

TIDINGS

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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November 2021

Volume 61, Number 11

Monthly Newsletter

Sunday School @ 9:30 am

Worship, with Communion @ 10:30 am

Fellowship (after Worship Service)



This month we focus on being thankful to the Lord.

Inside the November Newsletter:

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“CHANGE HAPPENS! Guidance and Hope in Times of Transition, A Resource for Congregations”...lcmc.net

Ministry Change is a normal part of life for individuals, families and congregations. This resource is offered to provide assistance during this time. Change can create anxiety but also tremendous opportunities for growth. Make certain to spend time in prayer for the ministry and mission of your church as you walk through the days of transition.

LCMC is an association of congregations. We are free in Christ, accountable to one another, rooted in Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, and committed to the fulfillment of the Great Commission: to go make disciples of all nations. So it is the responsibility of the congregation to deal with transitions in a manner that honors the Gospel and fulfills the ministry of reconciliation given to us. (II Corinthians 5:18-21)

Transition is something that all of God's people have gone through over the generations. The Bible identifies many such examples and will prove helpful for us to become familiar with them.

- ♦ **The Exodus — *Countless examples of grumbling followers:* Exodus 16:2, 6-8**
- ♦ **Nehemiah — *Successful transition even in the face of significant resistance:* Nehemiah 2:17**
- ♦ **Moses to Joshua — *Transition in leadership:* Numbers 27:18-23**
- ♦ **Joshua — *Faithful transition for all of God's people:* Joshua 1-5**
- ♦ **Saul Becomes Paul — *Transformation and conversion:* Acts 9:3-6, 20, 13:9-10**
- ♦ **The Disciples — *Changed and sent into the world:* Acts 2:2-4, 14, 38-39**

As your congregation faces a time of transition and change, remember what the Apostle Paul said in Philippians 4:13: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Again, we remind you to pray through every step of this process, knowing that the Holy Spirit desires to lead and guide you and we know that Jesus walks with us as well.

One more reminder...you gather as the people of God, followers of Jesus. Everyone, everywhere in everyplace is changing, all the time—it is the only thing that we can count on. With one exception: Jesus is the same, yesterday, today and forever. It is essential for us all to remember that the life, death and resurrection of Jesus changes everything.

Paul tells us in I Corinthians 13 that now “we see in a mirror dimly, but there is a day coming when we will see Him face to face—and in that moment all of the change and transitions that we have gone through will become clear. It is the cross of Jesus that allows us to see joy in the middle of sorrow, light in the darkness, success in the face of what seems to be failure, comfort when in pain, the riches of the Kingdom while struggling to pay the bills...and Life out of death.

The church, your church, belongs to Jesus and He is enough.



Understanding Transitions

"Transition is the process of changing from one situation to another". Our congregations are always in some stage of transition. However, there are moments when those transitions are more intense or acute. Conflict during transitions is normal. The level of conflict and its impact will be directly related to the manner in which the transition is handled. A change in pastoral leadership creates the greatest level of anxiety regardless of its cause.

The key for our congregations is to help people become aware of the dynamics of transitions. The most effective transitions occur through careful planning. Change always brings conflict but healthy congregations see conflict as an opportunity for deeper understanding and growth.

To read the entire article, “CHANGE HAPPENS! Guidance and Hope in Times of Transition, A Resource for Congregations”, go to the website, https://lcmc.net/files/1395341474_Change_Happens.pdf

Call Update by Marcia Taes

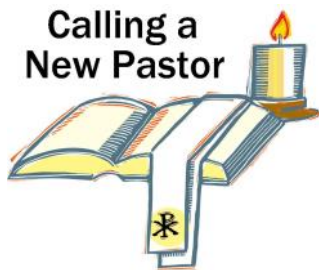
There are many challenges for a congregation without a called pastor. One of the most unnoticed of those challenges is the anxiety we naturally feel to fill the void quickly with our own plans. We believe, however, that God's Spirit is in this process. He graciously gives our congregation the privilege of participating! It is not merely hiring a worker. The call process is more about the Lord shaping our congregation in the transition. If we skip steps, we act on our plans rather than what the Lord has established.

Weekly Prayer - A Prayer for Courage

Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths yet untrodden, through peril unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God, keep us mindful of your presence among us as we seek your will for us. We pray that you will help us see beyond our own needs. We pray that you will open our eyes to new possibilities and opportunities of being your children. Amen.

Calling a New Pastor



- Interim Pastor Steve's contract finalized—completed October 15, 2021
- Review Constitution and Bylaws—to be completed on October 30, 2021
- Prayer Team organized—to be completed by October 31, 2021
- Form Call Committee—to be completed November 15, 2021

Timeline

THANKFUL



Spokane Valley
Partners

**FOOD BANK
& FAMILY SERVICES**

September donations = 85 lbs.

2021 total donations = 1402 lbs.

Contact Drew Taes for information:
drew.taes@gmail.com



Donations for the month of November:

*Let's focus on Thanksgiving dinner items
like...boxed potatoes, stuffing, canned
vegetables, beets, olives, etc.*

Lutefisk Theology Submitted by Steven Hagler

The Lutefisk supper is close at hand. I thought this would be the perfect time to share the "Lutefisk Theology" with you. The following was written by a seminary classmate of mine. A few years ago, he gave me permission to use it. I hope you enjoy reading it.

The Piece of Cod that Passes All Understanding

Much has been written about Lutefisk. Most of what has been written is a repetition of the same thing. However, writing about the craziness of the traditional lutefisk dinner has become somewhat of a tradition in and of itself. So, I thought in keeping with this time-honored culinary custom I would give it a go with a theological twist.

Lutefisk is dried and salted. Jesus said we are to be the salt of the Earth. Salt was used to heal in the ancient world. In fact, people still use it today for sore throats. Followers of Christ are to be a part of the healing of the brokenness of a broken world. Salt also preserves - and so we are to be about the business of preserving and conserving the goodness of His creation. Lutefisk theology says that if we are to be the salty Christians Jesus calls us to be, we should heal and preserve, and everything we touch should taste better for it.

Lutefisk is soaked in water and lye. Christians are soaked in the waters of Baptism. Through baptism God claims us as His children, He calls us by name and says, "you are my child and I love you; you belong to me." In baptism the Holy Spirit is at work creating and sustaining us in faith and commissioning us for service in the world. Lutefisk theology says "remember your baptism" every day and live your life claimed, called, sustained, and commissioned.

Lutefisk is best with melted butter poured on top. God pours out His grace on His people of faith through the saving blood of Jesus. The simple message of the

Gospel is this - that while we were still sinners, God sent His son to die for us. The apostle Paul wrote: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."

Lutefisk theology says that we can't earn our way into heaven any more than a dried and reconstituted slab of cod can earn its way onto the regular menu of any self-respecting restaurant. Our golden salvation is only by the grace of God.



Lutefisk is kind of stinky but Norwegian Lutherans love it anyway. We get kind of stinky sometimes too, but God loves us anyway. In fact, St. Paul said "I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do I keep on doing...what a wretched man I am!" Luther loved to say we are at once saints and sinners. Lutefisk theology says that despite our best efforts we're going to mess up. It's

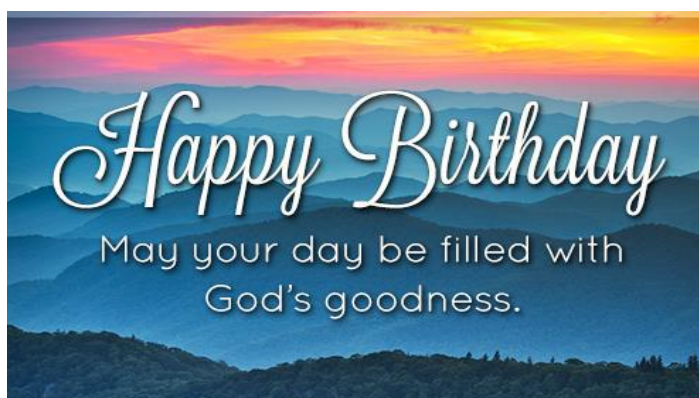
what being a fallen human means. But every day we confess our failings to God and one another and find forgiveness in the God who walked among us.

Lutefisk is a trial for some, but it's worth it in the end. Jesus said we'd have trials, but He will be with us to the end - and the end is amazing! I must confess that lutefisk isn't my favorite holiday delight. All the usual lutefisk articles point out that Norwegians in Norway don't even eat the stuff very often anymore. It's really all about nostalgia. And nostalgia is a powerful thing indeed.

As I consider the gelatinous plate before me, I think about the stalwart Norwegian settlers in this country and my own ancestors who settled in a new land bringing their faith with them and passing it on to their children. They are a part of that great cloud of witnesses for me. Throughout times of trial, they turned to a risen Savior - a Savior who upheld and sustained them - and who greeted them with open arms in eternity. Lutefisk theology says the worst thing is never the last thing - you can count on it!

I WILL GIVE THANKS
TO THE LORD BECAUSE
OF HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Psalm 7:17

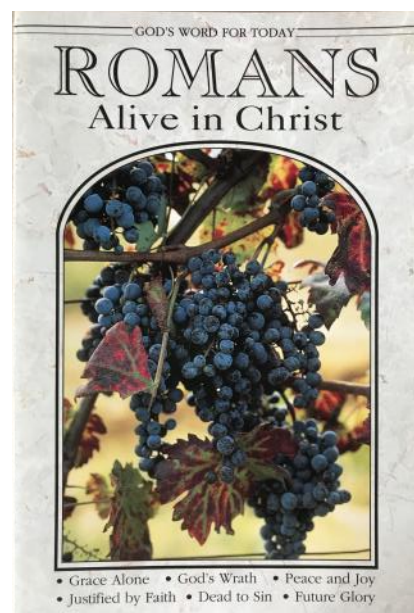


November Birthdays

Arlene Bittrick	November 2
Jim Cutler	November 3
Jayne Hilsen	November 3
Gladys Evanson	November 4
Sandy Mattson	November 6
Melanie Bennett	November 15
Kory Buglione	November 15
Lindsey Peterson	November 15
John Pardee	November 18
Anandae Clark	November 23
Leslie Knight	November 24
Ali Deasy	November 26
Diane Fried	November 26
Duane Scheele	November 27
Nancy Purcell	November 28
LaLita Tadena	November 28

Join us for
Bible Study on
Tuesday
mornings at
10:30 am.

*We are studying,
"Romans, Alive
in Christ"
led by Pastor
Don Russell.*



All are invited to join us!
(men and women)

Fridays @ 7:30 am
Bible Study, Breakfast, & Fellowship

*We are studying Ligonier's survey series,
"The Consequences of Ideas,
An Overview of Philosophy"
with R.C. Sproul.*

COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Meeting Minutes: October 12, 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 and Jack Tiley. Jim and Darlene Brittner and Leanne Pardee have tendered their resignations from serving on the council.

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

Devotional: Nancy opened with a devotional on Psalm 23 from *The Gift of Psalms* devotional; followed by prayer.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Dan and seconded by Diane to approve the September 14, 2021, minutes as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

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

Checking:	\$ 32,963.24
MM Building Fund	19,116.48
MM Savings	27,228.01
Savings – Vanguard	32,426.50



It was noted that giving is down from this time last year.

Pastor’s Report: Steve reported that besides the Sunday services, he met with the Worship and Music Committee and responded to several prayer requests through email. He has also been attending fellowship time after service to get to know the people.

Properties and Maintenance: Charlie reported that he had shut off the sprinkler system and that the sprinklers will be blown out on Friday. The lock on the kitchen door is malfunctioning so if you use that door, be sure that the deadbolt is in place. Charlie is contacting a locksmith to have the same repaired. The carpet cleaning has been completed in the narthex, fellowship hall, AA rooms and hallways. Charlie indicated he would contact the company for snowplowing.

Worship and Music: Nancy reported she and Judy had met and picked hymns for October/November. Steve will meet with us for future meetings. She also said that they would like to purchase devotionals for Advent. Charlie made a motion to approve ordering devotionals and it was seconded by Ilene. Motion passed unanimously. Charlie, Diane, Marcia, Ilene, Steve and Nancy have volunteered to deliver the devotionals for those members not able to pick them up at church. Squeaky May will be decorating the church for fall on October 24. Reformation Sunday is October 31. November 7 is All Saints Day and Judy Ingraham will have the plaques engraved with the names of members who passed during the year. The You Tube videos work well for music when Judy is gone, and we will continue to use those, as substitute pianists are just not available.

Congregational Ministries: The ladies’ Friday dinner and a movie resumed in September. The October movie is “I Still Believe.” Marcia is also going to check with the fiddlers and see if perhaps they would like to do a concert during the Advent season. The community would be invited.

Christian Education: Dan indicated that he has been doing adult education on Sunday mornings for several years and, with his father’s failing health, he needs some assistance. Pastor Steve has offered his assistance and will work with

(Continued on next page)

COUNCIL MINUTES

(Continued from previous page)

Dan, Nancy and Ava Andreasen have been meeting on Wednesday afternoons for confirmation and continuing the Bible study of *A Lamp Unto My Feet* that she had started with Jaynan. Don Russell is leading the Tuesday morning Bible study on Romans. The Friday morning Bible study and breakfast is continuing.

Social Care and Concerns: Discussion was had on doing the Christmas food drive. Jack Tiley has offered to check on the cost of obtaining paper bags as with the new bag rules taking effect in Washington on October 1, bags are not readily available from stores. Owen Andreasen is going to check with his Honor Society Club to see if they would be willing to help with the food pickup. Tentative dates are to deliver the bags on December 12 and to pick them up on December 19 with pizza after we finished.

Old Business: With the resignations of Jim and Darlene Brittner and Leanne Pardee from council, there are three open positions. The church constitution and bylaws provide that the council consists of “no less than 7 and no more than 9 voting members.” The constitution also provides that the “Executive Council” consists of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.” The constitution further provides “the church council shall appoint a replacement to complete the remainder of the vacated term.” Therefore, at a minimum, we will need to appoint at least someone to fill the office of Vice President. Anyone wishing to serve should contact any member of the council.

New Business: Marcia presented a draft of “A Call for An Intentional Interim Position.” After review and discussion of the proposed “Call,” Charlie made a motion to extend the “Call for An Intentional Interim Position” to Steven Hagler based on a 20 hour week for a contracted amount of \$3,000 per month. Nancy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Steve accepted the position and the Call will be submitted in final form for signature by both Steve and Marcia, as council president, with the position beginning on October 15, 2021.

Marcia reported she had been in communication with Cathy Nichol, Administrative Coordinator for LCMC, and Shelly Hauge, Chair of the Executive Committee for the Northwest District Council (and a member of Christ Lutheran, Odessa, WA), and both advised that a prayer team be organized at once. Marcia has contacted Don and Arlene Russell to see if they would be willing to head the same. We should all be praying for Pastor Steven, as our interim pastor, the church council, the congregation as a whole, volunteers for the council and call committee, Jaynan and people leaving the church. The following timeline has been suggested: Interim call to Pastor Steve Hagler – October 15; Prayer team organized – October 31; review of the current constitution – October 30; and formation of call committee – November 15. If you are interested in serving on the call committee, please contact any council member.

Charlie has volunteered to head up a committee to draw up plans for the repair and updating of the restrooms in the north part of the building.

It was suggested that Don Russell would be willing to provide counseling services for the AA and NA groups. However, because of the “firewall” that needs to be maintained between AA and NA and Holy Trinity as the hosting entity and because Don is not an employee of Holy Trinity, it was decided we should not be involved as the church in any counseling of the AA or NA groups.

The Gideons have asked to come and do a presentation on their Bible ministry. It was approved that such a presentation could be made at the end of a service.

Next Month Devotional: Dan Olson

Adjournment: Meeting was closed with prayer at 8:45 pm.





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, November 19, @ 5:00 pm

Dinner will be taco salad and bean soup.

We will be watching:

WONDER

Deadline to sign up is November 14 .

Contact Squeaky May for more information.



Sundays at 9:30 am

Join us as we continue our study of...

THE BOOK OF

REVELATION



November Anniversary

Jim & Darlene Brittner

November 10, 1983

Celebrating 38 years!



November 7 (All Saints Day):

- ✝ Isaiah 25:6-9
- ✝ Revelation 21:1-6a
- ✝ John 11:32-44

November 14 (25th Sunday of Pentecost):

- ✝ Daniel 12:1-3
- ✝ Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25
- ✝ Mark 13:1-8

November 21 (Christ the King Sunday):

- ✝ Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
- ✝ Revelation 1:4b-8
- ✝ John 18:33-37

November 28 (First Sunday of Advent):

- ✝ Jeremiah 33:14-16
- ✝ 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
- ✝ Luke 21:25-36

November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm TOPS 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—MNM	9:00 am Thimbles 10:30 am Bible Study 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 6:00 pm NA—Women's Group 7:00 pm NA—Book Study Group	10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
7-Daylight Savings	8	9	10	11 - Veterans Day	12	13
All Saints Day 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 10:30 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:30 pm Council Mtg 	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 6:00 pm NA—Women's Group 7:00 pm NA—Book Study Group	10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
25th Sunday of Pentecost 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 10:30 am Bible Study 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 Newsletter Articles Due 	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 6:00 pm NA—Women's Group 7:00 pm NA—Book Study Group 5:00 pm Dinner & a Movie	10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
21	22	23	24	25-Thanksgiving	26	27
Christ the King Sunday 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 10:30 am Bible Study 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	Office Closed 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 6:00 pm NA—Women's Group 7:00 pm NA—Book Study Group	10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
28	29	30				
1st Sunday of Advent 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 10:30 am 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."*



November 2021, Volume 61, Number 11

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@holytrinitylmc.org, or call: (509) 926-7966*

November Events

Daylight Savings— Set clocks back 1 hour	Sunday, November 7
Council Meeting	Tuesday, November 9 @ 6:30 pm
Dinner & a Movie— "Wonder"	Friday, November 19 @ 5:00 pm
Newsletter Articles Due	Wednesday, November 17
Happy Thanksgiving!	Thursday, November 25
Weekly Bible Studies (All are welcome!)	Tuesdays @ 10:30 am Fridays @ 7:30 am

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship w/Communion
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.*