

LIMEY PASTOR

Baptism and blessing



COLIN BROWN
Faith

Last Easter Sunday my young friend, Deeandra, was baptized. A month away from being 16 years of age, this was a mountaintop moment in her life. A more diligent, more valiant child you could not wish to meet. She is inflamed by the spirit.

She is filled with joy. She is filled with a divine companionship. She had sought out this sacrament herself. She had been called by God and in his name. Deeandra received the gift of baptism and rejoiced.

I love baptism. I love how it feels like being hugged by Christ himself, and being raised up in that amazing joy. Each baptism is a resounding yes to life and to Christ.

I remember being godfather to Baby Tara, years ago. Her mother had borne her out of wedlock after I had helped counsel her not to go ahead with an abortion. It was the best and most happy decision Tara's mother had ever made.

Being a Lutheran, our denomination performs both adult and infant baptisms, wherever people seek to receive Christ's gift for themselves or for their children. It binds us as one family of God. It makes us one with him.

There was a story I had once heard of a small community church in Eastern Oregon. A young couple lost their baby suddenly — and when they went to the leaders of their church asking them of their child's destiny, the elders told them that because their child had died before being baptized, they would never see their baby again. There was no place for their baby in heaven with them. Such terrible nonsense!

The consequence of this grotesque statement was that the church itself imploded, and split asunder with this lie. When a church turns away from love and mercy and makes really stupid and heartbreaking statements

that scandalize congregations, then God himself intervenes to bring about healing and renewal. In this case the old church shriveled — its congregation evaporated — and a new church was formed that was centered around Christ's love and healing spirit that did not deny God's profound love for the little ones and the innocent. It still lives.

There is a profound grace in the sacraments of the church, but Jesus trumps all — and Jesus is not constrained. He is the great liberator of all of us. He is the son of Love.

My baptism was in 1993. I was baptized as an adult at St. Clare's Catholic Church in Portland. It was a full immersion. A great water tank had been provided and steps led to the top for those of us who were the candidates for that season. I had taken the RCIA program given to those who wished to enter the church. I wore the radiant white baptismal garment. My wife and son were in the congregation.

As I rose to the top of the tank, my leg caught in my garment and I dove head first into the cold water in a massive splash and wave. The congregation laughed and cheered and I received my baptism to the hooting of the priest and the people.

I did not know then that the gift I once received would begin to stretch me and deepen the ministry that has taken me to my role as a pastor. My baptism lives in me as a wave that continues to take me deeper into the love of Jesus and my trust in God's call.

Please pray for me. I pray for you in all your churches and that the Lord will continue to work miracles and wonders in all your lives.

Amen.

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

Israeli, Polish presidents join Holocaust remembrance march

By VANESSA GERA
Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — The presidents of Israel and Poland joined thousands of others Thursday for a Holocaust remembrance event at the former Nazi death camps of Auschwitz and Birkenau, hoping to put recent tensions behind them.

Presidents Reuven Rivlin of Israel and Andrzej Duda of Poland lit candles, bowed their heads and pressed their hands on the Death Wall, a site at Auschwitz where inmates, chiefly Polish resistance fighters, were executed by Nazi German forces during World War II.

They then led thousands, including many young Jews from around the world, in the March of the Living, which takes place each year on Israel's Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The solemn march began at the main gate of Auschwitz and ended 2 miles away at Birkenau, where Jews from across Europe were transported by train and murdered in gas chambers.

Duda said he and Rivlin were there to give testimony to the destruction of the Jewish people and warn about where anti-Semitism, xenophobia and racism can lead.

"Our common presence here shows the world: Never again anti-Semitism, never again genocide, never again Holocaust," Duda said during a joint news conference.

Rivlin recalled how Poland was the cradle of Jewish culture before the Holocaust. But he also referred to the "deep disagreement" his country has had with Poland over its passage earlier this



AP Photo/Czarek Sokolowski

People take part in the annual "March of the Living" to commemorate the Holocaust, a yearly Holocaust remembrance march between the former death camps of Auschwitz and Birkenau, in Oswiecim, Poland, on Thursday.

year of a Holocaust speech law.

The law criminalizes blaming Poland for crimes committed by Nazi German forces during their wartime occupation. The Polish government says its aim is to prevent Poland from unfairly being blamed for Germany's crimes.

Israel fears the law's true intent is to whitewash Polish sins by repressing discussion about those Poles who helped the Germans kill Jews.

Duda, whose wife has a Jewish father, insisted the disputed law never aimed to "block testimony" about the Holocaust.

"Just the opposite. We want to defend historical truth," Duda said. "I as Polish president want to defend this truth with all my power, including those elements that are difficult for Poles."

The Jews of Europe and ethnic Poles were two of the

groups who suffered most during the German wartime occupation, with Jews targeted for total elimination and Poles considered a slave race. Many Poles were killed, tortured or forced into slave labor.

Yet many bitter feelings remain today between Jews and Poles, as Jews remember Polish anti-Semitism that in some cases turned deadly.

Many Poles, meanwhile, feel the extent of Polish anti-Semitism is often exaggerated and that wartime Polish efforts to help Jews are being forgotten. Many bristle that their own tragedy is not as well known as that of the Jews.

At Birkenau, the leaders paid tribute to the immense suffering that Germany inflicted both on Jews and Poles.

Rivlin noted that Poland barely survived as a nation and acknowledged the thousands of Poles who put their own lives at risk to help Jews,

vowing that Israel would "honor them forever."

But he also recalled how Jews were murdered during the war not only by Germans, but also by Lithuanians, Belgians and others, including Poles.

Duda recalled Polish wartime heroes who struggled to save Jews and said Poland fulfills its duty to remember the Holocaust by preserving sites like Auschwitz.

Poland's chief rabbi, Michael Schudrich, said he was convinced the efforts by the two presidents moved their countries closer to reconciliation. He described them as "two friends working hard to resolve a serious and difficult problem."

Nazi Germany killed some 1.1 million people in the Auschwitz and Birkenau camps. The victims were mostly Jews, but also included Poles, Roma and Soviet POWs.

BRIEFLY

Baptist church offers services, activities

PENDLETON — People are invited to meet Jesus at the Pendleton Baptist Church.

A variety of faith-based services and activities are offered at the church, 3202 S.W. Nye Ave., Pendleton. Sunday Bible classes meet at 9:45 a.m., followed by the morning worship service at 11 a.m.

Also, there are several small group studies that meet on a regular basis and an Awana Kids Club for children in kindergarten through sixth grade.

Everyone is welcome to participate. The church's mission is to guide people of all backgrounds into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. For more information, call 541-276-7590 or visit www.pendletonbaptist.com.

Pastor's wife encourages regular attendance

HERMISTON — Rev. David Dever and his wife, Debbie, welcome everyone to Hermiston Landmark Missionary Baptist Church.

Some people, Debbie said, only

attend church around Easter and Christmas. She encourages community members to participate in services and activities throughout the year.

Each week, the church offers Sunday school at 10 a.m. and worship at 11 a.m. The church is located at 125 E. Beech Ave., Hermiston. In addition, mid-week activities include a Creation Club for youths (Wednesdays, 5:30-7 p.m.) and an adult Bible study (Wednesdays, 6 p.m.)

For more information, contact debdever@yahoo.com, 541-567-3232, visit www.hermistonlmbc.com or search Facebook.

WORSHIP COMMUNITY

Peace Lutheran Church
210 NW 9th, Pendleton
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

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

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"

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

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

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

Faith Center Church
Worshiping God Loving People
108 S. Main • 276-9569
Worship Service: 10:30am
Sunday School: 9:30am
pendletonfaithcenter.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

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

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
in Mission for Christ LCMC
Sunday Worship.....9:00 AM
Bible Study.....10:00 AM
Red Lion Hotel (Oregon Trail Room)
www.faithpendleton.org

BAHA'I FAITH IN PENDLETON
"See ye no strangers, rather see all men as friends, for love and unity come hard when ye fix your gaze on otherness."
- Abdu'l Baha
Please come visit with us at **The Baha'i Center:**
1015 SE Court Place
Everyone invited!
Sunday Devotions @ 11:00am
Sunday "Pure Prayer" (no talk, just prayer) @ 6:30pm
Wednesday "Discover the Baha'i Faith" @ 6:30pm,
Thursday Seminars on World Religions @ 7pm
(541) 276-9360 or visit us at www.pendletonbahais.com
www.facebook.com/pendletonoregonbahais/

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

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

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(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 School: 9:30am
Worship: 10:40am
Fellowship to follow
Office 541-276-5358 M-F, 8:30-12:30
www.fccpendleton.org

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

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
PH: 567-6672
We are an all inclusive Church who welcomes all.