

LIMEY PASTOR

What's in a name?

Many years ago, in the era prior to my being a minister, when I was out in Minnesota and Iowa, I was asked by a lady colleague I was working with what religion I was of? In those ancient days I was not a Lutheran — had never even visited one of those churches — and I told my friend that I was a Catholic, which I was in the early '90s. She was disturbed. I asked what she was, and she said forcefully, "I am a Christian."



COLIN BROWN
Faith

It's the same kind of thing with the Lutheran take on Christianity — people have no clue in general what it is, or even if it is Christian. If it wasn't for the brilliance and pervasive intelligence of the radio storyteller, Garrison Keillor, very few people would know that our church was the power behind Protestantism. Keillor was so effective in conveying the kindness and decency of Lutheran folk that even he has converted to being Lutheran from being a member of the Plymouth Brethren, the severe and rigorous sect. He converted himself.

My church of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church has been a magnet to folk of multiple forms of the Christian faith, which has created some difficulties in forming a language of mutual understanding, but also has created possibilities that I hope bear fruit.

Theology in general is understood in such a muddled way, and Christianity is seen by many as solely a mechanism to provide an eternal security for a fairly self-assured and self-interested soul. But, as Jesus said in Matthew 16:25:

"For whoever wants to save their life [a] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it."

There is no trace of what is sometimes called the "Prosperity Gospel" in Jesus' preaching. Much of the New Testament has catastrophic outcomes, Paul's deliverance to Rome for judgment and execution, Jesus's crucifixion (obviously a massive setback for the movement), and the stoning of Stephen, the first martyr — actually at Paul's hands in the days before he awoke in Jesus' light.

Television Christianity, which requires sending alms and dollars to the TV preacher, has filled the airwaves with myths and empty promises. People have forgotten the omnipresence of martyrs in Christian history.

Christianity is a call to die, to self, to self-interests, to sin — instead it is a lure to give yourself to the very highest in humanity's possibilities. It is the hope of the Christian to be part of Christ's mission in the name of love. It is not a lottery ticket, it is a way of donating to Love itself.

There are three worlds of a Christian. The first world is that of the every day, the day of a world teeming with life and activity, unplanned surprises, difficulties, hurtful insults, losses and gains. We have little control of it.

The second world is inside a Christian, a place which is felt as inside the self, feeling happiness, sorrow, slights and praises. We feel the currents of our body and mind mingle, and interact with the processes of this first world. It is what we think is our self, but it is as mechanical as an automobile. Have you not felt wounded when someone you love says something hurtful to you? We feel separate.

Both of these two worlds are equally transient. Both of these worlds interact with each other creating a driver for all our activities and responses, equally mechanical, like clockwork. It is a treadmill.

When Christ comes to us, we are gifted with a third world, like a star over the stable where the animals dwell in our Christmas Nativity story. In this third world we allow Christ to be in our core, sacrificing our own purposes for the love of others and of God. Allowing God to deal with the complexities of the world, experiencing forgiveness and assisting in the healing of others. Here we pray, love, forgive and serve. Christ comes not to benefit himself, but to love and love more for the sake of our world.

As a Christian we can belong to each other, because we do not own ourselves, we are owned by the Master of Love himself.

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

Pope calls for commitment to fight human trafficking



AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia

Pope Francis waves to faithful from his studio window overlooking St. Peter's Square during the Angelus noon prayer at the Vatican July 30. The pontiff is urging greater commitment against human trafficking, which he called "a form of modern slavery." The pope made the appeal during his traditional Sunday prayer on the U.N.'s world day against trafficking in persons.

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis is urging the world to show a greater commitment to fighting human trafficking, which he called "a form of modern slavery."

The pope made the appeal during his traditional Sunday prayer on the U.N.'s world day against trafficking.

Francis said "every year, thousands of men, women and children are innocent victims of labor exploitation, and sex and organ trafficking." He added that it has become something considered normal: "This is ugly. It is cruel. It is criminal."

He called on the world to renew its commitment to battling "this abhorrent plague, a form of modern slavery," and to pray that traffickers "change their hearts."

The International Labor Organization estimates 21 million people are victims globally of forced labor, including victims of human trafficking for labor and sexual exploitation.

BRIEFLY

Pendleton native brings rap ministry to hometown

PENDLETON — Jessie Comrie will appear Sunday at the Faith Center Church, 108 S. Main St., during the 10 a.m. service to preach and rap for a hometown crowd.

Jessie, the son of Matt and Debbie Comrie and grandson of the late Roy and Audrie Comrie of Pendleton, is the new president of Global Renewal, an East Coast-based ministry that reaches out to nations with the hope of the gospel. Jessie and his wife, Hilary, have just completed four years of missionary work in Boppard, Germany. He has produced two CDs, and can be found on Facebook and YouTube.

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

Pendleton Methodist church collecting box tops for Red Bird

PENDLETON — The United Methodist Church in Pendleton is collecting box tops to benefit Red Bird Mission.

With chronic poverty, minimal jobs and lack of affordable housing, residents in the Appalachian Mountains region have increased obstacles in living full lives. Located in Kentucky, Red Bird Mission has been providing services since 1921. A faith-based endeavor, it strives to minister in the areas of education, health and wellness, community outreach, economic opportunities and community housing improvement.

The United Methodist congregation looks to assist the ministry by collecting Box Tops for Education, Labels for Education and Tyson A+ Labels. The labels can be found on many products, including Betty Crocker, Fiber One, Old El Paso, Yoplait, Huggies, Campbell's, Pepperidge Farm, Swanson, V8 and more. Some provide points and others are worth 10-24 cents each. For details about the programs, visit www.boxtops4education.com, www.labelsforeducation.com or www.projectaplus.tyson.com.

They all add up and can help with the Red Bird Mission, said Rev. Jim Pierce. He asked that people drop off box tops as soon as possible. The church is located at 352 S.E. Second St., Pendleton.

For more information, contact Pierce at 541-276-2616 or preachervet@gmail.com. For more about Red Bird Mission, visit www.rbmission.org.

Christian church hosts old-fashioned service, picnic

PENDLETON — An old-fashioned worship service is planned in Pendleton.

Hosted by the First Christian Church, Worship & Picnic in the Park is Sunday, Aug. 13 with pre-worship music beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Pioneer Park, 400 N.W. Despain Ave., Pendleton. The service starts at 10 a.m. and lunch will be served at 11 a.m.

Everyone is invited to attend. People are encouraged to dress casual and bring a lawn chair. For more information, call 541-276-5358.

Living Water moves services

HERMISTON — The Living Water Foursquare Church has changed venues.

The church, which previously was housed on East Gladys Avenue, is now meeting at The Arc building. The small congregation invites everyone to attend. They meet each Sunday morning at 10 a.m. at 215 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston.

For more information, contact 541-289-7526, mcavvv@gmail.com or visit www.foursquare.org/churches/31919.

Grace Baptist Church to host VBS

PENDLETON — Vacation Bible School is coming to Grace Baptist Church in Pendleton Aug. 14-18 from 6-8 p.m. The church is located at 2809 S.W. Goodwin Ave., Pendleton

Children ages 5-12 are invited to participate in Bible lessons, memory verses, songs, prizes, fun activities, games and snacks each day, and are encouraged to bring their friends. Saturday, Aug. 19 is a family fun day for all ages.

The program is free. For more information or to register, call 541-276-3031.

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.

GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
OPEN HEARTS - OPEN DOOR
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

Worship Community

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"

PENDLETON LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH
 Sunday Service: 10am & 6pm
 Tuesday Kingdom Seekers: 7pm
 Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
 We offer: Sunday School - Sign Language Interpreters - Nursery - Transportation - & more!
Pastor Dan Satterwhite
 541.377.4252
 417 NW 21st St. • Pendleton, OR 97801
www.facebook.com/PendletonLighthouseChurch

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

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

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

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

St. Johns Episcopal Church
 Join Us On Our Journey With Jesus.
 Scripture, Tradition and Reason
Family service 9am Sunday
 N.E. Gladys Ave & 7th, Hermiston
 Fr. Dan Ledard, Priest, PH: 567-6672
 We are an all inclusive Church who welcomes all.

Faith Center Church
 Worshipping God Loving People
 108 S. Main • 276-9569
Sunday Worship 10:00 am
 Sr. Pastor, Ray O'Grady
pendletonfaithcenter.org

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

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 United Methodist Church Pendleton
 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

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

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

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

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

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church LCMC
 Sunday worship at 11:00 AM
 420 Locust St. • Boardman, OR
541-481-6132
 Colin Brown, Pastor

Living Word Christian Center
 401 Northgate, Pendleton
Celebration of Worship
 Sundays 10:00 am
 Youth: 0-6th grade
Midweek Service
 Wednesdays 6:00 pm
 Youth: 0-6th grade
Overcomer's Outreach
 Tuesday's 6:00 pm
In the Annex
 A Christ Centered, 12 Step Recovery Support Group
Pastor Sharon Miller
 541-278-8082
www.livingwordcc.com

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
 541-276-6417
 Assembly of God Church

To share your worship times call 541-278-2678