

TIDINGS

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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December 2022

Volume 62, Number 12

Monthly Newsletter

Sunday School @ 9:30 am

Worship, with Communion @ 10:30 am

Fellowship (after Worship Service)



LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING!

LET EV'RY
HEART
PREPARE
HIM
ROOM



Please join us for
our Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
on Saturday,
December 24,
at 6:30 pm.

We will not have
Worship Service on
Christmas Day,
Sunday,
December 25,
so that we can
celebrate Jesus' birth
with our families.

Inside the December Newsletter:

- Page 2 It's Advent; Christmas is Coming by *Pastor Steve Hagler*
- Page 3 New UGM Projects & On-going Ministries
- Page 4 Pastor Call Team Update: Zoom Meetings by *Marcia Taes*
- Pages 5-7 Council Meeting Minutes by *Nancy Purcell*
- Page 7 7th Annual Neighborhood Holiday Music & Food Drive

It's Advent; Christmas is Coming

by Pastor Steven Hagler

“To us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6) “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of Bethlehem a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:10-11) On that silent night our Savior came upon the midnight clear as a baby to us. Come let us adore Him! Worship Christ the newborn King!

We have entered the holiday season with its vast variety of activities and events. We can sometimes be so busy that we become overwhelmed in our individual lives and families and even with all that is happening in our congregation, working with our ministry partners, decorating our facilities for Advent/Christmas, the food drive, and Christmas Eve candlelight worship service.

In the midst of all of this, first and foremost, we need to keep in mind that it is all about Jesus Christ. The baby Savior quietly enters our world with God making his grand and glorious announcement by means of angels from the realms of glory; angels we have heard on high. Not many in the world heard about a Christ child appearing, except a few shepherds quaking at the sight, and a few wise men from the east following a strange star in the sky. Most of the world was unaware of the birth of the Son of God. God is telling us and the whole world that we need to slow down, pause, be silent, and stand in awe of this miraculous birth. Put aside all of the hectic activity enough to pay attention to Jesus. While the activities of our congregation might seem like just more to do, most of them help us focus our attention on Jesus.

Advent is intended to be a season of reflection. We reflect on what God has done in the birth of His son; on what Jesus accomplished in His death and resurrection; on the violence and evil in the world that causes us to cry out to God to make things right—to put death's dark shadows to flight. So we immerse ourselves in His Word, and we ask for His presence.

Advent is a time of preparation. We are called to prepare our hearts for His coming. It isn't really about our traditions, Christmas parties, or even our happiness. 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 to tell the poor in spirit about how the angels came first to the shepherds. We are to tell the meek about Jesus' mother, Mary. We are to tell those who mourn about the love and forgiveness that Jesus brings to us now. We are called to tell the world about the coming...the arrival...the dawning of a new day. Go and tell! Go tell it on the mountain.



There must be a part that is predictable, that gives you an idea of what to expect. There also needs to be an element of the experience that makes it surprising or unexpected. When both are present you use adjectives like 'amazing' or 'wonderful' to try to describe it. I think the same is true of Christmas. To have a truly enjoyable Christmas celebration there has to be an element of predictability (the tree, the presents, family and friends, the food, and other traditions),

and an element of surprise (snow on Christmas Eve, the unexpected guest, the awesome gift, the deep peace of a worship service). Likewise, the same is true of how God works. God promises to be present in our lives— that part is predictable. But how God is present can be surprising; often showing up in startling ways or when we least expect it. When God showed up as a little, Jewish, baby boy it was both predictable and surprising.

We are cared for by God and God has our best interest in mind. I pray that this Advent brings you hope and joy in trusting God to work in your life as you wade through the business and celebrations of the season. I pray that you will be surprised by grace when you least expect it and that it causes your heart to praise Emmanuel, God with us. Oh, come, oh come, Emmanuel. May you all have a blessed Christmas.

**By God's Grace,
Pastor Steve**

New UGM Projects & On-going Ministries



Holy Trinity has started two new projects to benefit the men at the UGM Men's Shelter.

"PJ's and Undies" Shower – the need is for XXL and larger sizes of these items.

Contact John or Diane Fried for details.



"Warm-up Winter" with Gloves and Hats – the need is for all sizes.

Contact George Simon for details.

There will be a collection bin in the Narthex for people to place any contributions.

And don't forget about our newer on-going ministries, we would love to have you join us:

Serving lunch at the Men's Shelter.

Second Thursday of each month

11:15 am—1:00 pm

Serving dinner and participating in an event at the Crisis Shelter for Women and Children.

First Tuesday of each month

3:00 pm—6:30 pm

Adopt an after-care family from Anna Ogden Hall for Christmas.

We reduce the stress of Christmas by providing gifts for the family. The gifts may be toys, clothes, food, and other items that help the family experience a joyous Christmas.

All of the above listed ministries help us to live out our Mission Statement; "To proclaim the Good News of God's Saving Grace and to minister to our community through our relationship with God."



Join us for a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Saturday, December 24, @ 6:30 pm.

We will not have a Worship Service on Christmas morning.

Pastor Call Team Update: Zoom Meetings

by Marcia Taes

The Call Team met on Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 1:00 pm. All members were present including Squeaky May. At 1:30 pm we had an informal Zoom meeting with one of the two Pastors who were interested in our Call.

Each member of the committee had an opportunity to ask questions of this Pastor and he also asked questions about Holy Trinity. The Zoom meeting went over an hour and a half.

All felt that it went incredibly positive. It was decided by the Call Team to repost the position on the LCMC website through December 31, 2022 since the first posting went for such a brief time.

Those applicants who have already applied will not have to reapply. All understood our rationale behind this action and were supportive.

The Call Team is having a Zoom meeting with Perry Fruhling on Wednesday, November 23, 2022, at 1:30 pm to confirm that we have completed all the necessary work up to this point and to discuss a solution for a low response to our Call.

Blessings,
Marcia Taes
On behalf of the Call Team

Call Team Members



*Call
Committee*

Marcia Taes, HTLC Member	(509) 928-7402
Dan Olson, HTLC Council Treasurer	(509) 990-0981
Denel Ingraham, HTLC Member	(509) 924-7329
Squeaky May, HTLC Member	(509) 951-7512
Myrtle Stoop, HTLC Council Vice President	(509) 891-2681
George Simon, HTLC Council Member	(509) 939-0652
LaLita Tadena, HTLC Council Member	(509) 475-1899

Please join us Saturday,
December 3, at 10:00 am
as we decorate the church
for Christmas.

Chili will be provided after.



COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Meeting Minutes: November 8, 2022 — “Subject to Approval”

Respectfully Submitted by Nancy Purcell, Secretary

Present: Dan Olson, Diane Fried, Ilene Benham, George Simon, Charlie May, LaLita Tadena, and Nancy Purcell. Also present were Pastor Steve Hagler, Denel Ingraham, and Marcia Taes.

Call to Order: Treasurer, Dan Olson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Devotional: LaLita shared a devotional on “Seed Sewing” based in part on 2 Corinthians 9:6 and John 12:24 followed by prayer.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Ilene and seconded by LaLita to approve the October 11, 2022 minutes. Motion was unanimously approved.

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

Checking:	\$ 56,480.43
MM Building Fund	19,137.23
MM Savings	27,257.57
Savings – Vanguard	25,037.04



Dan reported that \$713.00 had been received from an anonymous donor to help cover the cost of the Gratitude Dinner on November 13. Dan further suggested that we consider moving the building fund account and the money market savings account from Spokane Teachers’ Credit Union, which is paying interest of 0.10%, to a Charles Schwab Money Fund and/or a U.S. Treasury Bond (I Bond). The Schwab account pays 3.26% with no minimum deposit. A five year I Bond pays 6.89% and requires a minimum investment of \$10,000. The I Bond cannot be sold during the first year and must be held for 5 years. If sold after one year and before the end of the 5 year period, there is a forfeiture of three month’s interest.

After discussion, George made a motion, which was seconded by Diane, to invest \$10,000 from the Building Fund in an I Bond and the remainder from the Building Fund, and the money market account be moved to savings accounts at Charles Schwab to take advantage of the higher interest rates.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Steve continues to spend a large portion of his time on sermon preparation and preparation for teaching the Sunday morning Bible class on Revelation. He continues to preview the videos for the Friday morning Bible study and to attend the Bible study/breakfast on Friday. He writes an article for the monthly newsletter and attends the monthly Worship and Music Committee meetings. He visited with Pat and Caren Woods and Arlene Severance. He is working on the memorial service for Steve Bliesner, which is scheduled for November 19. He helped to serve lunch at the UGM men’s shelter and urges everyone to volunteer to serve a meal.

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COUNCIL MINUTES

(Continued from previous page)

Properties and Maintenance: See report as submitted by Charlie May. In addition, Charlie submitted a Snow Maintenance Agreement from Ponderosa Lawn and Plow. He reported that the cost for plowing for each incident is \$110.00, an increase of \$20 from last year. However, last year there was no increase. After review and discussion, Charlie made a motion to approve the contract with Ponderosa Lawn as presented; George seconded the motion; it passed unanimously. Charlie reported that Larry Tyler has agreed to shovel the sidewalks and use the snow blower where required.

Worship and Music: See report as submitted by Nancy Purcell. Nancy reported that church decorating for Christmas is scheduled for December 3 at 10:00 a.m. Chili will be served to all who help. She also asked for volunteers to help distribute the Advent devotionals. George, Ilene, Diane, Marcia Taes and Nancy volunteered to help. Discussion was had as to whether we should have service on Christmas Day, which falls on a Sunday this year. We will ask for feedback from the congregation. Christmas Eve service will be at 6:30 p.m.

Congregational Ministries: See report as presented by LaLita Tadena.

Christian Education: See report as presented by George Simon.

Social Care and Concerns: See report as presented by Diane Fried. Diane reported that our service at the Women's Shelter at UGM had been rescheduled from November 1 to November 8 because of possible COVID exposure. She reported five people had helped. She also asked about taking the canned food that had been purchased for community dinners to the UGM Men's Shelter so it could be used before it reached the expiration date. Council approved donating the canned food to UGM.

Old Business:

Pastoral Call Committee: See report as submitted by Marcia Taes. Marcia reported that serving on the Committee has been a challenge and a joy. Two candidates have responded to our posting on the LCMC website. They had hoped for a bigger response. The committee felt that one of the applicants did not fit Holy Trinity's needs. The Call Committee has a Zoom call scheduled with the second candidate on November 9. The Call Committee will decide after the Zoom call if they want to repost the call on the LCMC website. Please pray God will send Holy Trinity His chosen candidate.

Gratitude Event and Dinner: Dan reviewed the program for the event on November 13, which starts at 4:00 p.m. Dan reported that a turkey dinner will be served and they are planning for approximately 100 people. There will be speakers from Union Gospel Mission, Alcoholic Anonymous, TOPS, and Holy Trinity. Pastor Steve will open the program with prayer and close the program.

New Business:

Lutheran Class: Council discussed offering a class on what it means to be Lutheran. It would cover the basis of our Lutheran faith and the teachings of Martin Luther. Pastor Steve has agreed to lead a class. It was

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COUNCIL MINUTES

(Continued from previous page)

decided to hold the class as part of the Lenten services. Additional information will be forth coming after the Christmas holidays.

Budget Process: Dan questioned if preparing a budget had any meaning because by the time it was approved in July, the year was half over. It was questioned whether it was ever referred to and if we needed one to be in compliance with our constitution and bylaws. The matter was tabled until our next meeting.

Recruitment of New Council Members: Discussion was had regarding possible candidates to serve on the Council. We will need to elect a president and a vice president, and/or possible members at large. Further discussion will be had at a future meeting.

Marcia Taes reported that she is working on a letter to send to the congregation regarding Christmas gifts for the staff. She will also purchase Christmas cards for the Council.

Next Month Devotional: Denel Ingraham

Counters: November – Ilene; December – George.

Adjournment: Meeting was closed at 8:45 p.m. with the Lord’s Prayer.



7th Annual Neighborhood Holiday Music & Food Drive

**Neighborhood Holiday
Food Drive Bag Drop-Off**

**Sunday, December 11
@ 1:00 pm**



**Neighborhood Holiday Music
& Food Drive Food pick-up**

**Sunday, December 18
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

Pizza will be provided after.





Community Christmas Music Concert

featuring INW Junior Fiddlers

Saturday, December 17, at 3:00 pm

All are invited to come.



December 4 (2nd Sunday of Advent):

- ✝ Isaiah 11:1-10
- ✝ Romans 15:4-13
- ✝ Matthew 3:1-12

December 11 (3rd Sunday of Advent):

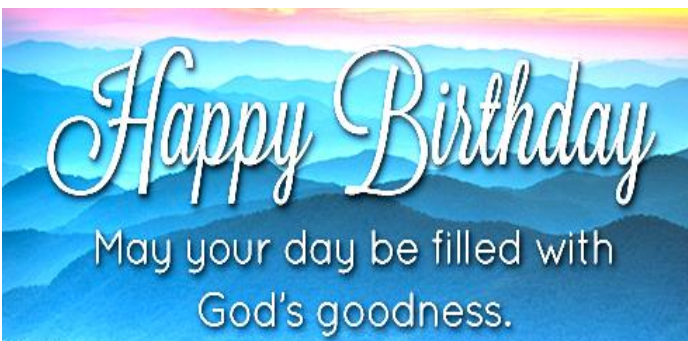
- ✝ Isaiah 35:1-10
- ✝ James 5:7-10
- ✝ Matthew 11:2-11

December 18 (4th Sunday of Advent):

- ✝ Isaiah 7:10-16
- ✝ Romans 1:1-7
- ✝ Matthew 1:18-25

December 25 (Christmas Day):

- ✝ Isaiah 62:6-12
- ✝ Titus 3:4-7
- ✝ Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20



December Birthdays


Linda Carter	December 2
Yvonne Haas	December 10
George Simon	December 11
Jim Rowse	December 17
Lynn Olson	December 23
Bonnie Hanson	December 27



Tom & Nancy Purcell
 December 18 (1971)
Celebrating 51 years

George & Ann LePard
 December 25 (1952)
Celebrating 70 years

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
				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 3:30 pm Fiddlers-INW Jr 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 Decorate the Church 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2nd 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 7:00 pm Al-Anon Mtg	12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm TOPS 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—MNM	9:00 am Thimbles 12:00 pm AA—VNG 3:00 pm—6:30 pm Serving @ Crisis Shelter for Women & Children 4:00 pm Fiddlers (AGT) 5:30 pm AA—HHG	10:00 am Bible Study 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 11:15 am—1:00 pm Serving Lunch @ Men's Shelter 12:00 pm AA—VNG 3:30 pm Fiddlers-INW Jr 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—12:00 pm The Oaks Piano Recital 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
3rd Sunday of Advent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SMG 1:00 pm Food Drive Bag Drop-off 2:00 pm AA—CAYA 7:00 pm AA—SRG 7:00 pm Al-Anon Mtg	12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm TOPS 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—MNM	9:00 am Thimbles 12:00 pm AA—VNG 4:00 pm Fiddlers (AGT) 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:30 pm Council Meeting	10:00 am Bible Study 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 3:30 pm Fiddlers-INW Jr 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 AA—SMM 3:00 pm—5:00 pm INW Jr Fiddlers Christmas Concert 8:00 pm AA—SNM
18	19	20	21	22	23	24-Christmas Eve
4th Sunday of Advent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SMG 2:00 pm—5:00 pm Food Drive Music & Bag Pick-up 2:00 pm AA—CAYA 7:00 pm AA—SRG 7:00 pm Al-Anon Mtg	12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm TOPS 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—MNM	9:00 am Thimbles 12:00 pm AA—VNG 4:00 pm Fiddlers (AGT) 5:30 pm AA—HHG	10:00 am Bible Study 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 3:30 pm Fiddlers-INW Jr 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 AA—SMM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:30 pm 8:00 pm AA—SNM
25	26	27	28	29	30	31-New Years Eve
Christmas 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 7:00 pm Al-Anon Mtg	12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm TOPS 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—MNM	9:00 am Thimbles 12:00 pm AA—VNG 4:00 pm Fiddlers (AGT) 5:30 pm AA—HHG	10:00 am Bible Study 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 1:30 pm Worship & Music Committee Mtg	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 3:30 pm Fiddlers-INW Jr 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 AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM

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 2022, Volume 62, 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 Events

Decorating the Church for Christmas	Saturday, December 3 @ 10:00 am
Serving @ Crisis Shelter for Women & Children	Tuesday, December 6 @ 3:00 pm—6:30 pm
Serving Lunch @ UGM Men’s Shelter	Thursday, December 8 11:15 am—1:00 pm
Neighborhood Holiday Food Drive Bag Drop-off	Sunday, December 11 @ 1:00 pm
Council Meeting	Tuesday, December 13 @ 6:30 pm
INW Junior Fiddlers Christmas Concert	Saturday, December 17 @ 3:00 pm
Neighborhood Holiday Music & Food Pick-up	Sunday, December 18 2:00 pm—5:00 pm
Christmas Eve Service	Saturday, December 24 @ 6:30 pm
Worship & Music Mtg	Wednesday, December 28 @ 1:30pm
Mid-week Bible Study	Wednesdays @ 10:00 am
Breakfast & Bible Study	Fridays @ 7:30 am

Regular Worship Schedule

*9:30 am Sunday School
 10:30 am Worship w/Communion
 11:30 am Fellowship (after Worship)*