

HERMISTON

Trinity Lutheran celebrates 75 years

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

A weekend-long celebration will feature a special dinner, the opening of a time capsule and a re-dedication service at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Affiliated with the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, the Hermiston church invites the public to join them as they celebrate 75 years of ministry. The dinner, which costs \$20 per person, is Saturday, May 7 at 5 p.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395. The evening will include several speakers, presentations, music and a peek at the contents of the church's time capsule, which were placed in the building's cornerstone in 1946.

Several former pastors will be in attendance, including Rev. Wesley Sackmann, who will preach during the re-dedication service Sunday, May 8. Rev. Rodney Mruk, who has pastored the church since September 2004, will preside during the service, which begins at 9 a.m. at 485 W. Locust Ave., Hermiston. After the Sunday service, people are invited for a time of refreshments and fellowship.

Hermiston's Trinity Lutheran Church, which was initially associated with the American Lutheran Church, was founded in 1941. The church building, Mruk said, was dedicated in November 1946. The congregation met at another location in town prior to erecting the building on Locust Avenue.

While conducting research about the church's history, Mruk said they discovered the formation of



EO file photo
Rev. Rodney Mruk, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, invites the public to join the Hermiston church as they celebrate 75 years of ministry.

a congregation may have began as early as 1911. A pastor from a Pendleton Lutheran church led services in Hermiston and Echo.

When Mruk starts his 13th year at the church this fall, he'll be the longest serving pastor of the congregation. Among the changes during Mruk's tenure has been an increase in membership — the church currently has about 150 members — particularly with younger members. Also, the congregation discontinued its association with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America in 2010, which the church had been affiliated with since 1980.

When Mruk and his wife,

Linda, arrived with three school-age kids, it doubled the number of children in the services.

"It was significant at the time," Mruk said. "We regularly have more than 30 children in services now."

Mruk and the church leadership said it's important to welcome children and include them as part of the church community. Each week, Mruk invites kids to gather at the front of the church as he presents a short children's sermon.

The continued vision for the church, Mruk said, is to minister to the congregation, to the community and to encourage growth with the next generation prior to

passing the reins onto them.

"Our focus has continued to be to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins, the whole word of God — both law and the gospel — and to care for people through all stages of life," Mruk said. "And, that's what small churches do."

To make a dinner reservation during the 75th anniversary, call 541-567-6471. For more information about the church, search Facebook for "Trinity Lutheran Church LCMC" or visit www.telhermiston.org.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539



AP Photo/Andrew Medichini
Rene Brulhart, president of the Vatican Financial Information Authority, right, flanked by Tommaso Di Ruzza, director of the Vatican Financial Information Authority, shows photographers a copy of the Vatican financial oversight report, as he arrives for a briefing at the Vatican press room, Thursday.

Vatican crackdown on tax cheats flagged in oversight report

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican's financial watchdog said Thursday it received 544 reports of suspicious financial transactions last year, a three-fold increase over 2014, thanks in part to beefed-up efforts to flag potential tax cheats who are using the Vatican bank to hide money.

In its annual report, the Financial Information Authority said it passed 17 cases on to Vatican prosecutors for follow-up investigation, up from seven a year earlier. In December, European evaluators urged prosecutors to actually bring charges in some of those cases since no indictments have been handed down.

Since 2011, 34 out of 900 suspect transactions have been forwarded to prosecutors for possible follow-up.

The Vatican in 2010 created the financial watchdog to comply with international anti-money-laundering norms and in a bid to shed its image as a financially shady tax haven whose bank has been embroiled in scandal.

In its report, the agency stressed that the spike in suspicious transactions wasn't the result of increased money-laundering activity, but rather the natural result of the closure of bank accounts at the Vatican bank and new efforts to comply with tax reporting obligations in Italy and the U.S.

The effort at greater financial transparency has extended beyond the initial scope of compliance with anti-money laundering norms to implementing internationally accepted accounting standards across the Holy See's fragmented departments - part of Pope Francis' effort to reform the Vatican bureaucracy.

The tortured process has been on sharp display in recent weeks after the Vatican signed, and then suspended, an auditing contract with PricewaterhouseCoopers. The Vatican said the suspension wasn't due to any reluctance to submit to "adequate" auditing measures, but rather because of issues about the "meaning and scope" of the PwC contract and how it would be implemented.

The suspension, though, laid bare an increasingly public battle between the two centers of power in the Vatican: the secretariat of state and the new secretariat for the economy, headed by Australian Cardinal George Pell.

Pell had enlisted PwC to do the audit, and co-signed the contract, even though the Vatican has its own auditor general. His office issued a statement saying he was "a bit surprised" that the secretariat of state suspended the contract but was confident the PwC work would soon resume.

BRIEFLY

Motivational speaker offers seminar

PENDLETON — Ken Gaub will present his free "Soul Winning Seminar" Sunday from 6-8 p.m. at Faith Center Church, 108 S. Main St., Pendleton.

The award-winning motivational speaker is offering a training opportunity that is making a difference in helping people start a lifestyle of winning others. The presentation is described as funny, powerful and transformational. A love offering will be taken.

Gaub also will speak during Faith Center's Sunday worship service at 10:30 a.m.

For more information, call Rev. Ray O'Grady at 541-276-9569.

National Day of Prayer celebration planned in Pendleton

PENDLETON — The National Day of Prayer, which is celebrated the first Thursday each May, will be featured in a celebration in Pendleton as part of the "Wake Up America" event.

The main theme for the 65th annual event focuses on the question "Why pray for America?"

Pendleton's event is Thursday, May 5 from 7-8 p.m. at Faith Center Church, 108 S. Main St. The prayers will be led by pastors Ray O'Grady of Faith Center and Arron Swenson or Cornerstone Community Church.

The event is free, and all ages are encouraged to attend. For more information, call O'Grady at 541-276-9569.

Day of Prayer event set for May 5

HERMISTON — Area residents are invited to participate in the National Day of Prayer during a free event in Hermiston.

The non-denominational gathering is Thursday, May 5 from 6:30-8 p.m. at Armand Larive Middle School, 1497 S.W. Ninth St.

The service includes prayer time for the each of the seven "pillars of society": government, the military, the media, the business community, educational institutions, churches and families. Organizer Rob Lovett said people of faith feel the nation is at a "critical point" and it's important to pray for guidance for the country's leaders.

Worship music by the New Beginnings praise team will be interspersed throughout. In addition, the service will be broadcast live by La Ley 99.5 FM radio with Spanish translation.

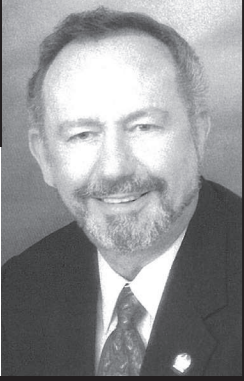
For more information about the National Day of Prayer, visit www.nationaldayofprayer.org.

SUBMIT FAITH NEWS

Friday's faith page features local, national and international faith-related news. Send information about local faith-related news and events, including concerts, special speakers and activities to community@eastoregonian.com or drop off to the attention of Tammy Malgesini at 333 E. Main St., Hermiston or Renee Struthers at 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. Call 541-564-4539 or 541-966-0818 with questions.

"SOUL WINNING SEMINAR"

Ken Gaub is coming to Pendleton Faith Center Sunday, May 1st 6:00pm 108 S. Main St.



Worship Community

a place to Belong
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 • 541-276-6427 • Assembly of God Church

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



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 Lediard, Priest. PH: 567-6672

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



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

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

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

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



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 FIRST
CHURCH
OF GOD

FIRST SERVICE 8:30 AM
SECOND SERVICE 10:30 AM
712 SW 27th ST.
541-276-1894
www.fcogpendleton.com

Living Word
Christian Center

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

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

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

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

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