

SPIRITUAL LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

Free concert features Jon Nilsen on Friday, Aug. 12

ENTERPRISE — The Enterprise Community Congregational Church is hosting a free John Nilsen concert on Friday, Aug. 12, at 7 p.m. Nilsen is a pianist, guitarist, vocalist and composer. Because his father was a rural minister, he has a passion for rural churches and enjoys playing for their small congregations.

Nilsen was born in Seattle and raised in Portland. He began studying classical piano at the age of 6 and recorded his first collection of original piano solos, "Sea of Inspiration," in 1983 with Eagle Records in Los Angeles.

Nilsen will play a variety of music, including church hymns, in the church sanctuary. The concert is open to the community and all are welcome to attend. The church has a ramp for wheelchair access.

Sunday service will be streamed and recorded

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran meets for worship on Sunday, Aug. 14, at 9 a.m. The sermon, based on Jeremiah 23:23-29 and Luke 12:49-56, is titled "Fire!" Holy Communion will be served. Fellowship time will follow the service.

The service will be streamed live and will be available later. The link for those will be posted to Zion's Facebook page and website on Saturday, Aug. 13.

His word is like fire, purifying and strengthening

NORTHEASTERN OREGON — This Sunday, Aug. 14, Faith Lutheran Church in La Grande at 10 a.m. will have a Matins service (a morning service with a lot of singing) and a Divine service in Enterprise at 2 p.m. The text used will be from Luke 12:49-53, in which Jesus says, "I came to cast fire on the earth," referring to the refining fire through his word. A refining fire purifies and strengthens. In the Old Testament reading, the Prophet Jeremiah wrote, "Is not My Word like fire, declares the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?" (Jeremiah 23:29).

Weekly lessons available on Gospel Library app

NORTHEASTERN OREGON — The youth and adult leaders of the La Grande Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints participated in a pioneer trek



Contributed Photo

John Nilsen, a pianist, guitarist, vocalist and composer, will be performing a free concert at the Enterprise Community Congregational Church on Friday, Aug. 12, at 7 p.m.

SUBMISSIONS

Churches and faith-based groups are encouraged to submit Highlights for the Spiritual Life page by noon Tuesday for publication Thursday. Submit by email to news@lagrandeobserver.com (with Highlights in the subject line).

this week in Wyoming, pulling handcards and celebrating the church's pioneer heritage.

Members of the congregation will speak during Sacrament services on Sunday, Aug. 14, with Relief Society, youth group and Priesthood meetings during the second hour.

The "Come, Follow Me" lesson for the week of Aug. 15 is based on select chapters from Psalms. Lessons will focus on where to turn when facing the struggles of this life and about our Savior's infinite mercy. For lesson details, download the free Gospel Library mobile app or visit the church website.

Message is drawn from Psalm 100

LA GRANDE — First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will worship on Sunday, Aug. 14, at 10:30 a.m. Pastor Archie Hook's message challenges us to "Shout for Joy!" He will reference Psalm 100:1-5, which in part states: "Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness."

Morning prayer services at the lake open to all

WALLOWA LAKE VILLAGE — The Wallowa Lake Chapel announced that all are welcome to "worship in the beauty of God's holiness" each Sunday in July and August at 8 a.m. The

chapel is at the Wallowa County Park on the north end of Wallowa Lake. Morning prayer services are led by members of the Wallowa County Ecumenical Ministry Society.

Celebrate a century of United Methodist Wallowa Lake Camp

WALLOWA LAKE — United Methodist Wallowa Lake Camp will celebrate its century mark Aug. 19-20 with "100 Years Around the Campfire," an event for everyone to visit and experience the camp. On Friday, Aug. 19, at 7 p.m., there will be a free dulcimer concert. The next day, beginning at 1 p.m., will include tours of the camp, history, crafts, singing, a camp store, refreshments, silent and

live auctions, a dinner and a campfire. Come for the day, spend the night or stay for the weekend. For more information, contact directors David and Peggy Lovegren at 541-432-1271 or wallowalakecamp@gmail.com or visit www.wallowalake.gocamping.org.

Pendleton church hosts weekly outdoor song circle

PENDLETON — On Tuesday evenings, Peace Lutheran Church is holding an outdoor song circle at 6 p.m. in the church's outdoor courtyard, accessible from Carden between Eighth and Ninth streets. This gathering is for anyone who would like to sing. People of any faith and background are welcome to join, and are asked to bring a lawn chair.

The Observer seeks local spirituality content

LA GRANDE — The Observer welcomes announcements and photographs of local faith-based events and activities for inclusion on the Spiritual Life page. We also invite thoughts and comments from community members on spiritual matters. If you would like to share how you experience spirituality, email lkelly@lagrandeobserver.com or leave a message at 541-624-6019. Ongoing monthly columns and one-time submissions will be considered. Columns are generally 500-600 words and include a photo of the writer.

— The Observer

We are called to see the value in people



ROBERTA SMYTHE
OTHER VIEWS

I just returned from nine days in Germany, and there were many things that were different over there. Of course, I knew there would be a different language, different money, different food, etc. What I wasn't expecting were other, smaller differences.

For instance, only one of the seven hotels we stayed in provided washcloths. All provided hand and bath towels, but no washcloths. A little thing, but unexpected, and something I wasn't prepared for. Another difference at most of the hotels was no little hand soaps, nor small bottles of shampoo and conditioner. Rather there were attached to the shower wall in each hotel, a single bottle of "hand, body and hair wash." (Fortunately, I had brought my own little bottles of hair products from previous hotel stays here in the U.S.) Another surprise at the hotels: no ice machines, and few had vending machines.

Of course, there were also positive surprises. My favorite was fresh vegetables at breakfast. There were always wedges or slices of fresh tomatoes and sliced cucumbers, and usually slices of bell peppers. Another food difference that I found odd was the bratwurst from food carts on the streets: The brats were about a foot long, but the bun was more like a dinner roll, so there was more sticking out of the bun

than in it. (And you thought it odd that our hot dogs come in packages of 10 and buns in packages of eight.)

The little differences taught me a lot about my own habits and presumptions that I'm not usually aware of on a regular basis — until they weren't met. I think those kinds of subconscious expectations can also happen in our own country, in our own society. We tend to assume that we all share most of the same expectations, habits, behaviors, etc. And we are surprised when others don't have or follow the same behaviors we do. We may even judge them for not being "normal." This might be someone different in appearance: differently colored or styled hair, different clothing styles, lots of visible piercings and/or tattoos, etc. Or someone who behaves differently. Or someone who lives differently. Or those needing help with food, clothing or shelter for themselves and their families.

We are each unique, each created differently from one another. That is something to be celebrated, not forced into conformity. We are also each on different journeys through life and have or will face different challenges along the way. Most of us are doing the best we can with the hand we've been dealt. It is not ours to judge how another is handling life. Rather we are called to see the value in each human being, and to help those who may need it.

■ Roberta Smythe is the pastor of La Grande's Zion Lutheran and United Methodist churches.

Attention Union County 4th-12th graders!



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FRIDAY 8-19-22

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WEDNESDAY 8-3-22

MONDAY 8-8-22

WEDNESDAY 8-17-22

GRH Union Clinic

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WEDNESDAY 8-10-22

WEDNESDAY 9-21-22

GRH Elgin Clinic

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THURSDAY 8-11-22

FRIDAY 9-9-22

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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

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

~Join us at The Lord's Table~

IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH

440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201
www.imblerccc@gmail.com

Sunday Services
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Place
62848 Phylinda 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

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 Roberta Smythe

For service information go to
www.lagrandeumc.org

LaGrande CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

109 18th Street • 963-3402

Sunday School 9:30 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

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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
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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Services
This
Week