

TRUMP VS. POPE



LEFT: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a lunch stop, Thursday in North Charleston, S.C. RIGHT: Pope Francis salutes faithful during his meeting with workers and advocacy groups in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Wednesday.

‘Not Christian’ to only build border walls

By NICOLE WINFIELD and JULIE PACE
Associated Press

Thrusting himself into the heated American presidential campaign, Pope Francis declared Thursday that Donald Trump is “not Christian” if he wants to address illegal immigration only by building a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. Trump fired back ferociously, saying it was “disgraceful” for a religious leader to question a person’s faith. The rare back-and-forth between pontiff and presidential candidate was the latest astonishing development in an American election already roiled by Trump’s free-wheeling rhetoric and controversial policy proposals, particularly on immigration. It also underscored the popular pope’s willingness to needle U.S. politicians on hot-button issues. Francis’ comments came hours after he concluded a visit to Mexico, where he prayed at the border for people who died trying to reach the U.S. While speaking to

reporters on the papal plane, he was asked what he thought of Trump’s campaign pledge to build a wall along the entire length of the border and expel millions of people in the U.S. illegally. “A person who thinks only about building walls, wherever they may be, and not building bridges, is not Christian,” he said. While Francis said he would “give the benefit of the doubt” because he had not heard Trump’s border plans independently, he added, “I say only that this man is not a Christian if he has said things like that.” Trump, a Presbyterian and the front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination, responded within minutes. “For a religious leader to question a person’s faith is disgraceful,” he said at a campaign stop in South Carolina, which holds a key primary on Saturday. “I am proud to be a Christian, and as president I will not allow Christianity to be consistently attacked and weakened.” Trump also raised the prospect of the Islamic State extremist group attacking the Vatican, saying that

if that happened, “the pope would have only wished and prayed that Donald Trump would have been president because this would not have happened.” The billionaire businessman said later Thursday that he was “totally respectful” of the pope but stood by his initial response. Francis, the first pope from Latin America, has been a vocal proponent of compassionate immigration policies. In an address to Congress during his visit to Washington last year, he urged lawmakers to respond to immigrants “in a way which is always humane, just and fraternal.” He also irked Republicans on the same trip with his forceful call for international action to address climate change. His comments prompted some GOP presidential candidates to suggest the pontiff stay out of politics. Immigration is among the most contentious issues in American politics. Republicans have moved toward hardline positions that emphasize law enforcement and border security, blocking comprehensive legislation in 2013 that

would have included a path to citizenship for many of the 11 million people in the U.S. illegally. Hispanics, an increasingly large voting bloc in U.S. presidential elections, have flocked to Democrats in recent years. President Barack Obama won more than 70 percent in the 2012 election, leading some Republican leaders to conclude that the party could win the White House back only if it increased its appeal to the fast-growing group. However, the current GOP presidential primary has been dominated by increasingly tough rhetoric on immigration, with Trump at the forefront. He’s insisted that Mexico would pay for his proposed border wall and has said some Mexicans entering the U.S. illegally are murderers and rapists. While Trump’s rhetoric has been among the most inflammatory, some of his rivals have staked out similar enforcement positions. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson are among those who have explicitly called for construction of a wall.

Pope suggests contraception can be OK in Zika crisis

Associated Press

Pope Francis has suggested that women threatened with the Zika virus could use artificial contraception, saying there’s a clear moral difference between aborting a fetus and preventing a pregnancy. Francis was asked Wednesday en route home from Mexico if abortion or birth control could be considered a “lesser evil,” when confronting the Zika crisis in Brazil, where some babies have been born with abnormally small heads to Zika-infected mothers. The World Health Organization has declared a global health emergency over the Zika virus and its suspected links to birth defects. The virus has been reported in at least 34 countries, many of them in Central and Latin America. WHO and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have advised pregnant women to consider delaying travel to Zika-infected countries. The explosion of Zika cases has prompted some governments in Latin America to urge women to avoid getting pregnant and has fueled calls from abortion rights groups to loosen the strict anti-abortion laws in the overwhelmingly Catholic region. But Francis excluded abortion absolutely from the debate. “Abortion isn’t a lesser evil, it’s a crime,” he told reporters. “Taking one life to save another, that’s what the Mafia does. It’s a crime. It’s an absolute evil.”

FAITH BRIEFLY



A restoration expert works on a mosaic inside the Church of the Nativity, in the West Bank city of Bethlehem.

Church at Jesus’ birthplace renovated

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (AP) — After two years of painstaking work, experts have completed the initial phase of a delicate restoration project at the Church of the Nativity, giving a much-needed face-lift to one of Christianity’s holiest sites. The project, partially funded by the Palestinians and conducted by a team of Palestinian and international experts, is the biggest restoration at the iconic church in some 600 years. The removal of centuries of dust has left Crusader-era mosaics sparkling in sunlight filtering through brand new windows. Structural repairs on the fragile rooftop and windows have been completed and art treasures have been returned to their delicate elegance. The Church of the Nativity, located in the West Bank town of Bethlehem, was built in the 4th century over the grotto where the Virgin Mary is said to have given birth to Jesus. Although the Palestinians are overwhelmingly Muslim, they consider the church a national treasure and one of their most visited tourist sites.

Program highlights trusting God

PENDLETON — All women are invited to a program titled “So You Think You Know About Trusting God.” The event is Friday at 6:30 p.m. at the First Church of God, 712 S.W. 27th St., Pendleton. Nursery care is provided. For more information, call 541-276-1894.

Love Feast raises money for mission trip

HERMISTON — A fundraising meal for a summer youth mission trip to Seattle is being hosted at the Hermiston Church of the Nazarene. The Love Feast is Saturday, Feb. 27 at 5 p.m. in the church’s ministry center, 1520 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. Tickets are \$10 each or \$25 for a family (up to five people) and \$5 for each additional child. Tickets must be purchased by Sunday. In addition to the meal, entertainment is provided by students and youth leadership. For more information or to reserve a ticket, call 541-567-3677.

TobyMac to perform in Kennewick

KENNEWICK — Faith-based pop, hip hop and rock musician TobyMac will perform in the Tri-Cities. The concert is Tuesday, March 15 at the Toyota Center, 7000 W. Grandridge Blvd., Kennewick. Tickets are \$26-\$69.50 and are available through www.ticketmaster.com. Also, group rates are available. From his early days in influential group dcTalk, TobyMac has worked hard to inspire his audience with words of conviction, hope, empowerment and the redemption found in his faith in God. He has received seven Grammy awards and sold more than 11 million albums. For more about the musician, visit www.tobymac.com.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Worship with us!

<p>Peace Lutheran Church 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>Faith Center Church Worshiping God Loving People 108 S. Main • 276-9569 Sunday Worship 10:30 am Sr. Pastor, Ray O’Grady pendletonfaithcenter.org</p>	<p>First United Methodist Church 352 SE 2nd Street Pendleton, OR 541-276-2616 Sunday Worship 9am Open Hearts, Open Hands, Open Doors Facebook: www.facebook.com/FUMCPendleton Services are broadcast every Sunday on KUMA-1290 AM @ 11am Rev. Dr. Jim Pierce, pastor</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>St. Johns Episcopal Church All People Are Welcome Scripture, Tradition and Reason Family service 9am Sunday Gladys Ave & 7th Hermiston Fr. Dan Lediard, Priest, PH: 567-6672</p>	<p>FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH in Mission for Christ LCMC Bible Study.....9:00 AM Sunday Worship.....10:30 AM Red Lion Hotel (Oregon Trail Room) www.faithpendleton.org</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>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>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>PENDLETON FIRST CHURCH OF GOD FIRST SERVICE 8:30 AM SECOND SERVICE 10:30 AM 712 SW 27TH ST. 541-276-1894 www.fcogpendleton.com</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>COME meet Jesus at PENDLETON BAPTIST CHURCH 3202 SW Nye Ave Pendleton, OR 541-276-7590 Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM Sunday Bible Classes 9:45 AM Sunday Youth Group 6:00 PM Mon. Community Women’s Study 9:30 AM & 6 PM Awana Kids Club (K-6th grade) Wed Men’s Study 6 PM MOPS meeting the 1st Thur of the Month 6 PM</p>
<p>Living Word Christian Center Sunday Worship 10:00am Wednesday Bible Study 7:00pm Youth Classes - Nursery-6th grade Sun & Wed YOUTH GROUPS: Jr Hi, Wed 7pm Sr Hi, Sun after the service Sharon Miller, Pastor 401 Northgate, Pendleton 541-278-8082 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>St. Paul Anglican Church, APA New Location at White Eagle Grange Hall - 43828 White Eagle Road, Pendleton, OR 541-303-1261 Holy Communion - 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday Morning Prayer - 2nd & 4th Sunday All Services - 10:00 am Sundays The Rev. Fr. Vincent Varnas facebook.com/stpaulanglicanchurchapa</p>	<p>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) 215 N Main • Pendleton Sunday Worship: 10:40a Bible Class: 9:30a Office 276-5358 M-F 8:30-12:30 WWW.FCCPENDLETON.ORG</p>

To share your
worship times
call
Amanda Jacobs
541-278-2683

