

TIDINGS

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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Monthly Newsletter

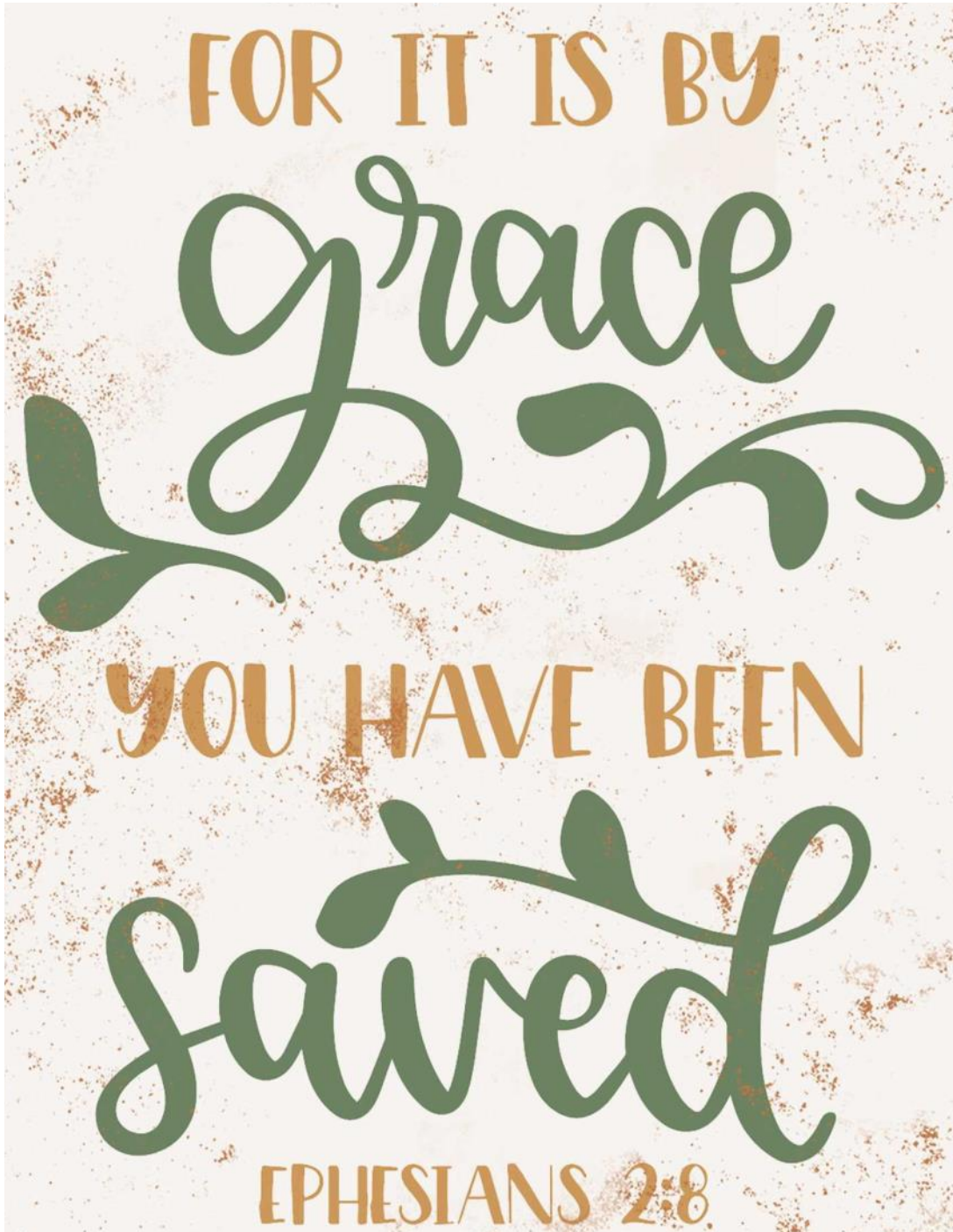
Sunday School @ 9:30 am

Worship Service w/Communion @ 10:30 am

Fellowship (after Worship Service)

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For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—
and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

Unnoticed Grace

by Pastor Ed Backell

Here we are, on the cusp of Fall. As I write this, it's a beautiful day outside, a pleasant 82 degrees... and that alone shows me how much it is possible to adjust to one's surroundings. If you'd told me three years ago that I'd consider 82 degrees a pleasant day, I'd have thought you were crazy. You see, when we lived on the West side of the state, a day in the high 70's was a WARM day... and anything above 80 was a reason to find a location with air conditioning.

Now? It's merely a pleasant day. It's amazing what you get used to when it's around you all the time.

That makes me think about God's grace. To those of us who live in God's grace all the time, it can be unremarkable. It's **normal** to be able to breathe a sigh of relief when thinking about our spiritual state... because God's grace

covers us. We don't have to work our way into the Kingdom or try to earn God's favor. We understand that earning God's favor is IMPOSSIBLE – God, after all, is infinite. The love of the Lord for humanity is without limit – and can't be bought or earned in any way by us. It's all God's choice to rescue us.

But we don't think about that much, because it's NORMAL for us. We take it for granted because that's exactly what it is: granted to us, by an act of God's will.

But what about those who don't know? There are so many people in our community who don't really understand the concept of God's grace, because they've never really seen it in action on a regular basis. Personally, I know my family didn't comprehend grace; there was a much higher emphasis on performance. I see a lot of that in our town – a high emphasis on what one is able to produce. That makes sense in an agricultural community... but it's terrible when applied to theology.

We, as God's people who live and move and have



our being in the grace of God, need to extend that grace to others who have not yet understood it. "See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many." (Hebrews 12:15). We can extend God's

Kingdom by spreading the message of God's grace by whatever means are at our disposal. We even have the opportunity to broadcast our services on local television at no charge... all as a way of sharing God's grace to those who do not yet live in it.

Please pray with me so that others would see Jesus in us; "in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 2:7)

KFJ – Pastor Ed

Meet Pastor Ed & Jami Backell



Pastor Ed Backell is a Washington state native and has taught for over 40 years in churches in Oregon, Nebraska and Washington. He has traveled extensively throughout the United States and Canada with various musical groups. As a youth minister, he specialized in creating teen performance groups that helped students use their gifts and talents to explore and share their own faith.

He holds an M. Div. from Bethel Seminary in St Paul, MN, as well as an M. A. in Ministry. He is currently taking classes to be certified as a Lutheran pastor. Pastor Ed has been a minister in various denominations, but all his ministry has been built upon the foundations he learned going through Lutheran confirmation as a teen. He still has his copy of Luther's Small Catechism, as well as the hymnal from his first Lutheran church.

The most crucial part of worship, in Pastor Ed's eyes, is to put away anything which can so easily distract us, to lay aside every weight which entangles us, accept the forgiving grace of the Father through the work of the Son and cooperate with the transforming work of the Spirit - all of this to run with endurance the race set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Sharing Scripture with anyone who will listen has been a keystone in his ministry for his entire adult life; he has published curriculum on the national level, and is the author of many Bible studies, and one devotional commentary, with more in the works.

He was called to Holy Trinity Lutheran in August of 2024. He is married to Jami, his bride of 35 years, and they have three daughters, and three sons-in-law, as well as two grandchildren (one of whom lives just blocks away from HTLC). Ed is a creative person, avid musician, published author, voracious reader, computer geek, and a pretty darn good ethnic cook!



Please plan on attending Pastor Ed's Installation Service

@ HTLC on Sunday, October 27

Service at 4:00 pm

Dinner at 5:30 pm

COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Meeting Minutes: September 10, 2024 — “Subject to Approval”

Respectfully Submitted by Sandy Hoveskeland, Council Secretary

Present: Pastor Steve Hagler, Dan Olson, LaLita Tadena, Nancy Purcell, Diane Fried, Pat Woods, Denel Ingraham and Sandy Hoveskeland. George Simon and Charlie May were absent.

Call to Order: Vice President LaLita Tadena called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Devotional: Pat Woods gave the devotional. He referenced Linda Craft’s ministry to Israel. We should have continuous thoughts of thankfulness. We often are thankful for material blessings we can see, hear and touch, but not for non-material things that are unseen. Be grateful for things that are spiritual, not physical.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Dan and seconded by Pat to approve the August 13, 2024 minutes as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Dan distributed the Treasurer’s Report which was reviewed and discussed by Council. Assets are in an STCU checking account and investments are in a Charles Schwab account. Vanguard savings were cashed out and are now in a Schwab Money Market account earning interest. Unearned Givings of \$15,400 are recognized by month versus the total for the year. \$12,608 for new pastor acquisition represents salary and benefits minus \$7,000 which will come out of that for the church’s portion of his moving expenses. Building Use for the period January-August 2024 was \$8,402 compared to \$5,987 for the same period in 2023. Memorials so far this year are \$1,200. Plate offerings for this period are \$82,352 compared to \$76,402 this period in 2023. Total Checking/Savings at the end of September were \$177,539 compared to \$153,065 at August 2023 month-end, an increase of \$24,474. Insurance expenses are \$942 higher this year than in 2023 and property maintenance expenses have been more this year. Joan Nelson’s family donated \$350 for building use.

STCU Checking:	\$14,873.82
Schwab Building Fund:	\$28,897.19
Schwab Savings:	\$133,768.16



Pastor’s Exit Interview: Dan asked Pastor Steve some standard questions: Why are you leaving? Do you feel that you ever lost your voice? (This references the congregation not listening to his messages). What needs do you see that weren’t met since you weren’t here full time? Pastor Steve said some pastors say they have lost their voice when they feel people aren’t listening to the message or the pastor isn’t holding their interest. Steve never felt that way. He knew his call as an interim pastor would come to an end. Visitation is one area he wishes he would have had more time for. It was difficult to get around to everyone since he was here part time. Diane Fried and the Care Team took the burden off him when he experienced a lack of time to devote to visitation. He thanked the Council for a good three years and stated he will always have a connection to this church!

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COUNCIL MINUTES

(Continued from previous page)

Properties and Maintenance: See report submitted by Charlie May. Tom Purcell and Brent Egesdal are working on identifying electrical outlets and breakers throughout the church and will document and label for future reference. Avista contacted Holy Trinity about the light in the NW corner of the lot. The pole belongs to the church, but the light belongs to Avista and they have maintained that light for years without billing the church. They now ask that Holy Trinity begin paying \$17 a month for the light, otherwise they will remove it from atop the pole. Squeaky painted the Pastor's office and will order and replace the blinds pending Council's approval. New baseboards and bookshelves will be installed prior to Pastor Ed's arrival September 14.

Worship and Music: See report submitted by Nancy Purcell. Nancy read a Thank You note from Michael and Eloisa Williams, the family of Joan Nelson. Joan's funeral was held at Holy Trinity on August 23. They are very appreciative of all who helped organize and plan the celebration of life for Joan. Worship service time changed to 10:30 a.m. on September 8, which is Pastor Steve's last Sunday. This service will be followed by a potluck lunch. Pastor Ed begins his call to Holy Trinity on September 15. Pastor Ed and his wife Jami attended the August 29 Worship and Music meeting. Jami indicated an interest in helping with praise music and/or choir. Jami can also prepare lyrics for new music to be put on the screen, eliminating hiring someone.

Installation of Pastor Ed Backell: Discussion was held about an Installation Service for Pastor Ed. The service will be Sunday, October 27 at 4 p.m. As an LCMC, we are free to choose how we want to plan the service. Dan made a motion to create an Installation Service Committee. Pat seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved. Committee members will be Nancy, Dan, Pat and Pastor Ed. Pastor Steve indicated that perhaps the President of the Congregation should conduct the Installation. Dan would like to ask Pastor Ed who he would like to install him. Denel will call Pastor Ed and confirm the date and time. Larry Tyler will be asked to update the sign on Pines Road to Welcome Pastor Ed.

Christian Education Report: See report submitted by Pat Woods. Adult Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m. and Children's Sunday School also begins at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday morning Bible Study meets at 10 a.m. and they are studying the book of John. Friday Breakfast and Bible Study begins at 7:30 a.m. and they are discussing a video series presented by Dr. W. Robert Godfrey called Not Ashamed. All are welcome to attend!

Congregational Ministries Report: See report submitted by LaLita Tadena. Pastor Steve presided at the graveside and funeral service for Joan Nelson. Joan was a founding member of Holy Trinity. At Pastor Steve's last service on September 8 Dan Olson presented Steve and his wife with a gift certificate (so generously donated by the members of HTLC) for the Coeur d'Alene Resort and a custom plaque made by George Simon. A potluck followed in Fellowship Hall after the service. Thank You Pastor Steve for 3 years of dedicated service to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church as interim Pastor!

Social Care and Concerns, and the Care Team Committee Report: See report submitted by Diane Fried. HTLC members helped serve lunch at UGM. Donations to Spokane Valley Food Bank total 1,160 lbs. so far in 2024. Care Team visits were made to Cheryal Brown and her daughter Pam, Arlene Severance, and Joyce Isakson.

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COUNCIL MINUTES

(Continued from previous page)

Old Business:

Vanguard Funds: Vanguard Savings were sold for \$192/share and transferred to a Charles Schwab money market account drawing 4.5% interest. The total sale was \$42,677.12. The market is fluctuating, and those funds are worth \$187/share now, so we are ahead \$5/share. Dan will leave the funds there for now.

New Business:

Watch NALC Video and Discussion: Tabled to the October meeting as time did not allow watching the video during this meeting.

Email from NALC regarding requirements for certification of non-Lutheran Pastors: Tabled to allow time to review with Pastor Ed Backell.

Discussion and Approval of Lights on Property: New LED lights will be installed on the SW corner. A motion was made by Nancy and seconded by Dan to approve Avista continuing to maintain the light on the NW corner of the property for \$17 a month. Motion was unanimously approved.

Approval and Purchase of New Blinds for Pastor's Office: A motion was made by Diane and seconded by LaLita to approve the purchase of new blinds for Pastor Ed's office for an amount of approximately \$232.00. Motion was unanimously approved.

Member Items: None

Next Month's Devotional: Dan Olson will show the NALC Video at the beginning of the meeting.

October Counters: Nancy Purcell and Sandy Hoveskeland

Adjournment: The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:20 p.m.



2024 total donations = 1160 lbs.

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

Food Bank Donations for October

For the month of October,
 let's focus on stuffing,
 boxed potatoes, canned
 green beans, olives, etc.

***Thank you so much for
 your donations!***



Pastor Steve's Going Away Potluck Photos

Pastor Steve said that it was a loving farewell and that he is so blessed.





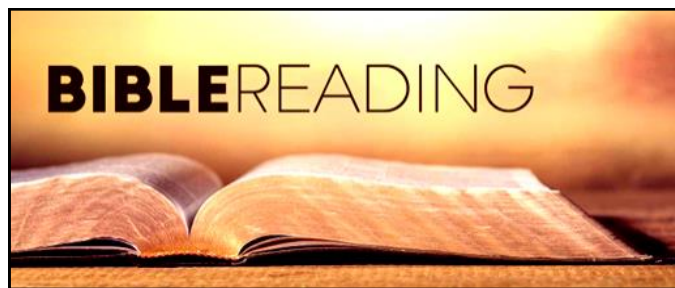
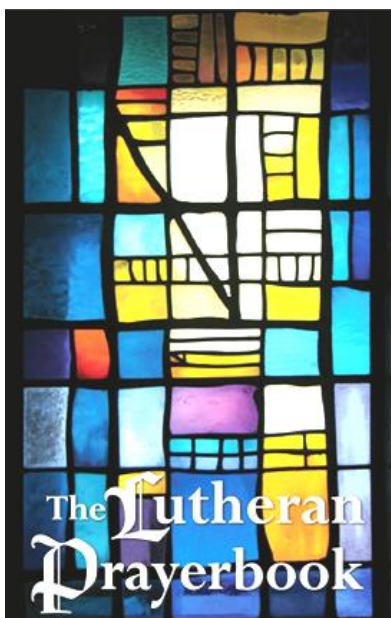
October Birthdays

Virginia Boyles	October 1
Warren Moore	October 9
Jim Abitz	October 14
Kitty Rowse	October 19
Sue Repp	October 21
Cindy Slaton	October 24
Allison Knight	October 27
Donna Tiley	October 28

The Lutheran Prayerbook

A handy booklet to help you with daily
devotions and inspirations
for every Lutheran.

*The Lutheran Prayerbook
is available on the table in the Narthex.*



October 6 (20th Sunday after Pentecost):

- † Genesis 2:18-24
- † Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12
- † Mark 10:2-16

October 13 (21st Sunday after Pentecost):

- † Amos 5:6-7, 10-15
- † Hebrews 4:12-16
- † Mark 10:17-31

October 20 (22nd Sunday after Pentecost):

- † Isaiah 53:4-12
- † Hebrews 5:1-10
- † Mark 10:35-45

October 31 (Reformation Sunday):

- † Jeremiah 31:31-34
- † Romans 3:19-28
- † John 8:31-36





October Anniversary

Dan & Lynn Olson

October 27, 1979

Celebrating 45 years!

October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
		Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm No Bible Study Today 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—WNW	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 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 AA—HHG Bingo Night 6:30 pm—7:00 pm NA Book Study	8:00 am AA—MWU 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<u>16th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am AA—SMG 7:00 pm AA—SRG	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm TOPS 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—MNM	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:30 pm Council Meeting	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—WNW	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm Tracy's Office Hours: 11:00 am—1:00 pm 11:15 am—1:00 pm Serving Lunch @ Men's Shelter 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	7:30 am Breakfast and Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:30 pm—7:00 pm NA Book Study	8:00 am AA—MWU 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<u>17th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SMG 7:00 pm AA—SRG	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm TOPS 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—MNM	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—WNW Newsletter Articles Due	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm Tracy's Office Hours: 11:00 am—1:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:00 pm INW Jr Fiddlers 5:30 pm AA—HHG	7:30 am Breakfast and Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:30 pm—7:00 pm NA Book Study	8:00 am AA—MWU 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<u>18th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SMG 7:00 pm AA—SRG	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm TOPS 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—MNM	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—WNW	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm Tracy's Office Hours: 11:00 am—1:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:00 pm INW Jr Fiddlers 5:30 pm AA—HHG	7:30 am Breakfast and Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:30 pm—7:00 pm NA Book Study	8:00 am AA—MWU 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
<u>19th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SMG 4:00 pm Pastor Ed's Installation Service 7:00 pm AA—SRG	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm TOPS 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—MNM	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—WNW	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm Tracy's Office Hours: 11:00 am—1:00 pm 1:30 pm Worship & Music Committee Mtg 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:00 pm INW Jr Fiddlers 5:30 pm AA—HHG		

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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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.”*



Tidings is published monthly for the members and friends of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. The material and content of this periodical is intended to be about church business, community outreach, theology, and spiritual inspiration.

If you no longer desire to receive this publication, please email office@holytrinitylmc.org, or call (509) 926-7966.

October Events

Council Meeting	Tuesday, October 8 @ 6:30 pm
Serving Lunch at UGM Men’s Shelter	Thursday, October 10 11:15 am—1:00 pm
Newsletter Articles Due	Wednesday, October 16
Pastor Ed’s Installation Service	Sunday, October 27 @ 4:00 pm
Worship & Music Committee Meeting	Thursday, October 31 @ 1:30 pm
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 Service w/Communion
Fellowship after