

SPIRITUAL LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

Sermon series explores transformation

ENTERPRISE — Enterprise Community Congregational Church, also known as the “Big Brown Church,” welcomes Interim Pastor Rev. Dr. Craig Pesti-Strobel, who is leading a sermon series about living and loving like Jesus. Pastor Craig’s Sunday sermon on Sunday, Feb. 6, will be “New Direction” and explore the first step to transformation, based on Scripture found in Mark and Isaiah. Worship is at 11 a.m., and Bible study is held at 9:30 a.m.

Recorded service may be viewed at any time

LA GRANDE — St. Peter’s Episcopal Church will meet for Holy Eucharist on Sunday, Feb. 6, at 11 a.m., followed by a time of fellowship. Masks and social distancing are required. The service will be streamed live and recorded for viewing at a later time. The

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).

link will be posted to the church’s Facebook page Saturday, Feb. 5.

Taking Jesus at his ‘Word’ yields amazing results

LA GRANDE — The sermon at Faith Lutheran Church on Sunday, Feb. 6, will expound on Luke 5:1-11, in which Jesus is calling some fishermen to follow him. The fishermen had been working hard and caught nothing. Jesus had been speaking the Word of God to them, and he told them to “put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch” (v. 4). Simon Peter responded, “But at Your Word I will let down the nets” (v. 5), and they then caught so many fish that their nets began to break. Taking Jesus at his “Word” has amazing results.

Following the Divine service will be the First Sunday Potluck and then the monthly elders’ meeting.

Members encouraged to fast and donate

NORTHEASTERN OREGON — Feb. 6 is Fast Sunday for members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Members are encouraged to fast for two meals and to donate the resulting savings to the Church for the support of the less fortunate. During the Sacrament Services members of the congregation will be sharing testimonies. Those who wish to support the people of Tonga impacted by the volcanic eruption may also choose to donate to the Church’s humanitarian fund.

The “Come, Follow Me” lesson for the week of Feb. 7 will be based on Genesis 12-17 and Abraham 1-2. The focus will be the Abrahamic Covenant and what it means to each of us. The Book of Abraham, which contain Abraham’s writing that were translated by Joseph Smith, provides information on his life and this covenant.

Worship service streamed to YouTube

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church will offer in-person and online worship on Sunday, Feb. 6, 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, Feb. 5.

What does spirituality mean to you?

LA GRANDE — The

Observer welcomes thoughts and comments from community members on spiritual matters. If you would like to share how you experience spirituality, email news@lagrandeobserver.com or call 541-963-3161. Ongoing monthly columns and one-time submissions will be considered. Columns are generally 500-600 words and include a photo of the writer.

‘Seek and you will find’ will be theme of sermon

LA GRANDE — Pastor Archie Hook’s message will be “Keep on Asking” at the La Grande First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on Sunday, Feb. 6. He will reflect on Luke 11:9-10: “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” Worship begins at 10 a.m. and masks are required.

— The Observer

Scientific advances — including vaccines — are gifts from God



ROBERTA SMYTHE
WALKING WITH THE SHEPHERD

Last week was NASA’s Day of Remembrance, honoring those who lost their lives in the space program. It included the astronauts killed in the Apollo 1 fire and those who lost their lives in the Challenger and Columbia Shuttle accidents.

I don’t remember the Apollo 1 fire, but I very clearly remember when Challenger exploded. I also remember that in

the days following the explosion, there was an interview with James A. Michener, author of “Space.” In that novel (spoiler alert), Michener added an 18th Apollo mission, which ended in disaster. In light of the actual disaster with Challenger, Michener was asked why he had added a disaster in telling the story of space exploration. Michener responded it was because there should have been more disasters in the space program, given what we were trying to do, and how risky it was. The space program had been unbelievably

lucky up until Challenger.

Science can be like that. Although there may be setbacks, and times when experiments and medical treatments don’t work out as hoped, we are beneficiaries of a long line of ultimately successful scientific advances, including the field of medicine. We have eradicated many diseases, like smallpox, and have treatments for many more, like HIV. There are organ transplants, heart valve replacements and bypass procedures. There are medicines to help treat blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes and mental

illnesses. I consider all of these to be modern miracles. Though they may have been created with human minds and hands, they are no less miraculous, no less gifts from God.

There are also vaccines. There are the tried and true vaccines for polio, measles, mumps, diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. All have dramatically improved our quality and longevity of life. And there are the newest vaccines, for COVID-19. Given the swift spread of COVID-19, I consider the development of an effective

vaccine in just a year to also be a God-given miracle.

I know there are those who question whether a vaccine developed so quickly can be safe, and yet we now have nearly 18 months of data on the use of these vaccines, with relatively few adverse reactions. I also know that there are those who doubt their effectiveness, given the breakthrough cases, especially with omicron. Yet again, the data shows that those who are vaccinated have milder cases, and the majority of those requiring hospitalization are those who haven’t

been vaccinated.

My faith in modern medicine is not blind, uninformed acceptance. I expect there to be documented and repeatable data on the safety and effectiveness of medicines and medical procedures.

And my faith in modern medicine is not at odds with my faith in God. God can and does work through human beings, including doctors, researchers and other scientists.

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

Actress playing Tammy Faye Bakker revises judgment on character

By Celebretainment

Jessica Chastain felt guilty for judging Tammy Faye Bakker before playing her on screen.

The 44-year-old actress portrays the late televangelist in the new movie “The Eyes of Tammy Faye” and believes it was a way to atone for her “harsh” views of her alter ego when she was younger.

Chastain said of Tammy Faye: “I didn’t watch religious television, but I knew she was silly and easy to make fun of. She was on the cover of tabloid magazines, so I thought she must be a terrible person.”

The “Molly’s Game” actress explained that her opinion on Tammy Faye

changed after she had watched a documentary about her life — which served as inspiration for the film.

Tammy Faye’s marriage to her husband, Jim Bakker (played by Andrew Garfield in the flick), fell apart after he was convicted of fraud but Chastain feels that her character was harshly treated for his mistakes due to her looks.

She explained: “Her husband made some mistakes — and Tammy was

vilified for it. But really, it was because of her appearance. Women have been commodified in society. So much is about physical appearance and that’s how women have been judged.

“People would look at her and go: ‘She’s the kid from a broken family.’ That’s how it was. She knew what it was like to be unloved and unwelcome. Her thought was to connect and reach out to strangers, because she believes in God’s good grace.”

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<p>COVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1708 Jasper St., Cove, OR</p> <p>NORTH POWDER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 390 E. St., North Powder, OR</p> <p>JOIN US... <i>Catch the Spirit!</i> Worship: 9:00 a.m. Cove Worship: 10:00 a.m. N. Powder</p>	<p>First Christian Church <i>(Disciples of Christ)</i></p> <p>901 Penn Avenue 963-2623 lgdisciples@gmail.com</p> <p>Worship 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>~Join us at The Lord’s Table~</p>	<p>GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH</p> <p><i>The Place</i> 62848 Philynda Loop in Island City <i>“We are called to Serve”</i></p> <p>Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 am Sunday Worship 10:00 am</p> <p>Phone: 541-568-4230 grace.lutherancove@gmail.com</p>	<p>IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH</p> <p>440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201 www.imblercce@gmail.com</p> <p>Sunday Services 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service</p>		
<p>SUMMERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH</p> <p>Sunday Services: Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes 9:45AM Children’s Church & Worship Service 11:00AM Family Worship Service 6:00PM</p> <p>Wednesday: Prayer Mtg., Children’s Bible Club, Youth Group 7:00PM</p> <p>A church for your whole family Visit us at summervillebaptistchurch.org</p>	<p>LA GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</p> <p><i>“OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS”</i></p> <p>1612 4th Street – 963-2498</p> <p>Pastor Taylor Gould</p> <p>For service information go to www.lagrandeumc.org</p>	<p>LaGrande CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p>109 18th Street • 963-3402</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church <i>A Place where hope is found in Jesus</i> Join us in Fellowship & Worship Saturday all age classes 9:30 am Saturday Worship 11:00 am</p> <p>2702 Adams Avenue, La Grande 963-4018 lagrandeor.adventistchurch.org</p> <p><i>Learning for Today and Eternity</i> Little Friends Christian Preschool/Childcare 963-6390 La Grande Adventist Christian School K-8th Grade 963-6203</p>	<p>FIRST LANDMARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH</p> <p>1812 1st St. La Grande Pastor Dave Tierce • 541-605-0215 <i>We use the King James Version Bible</i></p> <p>Sunday School - 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Sunday Evening Bible Study - 3:00 pm (Effective June 10) Wednesday Evening - 6:30 pm <i>“Where you can find TRUTH according to the scriptures”</i> www.flmbclagrande.com</p>	<p><i>Services This Week</i></p>