

# Pope open to studying ordination of married men as priests

BERLIN (AP) — Pope Francis says the church must study whether it's possible to ordain married men to minister in remote communities facing priest shortages.

In an interview published Thursday with Germany's Die Zeit, Francis stressed that removing the celibacy rule is not the answer to the Catholic Church's priest shortage. But he expressed an openness to studying whether so-called "viri probati" — or married men of proven faith — could be ordained.

"We must consider if viri probati is a possibility. Then we must determine what tasks they can perform, for example, in remote communities," he was quoted as saying.

The "viri probati" proposal has been around for decades, but it has drawn fresh attention under history's first Latin American pope thanks in part to his appreciation of the challenges facing the church in places like Brazil, a huge Catholic country with an acute shortage of priests.

Brazilian Cardinal Claudio Hummes, a longtime friend of Francis and former head of the Vatican's office for clergy, is reportedly pressing to allow viri probati in the Amazon, where the church counts around one priest for every



**Pope Francis waves to faithful during the Angelus prayer delivered by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, Sunday.**

AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia

10,000 Catholics.

Francis has shown particular openness to receiving concrete proposals for ordaining married men as well as his own pastoral concern for men who have left ministry to marry.

He has maintained friendship with the Argentine widow of a friend who left the priesthood to marry, and he spent one of his Friday mercy missions last year visiting with men who had left ministry to start families. He has also said that while he favors a celibate priesthood, celibacy technically can be up for discussion since it's a discipline of the church, not a dogma.

The church allows some exceptions to the rule. Priests in the eastern rite Catholic Church are allowed to be married, as are married Anglican priests who convert to Catholicism.

In the first major interview that Francis has given a German newspaper, the pope was asked whether he experienced moments in which he doubted the existence of God. He responded: "I, too, know moments of emptiness."

But, he pointed out that periods of crisis are an opportunity to grow, saying a believer who doesn't experience that remains "infantile."

# Big changes coming to Utah liquor laws

By MICHELLE L. PRICE  
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah lawmakers spent the final day of the 2017 session Thursday deciding the fate of bills covering a range of hot-button conservative topics such as guns and abortion while closing out a term that may be best remembered for big changes to the state's notoriously strict liquor laws.

The end of the session came after lawmakers a day earlier voted to ease rules hiding the preparation of alcoholic drinks in restaurants and approved a measure that will give the state the country's toughest DUI threshold.

Both proposals still need to be signed by the Gov. Gary Herbert, but the Republican has said he supports them.

Herbert said Thursday that he disagreed with the perception that Utah has a reputation as a place that's unfriendly to drinkers, saying liquor policies haven't stopped the state's economy and tourism from booming.

Legislators had planned this year to reform Utah's tax

policies and consider passing a broad medical marijuana law, but both efforts died as lawmakers said they needed more time to study the issues so they can try again later.

They did finalize \$16 billion state budget that gives state workers a 2 percent pay raise, covers growing enrollment in public schools and increases the money going to local school districts for teacher pay and other expenses by \$120 million.

The move to ease liquor restrictions while tightening others mirrors recent moves by Utah leaders.

They've tried to balance appeasing a growing population of non-Mormon drinkers and increased tourism while upholding a deep cultural aversion to allowing an "alcohol culture," a perspective that stems from teachings of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to avoid alcohol.

A longtime rule requiring restaurants to hide the mixing and pouring of alcoholic drinks would be relaxed under one proposal, though the barriers some restaurants use, nicknamed "Zion Curtains" may

not go away entirely.

The proposal allows restaurants to stop using a barrier — generally a frosted glass wall around a bar or a back room for preparing drinks — if they instead set up a child-free buffer-zone around bars. Most restaurants in Utah are not currently required to have the barriers because the last big liquor overhaul only applied the rule to restaurants built after 2009.

The new proposal requires all restaurants to pick one of several options to set up their bar areas so children are prevented from seeing drinks being made. Officials expect some restaurants may build or keep Zion Curtains because doing so could save money on renovation costs.

The Zion Curtains have been a target of the hospitality industry for years but past efforts to roll back the rule met stiff resistance from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The church has been a powerful moral voice on state liquor laws and its stance on issues carries weight with Utah lawmakers, most of whom are members of the faith.

## LIMEY PASTOR

# The dark of faith

Our God is an extravagant God and loves extravagantly. In the absence of music for our service, our former pianist in Hermiston was called out of her home and set off for our tiny church last Sunday feeling that the Spirit was calling her name. The Lord had called the music forth and she followed. The wonder of the Lord is always before us. The song of the Lord is always being sung even though we sometimes can't discern it in our lives. We listen to our own anxiety and act as if our whole world is dangling in jeopardy. Yes, God is in it and he is working to make things right.



COLIN BROWN  
Faith

Bill Zuelke, a former spiritual director of mine who was hosting a workshop many years ago for us in the Northwest House of Theological Studies in Salem, spoke to us about how the devil tempted him. He was newly married with wife and child, and the devil always whispered in his ear about the worst things that could happen to them. A miasma of anxiety disrupted his concerns — his faith was attacked. Our imaginations make a great playground for the "other" spirits. This doesn't change yet we can walk in the darkness of faith.

I also find myself subject to this same attack on my being. I also am tempted by the "other spirit" to think of the worst things that can happen. I begin to feel despair rather than pray for the relief of the suffering of others and their peace. Yet, I must do this. I must pray and hope, putting the weight in my faith. This act of placing my faith before me is necessary. It is only important that God's will be done and that I serve his purpose whatever. The great thing about

the business of God is that it is always God's business. If it becomes my task it is humanly vulnerable, liable to error.

When I first visited my future seminary in California I thought of all the obstacles before me. Families, money, organization, work, etc. It seemed an impossible thing to do at my gray-haired stage of life. Another prospective student looked at me and said "You know what they say — if it's God's will then it's God's bill."

Somehow the program happened. At the time then I worked for U.S. Bank, and was an information technology security expert. I talked to my boss about my ambitions. I had only worked there for six months. He talked with his boss and came to me, saying "Would you like to work for us from down there?"

"Sure," I said — in surprise — and so it was. I worked for U.S. Bank from a dorm room in Berkeley. I haven't a clue how that was possible. God was in it, that I was certain of. I was able to divide my time rightly and work equally in both. The bank grounded me, and the classwork fed my soul. Walking by faith, I had walked onto the water and the water held me up. God was in it.

So walking by faith is a walk in darkness, where we are called to surrender our minds and hearts and go where the subtle breeze of the Holy Spirit blows us. The darkness still surrounds us, our minds still imagine fearfully. Yet, God is in it and we shall be all right.

Colin Brown is the pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Locust Road in Boardman. Email him at LimeyPastor@usa.net.

## BRIEFLY

### Aglow prayer coordinator to share at meeting

WALLA WALLA — A longtime leader with Aglow will speak at the Walla Walla Aglow Community Lighthouse meeting.

Marilyn Seeger, who is the Washington State Aglow prayer coordinator, will share Saturday at 10 a.m. at Whitman Court, 305 Ash St., Walla Walla. A freewill offering will be taken for the event, which includes lunch. Seeger has served in the organization's leadership in seven cities and is past president of the Tri-Cities Aglow.

Part of an international organization, Aglow seeks to minister to its members and share God's word in the community. In addition to the regular monthly meetings, there are weekly prayer groups and Bible studies.

For more information, call Kathy

Owsley at 509-540-2684, Lora Sykes at 509-540-0212 or visit [www.ecwaglow.com](http://www.ecwaglow.com).

### Nazarene church hosts Friday fun

HERMISTON — The last Fun on Fridays event for the 2016-17 school year is March 17.

An in-service day at school, kids in kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to participate in activities and enjoy lunch. Depending on the weather, outdoor activities may be included. The event is Friday, March 17 from noon to 2:30 p.m. at Hermiston Church of the Nazarene, 1520 W. Orchard Ave. The event is free.

For more information or to register, visit <http://www.hermistonnazarene.org/ministries/childrens/fun-on-fridays.html>. For questions, contact 541-567-3677 or [hermistonnaz@gmail.com](mailto:hermistonnaz@gmail.com).

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](mailto: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.

# Worship Community

<p><b>First United Methodist Church</b> Pendleton/Hermiston 352 SE 2nd Street, Pendleton <b>Sunday Worship 9am</b> 541-276-2616 <b>Worship Broadcast on KUMA 1290 @ 11am</b> 191 E. Gladys Ave, Hermiston <b>Sunday Worship 11am</b> 541-567-3002 <i>Worship Livestream at <a href="http://herfumc.com">herfumc.com</a></i> <i>Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors</i> <i>Rev. Dr. Jim Pierce, pastor</i></p>	<p><b>Redeemer Episcopal Church</b> 241 SE Second St. Pendleton (541)276-3809 <a href="http://www.pendletonepiscopal.org">www.pendletonepiscopal.org</a> Sunday Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. Wednesday Holy Communion Noon Weekly Adults Spiritual Life Group <b>All Are Welcome</b></p>	<p><b>The Salvation Army</b> Center for Worship &amp; Service Sunday Worship Service 9:30 - Sunday School <b>10:30 - Worship Service</b> Wednesday Bible Study 5:30 Family Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study <b>COME AS YOU ARE</b> <b>150 SE EMIGRANT</b> (541)276-3369</p>	<p><b>St. Johns Episcopal Church</b> Join Us On Our Journey With Jesus. <i>Scripture, Tradition and Reason</i> <b>Family service 9am Sunday</b> N.E. Gladys Ave &amp; 7th, Hermiston Fr. Dan Ledford, Priest, PH: 367-6672 <i>We are an all inclusive Church who welcomes all.</i></p>	
<p><b>FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> <i>in Mission for Christ LCMC</i> Bible Study.....9:00 AM Sunday Worship.....10:30 AM <b>Red Lion Hotel</b> <b>( Oregon Trail Room )</b> <a href="http://www.faithpendleton.org">www.faithpendleton.org</a></p>	<p><b>Grace Baptist Church</b> 555 SW 11th, Hermiston 567-9497 <b>Nursery provided for all services</b> Sunday School - 9:30 AM Worship - 10:45 AM 6:00 pm Wed Prayer &amp; Worship - 7:00 PM "Proclaiming God's word, growing in God's grace"</p>	<p><b>Seventh-Day Adventist Church</b> Saturday Services <b>Pendleton</b> <b>1401 SW Goodwin Place</b> <b>276-0882</b> <b>Sabbath School 9:20 am</b> <b>Worship Service 10:45 am</b></p>	<p><b>Faith Center Church</b> <b>Worshiping God Loving People</b> 108 S. Main • 276-9569 <b>Sunday Worship 10:30 am</b> Sr. Pastor, Ray O'Grady <a href="http://pendletonfaithcenter.org">pendletonfaithcenter.org</a></p>	
<p><i>Come meet Jesus at</i> <b>PENDELTON BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 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 &amp; 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><b>BAHA'I FAITH</b> "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 <a href="http://www.pendletonbahais.org">www.pendletonbahais.org</a></p>	<p><b>Good Shepherd Lutheran Church LCMC</b> Sunday worship at 11:00 AM 420 Locust St. • Boardman, OR <b>541-481-6132</b> Colin Brown, Pastor</p>	<p><b>GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA</b> <b>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN DOOR</b> <a href="http://www.graceandmercy.lutheran.org">www.graceandmercy.lutheran.org</a> Sunday Worship 8:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (Nursery Provided) Fellowship, Refreshments &amp; Sunday School Check Out our Facebook Page or Website for More Information <b>541-289-4535</b> Tom Inchi, Pastor Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church, ELCA (First United Methodist Church) 191 E. Gladys Ave. / P.O. Box 1108 Hermiston, Oregon 97838</p>	
<p><b>Living Word Christian Center</b> <b>Sunday Worship 10:00am</b> <b>Wednesday Healing School 6:00pm</b> Youth Classes: Nursery - 6th grade Sun &amp; Wed Jr &amp; Sr High Discipleship Program Wed <b>Overcomer's Outreach</b> Tuesday at 6:00pm - Annex A Christ-centered, 12-Step Recovery Support Group <b>Pastor Sharon Miller</b> <b>401 Northgate, Pendleton</b> <b>541-278-8082</b> <a href="http://www.livingwordcc.com">www.livingwordcc.com</a></p>	<p><b>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> -Presbyterian Church (USA)- <b>201 SW Dorion Ave.</b> Pendleton Service of Worship - 10:00 am Children's Sunday School - 10:20 am Fellowship - 11:00 am <a href="http://www.pendletonpresbyterian.com">www.pendletonpresbyterian.com</a> <b>Open Hearted... Open Minded</b></p>	<p><b>Peace Lutheran Church ELCA</b> 210 NW 9th, Pendleton Join us Sundays 9:30 am Sunday Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Sunday School &amp; Adult Class <b>~Come and be at Peace~</b> on 1290 KUMA noon each Sunday</p>	<p><b>Community Presbyterian Church</b> <b>14 Martin Drive, Umatilla, OR</b> <b>922-3250</b> <b>Worship: 10 AM</b> <b>Sunday School at 11:30</b></p>	
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<p><b>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> (Disciples of Christ) 215 N Main • Pendleton, OR 97801 Behind These Stone Walls Beat the Hearts of Some of the Warmest Most Sincere, Most Caring People in Pendleton We Invite You to Come Get Acquainted! Sunday Worship: 10:40am Sunday School: 9:30am Office 276-5358 M-F, 8:30-12:30 <a href="http://www.fccpendleton.org">www.fccpendleton.org</a></p>				<p><b>Community Presbyterian Church</b> <b>14 Martin Drive, Umatilla, OR</b> <b>922-3250</b> <b>Worship: 10 AM</b> <b>Sunday School at 11:30</b></p>
<p><b>For more info visit</b> <b>WWW.PENDELTONFIRST.COM</b> 1911 SE Court Ave 541-276-6417 Assembly of God Church</p>				

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