

TIDINGS

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Physical: 2511 S Pines Road, Spokane Valley, WA 99206

Mailing: PO Box 141862, Spokane Valley, WA 99214-1862

Church Phone: (509) 926-7966

Email: office@holyltrinitylcmc.org

Website: www.holytrinitylcmc.org



December 2021

Volume 61, Number 12

Monthly Newsletter

Sunday School @ 9:30 am

Worship, with Communion @ 10:30 am

Fellowship (after Worship Service)

PREPARE FOR JESUS

Journey Together Toward Christmas



This month we focus on Advent...prepare for the coming of the Christ.

Inside the December Newsletter:

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Advent by Steven Hagler

Happy New Year! Advent begins a new year for the church. The four Sundays leading up to Christmas are in the season of Advent on the liturgical calendar. This year Advent begins on Sunday, November 28 and ends on Christmas Eve. After Advent, the twelve-day celebration of Christmas begins, which lasts from Christmas Eve until Epiphany on January 6. The liturgical color is blue, which represents hope. Some churches use purple which represents solemnity and soberness.

During Advent, the church looks back to when Jesus came into the world as the Babe in Bethlehem. The church also looks ahead with eager anticipation to Christ's second coming. So, for the church, Advent is a time of both expectant waiting and preparation. We look forward to celebrating The Nativity of Christ, as well as Christ's second coming.

Advent is intended to be a season of reflection and of preparation. Advent means "coming" as well as arrival, appearance, emergence, materialization, occurrence, dawn, birth, rise, development, and approach. Advent is the season of expectation in our church calendar. We anticipate the "coming of Christ" from three different perspectives: the nativity in Bethlehem, the reception of Christ into our hearts, and the second coming of Christ. We reflect on what God has done in the birth of his Son and what Jesus accomplished in his death and resurrection.

We are called to prepare our hearts for His coming. It's about what God is calling us to. We are called to wait. And while we wait, we are to share the story of Jesus. We are called to tell the world about the coming of Christ. In the Advent season we read

verses in the Bible about God's promises to come to His people, and verses about the end of time when God will bring all of creation to fulfillment and there will be a new heaven and a new earth. We immerse ourselves in His Word, and we ask for His presence.

Advent is a short four-week season in which we wait in anticipation for what is to come. Practices associated with Advent, as we wait, include keeping an Advent calendar, lighting an Advent wreath,

reading an Advent devotional, erecting a Christmas tree, and setting up Christmas decorations. All to remind us that we hope in what the future brings and mostly to remember who holds the future.

We look forward to Christmas when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Word become flesh. We celebrate with Mary and Joseph. We celebrate with angels, shepherds, and wise men. The Babe in Bethlehem was given the name Jesus which means "He saves." We see that, "The child

continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him" (Luke 2:40). *(Read the Christmas story in Luke 2.)*

I pray that you will be surprised by the grace of God when you least expect it and that it causes your heart to praise Emmanuel, God with us. I pray that this Advent brings you hope and joy in trusting God in Christ to work in your life. We are beginning a new church year and Christmas is coming.

HAPPY NEW YEAR and MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

Steve





HTLC will be collecting coats for UGM **through Sunday, December 12.**

They need coats for men, women, boys, and girls—all sizes.

Contact Diane Fried for more information.

Call Update by Marcia Taes

We have had our second meeting to review the Constitution and Bylaws. It is difficult and tedious work because we want it to be clear and concise. Our **third meeting is on December 4, from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend. I want to thank all our Church family members that have attended the meetings. This document is the first step in the Call process and will define who we are and our expectations. We are planning a special meeting for the ratification of the revised Constitution and Bylaws the first of the year.

We are all the “Prayer Team” and should be praying for our Church daily. The Tuesday morning Bible study group has been helping to put together a plan for prayer. We have developed a list of prayer topics (**see next page**). Our next step is to find or create prayers and send them out in email one at a time. Also, we want to put together a “Packet of Prayers” on a ring that can be used for daily prayer.

Our Call Committee is almost complete, and the names of the members will be taken to the Council for their approval at the December meeting. It is my hope that we will start meeting in January.

Below is a prayer for blessings and gratitude to the Lord for sending us Pastor Steve our itinerant pastor.



Dear Lord, thank you for sending Pastor Steve to shepherd our church. I'm grateful for the love you put in his heart for You and Your people. I appreciate the unique set of gifts and talents that enrich his ministry and bless our Church. Would You, in turn, bless Pastor Steve today? Help him to sense Your presence in such a sweet way. Fill him up, Lord and use him for Your glory today. And show me how I can support and encourage. Thanking you for this good leader, I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen!

Prayer Topics by Marcia Taes

- ♦ Interim Pastor Steve
- ♦ Members who are no longer attending for fear of Covid-pray God will bring them back
- ♦ Our community
- ♦ Love for each other
- ♦ Growth
- ♦ Tuesday and Friday Bible Study
- ♦ Forgiveness
- ♦ Strength to spread God's love
- ♦ Helping hands for the Christmas food drive
- ♦ The Church
- ♦ The Congregation to become stronger
- ♦ Pastor Jaynan
- ♦ Families to hear God's Word
- ♦ Children to know God
- ♦ The Call Committee
- ♦ Pastor Don
- ♦ Those who are ill
- ♦ Peace
- ♦ Patience
- ♦ Courage
- ♦ Understanding
- ♦ Teachers
- ♦ First responders
- ♦ LCMC
- ♦ The Prayer Team
- ♦ Those in the military
- ♦ Our nation's leaders
- ♦ Bible Studies understanding
- ♦ Healing for our Congregation
- ♦ Our country
- ♦ Everyone working to heal our church
- ♦ Understanding of Jesus Word
- ♦ Guidance & Direction of our Congregation
- ♦ Tuesday group study and understanding God's grace
- ♦ Holy Spirit to help us pray
- ♦ Patience in relationships
- ♦ The grieving process
- ♦ Those who have left the church
- ♦ Those who continue to attend and are seeking to bring unity and harmony to the body
- ♦ God to show us what He wants the church to do or change
- ♦ The church to 'see' the person God has called to be the new permanent pastor
- ♦ Leadership in the church
- ♦ Government
- ♦ Families
- ♦ Health
- ♦ Faith
- ♦ Discipleship
- ♦ Pastors
- ♦ World peace
- ♦ Refugees
- ♦ Medical staff & personnel
- ♦ Container delivery
- ♦ The lost in the world
- ♦ The 12-Step meetings in this church
- ♦ Policemen and women
- ♦ President Joe Biden



HTLC Dial in Church Worship Service by Jack Tiley

HTLC offers you the opportunity to listen to our Church services by dialing in on your phone. This can be done on any phone, you do not need a smart phone to participate.

You can dial in any time up to 15 minutes before the scheduled service start time using the conference call phone number (509) 223-2025. You will hear the message, **"connecting now"**.

If your microphone is muted by the moderator, you will hear the message **"you have been muted, to unmute yourself press the * key twice"**. Your phone will be muted by the moderator to prevent background noise from your location.

anything you say like personal conversations and remarks, dogs barking, or your doorbell ringing, etc.

If your phone is not muted the call moderator at HTLC will mute it and you will hear the **"you have been muted, to unmute yourself press the * key twice"** While your phone is muted you will still hear all of the service.

All normally scheduled services will be on the conference call phone number (Including Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Good Friday Service, etc.)

We have been making changes to our church audio system so hopefully you will have a better experience with the conference call audio you hear.



If you press the * key twice, you will hear the message **"Mute off"**. Please keep your phone muted. If your phone is not muted your phone's microphone will be active and everyone on the conference will hear

Please let us know if the system is working on your end and if you experience any problems.

You can email me at jwtiley1@comcast.net, or leave a message on the HTLC office phone (509) 926-7966 or office email at office@holyltrinitylcmc.org.



The NW Junior Fiddlers will be presenting a Christmas Music Concert for the community on **Saturday, December 18, @ 4:00 pm.**

Come and enjoy the music of these talented young fiddlers and the beautiful decorations in the church. The program will be a half an hour followed by cookies, hot chocolate and coffee.



Please join us **Sunday, December 12**, as we drop off the bags in our surrounding neighborhood for the Holiday Food Drive.

All are invited...the more, the merrier!

COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Meeting Minutes: November 9, 2021 — “Subject to Approval”

Respectfully Submitted by Nancy Purcell, Secretary

Present: Marcia Taes, Diane Fried, Ilene Benham, Dan Olson, Charlie May, and Nancy Purcell. Also in attendance were Pastor Steve Hagler, Denel Ingraham, and Jack Tiley.

Call to Order: President Marcia Taes called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

Devotional: Dan presented a devotional on Psalm 111, Great Are the Lord’s Works, and closed it with a video song “A Hallelujah Christmas” by Cloverton-HD.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Dan and seconded by Charlie to approve the October 2021 minutes as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Dan presented the Treasurer’s report.

Checking:	\$ 35,424.26
MM Building Fund:	19,118.10
MM Savings:	27,230.32
Savings – Vanguard:	35,114.24



Pastor’s Report: Pastor Steve reported he officiated at a memorial service for a family member from the AA group on October 30. He is also teaching the Sunday morning adult class on Revelation. He and Marcia, as Council President, have been meeting once a week. He followed up on an email requesting information on LCMC. A memorial service will be held for his mother in Savage, Montana, on December 4, so Pastor Steve has requested a guest pastor for that day. Dan will contact Danny Beard to see if he is available.

Properties and Maintenance: Charlie has contacted the company that takes care of the lawn and they will also handle the snowplowing for the winter. A contract has been signed. Charlie also asked them what the cost would be to have the shrubs trimmed and they responded approximately \$800. We will look at that in early spring. A thank you to Gerald Lundt for trimming the trees along the north lot line, and to Gerald and Tom and Nancy Purcell for raking leaves. Charlie will talk to Gerald about shoveling the sidewalks this winter.

Worship and Music: Nancy reported that Bonnie Hanson has rejoined the Worship and Music Committee and that Diane Fried has also agreed to join the Committee. Squeaky May and Dan Olson have indicated a willingness to serve as Worship Assistants after the first of the year. Poinsettias have been ordered for Christmas. Decorating the church for Christmas is scheduled for December 4 at 10:00 am. Chili and cornbread will be served when the decorating is completed. The Advent devotionals have been received and arrangements will be made to have them distributed to the congregation. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held at 6:30 pm. Help in putting up the outside banners with information regarding the Christmas Eve service is requested. Instead of singing “Happy Birthday” to those celebrating a birthday, they will be acknowledged and the congregation will be asked to remember them in prayer during the week of their birthday.

(Continued on next page)

COUNCIL MINUTES

(Continued from previous page)

Denel Ingraham reported that he has been contacting members that have not been in church recently. He indicated there were a variety of reasons for people not attending including feeling they are not really “members” as they were never officially acknowledged, as well as concerns about COVID. Denel suggested we might consider offering a membership class. He stressed that relationships are more important now than ever. Council is currently looking at the constitution regarding membership and roles will be updated after the first of the year. This will be important in calling a new pastor.

Congregational Ministries: The ladies’ Friday Dinner and a Movie had eight ladies present in October with a delicious dinner of shrimp. The November movie is November 19 and the ladies will be watching the movie “Wonder.”

Christian Education: The Friday morning Bible study and breakfast continues to study the series “The Consequences of Ideas, An Overview of Philosophy” with R.C. Sproul. Don Russell continues to lead the Tuesday morning Bible study on Romans. Pastor Steve is leading the Sunday morning study on Revelation as Dan continues to care for his father. Nancy and Ava Andreasen continue studies from the Old Testament and learning the books of the Old Testament.

Social Care and Concerns: Diane reported that she has received \$250 from Thrivent for the Union Gospel Mission (UGM) coat drive in November. Drew Taes has picked up the food to be delivered to the Food Bank. Marcia Macholl has received \$250 from Thrivent for the Santa Helper project for personal care items for UGM. Diane has received \$250 for pizza and soda for those picking up the food bags for the holiday food drive for the Food Bank. The bags will be delivered to area homes on December 12 with pickup on December 19. Marcia Macholl has asked about the church being the “host/hostess” for a Tupperware party with proceeds being used for UGM for the spring graduation. It was decided to pursue that in early spring. If items are needed for the Holy Trinity kitchen, there is a clip board in the kitchen. Just write down what is needed and Tracy will purchase the same.

Continuing Business: Myrtle Stoop has agreed to fill the vacancy for Vice President for the remainder of the term left vacant by Jim Brittner’s resignation. Ilene made a motion to appoint Myrtle to the position of Vice President to fill the remainder of the term, Diane seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Marcia reported that there had been one meeting to review the Constitution and By-Laws for Holy Trinity with seven people in attendance. A second meeting will be held November 13.

Don and Arlene (Bittrick) Russell have agreed to help with the prayer team. It was suggested that prayers be sent to the congregation via email, as well and physically handing out prayer cards.

Dan Olson, Denel Ingraham, Squeaky May, Myrtle Stoop, and Marcia Taes have all agreed to serve on the Call Committee. We need at least one more person to serve. It is Marcia’s intent to hold the first meeting the beginning of December.

New Business: Marcia presented the updated valuation from our insurance carrier, Ministry Pacific, for review. Their estimate for replacement costs for the church building was \$1,938,755, *(Continued on next page)*

COUNCIL MINUTES

which is \$178 per square foot based on 10,870 square feet of space. She indicated that she had spoken with Barry Baker from Baker Construction and he estimated that the cost would be closer to \$250-\$350 per square foot. Denel Ingraham volunteered to call Ministry Pacific and review the valuation report with them. We want to be insured to replace the building if something happens, but don't want to be over insured with a needless increase in premiums.

Discussion was had on an honorarium to be paid to Don Russell for leading the Bible study on Tuesday morning. Don has not asked to be paid and it was decided at this point not to pursue the matter further.

Darrell Hart has requested to use the fellowship hall for a weekly meeting of S.L.A.A. After discussion, Council decided to deny the request. Both the AA groups and the Narcotic Anonymous groups have grown and Council felt that we do not have the space available to house another type of group at this time.

Keith Reger of AA has requested to use the kitchen and fellowship hall for a potluck for AA at 5:00 pm on Thanksgiving Day. The request was approved.

Next Month Devotional: Nancy Purcell

Adjournment: Meeting was closed with prayer.



Holy Trinity is holding our **6th Annual Neighborhood Holiday Christmas Music & Food Drive** to collect food donations and support the families that rely on the Spokane Valley Partners Food Bank.

***Please join us on Sunday, December 19
@ 3:00 pm***

Pizza dinner will be provided when we are finished collecting the bags.





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!

Our next meeting is

Friday, December 17, @ 5:00 pm

Dinner will be Pad Thai.

We will be watching:

THE UPSIDE

Deadline to sign up is December 12 .

Contact Squeaky May for more information.

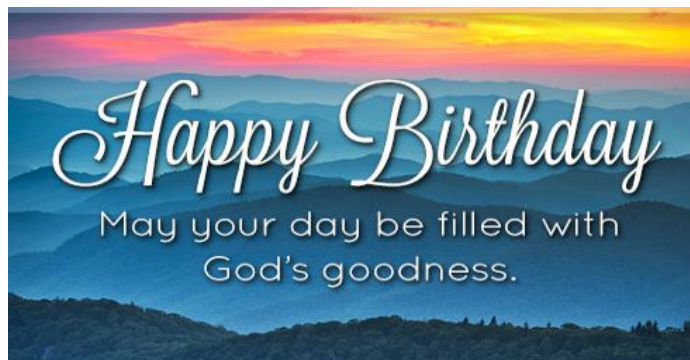


December Anniversaries

Tom & Nancy Purcell — December 18, 1971
Celebrating 50 years!

Tom & Jayme Hilsen — December 21, 1974
Celebrating 47 years!

George & Ann LePard — December 25, 1952
Celebrating 69 years!



December Birthdays

Peggy Cutler	December 7
Yvonne Haas	December 10
Jim Rowse	December 17
Lynn Olson	December 23
Bonnie Hanson	December 27



December 5 (2nd Sunday of Advent):

- ✝ Malachi 3:1-4
- ✝ Philippians 1:3-11
- ✝ Luke 3:1-6

December 12 (3rd Sunday of Advent):

- ✝ Zephaniah 3:14-20
- ✝ Philippians 4:4-7
- ✝ Luke 3:7-18

December 19 (4th Sunday of Advent):

- ✝ Micah 5:2-5a
- ✝ Hebrews 10:5-10
- ✝ Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

December 26 (1st Sunday of Christmas):

- ✝ 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
- ✝ Colossians 3:12-17
- ✝ Luke 2:41-52

A Hallelujah Christmas...Lyrics by Cloverton

I've heard about this baby boy
Who's come to earth to bring us joy
And I just want to sing this song to you
It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth
The minor fall, the major lift
With every breath, I'm singing Hallelujah

Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

A couple came to Bethlehem
Expecting child, they searched the inn
To find a place, for You were coming soon
There was no room for them to stay
So in a manger filled with hay
God's only Son was born, oh, Hallelujah

Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

The shepherds left their flocks by night
To see this baby wrapped in light
A host of angels led them all to You
It was just as the angels said
"You'll find Him in a manger bed"
Immanuel and Savior, Hallelujah

Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

A star shone bright, up in the east
To Bethlehem, the wise-men three
Came many miles and journeyed long for You
And to the place at which You were
Their frankincense and gold and myrrh
They gave to You and cried out Hallelujah

Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

I know You came to rescue me
This baby boy would grow to be
A man and one day die for me and you
My sins would drive the nails in You
That rugged cross was my cross too
Still every breath You drew was Hallelujah

Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah



Come join the fun on **Saturday, December 4 @ 10:00 am**,
as we decorate the church and Sanctuary for Christmas.
Chili will be provided for lunch after we are done.

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Pastor Steve's Office Hours: 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—WNW	Pastor Steve's Office Hours: 9:30 am – 12:00 pm Tracy's Office Hours: 11:00 am—1:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	7:30 am Breakfast and Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—Book Study Group	10:00 am Church Decorating 10:00 am AA—SMM 1:00 pm Constitution & Bylaws Review 8:00 pm AA—SNM
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<u>2nd Sunday of Advent</u> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SMG 2:00 pm AA—CAYA 7:00 pm AA—SRG	12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm TOPS 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—MNM	9:00 am Thimbles <u>10:30 am Bible Study</u> 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	Pastor Steve's Office Hours: 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—WNW	Pastor Steve's Office Hours: 9:30 am – 12:00 pm Tracy's Office Hours: 11:00 am—1:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	7:30 am Breakfast and Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—Book Study Group	8:00 am Amateur Radio Class 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<u>3rd Sunday of Advent</u> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship <u>Food Drive Bag Drop-Off</u> 10:00 am AA—SMG 2:00 pm AA—CAYA 7:00 pm AA—SRG	12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm TOPS 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—MNM	9:00 am Thimbles <u>10:30 am Bible Study</u> 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG <u>6:30 pm Council Mtg</u> 	Pastor Steve's Office Hours: 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—WNW <u>Newsletter Articles Due</u> 	Pastor Steve's Office Hours: 9:30 am – 12:00 pm Tracy's Office Hours: 11:00 am—1:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	7:30 am Breakfast and Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—Book Study Group <u>5:00 pm Dinner & a Movie</u> 	8:00 am Amateur Radio Class 10:00 am AA—SMM <u>4:00 pm Christmas Music Concert</u> 8:00 pm AA—SNM
19	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas
<u>4th Sunday of Advent</u> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SMG 2:00 pm AA—CAYA <u>3:00 pm Neighborhood Christmas Music & Food Drive</u> 7:00 pm AA—SRG	12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm TOPS 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—MNM	9:00 am Thimbles <u>10:30 am Bible Study</u> 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	Pastor Steve's Office Hours: 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—WNW	Pastor Steve's Office Hours: 9:30 am – 12:00 pm Tracy's Office Hours: 11:00 am—1:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	7:30 am Breakfast and Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG <u>6:30 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service</u>  7:00 pm NA—Book Study Group	10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM 
26	27	28	29	30	31 New Years Eve	
<u>1st Sunday of Christmas</u> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SMG 2:00 pm AA—CAYA 7:00 pm AA—SRG	12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm TOPS 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—MNM	9:00 am Thimbles <u>10:30 am Bible Study</u> 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	Pastor Steve's Office Hours: 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—WNW	Pastor Steve's Office Hours: 9:30 am – 12:00 pm Tracy's Office Hours: 11:00 am—1:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	7:30 am Breakfast and Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—Book Study Group	

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 2021, Volume 61, 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@holyltrinitylcmc.org, or call: (509) 926-7966*

December Events

Church Decorating (Chili lunch following)	Sunday, December 4 @ 10:00 am
Constitution & Bylaws Review Meeting	Sunday, December 4 @ 1:00 pm
Annual Food Drive (Bag drop-off)	Sunday, December 12
Council Meeting	Tuesday, December 14 @ 6:30 pm
Newsletter Articles Due	Wednesday, December 15
Dinner & a Movie— "The Upside"	Friday, December 17 @ 5:00 pm
Christmas Music Concert (Featuring NW Junior Fiddlers)	Saturday, December 18 @ 4:00 pm
Christmas Music & Food Drive (Food pick-up)	Sunday, December 19 @ 3:00 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Friday, December 24 @ 6:30 pm
Weekly Bible Studies (All are welcome!)	Tuesdays @ 10:30 am Fridays @ 7:30 am

Sundays: 9:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am Worship w/Communion