.

Grove said a program called "Earn While You Learn" allows participants to earn Baby Bucks, which can be redeemed in a special area of the center.

Those who are unable to attend in person can still access the center's offerings with educational lessons by email and Zoom meetings.

The Rachel Center is a non-profit organization, and depends



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Vera Grove, director of the Rachel Pregnancy Center in Baker City, organizes clothing on Jan. 18, 2022. The center provides help for those experiencing an unexpected pregnancy and offers counseling, parenting classes, baby clothes, diapers and more.

MORE INFORMATION

WHAT: Rachel Pregnancy Center
WHERE: 2192 Court St., Baker City
WHEN: 10 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
DONATIONS NEEDED: Maternity clothes, winter clothes, toiletries. Checks can be mailed to P.O. Box 1086, Baker City, 97814
CONTACT THE CENTER: Call 541-523-5357, check the Facebook page or email rpc.director1@gmail.com.

on local contributions and grants. "Everything is donated," Grove said.

In addition to donated items, she said monetary gifts help buy diapers, formula, and other items.

This weekend, the center is observing "Sanctity of Human Life Sunday" on Jan. 23. Grove said bulletin inserts are provided to local churches with information about the center, and the help it provides.

The Sunday observation dates to 1984, when President Ronald Reagan issued a proclamation designating Jan. 22 as the first

National Sanctity of Human Life Day.

"It's a reminder of life, and that life is important to God," Grove said.

Center needs

Grove said the center has limited storage, but is accepting maternity and winter clothes. Baby furniture is welcome, but call ahead first.

Other needed items include diapers, wipes and toiletries such as shampoo, body wash and toothpaste.

"Prior to COVID we gave out quite a bit of that stuff," Grove said of the personal care items.

Monetary donations can be mailed to PO Box 1086, Baker City 97814.

Also, the center's annual Baby Bottle Fundraiser will again run from Mother's Day to Father's Day.

For more information, call the center at 541-523-5357, check the Facebook page or email Grove at rpc.director1@gmail.com.

Resolve to repent



LAURA ELLY HUDSON
BELIEVING AND BECOMING

Did you make a resolution for the new year? Three weeks into January, how is it going?

There's something about turning that calendar page that energizes me. I make plans to adopt or let go of attitudes habits, or behaviors, whatever I imagine will improve my physical, emotional or spiritual well-being.

However, by the third week of January, my initial enthusiasm often fizzles out. Firm resolve has turned into doubt. Maybe my old habits weren't as bad as I thought. After all, how possible is it, really, for human beings to change ourselves?

I know I'm not alone in my wavering. This January, I've seen numerous social media posts from people who are giving up on New Year's resolutions. Maybe after nearly two years of pandemic adaptations, we're all a little tired of change.

But perhaps there's more than change-fatigue behind the skepticism. While the concept of a New Year's resolution fits the Western ideal of individual self-determination, as psychologists and social scientists have discovered — and as the world's spiritual teachers have long known — there is a big gap between this ideal and the reality of human nature.

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," writes the Apostle Paul (Romans 3:21). "Sin" — which simply means "missing the mark" — describes the greatest obstacle we face in making change. Beyond an individual's choice to engage in problem behaviors, this word also points to the truth that human beings are entangled in systems of relation-

ships that can and do trigger us to enact behaviors we would never intentionally choose. Remembering Martin Luther King Jr. this month reminds us of the struggle to end the systems of racism.

Does the problem of sin mean it's impossible to change? Christian tradition holds a tension about this question. Human beings can certainly recognize our need for change, and we can be willing to "turn around." That is the literal meaning of the word "repent." If you don't like where your life is heading, you can turn around and go a different direction.

Yet we must also recognize that repentance is not a once-and-for-all decision, because the internal and external obstacles of sin will hinder us. That's why true and lasting transformation requires more than repentance. We also need forgiveness, so that when we make a mistake or fail to follow through on a decision to change, we are not stuck in failure.

Forgiveness allows a second chance — and a third, fourth, fifth, and more! When you have a sincere desire to change, divine grace provides as many new beginnings as you need to learn a different way of life in alignment with God's way.

So, rather than seeing your New Year's resolutions as all-or-nothing and giving up at the first hint of failure, consider resolving to repent, again and again. Turn back around as many times as it takes. And trust that your desire to change will be met with grace so that you can stay the course toward life filled with hope, peace, joy and love.

Laura Elly Hudson is co-pastor of the La Grande First Presbyterian Church. You can find her at www.lauraellyhudson.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
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
"Where you can find TRUTH according to the scriptures"
www.flmbclagrande.com

Services This Week