

Vatican conference urges end to doctrine of 'just wars'

By NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press



AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia

Pope Francis smiles as he blesses faithful upon his arrival in St. Peter's Square to attend a jubilee audience at the Vatican on Saturday. Pope Francis said Friday that Catholics should look to their own consciences rather than rely exclusively on church rules to negotiate the complexities of sex, marriage and family life, demanding the church shift emphasis from doctrine to mercy in confronting some of the thorniest issues facing the faithful.

Church teaching has long allowed for "just wars" — the use of force to stop an unjust aggression — as long as certain conditions are met. They include that other peaceful means have been exhausted, that the force is appropriate and won't produce worse effects, and that there is a reasonable chance for success.

But participants at a conference sponsored by the Vatican's justice and peace office and Pax Cristi International, the Catholic peace movement, said in a final communique Thursday that too often the doctrine had been used to justify and endorse military action rather than prevent it.

They called for the church to no longer use or

resources in promoting a spirituality and practice of active nonviolence and in forming and training our Catholic communities in effective nonviolent practices," the statement said.

Francis, named after the peace-loving St. Francis of Assisi, has echoed his predecessors in condemning

wars and promoting peace. He hosted a marathon prayer vigil to stave off threatened military action in Syria, brought the Israeli and Palestinian presidents together for a peace summit, and issues near-weekly appeals for peaceful ends to conflicts around the globe.

But he has also endorsed military action to stave off the Islamic State group advance in Iraq and Syria, where Christian minorities have been slaughtered by Islamic extremists. In comments to reporters in 2014, Francis said it was "licit to stop the unjust aggressor," but said such military action must be endorsed by the international community and that the type of force must be evaluated.

Francis issued an opening greeting to the Vatican conference — in and of itself a sign that he endorsed its goals. He didn't mention the "just war" theory, but made clear his position, saying the "ultimate and most deeply worthy goal of human beings and of the human community is the abolition of war."

BOARDMAN'S LIMY PASTOR

Fishing expeditions (not catch and release)

I want to talk about fishing. Being a new pastor, I need to figure out a way to go fishing — or inviting the new as well as the old good people of Boardman (and its surrounds) to walk through my church door on 11 o'clock on a Sunday morning, stretch out, sniff the air and look around and start feeling ... "Ummmm maybe this is OK." I have my good loyal congregation who has found that feeling, and praise be, they are happy to be there. They know each other. They live within the contradictions of being with other people.

When I had first arrived there I asked the flock what they thought the problem might be for the failure to come back after one visit, which had happened in the past. They told me — almost uniformly — that when they had brought friends to church they were told that these services were too ritualistic, too much sitting then standing, sitting then standing. I know this. Other Lutheran churches have this ailment in varying degrees. Martin Luther called such things as sitting and standing "adiaphora" — a word that

means things that don't matter, except of course to those who think it does.

I like some of that occasionally. I believe that showing respect for the Gospel is worthy of standing. It is also good to be respectful of our elders and infirm who may have great difficulty in standing and allowing them the peace of sitting without quibble from others. I think it is true to say that people come to a church because of the loving people of Christ in it, not just because it is a place for the Word to be heard.

So I have proposed a second service, a contemporary service that will be theologically correct, but won't cause visitors to swear to themselves that they will never visit again. I need a praise band for that service.

So I am praying for that praise band to show, and my wife told me to mention that here. I need a praise band, of enthusiastic musical folk, who like to be a little goofy. I don't need the Justin Bieber of Praise Bands to show, but if, by chance, you happen to be Boardman's Justin Bieber of Praise Bands you are most welcome to come and talk to me here at Good

Shepherd Lutheran Church on Locust Road.

Many, many years ago, before I morphed into a Lutheran, I was a DJ on Portland's Catholic radio station on 88.3 KBVM. I was given what was called a color wheel to play music from, so my hours of playing were governed by a variety of music. I liked, however, to forget where I had placed the randomized color wheel, and played what the Holy Spirit picked instead. When I let the Spirit lead I had phone calls from listeners who had told me that song meant something profoundly, and told me how much it meant to them. It is always good to bet on the Holy Spirit.

My two young youth leaders are busy organizing a Friday night youth group, which will be a movie night and possibly a game night. Young people will be able to come and share discussions and ideas with each other while keeping away from the zombies (aka grownups). So please walk on in on a Sunday and come and hang out with the fishes at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Colin Brown is pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Boardman.



COLIN BROWN
FAITH

BRIEFLY

Faith Lutheran expands ministry, welcomes pastor

PENDLETON — Lutherans join with Pilot Rock church for evening service

Faith Lutheran Church in Pendleton and the Pilot Rock Community Presbyterian Church announced plans to offer a combined Sunday evening worship service.

The two congregations held a successful joint service on Easter Sunday and are looking forward to the partnership, said Bob Wright of Faith Lutheran.

The expanded ministry outreach will provide an opportunity for participation in singing, hymns of praise and furthering Christian fellowship, Wright said.

The first evening service will be held Sunday at 5 p.m. at the Pilot Rock Community Presbyterian Church, 222 S.W. Third St. It will continue weekly at the Pilot Rock church.

Everyone is welcome to attend the blended ministry, which is designed to encourage broad community participation. Faith Lutheran will provide car pools for those needing a ride to and from Pendleton.

During the first evening service this weekend, Faith Lutheran welcomes its new pastor, Rev. Doug Wagley. The church extended an invitation earlier this week for him to be a permanent pastor. Wagley, who comes from Spokane, has agreed to a 90-day call.

"I don't expect him to pack his bags and be gone in three months," Wright said.

"His service likely will be extended and he'll remain here."

Wagley has served as pastor for 20 years at Spokane's New Vision Lutheran Church, which is affiliated with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. He is a graduate of the University of Arizona and Wheaton College Graduate School in Illinois. He received a master of arts and master of divinity from the Free Lutheran Seminary in Minnesota.

Faith Lutheran will continue to meet Sunday mornings in the Oregon Trail Room at the Red Lion, 304 S.E. Nye Ave., Pendleton. A Bible class is at 9 a.m. and the worship service is at 10:30 a.m., which is led by Rev. Gordon Huesby.

For more information about the ministries of Faith Lutheran Church, call Wright at 541-276-6549.

Concert to raise money for Ugandan children

ATHENA — Scott and Kelly Zielke of Stanfield will perform a benefit concert for the Otino Waa Children's Village in Lira, Uganda, East Africa.

The founders of Otino Waa, Bob and Carol Higgins, will also share during the event. The public is invited to attend Sunday at 5 p.m. at the Athena Christian Church, 458 E. Van Buren St.

Money raised will be used to help establish a new chicken farm, which will assist with improving the children's diet, provide vocational training and

create sustainability.

In addition, the event will host a book drive for the library at Otino Waa. People are asked to donate soft bound books — educational, non-fiction, biographies, how-to books and some fiction books. The children learn and speak English.

Otino Waa in Luo language means "our children." It is home to boys and girls, ages 5-18. It provides a place of safety, learning, healing and spiritual growth to orphaned children. The children have on-site primary and secondary schools, medical treatment, vocational training, sports, nutrition and 24-hour security.

The Zielkes and Judy Weidert will deliver the books in June to Otino Waa. For more information, call 541-566-3422.

Hermiston Christian School plans open house

HERMISTON — Hermiston Christian School invites the community to visit its classrooms and tour the new event center during its upcoming open house.

Student science and art projects will be on display. In addition, staff and alumni who are currently attending college or are recent graduates will be on hand to answer questions.

The event is Thursday, April 21 from 6-8 p.m. at 1825 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston. Coffee and water will be available.

For more information, call 541-567-3480 or visit www.hcc4u.org.

Baptist church welcomes South African evangelist

PENDLETON — An evangelist born and raised in Johannesburg, South Africa, will speak at Pendleton Baptist Church.

Richard Green, who has conducted crusades in 63 countries around the world, will share about church-centered evangelism Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. at 3202 S.W. Nye Ave., Pendleton. In addition, Green will lead nightly services Monday through Wednesday. Those gatherings begin with a light meal from 5:30-6:30 p.m. There is no charge.

Everyone is invited to attend. For more information, visit www.pendletonbaptist.com.

Seder meal includes Jewish music

MILTON-FREEWATER — Jewish music and dancing is featured in a Passover Seder dinner in Milton-Freewater.

Sponsored by Christ the King Church and Aglow, the public is invited to attend. The potluck meal is Friday, April 22 at 6 p.m. at the Stalene Community Church, 85440 Highway 11, Milton-Freewater. People are asked to bring a dish to share. In addition, they should bring their own drinks.

Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP by Monday by calling Doug at 425-269-3458.



Redeemer Episcopal Church
241 SE Second St. Pendleton (541)276-3809
www.pendletonepiscopal.org
Sunday Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday Holy Communion Noon
Weekly Adults Spiritual Life Group
All Are Welcome

Peace Lutheran Church
210 NW 9th, Pendleton ELCA
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

Faith Center Church
Worshiping God Loving People
108 S. Main • 276-9569
Sunday Worship
10:30 am
Sr. Pastor, Ray O'Grady
pendletonfaithcenter.org

NEW HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH
1350 S. Highway 395, Hermiston
Sunday Worship Services
English- Pastor Dave Andrus 9:00 & 10:45 am
Spanish- Pastor Genaro Loreda 9:00 & 10:15 am
Classes for kids during all services
For more information call 541-567-8441

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
Saturday Services
Pendleton
1401 SW Goodwin Place
276-0882
Sabbath School 9:20 am
Worship Service 10:45 am

Community Presbyterian Church
14 Martin Drive, Umatilla, OR
922-3250
Worship: 10 AM
Sunday School at 11:30

GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
OPEN HEARTS - OPEN DOOR
www.graceandmercy.lutheran.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

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
Kids' Club: 6:00 pm
Wednesday Services:
Youth Group: 7:00 pm

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"

St. Johns Episcopal Church
All People Are Welcome
Scripture, Tradition and Reason
Family service 9am Sunday
Gladys Ave & 7th Hermiston
Fr. Dan Ledard, Priest. PH: 567-6672

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

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

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

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
215 N Main • Pendleton
Sunday Worship: 10:40a
Bible Class: 9:30a
Office: 276-5358
M-F, 9:30-12:30
WWW.FCCPENDLETON.ORG

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

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

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

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

Pendleton FREE METHODIST CHURCH
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Mid-Week Children & Youth • Weekly Adult Life Groups
1711 SW 44th St. • 541-276-6015 • www.pendfmc.org

Living Word Christian Center
Sunday Worship 10:00am
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00pm
Youth Classes: Nursery - 6th grade Sun & Wed

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

Overcomer's Outreach
Tuesdays at 6:00pm - Annex
A Christ-centered, 12-step Recovery Support Group
Sharon Miller, Pastor
401 Northgate, Pendleton
541-278-8082
www.livingwordcc.com

To share your worship times call
Terri Briggs
541-278-2678