

Tidings Newsletter

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Physical: 2511 S Pines Road, Spokane Valley, WA 99206
Mailing: PO Box 141862, Spokane Valley, WA 99214-1862
Office Phone: (509) 926-7966
Email: office@holytrinitylcmc.org
Website: www.holytrinitylcmc.org

July 2026

Volume 66, Number 7

Monthly Newsletter

Summer Worship Schedule

No Sunday School

Worship Service w/Communion begins @ 9:30 am



THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS,
ONE NATION, UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE, WITH
LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.

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The Communion of Saints In Action

by Pastor Ed Backell

Hello, my friends! By the time you read this, our nation's 250th birthday will have been celebrated. July 4th certainly marks an event in history. Of course July 4 is a big deal; but as a young man raised in a military household, we tended to pay more attention to the Army's Birthday - June 14, 1775. In many homes, hallways are lined with photographs of family pictures. In MY home, my father had The American Soldier Print Series: a collection of color pictures of Army uniforms throughout history. Our Army heritage was very important to us as a family, with my grandfather at the rank of Master Sergeant, and my father at the rank of Sergeant Major (the highest rank for an enlisted soldier). Is it any wonder I had planned to spend my life in military service?

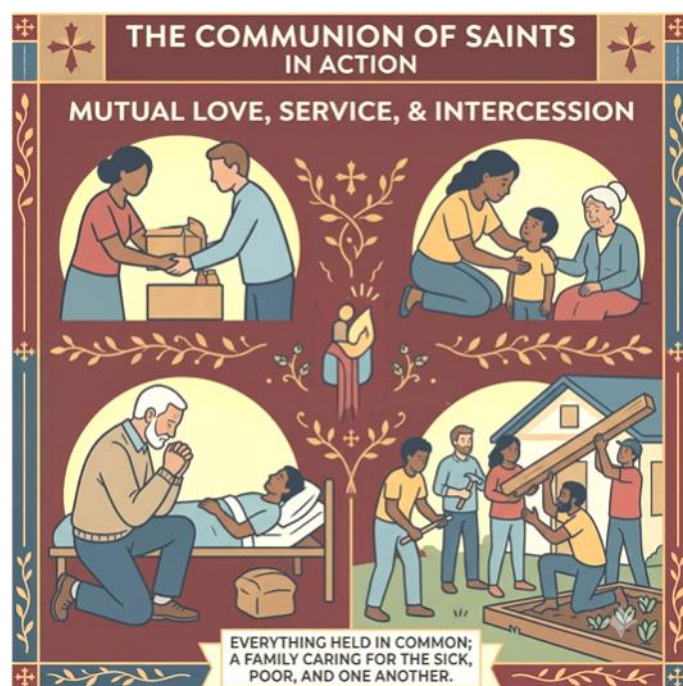
And yet, God had other plans. Instead of military service, I am a servant in the Kingdom of God. And while I don't have the esprit de corps of the American military, I have something that I've come to appreciate all the more: The Communion of Saints - we mention it every Sunday in the Apostles Creed. It's described as "an eternal, metaphysical network. Functionally, it manifests as a deep sharing of spiritual goods, sacraments, and mutual intercession (praying for one another across the boundaries of life and death)."

Now, before you start accusing me of becoming Catholic, let me point out a crucial difference from the Book of Concord. It states "We admit that, just as the saints (when alive) pray for the Church universal in general, so in heaven they pray for the Church in general." (Apology XXI, 9) The Confessions state that saints pray for the Church in general (i.e., "Lord, preserve your Church on Earth and let your Kingdom come"). Lutherans reject the idea that Saint Anthony is looking down tracking your lost car keys, or that Saint Jude is monitoring an individual's specific medical crisis.

But what that DOES mean - and we touched on this a bit in our last Wednesday Bible study in June - is that we CAN and DO ask the saints to pray for us...but we're specifically asking the saints NEXT TO US IN THE PEWS to take our prayers to the Father. When we're participating in group prayer on Sunday mornings...we're actually asking the saints we know, sitting in the same room, to join us in prayer, to make all our requests known to God (Philippians 4:6).

This reminds me of what I experienced in the National Association of Congregationalist Christian Churches. Every year, we'd have a national Annual Meeting, usually in June. In fact, it's about this time in June that I'd usually be returning from those meetings, refreshed and renewed for shared ministry. There is a real upside to reconnecting with sisters and brothers from churches all over the United States. Let me share with you what a fellow pastor posted: "Each summer we would eagerly anticipate the end of June and our annual trip...which more closely resembled a family reunion than a business

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The Communion of Saints In Action

by Pastor Ed Backell

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meeting. The point was that it didn't matter what backdrop we gathered before, what mattered was that we gathered as a family."

What a joy to know that when we came to Holy Trinity Lutheran, we'd find that same kind of congregational fellowship - the very practice of the Communion of the Saints - in the Lutheran Congregations in Mission with Christ. And I'd be remiss if I didn't heartily recommend that as many of us from our congregation as possible attend next year's district annual meeting. This year's meeting was in April, on the third weekend at Lutherhaven in Idaho. I don't have specific dates for the 2027 meeting, but I'm pretty sure it'll be in April...please carve out that time slot, and let's plan to attend if at all possible. I'm sure you won't be disappointed.

Hebrews 10:25 reminds us: "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching." This is good for us to remember - not just on our local level of our own congregation, but it also is a good reminder for us to pray for and interact with our sister churches in the Northwest...and across America, and even our fellow Lutheran churches throughout the world. After all, we are all a part of God's Kingdom.

Don't forget: All-Church S'mores night, Thursday, July 9, at 7:00 pm. Please invite your friends; we'll provide the goodies; you come prepared to meet new people!



*Walking with you -
Pastor Ed*

rightnow MEDIA

Free Access to Biblical Videos

Every person in our church has **free access to biblical video series** for adults, youth, and kids, now streaming on your favorite device.

Get Free Access

1. Click the link in your email invitation or visit <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/holytrinitylc>
2. Download the app for your device
3. Or scan this QR code



Video of the Month July 2026

"The Book of James"

By Francis Chan, a 12-session study

True faith produces fruit. A faith without action and without life change is ultimately a dead faith. The book of James speaks to the realities of a living faith in Jesus—the kind of roll-up-your-sleeves and get-your-hands-dirty discipleship that is borne out of an authentic relationship with the risen Lord. James writes to believers who know suffering, who've faced trials, and who ultimately desire a deep relationship with God.

Francis works through James verse-by-verse, challenging followers of Christ to move beyond a private, intellectual knowledge of God and His Word, to a vibrant faith that impacts every square inch of life.

*To view the video of the month,
scan this QR Code using
your cell phone camera.*



S'mores Night Fundraiser

July 9 @ 7:00 pm

Please join us on
Thursday, July 9 at 7:00 pm
for a fundraiser to help support our
local food bank (**Partners INW**)

Suggested donation

-non-perishable food items

*Come and enjoy an evening of
S'mores, music, and fun!*

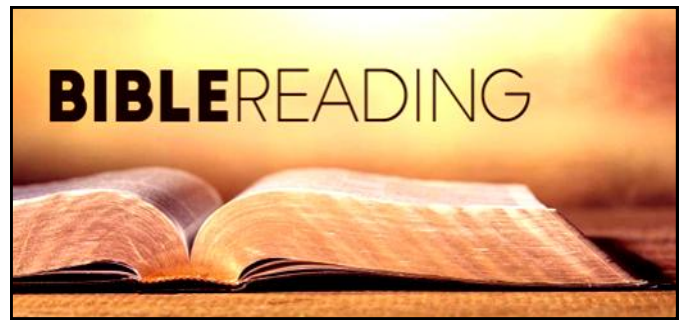


Sponsored by Thrivent Financial



July Birthdays

Doug Garber	July 4
Cheryal Brown	July 5
Arlene Severance	July 16
Judy Ingraham	July 20
Janece Scheele	July 22
Squeaky May	July 26
Chris McKenny	July 26
Sue Abitz	July 28
Meg McKenny	July 28



July 5 - 6th Sunday after Pentecost

- ✝ Malachi 4:1-6
- ✝ 2 John
- ✝ John 5:31-47

July 12 - 7th Sunday after Pentecost

- ✝ 2 Kings 6:8-23
- ✝ 1 Corinthians 5:1-5
- ✝ Matthew 12:38-45

July 19 - 8th Sunday after Pentecost

- ✝ Jeremiah 7:1-7
- ✝ 1 Corinthians 7:1-40
- ✝ Matthew 24:1-8

July 26 - 9th Sunday after Pentecost

- ✝ Deuteronomy 31:23-29
- ✝ 1 Corinthians 9:1-15
- ✝ Matthew 24:9-14



David & Christel Seybold

Married July 8, 2000

Celebrating 26 years!

Chris & Meg McKenny

Married July 27

HTLC Campaign for UGM Kid's Camp

Purchased and Donated Items

Delivered on 6/11/2026

- 19 Girls swimsuits
- 5pr. Tennis shoes
- 28 Girl's shorts 1
- 0 Girl's sweatpants
- 2 10-pk Flashlights
- 4 pillows

Delivered on 6/16/2026

- 2bxs Trail Mix (28ea)
- 2bgs Mini-beef sticks (28ea)
- 2bxs Cliff Z bars (36ea)
- 3bxs Kirkland Granola bars (64ea)
- 2bxs Chip Variety
- 2bxs Kirkland popcorn
- 2bxs Goldfish (45ea)
- 2bxs Animal Crackers

Delivered on 6/19/2026

- 3bxs Insect Repellent (24ea)
- 3bgs Spray screen (24ea)
- 3bxs Sunscreen lotion (36ea)
- 2bxs Ice Packs
- 12 Outdoor Picnic blankets
- 11pr. Men's Flip-flops
- 9pr Men's shoes
- 5pr. Tennis shoes
- 4pr. Women' shoes
- 800 Water Bottles
- 15 Bread of Life centerpieces

A Very BIG Thank You to everyone who contributed!



COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Meeting Minutes: June 9, 2026 *(Subject to approval)*

Respectfully Submitted by Sandy Hoveskeland, Council Secretary

Present: Pat Woods, LaLita Tadena, Pastor Ed Backell, Nancy Purcell, Vicki Egesdal, Bob McMahan, Diane Bertholet, Jen Bomhard and Sandy Hoveskeland. Charlie May was absent.

Call to Order: President Pat Woods called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Devotional: Vicki provided the devotional focused on daily devotions for busy people. Take five minutes to pause, breathe, read, meditate, pray and execute. Refer to Matthew 11:28. "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Nancy and seconded by LaLita to approve the May 12, 2026, minutes as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Vicki provided the Treasurer's report. Our net cash loss is \$4,500 smaller than expected when comparing actual to budget. Plate offerings are higher than at this time last year. Pastor's health insurance is posted twice as a payroll expense by mistake. Vicki will work with Tracy to correct this double entry in QuickBooks.

STCU Checking:	\$14,397.49
C. Schwab Building Fund:	\$37,370.01
C. Schwab Savings:	\$121,461.60
C Schwab Savings VIGAX Fund:	\$27,458.55



Approval of Treasurer's Report: A motion was made by Jen and seconded by Nancy to approve the June 9, 2026, Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Ed preached and taught adult Sunday School every Sunday. The Augsburg Confession study has been completed. When Sunday School starts again, the subject will be what it means to be "IN Christ". He met weekly with the Wednesday Bible study group, Tuesday men's fellowship, and Friday morning breakfast group. He attended the monthly Worship and Music committee meeting.

Pastor Ed and Jami and Jami's choir from Valley Christian School Jr. High put on a concert in the Sanctuary May 31. It was very well attended and included families of the kids in the school chorus. The evening was fun!

Pastor Ed met during the month with several people, including Karl from AA, Sherry Hale, who called asking for help with gas and her phone bill, and our neighbor next door to the church. He invited them all to church. We had new visitors at church this month and hope they all return. Pastor had a call from Albert Johnson who lives

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COUNCIL MINUTES

(Continued from previous page)

on the south hill asking for a ride to church. Charlie volunteered to pick him up. Pastor Ed is serving on jury duty June 8-18. Pastor Steve Hagler agreed to fill in during that time if there is an urgent need.

Properties and Maintenance: See report submitted by Charlie May. Drew from AA will have his crew repair all the ridge caps on the church roof for \$600. This includes all materials and labor needed for the job. A motion was made by Bob and seconded by Nancy to approve the \$600 expense. Motion was unanimously approved.

Worship and Music: See report submitted by Nancy Purcell. There will be no Sunday School in the summer. Worship services are at 9:30 a.m. Pastor Ed and his son-in-law, Josh, will make gifts to be distributed to the men of the congregation for Father's Day.

Congregational Ministries: See report submitted by LaLita Tadena.

Christian Education: See report submitted by Diane Bertholet.

Social Cares and Concerns and Care Team: See report submitted by Jennifer Bomhard.

Insurance Policy Ad Hoc Committee: The committee (Vicki, Charlie and Bob) had a meeting on May 13. Vicki will give a report at the July council meeting.

Approval of Committee Reports: A motion was made by Vicki and seconded by Jen to approve the Committee Reports as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

Old/Unfinished Business:

1. National Night Out – August 4: Christel and Pam have volunteered to be the planning committee. Ice cream bars will be served. Pastor Ed and Jami will lead singing, and Jack will also provide music. The fire department and police department will be represented, and a drone operator might attend as well.
2. Annual Events: The UGM Summer Camp is coming up and there may be some interest in touring the camp on the Spokane River as was done in previous years. More information will follow.
3. S'mores Night: On Thursday, July 9, at 7 p.m. we will host a fundraiser for the local food bank. Bring a non-perishable food item and enjoy an evening of S'mores, music and fun. Jen Bomhard is the planner for this event. She will talk to Squeaky for background information and with Denel to see if he's available to bring some classic cars.
4. Back to School with South Pines Elementary: Sue Abitz has volunteered to be the liaison between HTLC and South Pines Elementary. LaLita will reach out to Sue for details.

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COUNCIL MINUTES

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New Business:

1. Welcome New Members: On Sunday, June 28, Pastor Ed will welcome new members and receive them into membership.
2. Review for Compliance -- Constitution and Bylaws: Pat Woods asked that council members review the Constitution and Bylaws before the next meeting. All council members should be included in the email if there are questions so everyone can benefit from the answers.
3. User Group Building Access Outside of Normal Meetings: User groups need to notify Tracy if they are going to access the building outside their normal scheduled meetings. Tracy will check the calendar to make sure there are no conflicts. The Church Facilities Use Agreement needs to be adhered to. There is a charge for maintenance and costs associated with using the building for events. A motion was made by Vicki and seconded by Jen to refer this issue to the Properties and Maintenance committee to follow up with the user groups. Motion was unanimously approved.
4. Additional Church Logo: Pastor Ed presented an additional version of our church logo. He sharpened up the logo and added color. A motion was made by Vicki and seconded by Jen that we accept the color version as an alternative to our black and white logo. Motion was unanimously approved.

Next Month's Devotional: Jen

July Counters: Diane and Sandy

Adjournment: The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:00 p.m.



Bite2Go Presentation - Sunday, July 12, 10:30 am

Holy Trinity is partnering with Bite2Go to provide children with a mix of easy-to-open, single-serving, nutritious, nonperishable food items.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for anyone interested.
For just \$24 per month, you can sponsor a kid at Bowdish Middle School.

There will be a Bite2Go presentation at HTLC on *Sunday, July 12, 10:30 am* that will provide more information and answer any questions.

For more information contact:

Dan Olson at (509) 990-0981; dolson@ghkservices.com
George Simon at (509) 939-0652; mrgsjr@comcast.net



July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4-Independence Day
			Pastor Ed's Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—WNW	Pastor Ed's Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm Tracy's Office Hours: 11:00 am—1:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	8:00 am Breakfast and Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	8:00 am AA—MWU 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SRG (AM) 7:00 pm AA—SRG (PM)	Pastor Ed's Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm TOPS 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—MNM	Pastor Ed's Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—B2B	Pastor Ed's Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—WNW	Pastor Ed's Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm Tracy's Office Hours: 11:00 am—1:00 pm 11:15 am—1:00 pm Serving Lunch @ Men's Shelter 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm S'mores Fundraiser Night	8:00 am Breakfast and Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	8:00 am AA—MWU 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
7th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:30 am Bite2Go Presentation 10:00 am AA—SRG (AM) 5:30 pm—6:30 pm NA Committee Mtg 7:00 pm AA—SRG (PM)	Pastor Ed's Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm TOPS 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—MNM	Pastor Ed's Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:30 pm Council Meeting 7:00 pm NA—B2B	Pastor Ed's Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—WNW Newsletter Articles Due	Pastor Ed's Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm Tracy's Office Hours: 11:00 am—1:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	8:00 am Breakfast and Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	8:00 am AA—MWU 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SRG (AM) 7:00 pm AA—SRG (PM)	Pastor Ed's Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm TOPS 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—MNM	Pastor Ed's Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—B2B	Pastor Ed's Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—WNW	Pastor Ed's Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm Tracy's Office Hours: 11:00 am—1:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	8:00 am Breakfast and Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	8:00 am AA—MWU 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
9th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SRG (AM) 5:30 pm—6:30 pm NA Committee Mtg 7:00 pm AA—SRG (PM)	Pastor Ed's Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm TOPS 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—MNM	Pastor Ed's Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—B2B	Pastor Ed's Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—WNW	Pastor Ed's Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 10:00 am Table-Talk w/ Pastor Tracy's Office Hours: 11:00 am—1:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 1:30 pm W&M Committee Mtg 5:30 pm AA—HHG	8:00 am Breakfast and Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
PO BOX 141862
SPOKANE VALLEY WA 99214-1862

Return Service Requested

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Mission Statement:**

*“To proclaim the Good News of God’s
Saving Grace and to minister to our
community through our relationship with God.”*



Tidings is published monthly for the members
and friends of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.
The material and content of this periodical is
intended to be about church business, community
outreach, theology, and spiritual inspiration.

*If you no longer desire to receive this publication,
please email office@holyltrinitylcmc.org, or call (509) 926-7966.*

July Events	
Independence Day!	Saturday, July 4
Serving Lunch at UGM Men’s Shelter	Thursday, July 9 @ 11:15 am
S’mores Fundraiser Night	Thursday, July 9 @ 7:00 pm
Bite2Go Presentation After Worship Service	Sunday, July 12 @ 10:30 am
Council Meeting	Tuesday, July 14 @ 6:30 pm
Newsletter Articles Due	Wednesday, July 15
Worship & Music Committee Meeting	Thursday, July 30 @ 1:30 pm
Mid-week Bible Study	Wednesdays @ 10:00 am
Table-Talk w/Pastor	Last Thursday of the month @ 10:00 am
Breakfast & Bible Study	Fridays @ 8:00 am
Summer Worship Schedule <i>No Sunday School</i> 9:30 am Worship w/Communion (fellowship after)	