

Tidings Newsletter

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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November 2026

Volume 66, Number 11

Monthly Newsletter

Regular Worship Schedule

Sunday School @ 9:30 am

Worship Service @ 10:30 am



GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES:
FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD
IN CHRIST JESUS FOR YOU.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

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Walking in Wonder

by Pastor Ed Backell

I was walking out in the crisp, cool air, enjoying autumn in Spokane Valley, and I noticed that many of our local trees have already changed their colors and have shed their leaves. The difference is striking during the spring and summer, the trees are full, and the leaves are green. But as the days grow shorter, the leaves begin to change. Did you ever wonder why?

You see, as the amount of daylight gets less and less, the trees begin to shut down for the winter. Trees need sunlight to make their food; but during the winter, there isn't enough light for photosynthesis to happen...and so the trees begin to "rest" for the season, living off what they have stored during longer, brighter days.

An article I read on the process reminds me that the beautiful fall colors of yellow and orange are already present in the leaves during the summer...but the green chlorophyll is so active and vibrant that we don't notice the other colors in the summer.

This reminds me about preparing for the upcoming holiday season. There seems to be such a rush to move from Halloween to Christmas in the stores--probably because those holidays are easily marketed. But as for you and me, we need to prepare for the arrival of Christmas in advance. The Church calendar calls this time of preparation Advent. We are intended to slow down. We must resist the commercial klaxon to "BUY! BUY! BUY!" merely for consumerism's sake.



Psalm 42 is a potent reminder of the perils of forgetting the presence of God in the midst of other things. Let me share with you a few words from this Psalm: *"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God...By day the LORD directs his love, at night his song is with me--a prayer to the God of my life."* (vs. 1, 2, 8)

The Psalmist mentions his frustration, and the answer: remember the Lord! Listen for God's voice all around you as you move through this season--for God is calling out to us all.

As the orange and yellow are finally seen in the autumn leaves, let us allow our true colors to show during these shorter days. Let us move through our Advent measuredly, carefully, clinging to Christ instead of rushing from sale to sale.

Keep Following Jesus - Pastor Ed

In Memory of Ann Marie Wesenberg

by Dan Olson



IN LOVING

Memory

Ann Marie Wesenberg passed on October 8, 2026, at the age of 64. Born on November 18, 1961, in Spokane, Washington, Ann Marie lived in Spokane, Washington.

Ann was the daughter of Fritz and Marie Wesenberg, founding members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Ann was confirmed as a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on April 3, 1977. Ann grew up in the Spokane Valley and graduated from West Valley High School.

Ann lived with disabilities, but it did not keep her from a full life. After high school, Ann worked for several businesses in the Spokane Valley. Ann worked at Arby's Restaurant at U-City and the shoe department at TJ Maxx, Spokane Valley Mall at the time of her death. Ann was known and admired by all as she moved about the Spokane Valley with her walker and backpack every day.

Ann's Christian faith was a cornerstone of her life. Ann was a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, St. Mary's Catholic Church and finally at St. Paschal Catholic Church. At St. Paschal, Ann attended worship services regularly and sang in the choir.

Ann will be greatly missed by her close friends, co-workers, and her church family. A Celebration of Life will be held for Ann in the coming months.



Pastor Ed sporting his Star Trek apron.

Volunteer Appreciation Banquet Report

October 11, 2026

Pastor Ed wanted to show appreciation to all of the wonderful volunteers at HTLC. So, he and Jami prepared a complete Italian dinner consisting of pasta, three different sauces, salad, garlic bread, and mini eclairs for dessert.

It was a fun evening eating delicious food with great people! What a wonderful way to show appreciation to our volunteers.



Council Meeting Minutes

by Sandy Hoveskeland, Council Secretary

October 13, 2026 *(Subject to approval)*

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

Call to Order: President Pat Woods called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Devotional: Pat provided the devotional based on the story of Daniel being cast into the den of lions. God protected Daniel and the lions did not harm him. What are the lions in our lives? Medical or financial problems? We should reach out to our brothers and sisters to help us.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Charlie and seconded by LaLita to approve the September 8, 2026, minutes as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Vicki provided the Treasurer's Report. Vicki and Tracy have been going through boxes of old financial records and have taken several boxes to be shredded. Total income is less than expected at this time of year; however, expenses are less than expected also. We need to make sure we receive expected income during the last few months of 2026.

STCU Checking:	\$ 13,011.33
Schwab Building Fund:	\$ 37,796.97
Schwab Savings:	\$105,783.53
Schwab Savings VIGAX Fund:	\$ 27,665.04

Pastor's Report: Pastor Ed preached and taught every Sunday. He met weekly with the Tuesday men's group, Wednesday Bible study group and Friday morning breakfast. He met with the Pam Brown family and officiated Cher Brown's funeral. He officiated the funeral for Wayne Tyler. Pastor Ed and other HTLC members attended a Bite2Go luncheon. He took Larry Tyler to lunch for Janitorial Professional Day. He shared with Ryan, a salesman who stopped by the church, and he shared with another fellow who had questions about Lutheranism. He also shared with Sinead and Forrest who he met during the month. Pastor Ed cooked for the Thank You Banquet held at the church on October 11. Susie Sullivan submitted a yellow card prayer request. Pastor Ed provided an update on his LCMC certification. The program requires paperwork, and the system hasn't been working. Pastor Ed is working with the seminary on getting the transcript.

Pastor's Report on Be Bold for Jesus Conference: On October 1-2 Pastor Ed and Jami set up the HTLC table at the conference center. Thanks to the following volunteers for manning the table with them during the conference: Marcia Taes, Pam and Bob McMahan, Pat Woods, Denel Ingraham, Diane Fried, Jen Bomhard, Karen Carpenter, Larry Tyler, Tom and Nancy Purcell and George and Marla Simon. These volunteers were pleasant, kind, interactive, and shared their faith over 500 times with various people who stopped by the table

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Council Meeting Minutes

by Sandy Hoveskeland, Council Secretary

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to discover “The Lutheran Difference”. The two-penny cards were very popular. The volunteers had great, in-depth conversations with a smaller number of people and we hope that some will come to visit. Pastor Ed recommends we participate in the Be Bold for Jesus conference again next year if possible. Joey, our contact, asked if we wanted free tickets. We will do that next year as there are several HTLC people who would have used the tickets. We were the only mainline church at the conference. Next year there will be more teaching and breakout sessions. Pastor Ed has been asked to teach at the conference next year.

Properties and Maintenance Report: See report submitted by Bob McMahan. A new projector has been installed in the sanctuary. The screen is more brilliant and better focused. The fire department inspected our fire extinguishers and one failed. We are following up with our service provider. Pastor Ed is procuring a new flag for our flagpole.

Worship and Music Report: See report submitted by Nancy Purcell. 70 devotionals have been ordered for the congregation and friends. Poinsettias will be ordered and the church will be decorated for Christmas on December 5. Order forms will be in the church bulletin the first two Sundays in November.

Congregational Ministries: See report submitted by LaLita Tadena. About thirty people attended the Back-to-School Ice Cream Social on September 27. Pastor Ed and Jami held a Thank You Banquet in the Fellowship Hall on October 11.

Christian Education: See report submitted by Diane Bertholet. Adult Sunday School is now studying “Major Doctrines in the Minor Prophets” based on Pastor Ed’s book. The Friday Bible study group is studying R.C. Sproul’s series on “Moses and the Burning Bush”. New Member classes are October 18 and 25.

Social Cares and Concerns and Care Team: See report submitted by Jen Bomhard. A group from HTLC served lunch at the UGM Men’s Shelter on September 10 and October 8. The Care Team visited and provided communion to Joyce Isakson and Al Marsh. The team followed up with Morgan Christian who has moved to the north side of Spokane. This month a team member will follow up with Jill Wagner.

Special Events Committee: See report submitted by Charlie May. A motion was made by Charlie and seconded by Pastor Ed to open discussion of an Annual Dinner Celebration. User groups will be invited to dinner and encouraged to witness their story and what the support they have received from HTLC has meant to them. We have held this dinner previously and their stories and witnessing have been well received. The dinner will be catered by Longhorn BBQ with Costco pies for dessert. Based on an approximate attendance of 80 people, the cost would be about \$2,500. After discussion, the Council asked Charlie to provide more details from the Special Events Committee and a budget so the dinner can be included in the 2027 budget.

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

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Council Meeting Minutes

by Sandy Hoveskeland, Council Secretary

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Unfinished Business:

1. Approval of Council Email Requests:
 - a. Sanctuary Projector: Approved by Council via email.
 - b. Banner for Table on October 2-3: Approved by Council via email.

New Business:

1. Consider Year-end Requirements and Schedule:
 - a. Annual Meeting - February 21 or 28, 2027
 - b. Budget Committee Meeting – Vicki will make an announcement for volunteers.
 - c. Nominating Committee Meeting – Sandy will contact committee members.
 - d. Audit Committee Meeting (early February) – Bob, George and Pat. Vicki will attend and help but not be a member of the committee.
 - e. Tree of Sharing – Pastor Ed will get names from the school staff. Jen volunteered to set up the Tree of Sharing and make the request tags for the tree.
2. Tracy's Request for Guidance on Member Death Notice Procedure:

Tracy requested clarification of the procedure for notification to the congregation. She will notify Pastor Ed, and he will contact the family to assure they are okay with notifying the congregation.

Member Items:

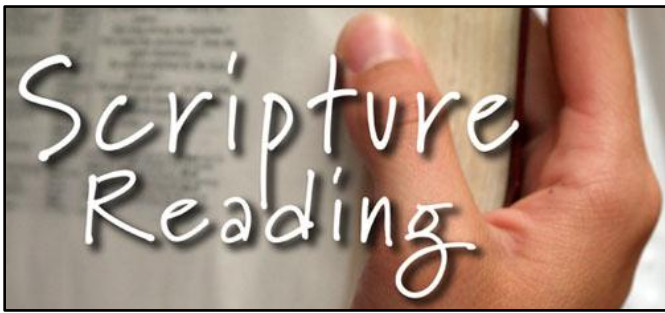
1. New sound system and banners: Thank you to Rich and Jan Weatherly who donated the money to pay for the banners and the new sound system for the church.
2. Calendar of Events: Pastor Ed will attend LCMC District Meetings in 2027. He will provide detailed information as these meetings are scheduled.
3. HOA Meeting at HTLC: Charlie will be sending an email requesting approval for his HOA to meet in the Fellowship Hall on October 27. Attendance will be 60-80 people.

Next Month's Devotional: Bob McMahan

November Counters: Vicki and Sandy (Diane will fill in for Vicki the 8th and Jen the 15th)

Adjournment: The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:01 p.m.





November Scripture Readings

November 1 (All Saints Sunday):

- ☐ Nahum 1:1-8
- ☐ Romans 10:1-4, 16-21
- ☐ John 18:29—19:16

November 8 (22nd Sunday After Pentecost):

- ☐ Haggai 2:11-15
- ☐ Romans 7:1-12
- ☐ Mark 14:32-41

November 15 (23rd Sunday After Pentecost):

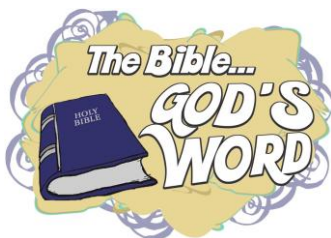
- ☐ Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
- ☐ Romans 9:6-33
- ☐ Matthew 26:57-64

November 22 (Christ the King Sunday):

- ☐ Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
- ☐ Ephesians 1:15-23
- ☐ Matthew 25:31-46

November 29 (1st Sunday of Advent):

- ☐ Isaiah 64:1-9
- ☐ 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
- ☐ Mark 2:23-3:6



November Birthdays

Arlene Russell	November 2
Gladys Evanson	November 4
Sandy Mattson	November 6
Jen Bomhard	November 13
Melanie Bennett	November 15
Larry Tyler	November 21
Diane Fried	November 26
Duane Scheele	November 27
Nancy Purcell	November 28
LaLita Tadena	November 28
Addi Taes	November 30



Spokane County Elections

Tuesday, November 3, by 8:00 pm

Returning Your Ballot:

Ballot Drop Boxes close promptly
at 8:00 pm on election day.

To View Drop Box Locations Near You:

<https://www.spokanecounty.gov/178/Current-Election>

Bite2Go Report

by Dan Olson

This is the current report of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church's ("HTLC") activities with our weekend food ministry for the food insecure students at Bowdish Middle School ("BMS") with the Bite2Go ("B2G") Organization.

HTLC delivered the next scheduled Bite2Go food delivery to BMS on October 21, at 9:45 am. Three HTLC members helped deliver the food; Dan Olson, Diane Fried, and Roger Bagby.

Food delivered: (10 cases/108 lbs.)

- 1 case creamy peanut butter cups
- 1 case trail mix
- 1 case chocolate milk
- 2 cases gatorade variety pack
- 1 case mandarin oranges
- 1 case top ramen chicken/beef variety pack
- 2 cases mac & cheese cups
- 1 case peanut butter/dark chocolate protein bars

Cari Nielsen, Dean of Students, at BMS updated us on the Bite2Go program. Cari said that it is going well and that they currently have 17 students signed up, and no students have dropped out. The class handling the inventory and packing is doing a great job. The students have enjoyed organizing the food and filling the bags. Students typically pick up their bags on Fridays, but due to school schedules will occasionally pick them up earlier.

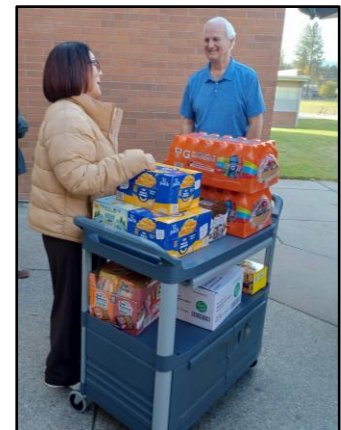
Cari mentioned that they haven't received any negative feedback about the food choices, and there are no outstanding questions or concerns. The only hiccup has been when students are absent or forget to pick up their bags. Cari expressed sincere thanks to everyone at HTLC for supporting the students at BMS through Bite2Go! She appreciates our generosity and partnership.



Picking up the food



Dan Olson & Roger Bagby



Dan Olson dropping food off at BMS

***If you would like to help deliver food, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.
If you have any questions or would like more information, please talk to Dan Olson or George Simon.***

November 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1-Daylight Saving Ends	2	3 – Election Day	4	5	6	7
9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SMG 7:00 pm AA—SRG	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 6:00 pm NA—WNW 7:00 pm Choir Practice	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 4:00 pm Jr. Fiddlers 5:30 pm AA—HHG	8:00 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—MWU 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
8	9	10	11 – Veterans Day	12	13	14
9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SMG 7:00 pm AA—SRG Poinsettia Orders Due	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 6:00 pm NA—WNW 7:00 pm Choir Practice 	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 4:00 pm Jr. Fiddlers 5:30 pm AA—HHG	8:00 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—MWU 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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 Newsletter Articles Due	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 6:00 pm NA—WNW 7:00 pm Choir Practice	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 4:00 pm Jr. Fiddlers 5:30 pm AA—HHG	8:00 am Breakfast and Bible Study Pastor Ed's Planning Retreat 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:30 pm—7:00 pm NA Book Study	8:00 am AA—MWU 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
22	23	24	25	26 – Thanksgiving Day	27	28
9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SMG 7:00 pm AA—SRG	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 1:30 pm Worship & Music Committee Mtg 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 6:00 pm NA—WNW 7:00 pm Choir Practice	Church Office Closed 12:00 pm AA—VNG 4:00 pm Jr. Fiddlers 5:30 pm AA—HHG 	8:00 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—MWU 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
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 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					

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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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@holytrinitylcmc.org, or call (509) 926-7966.*

November Events

Daylight Saving Time Ends	Sunday, November 1 @ 2:00 am
Election Day	Tuesday, November 3
Poinsettias Orders Due	Sunday, November 8
Council Meeting	Tuesday, November 10 @ 6:30 pm
Veterans Day	Wednesday, November 11
Serving Lunch at UGM Men's Shelter	Thursday, November 12 11:15 am—1:00 pm
Newsletter Articles Due	Sunday, November 15
Worship & Music Committee Meeting	Tuesday, November 24 @ 1:30 pm
Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed	Thursday, November 26
Table Talk w/ Pastor Ed November & December break	Thursday, January 28 @ 10:00 am
Choir Practice	Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm
Mid-week Bible Study	Wednesdays @ 10:00 am
Friday Bible Study	Fridays @ 8:00 am