

AP POLL

Few Catholics know pope's climate views

NEW YORK (AP) — A new survey has found fewer than half of U.S. Roman Catholics said they knew of Pope Francis' bombshell encyclical on curbing climate change — and only a fraction of those heard about it from the pulpit — in the month after he released the document with an unprecedented call for the church to take up his message. Forty percent of American Catholics and 31 percent of all adults said they were aware of the encyclical, according to the poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and Yale University. Among Catholics who knew about the document, just 23 percent said they heard about it at Mass.

The survey, conducted July 17-19, provides an early measure of the impact of the encyclical in the U.S., where Francis is expected to press his teaching on the environment in his first visit to the country next month.

The U.S. is home to some of the staunchest objectors to mainstream science on climate change and to government intervention aimed at easing global warming, along with a segment of Catholics who think the pope should be talking far more about marriage and abortion than the environment.

In the encyclical, released June 18, Francis called global warming a largely manmade problem driven by overconsumption, a "structurally perverse" world economic system and an unfettered

pursuit of profit that exploited the poor and risked turning the Earth into an "immense pile of filth." He urged people of all faiths and no faith to save God's creation for future generations.

Environmental advocates hoped the encyclical would transform public discussion of climate change from a scientific to a moral issue. But Catholics in the survey were not significantly more likely than Americans in general to think of global warming in moral terms. Just 43 percent of Catholics and 39 percent of all adults said they considered global warming a moral issue. A very small percentage viewed climate change as having a connection to religion or poverty.

"That's unfortunate," said Dan Misleh, executive director of the Catholic Climate Covenant, which works closely with the U.S. bishops on environmental protection and has distributed model sermons and parish bulletin inserts on the encyclical. "There's a clear human impact. That's going to be our challenge — to explain that this environmental question is really a human thriving question."

The document had a rollout unlike any other. The encyclical was introduced at the Vatican by a secular climate scientist and a top Orthodox Christian leader, with simultaneous news conferences by Catholic leaders in many countries and the chiming of church bells for emphasis.

Mormon women named to 3 councils previously reserved for men

By BRADY MCCOMBS
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — The Mormon church for the first time has appointed women to three high-level church councils previously reserved only for men — a move scholars and Latter-day Saint feminists say marks a small, but noteworthy step in an ongoing push to increase visibility and prominence of women in the faith.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced the appointments Tuesday evening of three high-ranking women to committees that make key policy decisions for a faith of 15 million worldwide members.

The women are: Linda K. Burton, president of the faith's largest organization for women called the Relief Society; Rosemary Wixom, president a branch dedicated to teaching children called General Primary; and Bonnie L. Oscarson, who leads the Young Women's organization.

Mormon leader Dallin H. Oaks, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, said in a statement that he is pleased the councils will have the women's wisdom and participation.

Jan Shippy, a retired religion professor from Indiana who is a non-Mormon expert on the church, called it an important change that was likely a response to pressure being applied in recent years

by feminist Mormons. "It's a way of saying women are important, but we are not going to make women members of the priesthood," Shippy said.

The church doesn't appear close to opening the faith's lay priesthood to women, but they've made other concessions in recent years that have marked steps forward for Mormons seeking to end gender inequality.

In April 2013, history was made when a woman led the opening prayer at the faith's semiannual general conference in Salt Lake City. Since October 2013, a church conference session that had previously been limited to men has broadcast live for all to watch.

Mary Ellen Robertson, a representative of a prominent women's group called Ordain Women, said she's pleased by the appointments of the women to the councils, which will now make better decisions thanks to having the perspective of women.

But, Robertson questioned why it took so long to make the change and why more councils aren't opened to women.

"Sometimes it's a little hard to get enthusiastic for baby steps that Mormon feminists have been advocating for quite some time," Robertson said. "One is a good first step, but why not have an equal number of men and women on these councils?"

Nurse embeds in Hutterite colony life to transform care

By KEVIN BURBACH
Associated Press

OLIVET, S.D. — A spaghetti dinner with people in prairie dress and a church service in German is all in a day's work for Kerri Lutjens.

The 33-year-old nurse, who doesn't speak German, has spent the past few years gaining the trust of several communities of Hutterites, a deeply religious people with ancestral ties to the Amish who live in insular farming communities in the Plains, Upper Midwest and Canada.

Although she provides a broad range of care to the eight South Dakota Hutterite colonies she serves, Lutjens has paid particular attention to vaccinating children in these communities and preventing outbreaks like one in Ohio last year in which 383 people, most of them unvaccinated Amish, got the measles.

In the first seven colonies that welcomed Lutjens, the combined rate of children with up-to-date vaccinations has gone from about 13 percent since she started administering vaccines in 2013 to well over 90 percent today. Her work hasn't gone unnoticed: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently lauded Lutjens' vaccination success, noting the cultural sensitivity she has shown along the way.

"They're their future. They're going to keep their colony going," Lutjens said of the children she treats. "So if we can instill those values as little people, we're going



AP Photo/Nati Harnik
In this Thursday, Aug. 13 photo, nurse Kerri Lutjens looks over Rylan Hofer, an 8-month-old Hutterite, during a home visit at the Tschetter Colony near Olivet, S.D.

to have a much healthier colony in 20 years."

In traditional Hutterite colonies, the women wear ankle-length dresses and black head scarves and the men serve as the providers, working mostly in agriculture or building homes on the colonies. Like the Amish, the Hutterites aren't averse to vaccinations, but because they live in remote areas and go into town infrequently, getting their children vaccinated hasn't been routine.

"They're not anti anything," Lutjens said. "They just have a different way of going about things."

Hutterites colonies are spread across the Great Plains of the U.S. and southern Canada and the

majority of American colonies are centered in Montana and South Dakota. Along with the Mennonites and Amish, the Hutterites are descended from Anabaptists and trace their roots back to the Radical Reformation of the 16th century.

Unlike the Amish, those in the Hutterian Brethren Church embrace technology, using cellphones, cars and trucks — and modern medicine. Residents of Lutjens' colonies still seek medical treatment at local hospitals and clinics, but she provides much of their initial care.

Lutjens said her personal interactions are the key to earning these communities' trust.

Hoping to establish ties

with an eighth colony, she attended a communal dinner this spring to explain what she could offer to residents. She then joined them for their nightly church service in German, which is the primary language in many colonies and which many Hutterites learn before learning English.

"That's what makes it work," she said. "It's a very personable relationship. Each person has a name, and you try to figure that out, and you try to figure out the connections between the colonies."

With the help of a physician's assistant, Lutjens sets up shop in a different one of the eight colonies she treats nearly every day.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Worship with us!

<p>PILOT ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH 585 SW Birch, Pilot Rock, OR 97868 (541) 443-2500 prbconline.blogspot.com Sunday School: 9:30 am Worship Service: 10:45 am Wednesday Services: Kids' Club: 6:00 pm Youth Group: 7:00 pm</p>	<p>GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA OPEN HEARTS - OPEN DOOR www.graceandmercyelca.org Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (Nursery Provided) Fellowship, Refreshments & Sunday School Check Out our Facebook Page or Website for More Information 541-289-4535 Tom Inch, Pastor Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church, ELCA 164 E. Main St. / P.O. Box 1108 Hermiston, Oregon 97838</p>	<p>St. Johns Episcopal Church All People Are Welcome <i>Scripture, Tradition and Reason</i> Family service 9am Sunday Gladys Ave & 7th Hermiston Fr. Dan Lediard, Priest. PH: 567-6672</p>	<p>Redeemer Episcopal Church 241 SE Second St. Pendleton (541)276-3809 www.pendletonepiscopal.org Sunday Morning Worship 9:00 a.m. Wednesday Worship Noon Wednesday Evening Prayer and Pot Luck 6:00 p.m. All Are Welcome</p>
<p>Grace Baptist Church 555 SW 11th, Hermiston 567-9497 Nursery provided for all services Sunday School - 9:30 AM Worship - 10:45 AM 6:00 pm Wed Prayer & Worship - 7:00 PM "Proclaiming God's word, growing in God's grace"</p>	<p>PENDLETON FIRST CHURCH OF GOD FIRST SERVICE 8:30 AM SECOND SERVICE 10:30 AM 712 SW 27th ST. 541-276-1894 www.fcgpendleton.com</p>	<p>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH -Presbyterian Church (USA)- 201 SW Dorion Ave. Pendleton Service of Worship - 10:00 am Children's Sunday School - 10:20 am Fellowship - 11:00 am www.pendletonpresbyterian.com Open Hearted...Open Minded</p>	<p>Come meet Jesus at PENDLETON BAPTIST CHURCH 3202 S.W. Nye Avenue, Pendleton, OR 541-276-7590 Sunday Morning Worship 8:30 & 11:00 AM Sunday Bible Classes 9:45 AM Sunday Youth Group 6:00 PM Awana Kids Club Tuesdays 6:30 - 8:00 PM K - 6th Grade (Sept-May)</p>
<p>FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH <i>in Mission for Christ LCMC</i> Bible Study.....9:00 AM Sunday Worship.....10:30 AM Red Lion Hotel (Oregon Trail Room) www.faithpendleton.org</p>	<p>Living Word Christian Center Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 PM Sharon Miller, Pastor 401 Northgate • Pendleton 278-8082 www.livingwordcc.com</p>	<p>The Salvation Army Center for Worship & Service Sunday Worship Service 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship Service Wednesday Bible Study 5:30 Family Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study COME AS YOU ARE 150 SE EMIGRANT (541)276-3369</p>	<p>Peace Lutheran Church ELCA 210 NW 9th, Pendleton Join us Sundays 9:30 am Sunday Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Sunday School & Adult Class ~Come and be at Peace~ on 1290 KUMA noon each Sunday</p>
<p>Community Presbyterian Church 14 Martin Drive, Umatilla, OR 922-3250 Worship: 10 AM Sunday School at 11:30</p>	<p>Faith Center Church Worshipping God • Loving People 108 S. Main • 276-9569 Summer Sunday Worship 10:00 am Wed. 7:00 pm Praise, Prophecy & Prayer Sr. Pastor, Ray O'Grady pendletonfaithcenter.org</p>	<p>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) 215 N Main • Pendleton Summer Worship begins at 9:40am Office 276-5358 M-F 8:30-12:30 www.FCCPENDLETON.ORG</p>	<p>New Hope Community Church <i>Ministries for the entire family</i> 1350 S Hwy 395, Hermiston Sunday Worship Services: 9 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Classes for kids during both! Call 567-8441 Servicios en Español</p>
<p><i>a place to belong</i> Pendleton First INVITING ENRICHING INVOLVING EMPOWERING SUNDAY SERVICES AM Celebration-10:00am AM Kids Place -10:00am The Connection--6:00pm Groups for all ages: Adults, Children, Youth, & College Thursdays Celebrate Recovery-6:00pm Celebration Place-6:00pm Other Groups Available Weekly For more info visit WWW.PENDLETONFIRST.COM 1911 SE Court Ave 541-276-6417 Assembly of God Church</p>	<p>Seventh-Day Adventist Church Saturday Services Pendleton 1401 SW Goodwin Place 276-0882 Sabbath School 9:20 am Worship Service 10:45 am</p>	<p>THE COUNTRY CHURCH Pastor James Becker 32742 Diagonal RD Hermiston OR 97838 Sunday School 10 am Worship 7 am Evening Service 7 pm Bible Study Wednesdays 7 pm Firestarter Youth Ministry (Ages 12-17) Monday @ 6 pm</p>	<p>To share your worship times call Amanda Jacobs 541-278-2683</p>
	<p>First United Methodist Church 352 SE 2nd St., Pendleton, OR Office 276-2616 New Pastor Dr. Jim Pierce Worship Service 9:00 AM Fellowship 10:15 AM Broadcast KUMA 11:00 AM Childcare Available Choir practice Sundays 8:30 AM</p>	<p>BAHA'I FAITH "The Unity of All Mankind" Pendleton Baha'i Center at 1015 SE Court Place Devotions Sundays @ 11:00am; Everyone invited! (541) 276-9360 visit us at www.pendletonbahais.org</p>	

BRIEFLY

Bible school features Mega Sports Camp

PENDLETON — Soccer, cheerleading, basketball and baseball are available during a Mega Sports Camp at The Pendleton Salvation Army. The vacation Bible school program is Monday through Friday from 8-11:30 a.m. at 150 S.E. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton. Although it's free, those planning to attend must register by Monday. It's open to boys and girls from ages 6-12. An awards and performance program is Sunday, Aug. 30 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., also at The Salvation Army. A lunch will follow.

For more information or to register, call 541-276-339.

Nazarene church host Back to School Party

HERMISTON — With summer vacation coming to a close, the Hermiston Church of the Nazarene is hosting a Back to School Party. Middle school and high school students are invited to catch up with their friends at the youth group party Sunday at the church's Ministry Center from 6-7:30 p.m. at 1520 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. For more information, call 541-567-3677 or search Facebook for "Hermiston Church of the Nazarene."