

SPIRITUAL LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

Group continues study of book of John

LA GRANDE — St. Peter's Episcopal Church on Sunday, Sept. 4, will celebrate Communion with Katy Anderson at 10 a.m. Bible study is held in the church library after the worship service. The group is studying the book of John, with emphasis this week on John 6:1-25.

Worship service will be streamed live and recorded

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church meets for worship Sunday, Sept. 4, at 9 a.m. The sermon is based on Deuteronomy 30:15-20 and Luke 14:25-33, and is titled "Choosing Life." Holy Communion will be served, and a time of fellowship will

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).

follow the service.

The service will be streamed live on Sunday and also will be available for viewing later. The link for those will be posted to Zion's Facebook page and website on Sept. 3.

Sept. 4 is 'fast Sunday'

NORTHEASTERN OREGON — All members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are encouraged to fast for two

meals on Sunday, Sept. 4, and to donate the value of those meals to the church to help the less fortunate, both locally and throughout the world.

Testimonies will be shared during Sunday's Sacrament service (and other meetings) by members of the congregation who choose to do so. Sunday school lessons will be taught during the second hour of services with lessons based on the "Come, Follow Me" curriculum studied the prior two weeks.

The "Come, Follow Me" lesson for the week of Sept. 5 is based on Isaiah chapters 1-12 and his prophecies about Jesus Christ and the work to come in the latter days.

The carpets in buildings throughout the stake are being

cleaned during the next week. Members are asked to check the calendar before planning or holding activities in their local church building.

Junior confirmation begins this week

LA GRANDE — The sermon at Faith Lutheran Church's 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Sept. 4, will focus on the costs of discipleship and Jesus' emphasis that no one or no thing should come before God. The Bible text used will be Luke 14:25-35.

Junior confirmation at Faith Lutheran begins this week. The students will recite the books of the Bible and review last year's lessons. They will also begin studying the Ten Commandments.

Observer seeking 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 up to 600 words and include a photo and bio of the writer.

—The Observer

It is time to go back to school and back to church



LEO SMITH
TAKING STOCK

I have always thought of Labor Day as the beginning of the new year. School starts but also work picks up after vacations, long weekends of camping or fishing. Summer for me is a time for lazy afternoons. You just

naturally slow down.

We see the same thing at church. Attendance falls each summer. I get it, there is a lot you want to do while the weather is nice — and let's face it, I'd rather be standing on a riverbank fishing than sitting on a pew in a hot stuffy church building.

I know what people say: "I don't need to be in church to feel close to God. He's standing right next to me while I fish." That's

true, but it's not worship. You're not giving your time to God. You're just letting God hang out with you.

Worship refreshes and renews the spirit. It allows you to interact with God and fellow believers. You are reaching out to God, and he is reaching out to you. In worship there is grace and forgiveness, singing of hymns. The word is read and preached, you announce your faith in the creed.

You receive Christ himself in Holy Communion.

Worship is also important in the family. Many of society's problems — violence, crime and drug abuse — stem from the lack of God in the family. Church teaches us how to treat and care for others, how to be kind and loving. It also instructs you how to socialize with people who may have different opinions and lifestyles than you.

Church is important to you and your family, and it's important for this country.

■ Leo Smith, of Elgin, is a graduate of Imbler High School and Eastern Oregon University. After retiring from a 30-year career as a stockbroker, he returned to Eastern Oregon and currently is serving as the council president of La Grande's Zion Lutheran Church.

www.lagrandeobserver.com

WORDS OF THE BUDDHA

With good will for the entire cosmos, cultivate a limitless heart: Above, below, and all around, unobstructed, without hostility or hate.

—Sutta Nipata 1.150

Know this, O good one: Evil things are difficult to control. Let not greed and wickedness drag you to protracted misery.

—Dhammapada 18.248

To have much wealth and ample gold and food, but to enjoy one's luxuries alone — this is a cause of one's downfall.

—Sutta Nipata 1.102

One has broken the cycle, attained freedom from desire. The dried-up stream no longer flows. The cycle, broken, no longer turns. This, just this, is the end of misery.

—Udana 7.62

—www.pariyatti.org

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Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches

 <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><i>First Christian Church</i> First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 901 Penn Avenue 963-2623 lgdisciples@gmail.com</p> <p>Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>~Join us at The Lord's Table~</p>	<p>IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH</p> <p>440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201 www.imblerccc@gmail.com</p> <p>Sunday Services 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service</p>	<p>GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH <i>The Place where hope is found in Jesus</i> 62848 Phylinda 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>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>"OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS"</p> <p>1612 4th Street - 963-2498</p> <p>Pastor Roberta Smythe</p> <p>For service information go to www.lagrandeumc.org</p>	 <p>LA GRANDE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p>109 18th Street • 963-3402</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 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 lagrande.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>



Services This Week