

BRIEFLY

Wine tasting benefits Catholic Daughters scholarships

HERMISTON — A wine tasting event raises money for the Catholic Daughters of America Marilyn Harris Memorial Scholarship Fund. The event is Saturday from 6:30-8 p.m. at The Bistro at Bellinger's, 1823 S. Highway 395, Hermiston. Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. In addition to wine tasting, the event features appetizers and a silent auction. For more information or tickets, call Kristi Smalley at 541-571-0997 or stop by Our Lady of Angels Church, 565 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston.

Nazarene church hosts Ugandan Kids Choir

HERMISTON — The Ugandan Kids Choir will perform in Hermiston. The public is invited to experience the unique worship experience. The 10-child choir will present traditional rhythmic dances and songs of Africa Sunday, May 28 at 10:30 a.m. at the Hermiston Church of the Nazarene, 1520 W. Orchard Ave. These children from Uganda have been given improved lives through child sponsorship including education through the years to secure jobs and a better future. As a sponsored mission of Childcare Worldwide, the choir participants receive education and other support to assist in a better future. For more about the choir, visit www.facebook.com/ugandankidschoir. For more about the Hermiston performance, call the church at 541-567-3677.

Baptist church hosts movie night

BOARDMAN — A movie about a high-powered executive who meets an angel is featured during family movie night in Boardman. "What If?" focuses on Ben Walker, who left his girlfriend and ministry calling for a business opportunity. The celestial visitor gives him a glimpse of what his life would have been like if he followed his true calling to be a preacher and family man. The public is invited to watch the flick Saturday at 6 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 200 Willow Fork Drive, Boardman. The 2010 family drama is rated PG. There is no admission charge. Refreshments and popcorn will be available. For more information, call 541-481-9437.

Luther and literacy

On 500th anniversary of Reformation, legacy continues

By **RICHARD GUNDERMAN**
Indiana University

This year marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's famous 95 Theses, which helped spark the founding of the Reformation and the division of Christianity into Protestantism and Catholicism.

The 95 Theses critiqued the church's sale of indulgences, which Luther regarded as a form of corruption. By Luther's time, indulgences had evolved into payments that were said to reduce punishment for sins. Luther believed that such practices only interfered with genuine repentance and discouraged people from giving to the poor. One of Luther's most important theological contributions was the "priesthood of all believers," which implied that clerics possessed no more dignity than ordinary people.

Less known is the crucial role Luther played in making the case for ordinary people to read often and well. Unlike the papacy and its defenders, who were producing their writings in Latin, Luther reached out to Germans in their mother tongue, substantially enhancing the accessibility of his written ideas.

In my teaching of philanthropy, Luther's promotion of literacy is one of the historic events I often discuss with my students.

Early years

Born in Germany in 1483, Luther followed the wishes of his father to study law. Once, while caught in a terrible thunderstorm, he vowed that if he were saved, he would become a monk.

Indeed, Luther later joined the austere Augustinian order, and became both a priest and a doctor of theology. Later he developed objections to many church practices. He protested the promotion of indulgences, the buying and selling of clerical privileges, and the accumulation of substantial wealth by the church while peasants barely survived. Legend has it that on Oct. 31, 1517, Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg, the town where he was based.

He was branded an outlaw for refusing to recant his teachings. In 1521, Pope Leo X excommunicated Luther from the Roman Church. His patron, Frederick of Saxony, saved Luther from further reprisal and had him taken in secret to a



Martin Luther in a 1533 painting by Lucas Cranach.

"Let the man who would hear God speak read Holy Scripture."

— Martin Luther

castle, where he remained for two years.

It was during that time that Luther produced an immensely influential translation of the New Testament into German.

Impact of Luther's writing

Gutenberg's earlier introduction of the printing press in 1439 made possible the rapid dissemination of Luther's works throughout much of Europe, and their impact was staggering.

Luther's collected works run to 55 volumes. It is estimated that between 1520 and 1526, some 1,700 editions of Luther's works were printed. Of the six to seven million pamphlets printed during this time, more than a quarter were Luther's works, many of which played a vital role in propelling the reformation forward.

Thanks to Luther's translation of the Bible, it became possible for German-speaking people to stop relying on church authorities and instead read the Bible for themselves.

Luther argued that ordinary

people were not only capable of interpreting the scriptures for themselves, but that in doing so they stood the best chance of hearing God's word. He wrote, "Let the man who would hear God speak read Holy Scripture."

Luther's Bible helped form a common German dialect. Prior to Luther, people from different regions of present-day Germany often experienced great difficulty understanding one another. Luther's Bible translation promoted a single German vernacular, helping to bring people together around a common tongue.

Expanding literacy

This view, combined with the wide availability of scripture, shifted responsibility for scriptural interpretation from clerics to the laity. Luther wanted ordinary people to assume more responsibility for reading the Bible.

In promoting his point of view, Luther helped to provide one of the most effective arguments for universal literacy in the history of

Western civilization.

At a time when most people worked in farming, reading was not necessary to maintain a livelihood. But Luther wanted to remove the language barrier so that everyone could read the Bible "without hindrance." His rationale for wanting people both to learn to read and to read regularly was, from his point of view, among the most powerful imaginable — that reading it for themselves would bring them closer to God.

For much of Luther's life, his remarkable output in theological treatises was exceeded only by his Bible commentaries. He believed that nothing could substitute for direct and ongoing encounters with scripture, which he both advocated for and helped to shape through his detailed commentaries.

Reading to interpret truth

Luther had many reasons to favor the dissemination of learning. He was a university professor. His 95 Theses were intended as an academic disputation. His teaching and scholarship played a crucial role in the development of his theology. Finally, he recognized the crucial role students would play in carrying his movement forward.

So powerfully did Luther's influence reverberate down through the ages that, during a visit to Germany in 1934, Rev. Michael King Sr. chose to change both his and his son's name to Martin Luther King. MLK Jr., namesake of the great German reformer, would make full use of the power of free speech in catalyzing the American civil rights movement.

In posting his 95 Theses, Luther was encouraging a vigorous exchange of ideas. The best community is not the one that suppresses dissent but one that challenges ideas it finds objectionable through rigorous argumentation. It is largely for this reason that the founders of the United States took so seriously freedom of religion, free association and the protection of a free press.

Luther trusted ordinary people to discern the truth. All they needed was the opportunity to interpret what they read for themselves.

Richard B. Gunderman, MD, PhD, is a professor and vice chairman of the department of radiology at Indiana University, with faculty positions in pediatrics, medical education, philosophy, philanthropy, and liberal arts.

Worship Community

<p style="text-align: center;">Seventh-Day Adventist Church</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday Services Pendleton 1401 SW Goodwin Place 276-0882 Sabbath School 9:20 am Worship Service 10:45 am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Redeemer Episcopal Church</p> <p>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</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Community Presbyterian Church</p> <p>14 Martin Drive, Umatilla, OR 922-3250</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Worship: 10 AM Sunday School at 11:30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. Johns Episcopal Church</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Join Us On Our Journey With Jesus.</p> <p><i>Scripture, Tradition and Reason</i> Family service 9am Sunday N.E. Gladys Ave & 7th, Hermiston Fr. Dan Lediard, Priest, PH: 567-4672 We are an all inclusive Church who welcomes all.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Grace Baptist Church</p> <p>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 style="text-align: center;">FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>in Mission for Christ LCMC</i></p> <p>Bible Study.....9:00 AM Sunday Worship.....10:30 AM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Red Lion Hotel (Oregon Trail Room) www.faithpendleton.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPEN HEARTS - OPEN DOOR</p> <p>www.graceandmercy.lutheran.org Sunday Worship 8:45 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 (First United Methodist Church) 191 E. Gladys Ave. / P.O. Box 1108 Hermiston, Oregon 97838</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Salvation Army <i>Center for Worship & Service</i></p> <p>Sunday Worship Service 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship Service Wednesday Bible Study 5:30 Family Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COME AS YOU ARE 150 SE EMIGRANT (541)276-3369</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Peace Lutheran Church</p> <p>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</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Living Word Christian Center</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday Worship 10:00am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday Healing School 6:00pm</p> <p>Youth Classes: Nursery - 6th grade Sun & Wed Jr & Sr High Discipleship Program Wed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Overcomer's Outreach Tuesday at 6:00pm - Annex A Christ-centered, 12-Step Recovery Support Group Pastor Sharon Miller 401 Northgate, Pendleton 541-278-8082 www.livingwordcc.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Good Shepherd Lutheran Church LCMC</p> <p>Sunday worship at 11:00 AM 420 Locust St. • Boardman, OR 541-481-6132 Colin Brown, Pastor</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">First United Methodist Church Pendleton</p> <p>352 SE 2nd Street, Pendleton OR Sunday Worship 9am • 541-276-2616 Worship Broadcast on KUMA 1290 @ 11am Worship Livestream at www.facebook.com/FUMCPendleton/ Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors Rev. Dr. Jim Pierce, pastor</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PENDLETON FIRST CHURCH OF GOD</p> <p>FIRST SERVICE 8:30 AM SECOND SERVICE 10:30 AM 712 SW 27TH ST. 541-276-1894 www.fcogpendleton.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Faith Center Church</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Worshiping God Loving People</p> <p>108 S. Main • 276-9569 Sunday Worship 10:30 am Sr. Pastor, Ray O'Grady pendletonfaithcenter.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</p> <p>-Presbyterian Church (USA)- 201 SW Dorion Ave. Pendleton</p> <p>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 style="text-align: center;">BAHA'I FAITH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"The Unity of All Mankind"</p> <p>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>

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