

TIDINGS

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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December 2020

Volume 60, Number 12

Monthly Newsletter

Schedule—No Sunday Bible Study
Worship, with Communion @ 10:30 am
Fellowship (after Worship Service)



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS



Please join in the excitement of decorating
the Sanctuary and other areas of the
church for the Christmas season.

Saturday, December 5 @ 10:00 am

Sign-up sheet is available in the Fellowship Hall.



December Birthdays

Peggy Cutler	December 7
Yvonne Haas	December 10
Jim Rowse	December 17
Bonnie Hanson	December 27

volunteer
do good, feel good

Food Bank Coordinator Replacement

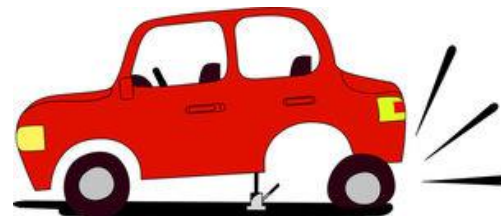
Carol Quigg is resigning as coordinator for the food bank as of December 31, 2020. She has dedicated her service to this position for several years and feels it is time for her to step down. She will be happy to help whoever volunteers to take over as far as contacts at the food bank, etc. Many thanks to Carol for all her years of service. The job of the food bank coordinator is to give updates to the congregation, arrange for transportation of the food from the church to the Spokane Valley Partners Food Bank and coordinate with the food bank administrators. We are looking for a volunteer for this very important position.

*Please contact Marcia Taes if interested
or for more information.*





Thank God for High Speed Blowouts (And A Modern-Day Parable!)



The Focus may be old, but the tires were very new. It was Sunday. I was making my regular commute to the church. I was in the passing lane going 63 mph. All of a sudden, I heard, over my regularly very loud music, a thud. The little yellow Focus swung to the right, and thankfully, not toward the median. Again, thankfully there wasn't anyone in the middle or inside lane. I hit my hazards, shifted down, and limped across toward the shoulder, avoiding the on-ramp from Broadway Ave. There I came to a stop. I jumped out to inspect the damage and to figure out what had happened. First, I saw the cut in the freeway...not good. Then I saw the rim on the road and the tire completely blown off from the inside. Really not good! How? Those tires only had about three thousand miles on them!

First things first; call Asher at the church and tell him to come. Open the hatchback and get out the jack. Call Asher back and tell him to make sure he has a jack because mine is missing. Am I not on my way to go and preach on being "prepared"? ☺ Next, grab the tire iron and the small lug nut doohickey that fits the custom rims. Wasn't it just yesterday when I was raking up the pine needles, loading them into the wheelbarrow and hauling them to the fire that I heard a "ting" in the bottom of the barrow and found the little doohickey? It obviously had dropped in the rocks of the driveway when Anandae was cleaning the car weeks before. Wow! That was serendipitous! Thank you, Lord! Without it, you can't remove the wheel.

I could loosen three of the lugs but the other was under pressure from the shifting of the rim; besides, I needed to wait for a jack. I always have one in the back of every car I drive plus jumper cables, basic tools, warm blankets, gloves, oil, antifreeze, communion kit, Bible, you name it. I drive prepared; ready for most anything. However, if I had had it in the back and not put it into a different car this past summer, things would have played out very differently. If I had had the jack, my next move would have been to wave the "stranger" on who pulled over to ask if I needed help. It was cold, snow in the air, wind blowing, hundreds of cars whizzing by, and I was going to be late for church. All drivers went by on the other side...but not Nathan.

He wasn't dressed for the weather, but he very excitedly exclaimed that he had a jack and could help. We worked together and got to know a bit about each other. In the midst of our conversation Asher rolled up and recognized that something beyond us was happening. When you have eyes to see and ears to hear, you see Jesus showing up in what should be the most expected ways (for they whisper the Word to you as they unravel) but we expect something different. We never consider that the Bible stories are played out over and

over again in our midst. When we get caught up in the religious or in the ideological and in our human valuations, we completely misinterpret, misread... or just miss Jesus, period.

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*(Continued from Page 2)*

Who do you expect to stop and help you on I-90 on a cold Sunday morning? Who do you want to stop and help you? Who do you not want to arrive? Jesus arrived right on time as a 30-something man in work clothes (who later identified himself as a plumber), but according to all old plumber jokes, I knew he was when he bent over to place the jack. ☺ I told him who I was and where I was headed. He told me he also was headed for church and then sheepishly began to tell me “who he was.” He told me how he had lost his son to the state because he was addicted to drugs for years and had done 10 years in prison. He told me how he was working through his sobriety one day at a time for the last few years. He shared that the churches closing their doors to the AA and NA groups had hurt so many he knew for so long. He told me that he knew God had forgiven him and was blessing his life. How? He had a new baby daughter who had been born on his birthday. “A sign”, he reflected, “that he was born into a new life, another chance.” The words redemption, resurrection, and recovery salted our conversation. He told me that he used to work for another plumbing shop, but he started his own and is doing well. I asked him for some business cards. Then through some tears I shared with him how our church had decided to stay open to all throughout the pandemic. I related how God had grown our family from one long term AA group to now 7 AA and 2 NA groups, plus other groups, and how each has a story of day to day struggle with sobriety while supporting each other in hope.

I assured him that one day he would be reunited with his son, something I would pray for. And his response, “In this world or the next?” I wanted to give him something for his help. He refused any money. It was then that the 50 lb. bag of potatoes lovingly given to my first-born by the Hutterites--in thanks for his help—came into view there on the ground behind my car. This was the very bag I was going to take out of the back of the car that morning but forgot. Now this gift of love and thanks changed hands in one more exchange of thanksgiving for our many blessings. He excitedly packed up his spuds and I asked him if he was open to a rather cold and dirty hug there on the side of the busy road. He responded, “I would love that.”

As he drove away, Asher and I knew that the One and Only Good Samaritan had stopped to tend us on the side of the road. He had done so, right on schedule and according to His “Way.” Just as in His parable told two millennia ago, many passed by, moved over and probably comforted and assured themselves with their “reasons” why they *could* not...but really, *would* not help. They were on their way to church or to shop or to meet someone important. They had more pressing things to do with their time. Besides that, there’s the risk of who and what might be there on the side of the road. As Jesus revealed once long ago and again that morning...it is the One who nobody expects or wants to stop and help, who does. Not a Samaritan! Not a drug addicted felon! Not a so-called “bastard” baby in a manger! Not an itinerate, edgy, blasphemous, demon possessed preacher! Not a convicted, crazy “King of the Jews” condemned and left hanging on a cross to die! But if not that One...then who?

In the midst of this Advent season, with Christmas just ahead, have your hearing ears prepared you to expect the Unexpected One? Will you be surprised by the only gift of Christmas—a Baby Boy, born to die so you may live. A bundle of pure joy for a fallen world.

Jaynan

Come Join Our

BIBLE



STUDY

Bible study group meets
Wednesdays at 10:30 am.

We are currently studying, "Rightly Explaining the Word of Truth: A Bible Study of the Authority and Interpretation of Scripture".

Contact Pastor Jaynan for more information.



Holy Trinity's food bank donations got a big boost to a total of 1,385.5 pounds! Marcia Macholl chose to use her **Thrivent Action Dollars** to purchase 300 pounds of food. Along with Diane Fried's help, they delivered it to the Food Bank.

If anyone else would like to use their **Thrivent Action Dollars** this same way (without the work of purchasing and delivering the food), the food bank would gladly accept the donation and do the purchasing through their suppliers.

Carol Quigg would be happy to assist you.
Please contact her for information.

Please continue to remember the food bank when you do your shopping...they really need your help!



Thank you all for your contributions!



January Tidings Newsletter Articles Due

Please submit your Tidings articles or information to the office by
Wednesday, December 16
for our January 2021 newsletter.



December Anniversaries

Tom & Nancy Purcell

Celebrating 49 years of marriage
December 18, 1971

Tom & Jayme Hilsen

Celebrating 46 years of marriage
December 21, 1974

George & Ann LePard

Celebrating 68 years of marriage
December 25, 1952

church council MEETING

Council Meeting Minutes: November 10, 2020

Respectfully Submitted by Nancy Purcell, Secretary

Present: Marcia Taes, Darlene Brittner, Diane Fried, Ilene Benham, Jim Brittner, Dan Olson, Charlie May, Leanne Pardee, and Nancy Purcell. **Attended via phone:** Jaynan Clark. **Also in attendance:** Jack Tiley.

Call to Order: President Marcia Taes called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

Devotional: Ilene opened the meeting with a devotional entitled, "Practical Ways for Your Days" based on a passage from Deuteronomy; followed by prayer.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Charlie and seconded by Diane to approve the October 13, 2020 minutes as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Dan presented the report.

Checking:	\$37,650.69
MM Building Fund:	\$19,093.18
MM Savings:	\$27,193.79
Savings – Vanguard:	\$35,702.94



Dan reported that all bank accounts have now been transferred from First Interstate to STCU. He further reported that the value shown for the land and buildings on the Balance Sheet was taken from the assessor's records. Dan also reported on the donations by the user groups. Jim stated that, at this point, donations from the user groups were sufficient to cover the added costs. This will be reviewed periodically.

Properties and Maintenance: Jim reported that we would use the same company as last year for snow removal. Sidewalks will be cleared by volunteers. Two people have volunteered to date. All tree limbs that had fallen during an earlier storm have been cleared, the water has been turned off and the sprinkler system blown out. Charlie and Jim have moved the sprinklers so that the additional sidewalks can be poured. This should be completed by Thanksgiving. The replacement of the door on the southeast corner of the old building should also be replaced around Thanksgiving. The bulb in the projector has been changed and the projector cleaned; thanks to Charlie, Denel Ingraham, and Tom Purcell. Further thank you to Tom for changing the furnace filters. The loose pews in the sanctuary have been refastened. It was decided that we would try to do leaf cleanup before December 1, if we get a nice day.

Worship and Music: Nancy reported that church decorating for Christmas has been scheduled for December 5. Caroling has tentatively been set for December 13. Sign-up sheets for both activities will be sent around. Poinsettia orders are due by November 15 at a cost of \$13.00. Steve Bliesner has offered a blue spruce tree for the sanctuary, which would need to be cut and transported to the church. However, because of the low attendance due to Covid and because we do not know how much help we will have to decorate, Worship and Music decided to use the artificial tree this year. Thank you to Steve for the offer. Nancy also presented a "Reverse Advent Calendar" that instead of receiving a small token each day of Advent, a food item would be placed in a box and returned to Holy Trinity on Christmas Eve for delivery to the food bank. It was also suggested that if there were people in need within the congregation, perhaps a box could be delivered to them.

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church council MEETING

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Congregational Ministries: Last month's Dinner and a Movie had 8-9 ladies present. The next movie is scheduled for November 20. Dan asked that we keep Union Gospel Mission in mind as they are struggling during the Covid pandemic. There has been an outbreak at Anna Ogden Hall and it has been in quarantine. Dan reported on what had been planned with UGM before Covid made it impossible. It was reported that 27 lbs. of corned beef had been delivered to UGM and it was suggested that perhaps some of the funds received from Thrivent Choice that have been going to the food bank could be used for UGM. Diane will check on that. The box for the UGM Coat Drive is in the narthex.

Jack Tiley reported that there were problems with the phone transmission of the service this past Sunday. We think it was caused by the fact that the Xfinity network had widespread problems during that time. Jack asked that if you listen to the service via phone to please let him or the church office know of problems or when transmission works. Service is still available on FM in the parking lot. He further reported Owen Andreasen has volunteered to learn the system so Jack will have backup.

Christian Education: Adult Bible study on Wednesday continues. Marcia reported that there has been interest in additional copies of the one-year Bible. It was decided to look at purchasing a case as they are less expensive that way.

Social Care and Concerns: Diane reported that she, John, and Carol Quigg delivered 350 lbs. of food to the food bank on November 3. Marcia Macholl has applied to Thrivent for funds for December and will do the shopping. Marcia reported that as of December 31, Carol Quigg is resigning as coordinator for the food bank. She has done it for several years and feels it is time to step down. She will be happy to help whoever volunteers to take over as far as contacts at the food bank, etc. A notice will be put in the newsletter of the need for a replacement. Thank you to Carol for her years of service.

Jack Tiley asked if we still wanted Holy Trinity listed with the Red Cross as an emergency shelter in light of all of the current user groups. Jack is the contact person for the Red Cross. It was decided that we are still willing to be listed as most of the user groups use the north end of the building which would not be used by the Red Cross.

Old Business: Jaynan and Marcia met and put together a sample letter to give to families who choose to give a memorial to the church in honor of loved ones containing a list of suggestions as to how the funds could be used.

New Business: Nancy asked, on behalf of Worship and Music, that a new Advent Wreath be purchased and that the current memorial funds be applied to the cost. The candle holders on our current wreath can no longer be tightened to hold the candles and every year the candles drip on the carpeting and new candles need to be purchased. The proposed new wreath will have oil candles (like the altar and Christ candle) and the wreath itself will be on a floor stand. Estimated cost is \$783.00 plus tax. Dan made a motion and Charlie seconded it to approve the purchase of a new Advent wreath with oil candles by the Worship and Music Committee and that the current memorial funds be used in the purchase. Motion unanimously passed.

Dan reported that a guest Wi-Fi has been added to the Holy Trinity network. The password is posted throughout the building.

Next Month Devotional: Dan Olson

Adjournment: Meeting was closed with prayer at 7:45 pm.





Please join us for our

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service**

Thursday, December 24, @ 6:30 pm

- ✚ In person @ HTLC (social distancing)
- ✚ Call in from home at 1-509-223-2025
- ✚ Tune to 95.1 FM; listen from parking lot



This women's ministry event is a warm, friendship-building night of eating together, watching a movie, and comfortable conversation about moral issues and biblical perspectives.

All women are invited to join us!

Squeaky will prepare the dinner (roasted chicken) to keep with the social distancing standards.

We will be watching:

FIREPROOF

Cost is \$10 to help cover food.

Please join us Friday, December 18 @ 5pm.

Contact Squeaky May for more information.



December 6 (Second Sunday of Advent):

- ✚ Isaiah 40:1-11
- ✚ II Peter 3:8-15a
- ✚ Mark 1:1-8

December 13 (Third Sunday of Advent):

- ✚ Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
- ✚ I Thessalonians 5:16-24
- ✚ John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 20 (Fourth Sunday of Advent):

- ✚ II Samuel 7:1-11, 16
- ✚ Romans 16:25-27
- ✚ Luke 1:26-38

December 27 (First Sunday of Christmas):

- ✚ Isaiah 61:10—62:3
- ✚ Galatians 4:4-7
- ✚ Luke 2:22-40

**Neighborhood Christmas
Music & Food Drive**



Sunday, December 20 @ 4:00 pm

Sign-up sheet is available in the Fellowship Hall.

Come one, come all!

THE CHRISTMAS STORY, FROM LUKE 2

The Birth of Jesus

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will

be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen

him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

A Savior
HAS BEEN
born
TO you.
Luke 2:11



December 2020

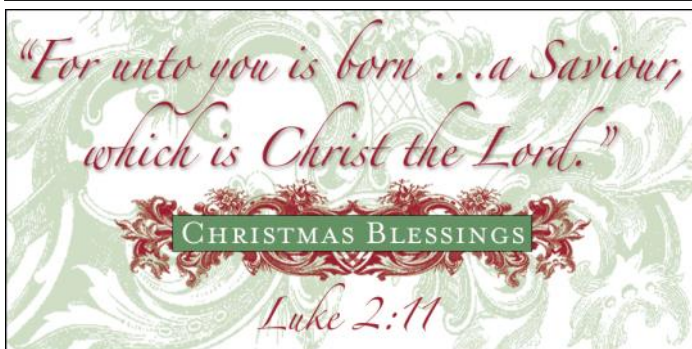
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 	30	1 9:00am Thimbles 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	2 Pastor Jaynan's Office Hours 8:30 am—6:00 pm 10:30 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	3 Tracy's Office Hours 10:00 am—3:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	4 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	5 10:00 am Christmas Decorating  10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
6 <u>Second Sunday of Advent</u> 10:30am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00am AA—SMG 2:00 pm AA—CAYA 7:00pm AA—SRG	7 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm TOPS 5:30 pm AA—HHG	8 9:00am Thimbles 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG  6:30 pm Council Mtg	9 Pastor Jaynan's Office Hours 8:30 am—6:00 pm 10:30 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	10 Tracy's Office Hours 10:00 am—3:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	11 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	12 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM 
13 <u>Third Sunday of Advent</u> 10:30am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00am AA—SMG 2:00 pm AA—CAYA 7:00pm AA—SRG	14 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm TOPS 5:30 pm AA—HHG 	15 9:00am Thimbles 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	16 Pastor Jaynan's Office Hours 8:30 am—6:00 pm 10:30 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG Newsletter Articles Due for January	17 Tracy's Office Hours 10:00 am—3:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	18 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG  5:00 pm Dinner and a Movie "Fireproof"	19 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
20 <u>Fourth Sunday of Advent</u> 10:30am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00am AA—SMG 2:00 pm AA—CAYA 7:00pm AA—SRG 4:00 pm Neighborhood Christmas Music & Food Drive	21 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm TOPS 5:30 pm AA—HHG	22 9:00am Thimbles 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	23 Pastor Jaynan's Office Hours 8:30 am—6:00 pm 10:30 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	24-Christmas Eve 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 	25-Christmas 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 	26 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
27 <u>First Sunday of Christmas</u> 10:30am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00am AA—SMG 2:00 pm AA—CAYA 7:00pm AA—SRG 	28 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm TOPS 5:30 pm AA—HHG	29 9:00am Thimbles 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	30 Pastor Jaynan's Office Hours 8:30 am—6:00 pm 10:30 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG  6:00 pm Worship & Music Ministry Mtg	31-New Year's Eve Tracy's Office Hours 10:00 am—3:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 	1 	2

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."*



December 2020, Volume 60, Number 12

Tidings is published monthly for the members and friends of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, located on the corner of Pines and 26th Avenue in Spokane Valley, WA. 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.*

December
Upcoming Events

Christmas Decorating @ HTLC:	Saturday, December 5 @ 10:00 am
Council Meeting:	Tuesday, December 8 @ 6:30 pm
Newsletter Articles Due:	Wednesday, December 16
Dinner & a Movie:	Friday, December 18 @ 5:00 pm
Neighborhood Christmas Music & Food Drive:	Sunday, December 20 @ 4:00 pm
Christmas Eve Candelight Service:	Thursday, December 24 @ 6:30 pm
Worship & Music Meeting:	Wednesday, December 30 @ 6:00 pm
Bible Study:	Every Wednesday @ 10:30 am

Sunday Worship Schedule

10:30 am Worship w/Communion in the Sanctuary
11:30 am Fellowship (after Worship)

*You can also call in at 1-509-223-2025,
or tune to 95.1 FM and listen from the parking lot.*