



FAITH

The Apostle Paul: Making his way through 2017

By Caitlyn May
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When Jerry Thompson left his position as the sports editor for the Cottage Grove Sentinel, everyone assumed he retired. But his schedule says otherwise.

He still mans the Mighty Oregon Magazine, devoted to the University of Oregon Ducks and on occasion residents can find him wandering his old haunts, interviewing coaches and athletes for The Sentinel as a freelancer. His latest endeavor, however, has slowly migrated from a hobby to an all out passion project with a budget in the thousands.

Thompson is writing, directing and self-funding a 90-minute feature film

on the apostle Paul, with a twist.

"Just as he's about to die, he ends up in Rome, Oregon. He time travels," Thompson said. "It becomes a little like *Miracle on 34th St.*"

Thompson, along with his crew, have traveled Oregon to film scenes from biblical times to the current year. On Friday, June 23, the crew was borrowing the Cottage Grove Police Department's basement jail cells to film a crucial scene.

"Paul gets arrested," Thompson said. "He's been causing trouble by trying to get all of the churches together and one of the police officers, who is having an affair, is bribed to frame Paul and arrest him." Paul's crime? Meth found in his bible.

The basic premise of the film, according to Thompson, is the lack of communication between Christian churches.

"Paul wrote of the churches being together and then he comes here in 2017 and there's several churches on one street and they don't interact," said Thompson.

In the effort to kill two birds with one stone, Thompson is hosting a meeting in Eugene with local churches. The idea is to both shoot footage for the film and gather churches together to communicate a message of unity.

"It's about coming together," he said. The movie is not expected to be completed for months but it's come a long way from an idea that turned in

Thompson's mind over and over for a little over two years. Eventually, he found a partner to put up half the cost and is currently working with a \$100,000 budget.

"We'll take it to festivals when it's done," he said. "But the focus now is the meeting to bring the churches together and the venue holds 1,000 seats."

While the meeting is taking place in Eugene, Thompson said he has invited Cottage Grove churches as well.

"We're shooting the film all over but Cottage Grove churches are welcome."

Thompson's foray into the film industry began when he graduated from the Christian Broadcasting Network's

film program. Since then, he's worked with the 700 Club and has hopes to return.

"That's one of the goals," he said. "To maybe have this film on the 700 Club."

For now, he says he'll continue to shoot the film and focus on the coming meeting meant to bring local churches together.

"The whole idea is based on John 17," he said. The verse read, "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

Lutheran Church celebrates 70 years in Cottage Grove



PHOTO BY BRUCE KESLH

Pictured: Rev. Dr. Paul Linnemann, NW District President; Pastor Gerald Rabe (1987-2002); Pastor Roland Kroll, Pastor Ron Leder, Pastor Jim Markus and Pastor Ray Waetjen.

It was a celebratory day at Trinity Lutheran Church on Sunday, June 11, for past and present members and their special guests. The atmosphere of the event was of a family reunion with Rev. Jim Markus serving as host of the 70th Anniversary celebration of Cottage Grove's Lutheran Church.

The journey local Lutherans made to establish what is now known as "the big brown church at 6th and Quincy" was one of deep faith, commitment, patience and personal sacrifice. Along the way there were 235 weddings and 292 funerals and approximately 4,900 Sunday worship services.

The history of the church dates back to the early 1900's with circuit-rider pastors from Portland, Corvallis and Albany visiting Cottage Grove's Trinity Lutheran Mission. In the first quarter of 1910, a district record lists "40 souls and an average attendance of 30 at the monthly service." When Grace Lutheran Church was organized in Eugene, several of its pastors regularly served the local parish here.

In the 1930's, services were conducted in the Seventh-Day Adventist Church on the corner of Main Street and M Street that today is St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. Services were also held in the Smith Funeral Chapel. The schedule changed often due to other area Lutheran missions that also needed to be served.

On June 8, 1947, the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church was formally established. In August 1948, the young congregation installed its first full-time pastor, Rev. Richard Gross. Under his leadership, Lutherans purchased property at 675 S. 7th St. and on Trinity Sunday, May 20, 1951, the congregation dedicated its long-awaited church building.

Nearly 30 years later, members again dug deep into their pockets to finance the \$300,000 needed to renovate and expand their building to facilitate its expanding ministries. It was dedicated on Palm Sunday 1980. A third major renovation to the fellowship hall was completed and dedicated on April 2, 2001. The \$435,000 project is home to their TLC Community Kitchen. Last February, TLC completed its 19th year. In that time they had hosted 1,923 dinners and served 163,902 meals using

Linnemann said. "The world in which God has put us is not the same as it was in 1947. The blessing of the Gospel has not changed and the love God has for us is still the same. The challenge is to receive it and move with it into the future. Hold on to the good things yet be ready to receive the new things God wants to do in us and through us.

Following the service a banquet was held in the fellowship hall that was prepared and served by members of the local Catholic Church. Honored guests included Gene Baldwin, son of former Pastor Richard Baldwin (1959-66); Rev. R.H. Kroll (1966-74), Rev. Gerald Rabe (1987-2002) and Rev. Ray Waetjen of Eugene.

Rev. Rabe said, "It's a great day to be here seeing old friends in this fellowship hall that was built during my time here. It wasn't just for us it was for the community. I'm glad to see it fulfills that mission."

Founding Member Irene Bauder shared reflections of her life spent in the church. Joyce McCullough recounted how Lutherans have profited nicely from the Bohemia Mining Days festival, first from their "Pie Palace" and for the past 32 years serving a Chicken BBQ on Saturday. An open mike for sharing yielded several good stories.

12,420,29 volunteer hours. "Remembering God's Blessings" was the theme of the June 11 event. Just by happenstance the 70th anniversary observance fell on Trinity Sunday, the first Sunday after Pentecost. Members made the decision to not wait another five years for the 75th anniversary milestone to arrive and chose to celebrate this year in conjunction with the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, led by the denomination's namesake, Martin Luther.

Northwest District President Rev. Dr. Paul Linnemann preached during the Sunday afternoon service. He spoke of blessed connections among those gathered to remember the significant events in church history and added words of encouragement for the future.

"God has some wonderful things ahead for this ministry,"

**Joyful Singing
Spiritual Worship
Practical Bible Preaching**

Sunday 11:00 AM

**HOPE
FELLOWSHIP**

United Pentecostal Church

100 S. Gateway Blvd
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www.hopefellowshipupc.com

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**Hope in the Grove
New Beginnings**

**July 9th @ 5pm
Bohemia Park**

Free food, music, & Inspirational Speakers
Entertainment for the whole family,
including a bounce house!

One of those stories was told by Bob Fossum, a 1971 Cottage Grove High School graduate, who now lives in Bend. In junior high school he was asked to be a Sunday School teacher to elementary students. In addition to teaching the lesson, to build rapport with the younger students he taught them the principles of football using a deck of cards where certain cards cor-

related with certain plays – and the kids loved it.

In high school, the pastor entrusted Fossum to preach on Sunday in his absence. He discovered he enjoyed teaching so much he pursued a degree in elementary education. He and his wife later earned counseling degrees and they are now involved in youth and family ministries.

"It's amazing what God can

do with a deck of cards to reach kids with the love of Jesus, with the trust of a pastor who gave me some important responsibilities at a young age, and by believing God can use you at any age for His purposes," Fossum said. "This church inspired me to do the professional church work I love for the past 42 years."



DRAIN:

HOPE U.M.C.
131 W "A" St. Drain, OR
541-315-1617
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen
Fellowship & Song: 11:30am
Potluck Lunch: 12:00pm
Worship: 12:30pm

COTTAGE GROVE:

6th & Gibbs Church of Christ
195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822
Pastor: Aaron Earlywine
Youth & Families Pastor: Seth Bailey
Services: 9am and 10:30am
Christian Education
Nursery for pre-k - 3rd Grade
www.6thandgibbs.com

Calvary Baptist Church
77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290
Pastor: Riley Hendricks
Sunday School: 9:45am
Worship: 11:00am
The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm
Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm

Calvary Chapel Cottage Grove
1447 Hwy 99 (Village Plaza)
541-942-6842
Pastor: Jeff Smith
Two Services on Sun: 9am & 10:45am
Youth Group Bible Study
Child Care 10:45am Service Only
www.cgcalvary.org

Center for Spiritual Living
Cottage Grove
700 Gibbs Ave. (Community Center)
Rev. Bobby Lee
Meets Sunday 3:00 p.m.
cslcottagrove@gmail.com

Church of Christ
420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565
Sunday Service: 10:30am

Cottage Grove Bible Church
1200 East Quincy Avenue
541-942-4771
Pastor: Bob Singer
Worship 11am
Sunday School: 9:45am
AWANA age 3-8th Grade,
Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm
www.cgbible.org

Cottage Grove Faith Center
33761 Row River Rd. • 541-942-4851
Lead Pastor: Kevin Pruet
www.cg4.tv
Full Children's Ministry available
Two Services 9am & 11am

Delight Valley Church of Christ
33087 Saginaw Rd. East
541-942-7711
Pastor: Bob Friend
Two Services:
9am - Classic in the Chapel
10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium

First Presbyterian Church
3rd and Adams St • 541-942-4479
Pastor: Karen Hill
Worship: 10:00am
Sunday School: 10:00am
www.cgpresbynews.com

Hope Fellowship
United Pentecostal Church
100 S. Gateway Blvd. • 541-942-2061
Pastor: Dave Bragg
Worship: 11:00am Sunday
Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday
www.hopefellowshipupc.com
"FINDING HOPE IN YOUR LIFE"

Living Faith Assembly
467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612
Pastor Rulon Combs
Worship & Children's Church 10:00 am
Youth 180 Mondays 5:30-8pm

Non-Denominational Church of Christ
1041 Pennoyer Ave • 541-942-8928
Preacher: Tony Martin
Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am
Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm
www.pennoyeravecoc.com

Old Time Gospel Fellowship
103 S. 5th St. • 541-942-4999
Pastor: Jim Edwards
Sunday Service: 10:00am
Join us in Traditional Christian Worship

Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi Catholic Churches
1025 N. 19th St.
541-942-3420 / 541-942-4712
Pastor: Roy L. Antunez, S.J.
Euch. Liturgies; Sat. 5:30pm
Sun. 10:30am
St. Philip Benizi, Creswell:
552 Holbrook Lane • 541-895-8686
Sunday: 8:30am

St. Andrews Episcopal Church
1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050
Rev. Lawrence Crumb
"Church with the flags."
Worship: Sunday 10:30am
All Welcome

Seventh-day Adventist Church
820 South 10th Street
541-942-5213
Pastor: Kevin Miller
Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am
Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40 am
Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church
6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373
Pastor: James L. Markus
Sunday School & Adult Education 9:15am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur 5:00pm TLC Groups tlccg.com

United Methodist Church
334 Washington • 541-942-3033
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen
Worship: 10:30am
Comm. Dinner (Adults \$5, Kids Free)
2nd & 3rd Monday 5-6:00pm
cottagroveumc.org

"VICTORY" Country Church
913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913
Pastor: Barbara Dockery
Worship Service: 10:00am
Message: 11:00am
"WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES"

Worship With Us!

Our Worship Directory is a weekly feature in the newspaper. If your congregation would like to be a part of this directory, please contact the Cottage Grove Sentinel @ 541-942-3325