

TIDINGS

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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September 2025

Volume 65, Number 9

Monthly Newsletter

Regular Worship Schedule—Begins 9/7/25

Sunday School @ 9:30 am

Worship Service w/Communion @ 10:30 am

the grass withers
and the flower fades
but the word of our God
endures forever

isaiah 40:1



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Who is Shaping Who?

by Pastor Ed Backell

I am constantly amazed at how **relevant** Scripture is to my daily experience. I realize that, sure, it's "supposed" to be...after all, I'm a pastor, and I spend much of my working week pouring through the pages as I'm preparing a Bible study, or a lesson for discussion, or (of course) working on the sermon.

When I approach Scripture, I'm much more intentional on the *PROCESS* of understanding what I'm reading. My goal in reading through God's word is to learn as best I can the original intent of

whatever portion I'm reading, and then trying to bridge the gap between that original context and my current context as a reader. And in getting at the original intent, I'm constantly having to remind myself: "I am reading words that are *THOUSANDS* of years old. They were *NOT* written with *MY* time-frame in mind...

I've got to try and understand *THEIR* time-frame to make sense of what I'm reading."

Sounds logical, right? If I'm reading an old document, I should always remember that it's *OLD*...that it wasn't written with my specific situation in mind. Well, that's all well and good in theory. However, what I find in *PRACTICE* is that, even though the original intent of the original author (let's say, for example, the prophet Isaiah) is to write to *HIS* specific audience (Israel) in *THEIR* specific circumstance (rebellion against the LORD) from *HIS* specific context (as a presence in the royal court of Israel)...I'm constantly struck by the parallels between the ancient situations and *MY* current situations in the 21st century.

Here's an example: a while ago, I was writing out my pastoral prayer, to be offered on the Sunday close to 9/11. I decided to base my prayer on Psalms 7, written perhaps 3,000 years ago. In it,

David is lamenting about being under attack and is crying for God to intervene. He writes, "I come to you for protection, O LORD my God. Save me from my persecutors—rescue me! If you don't, they will maul me like a lion, tearing me to pieces with no one to rescue me. O LORD my God, if I have done wrong or am guilty of injustice, if I have betrayed a friend or plundered my enemy without cause, then let my enemies capture me. Let them trample me into the ground and drag my honor in the dust..."



Now, I know in my **head** that those words are specifically about some situation that David faced. However, it is my **heart** that reads those words and couples them with the images that still play through my mind when I remember September 11, 2001. I remember the clouds of dust that I saw swirling

through the New York air, and even over twenty years later, I cry, along with David, the words of Psalm 7:6..."Arise, O LORD, in anger! Stand up against the fury of my enemies! Wake up, my God, and bring justice!"

My gut reaction is to read this Psalm and shout, "Yeah, Lord...! You get those terrorists who did this to us!" And I think that gut reaction is reasonable—we desperately want justice. But I need to remember that even though I might be reminded of current circumstances as I'm reading the Bible...I **MUST** let God speak His Word to my heart; to let the Spirit cause the words written so long ago shape my current understanding...instead of the other way around.

Joining with you in the process of being shaped *BY* the Word...

Keep Following Jesus—Pastor Ed



rightnow MEDIA



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church will soon gain access to RightNow Media and will be providing FREE access to every member of our congregation.

Here is a little bit about RightNow Media from their website.

We believe the mission of the church matters. Everything we do at RightNow Media is rooted in Jesus's command to make disciples and in his promise that God will use his people to change the world.

We exist to serve the global church by providing resources that inspire and equip Christians to live out the mission Jesus gave us—to make disciples of all nations. Whether in church, at home, or in the workplace, we want to see disciples of Jesus loving God and loving others. Our goal is to partner with you to strengthen your ministry's discipleship efforts, helping each person in your care grow deeper in their faith and become disciples who make disciples. The mission of the church is to make disciples, and we've seen God use digital media to transform lives. That's why we developed RightNow Media—to help every person, family, small group, and student grow in their faith with 24/7 access to 25,000+ biblical videos. We want to help you equip and disciple everyone in your church every day of the week.

Everyone in your congregation can access biblical videos on topics like marriage, parenting, youth, recovery, leadership, finances, and much more.

To learn more about RightNow Media go to their website at <https://rightnowmedia.org>.

We will be sharing more information about RightNow Media with you soon.



September Anniversaries

Jack & Donna Tiley

Married September 10

Duane & Janece Scheele

Married September 12, 1970

Celebrating 55 years of marriage!

COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Meeting Minutes: August 12, 2025 (Subject to approval)

Respectfully Submitted by Sandy Hoveskeland, Council Secretary

Present: Diane Fried, Denel Ingraham, Charlie May, Vicki Egesdal, LaLita Tadena, Pastor Ed Backell, George Simon, Nancy Purcell, Dan Olson and Sandy Hoveskeland. Pat Woods was absent.

Call to Order: President George Simon called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Devotional: Diane gave the devotional "When God Says No" based on James 4:2-3. We can ask for what we want, but God decides what is best for us.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Nancy and seconded by LaLita to approve the July 8, 2025 minutes as revised. Motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was not provided at this meeting. Vicki Egesdal will email the June and July treasurer's reports to the Council.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Ed preached and taught every Sunday. He met weekly with the Wednesday Bible study group, Thursday men's fellowship, and Friday morning breakfast group. The Wednesday group is moving back to Rosauers from the donut shop. Pastor Ed visited Chuck Taes and Dan Olson in the hospital and later he visited Dan Olson as he recuperated at home. On July 14 he hosted the LCMC District Meeting. He met with Sherry and prayed with her and visited his brother-in-law who is in palliative care in Olympia. Susie prayed with him about his brother-in-law. He met with Karl who is in the AA group. Pastor Ed received three yellow cards from people who visited our church. He has followed up with those people. Pastor Ed received a phone call from Advent asking for a \$200 donation toward a golf tournament they are sponsoring. We budgeted \$2500 for Outreach. This will help send a kid to Lutherhaven. A motion was made by Charlie and seconded by Denel to send a \$200 donation to Advent for this purpose. Motion was unanimously approved. George will notify Advent of our donation.

Pastor Ed was on vacation from July 28 to August 8. Pastor Steve preached in Pastor Ed's absence. Pastor Ed and Jami attended services at the Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity in Kailua Kona, Hawaii. They visited with the pastor there about the process of moving to an LCMC.

Properties and Maintenance: See report submitted by Charlie May. The air conditioner in the sanctuary was making a rattling noise and has now been repaired. The cost was approximately \$2,000. Charlie will approve the invoice from Hurliman Heating and Air Conditioning prior to payment. All fire extinguishers in the church were inspected and two needed to be replaced. The cost was approximately \$500. New bark was laid at the east end of the parking lot, and the old basketball base was removed. A shrub was removed on the south side of the parking lot adjacent to 26th Avenue. The Little Free Library will be placed in that spot when Brent completes building the book-sharing box. It was brought to Charlie's attention that some sitting at the back of the church had trouble hearing. It was suggested that speakers be added to the back of the church. Charlie will talk with Jack Tiley and get his recommendation.

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COUNCIL MINUTES

(Continued from previous page)

Worship and Music: See report submitted by Nancy Purcell. Nancy is worship assistant for August. Judy will be gone August 17 and 24. Jami will play the piano those two Sundays. We change back to our winter schedule September 7.

Congregational Ministries: See report submitted by LaLita Tadena. HTLC had our 2nd Sticky Event on July 24, which was a hot dog BBQ. Our 3rd Sticky Event will be August 28, which will be a S'Mores Night. Family, friends and neighbors are invited. The event won't be displayed on the reader board.

Christian Education: No report was submitted this month.

Social Care and Concerns and Care Team: See report submitted by Diane Fried. Diane reported on several visits and contacts the care team made with shut-ins. Communion is given during these visits if requested. Donations to the Partners INW Food Bank are 238 pounds so far for 2025. Dan Olson received communion tonight prior to the Council Meeting. Diane also reported on a group from Holy Trinity serving lunch at the UGM Men's Shelter.

Old Business:

Right Now Media Inquiry: Postponed to next month's Council Meeting.

New Business:

Sticky Events: Sticky events must follow the guidelines of the food safety program of the Spokane Regional Health District. Church potlucks at which people bring food to share cannot be advertised to the public. Events cannot be displayed on our reader board if it involves food prepared in homes.

New Member Classes: Postponed to next month's Council Meeting.

Pastor's Vacation Time: Pastor Ed's anniversary date is September 15. He has six days of vacation remaining in this period. The agreed upon policy is to use it or lose it by the end of the current period.

Dan Olson's Resignation: Dan Olson submitted a letter of resignation at the meeting. Due to health reasons, he is unable to complete his term of office.

Council Positions Open in 2026: Council reviewed term expiration dates of council members. Dan Olson's resignation as Treasurer is effective immediately. Vicki Egesdal was appointed to the Treasurer position to serve the remainder of his term until May 2026. Vicki will be appointed to a two-year term at the next Annual Meeting. A motion was made by Charlie and seconded by Denel to appoint Vicki to the Treasurer's position effective immediately. Vicki's appointment to Treasurer and Sandy's appointment to the Nominating Committee will be approved at the next Annual Meeting. Motion was unanimously approved.

Effective February 2026, LaLita Tadena will move to a member at-large position replacing Charlie May. Charlie will move to the Vice President position. George Simon and Sandy Hoveskeland have

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COUNCIL MINUTES

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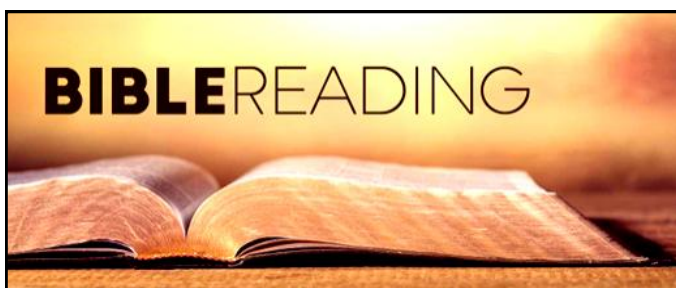
each agreed to serve one more year. Their terms will expire February 2027. Diane Fried will reach term limits in May 2026. At that time, she will have served nine consecutive years on the church council. Denel Ingraham's term ends May 2026. His position will be open at that time, but Denel has agreed to stay if no one volunteers for that position.

Coverage During Absence of Church Office Manager: George will ask Tracy about key duties to be carried out in her absence. This will allow adequate back-up when she is gone.

Next Month's Devotional: LaLita

September Counters: Sandy and Diane

Adjournment: The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:19 p.m.



September 7 (13th Sunday After Pentecost):

- ✝ Deuteronomy 30:15-20
- ✝ Philemon 1-21
- ✝ Luke 14:25-33

September 14 (14th Sunday After Pentecost):

- ✝ Exodus 32:7-14
- ✝ 1 Timothy 1:12-17
- ✝ Luke 15:1-10

September 21 (15th Sunday After Pentecost):

- ✝ Amos 8:4-7
- ✝ 1 Timothy 2:1-7
- ✝ Luke 16:1-13

September 28 (16th Sunday After Pentecost):

- ✝ Amos 6:1a, 4-7
- ✝ 1 Timothy 6:6-19
- ✝ Luke 16:19-31



September Birthdays

Kirsten Peterson	September 17
Ilene Benham	September 19
Lane Taes	September 19
Keri Fletcher	September 27
Jill Wagner	September 27
Esther Motika	September 29



Regular Worship Schedule

Begins Sunday, September 7
 9:30 am Sunday School
 10:30 am Worship Service
(fellowship following)

SEPTEMBER 2025

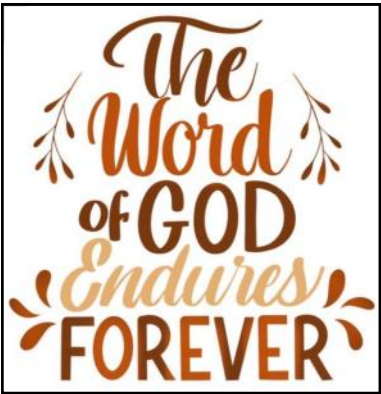
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm TOPS 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—MNM	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 1:30—3:30 pm Craft Club 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:00 pm NA—WNW	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm Tracy's Office Hours: 11:00 am—1:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:00 pm Jr. Fiddlers 5:30 pm AA—HHG	7:30 am Breakfast and Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:00 pm AA-HHG Bingo Night 6:30 pm—7:00 pm NA Book Study	8:00 am AA—MWJ 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SMG 7:00 pm AA—SRG	Pastor Ed's Office 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 Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:30 pm Council Meeting	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 1:30—3:30 pm Craft Club 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:00 pm NA—WNW	Pastor Ed's Office 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 5:00 pm Jr. Fiddlers 5:30 pm AA—HHG	7:30 am Breakfast and Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:30 pm—7:00 pm NA Book Study	8:00 am AA—MWJ 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
14th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SMG 5:30 pm—6:30 pm NA Committee Mtg. 7:00 pm AA—SRG	Pastor Ed's Office 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 Newsletter Articles Due	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 1:30—3:30 pm Craft Club 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:00 pm NA—WNW	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm Tracy's Office Hours: 11:00 am—1:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:00 pm Jr. Fiddlers 5:30 pm AA—HHG	7:30 am Breakfast and Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:30 pm—7:00 pm NA Book Study	8:00 am AA—MWJ 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
15th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SMG 7:00 pm AA—SRG	Pastor Ed's Office 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 Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 1:30—3:30 pm Craft Club 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:00 pm NA—WNW	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm Tracy's Office Hours: 11:00 am—1:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 1:30 pm W&M Meeting 5:00 pm Jr. Fiddlers 5:30 pm AA—HHG	7:30 am Breakfast and Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:30 pm—7:00 pm NA Book Study	8:00 am AA—MWJ 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
16th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SMG 5:30 pm—6:30 pm NA Committee Mtg. 7:00 pm AA—SRG	Pastor Ed's Office 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 Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 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.

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September Events	
Regular Worship Schedule Sunday School (all ages) Worship Service, fellowship	Sunday, September 7 @ 9:30 am @ 10:30 am
Council Meeting	Tuesday, September 9 @ 6:30 pm
Serving Lunch at UGM Men’s Shelter	Thursday, September 11 11:15 am—1:00 pm
Newsletter Articles Due	Monday, September 15
Craft Club Resumes Note new time	Wednesday, September 3 1:30 pm—3:30 pm
Worship & Music Committee Meeting	Thursday, September 25 @ 1:30 pm
Mid-week Bible Study	Wednesdays @ 10:00 am
Breakfast & Bible Study	Fridays @ 7:30 am
Regular Worship Schedule (begins Sunday, September 7, 2025) 9:30 am Sunday School (for all ages) 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship (after)	