

TIDINGS

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Physical: 2511 S Pines Road, Spokane Valley, WA 99206
Mailing: PO Box 141862, Spokane Valley, WA 99214-1862
Office Phone: (509) 926-7966
Email: office@holytrinitylcmc.org
Website: www.holytrinitylcmc.org



March 2026

Volume 66, Number 3

Monthly Newsletter

Regular Worship Schedule

Sunday School @ 9:30 am

Worship Service w/Communion @ 10:30 am



**Please join us for
Lenten Meals and
Worship Services.**

**Wednesday,
March 4**

**Wednesday,
March 11**

**Wednesday,
March 18**

**Wednesday,
March 25**

**Soup Suppers
@ 6:00 pm**

**Worship Service
@ 6:45 pm**

Inside this issue:

- Page 2 **WARNING: Pun Alert** — *by Pastor Ed Backell*
- Page 3 **RightNow Media** — *Video of the Month*
- Page 4 **Farewell Message** — *by George Simon*
- Pages 5-7 **Council Meeting Minutes** — *by Nancy Purcell, Acting Council Secretary*
- Page 7 **Easter Flowers Order Form** - *Deadline is Sunday, March 15, 2026*
- Page 8 **Annual Congregational Meeting Recap** — *Approved Items & Members*
- Page 8 **Lenten Season: Suppers & Services** — *Wednesdays, March 4 - March 25*

WARNING: Pun Alert

by Pastor Ed Backell

For most of my pastoral career, I worked with many children and young people. And as a musician, working with kids and teens, I learned and taught a lot of music. If you haven't caught on by now, music has been absolutely foundational in shaping who I am as a person, and as a pastor. It's almost an ongoing experience to have some tune or another running through my head for hours (and sometimes *days*).

Here we are, in the month of March, and my pun-prone brain can't stop thinking about a little tune that I learned shortly after I became a follower of Christ. Perhaps you've heard of it, and perhaps not. It's called "The Lord's Army:" and it is fairly old, morphing from a war propaganda song in the 1930's into a Christian children's song by the mid 1940's. Here are the lyrics:

***I may never march in the infantry,
ride in the cavalry, shoot the artillery;
I may never zoom o'er the enemy,
but I'm in the Lord's army.
I'm in the Lord's army.
I'm in the Lord's army.
I may never march in the infantry,
ride in the cavalry, shoot the artillery;
I may never zoom o'er the enemy,
but I'm in the Lord's army.***

In much of my religious framework, no one would have even *thought* to examine the obvious military connections made in this song. After all, the Bible does say that God is the God in Charge of Angel Armies, and that Christians are to serve the Lord as good soldiers serve in the military (2 Timothy 2:3-4).

Having been raised as a third generation soldier myself, I have no moral difficulties with this idea; but I do realize the crucial and functional difference between our service as "soldiers for the Lord" and serving in the US military. I think

the reminder is especially needed in times like these: WE ARE NOT FIGHTING OTHER PEOPLE.

Ephesians 6:12 reminds us that "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

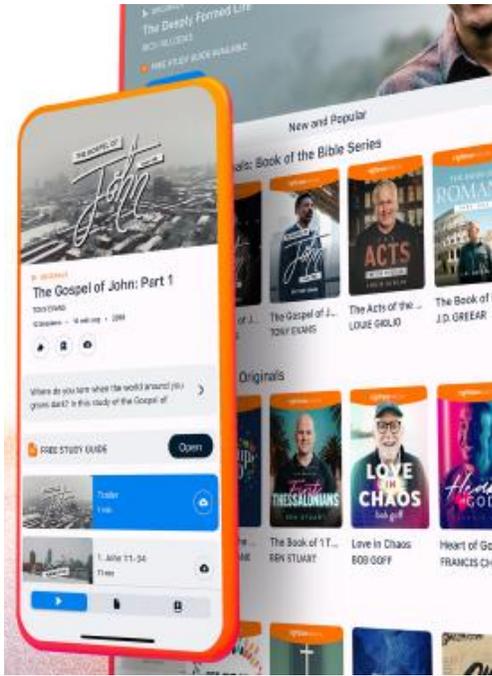
Another reminder: WE DO NOT FIGHT LIKE THE WORLD FIGHTS. Again, from Scripture: 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 says "For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ..."

SO... as we MARCH (there's the pun I promised) together, let's remember to encourage one another to take our stand against the Devil's schemes (Ephesians 6:11), and stand IN Christ (Romans 8:37-39) as He builds His kingdom on Earth (Matthew 6:10).

Let's keep MARCHing... Pastor Ed



rightnow MEDIA



Free Access to +25,000 Bible Study Videos

Every person in our church has free access to biblical video series for adults, youth, and kids—now streaming on your favorite device.

Get Free Access

1. Click the link in your email invitation or visit <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/holytrinitylc>
2. Create your free account.
3. Download the app for your device and start browsing!
4. Or scan the QR code below.

QR Code Access

Scan this QR code to sign up or click the link in the email to create your free account!



Video of the Month

“One at a Time”

7 session video series
by Kyle Idleman



Nobody grows up dreaming of waking up, going to work, heading home, watching Netflix, scrolling through social media, and then doing it all over again the next day until their last breath. But it's easy to get caught up in the everyday stuff of life until the years slowly go by, and with each passing year, the question seems to get louder: Am I making any difference in this world?

We want to make a difference, but there are so many opinions on the way to do that. Without a doubt, Jesus is the person who has made the biggest difference in all of history. So, how did Jesus make such a difference in this world?

If we study the story of his life as recorded in the Gospels, there are a number of answers we could highlight, but there's one particular phrase that captures how Jesus had such an impact, and this phrase is how he wants to use us to make a difference: one at a time.

Making a difference isn't measured by a viral post or a name on a building. Making a difference isn't dependent on what's in your bank account or who's in your contacts. Want to make a difference? Focus on the one. That's it. That's the secret of the way of Jesus. One at a time.



March Birthdays

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Susie Sullivan | March 3 |
| Jan Weatherly | March 5 |
| Peyton Fletcher | March 9 |
| Brent Egesdal | March 11 |
| Caren Woods | March 26 |
| Diane Bertholet | March 28 |
| Tracy Damiano | March 28 |
| Pastor Steve Hagler | March 31 |

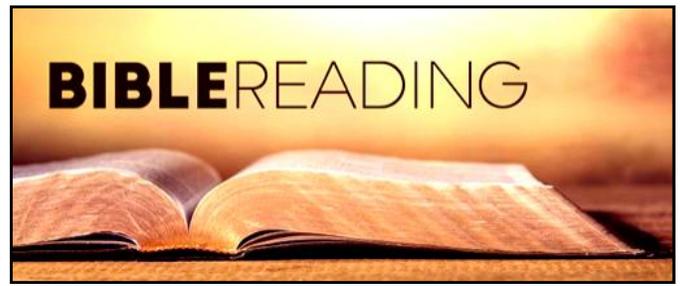


Farewell Message

by George Simon

I'd like to extend my appreciation to council members and the congregation of HTLC for allowing me the chance to serve as Council President these last two years. It has given me an opportunity for growth that frankly I didn't think I'd have in retirement.

With the addition of our new Pastor, I have seen our small church move in the right direction for outreach, and growth. Our Church Council is made up of devoted members working hard to carry out our Mission and God's will. Please pray for their continued success in doing so.



March 1 - 2nd Sunday in Lent

- † Ezekiel 47:1, 8-12
- † James 2:18-26
- † John 7:14-39

March 8 - 3rd Sunday in Lent

- † 2 Samuel 7:18-24
- † James 3:1-18
- † John 7:40-52

March 15 - 4th Sunday in Lent

- † Isaiah 54:5-10
- † James 4:4-17
- † John 8:12-20

March 22 - 5th Sunday in Lent

- † Isaiah 63:11-16
- † Galatians 5:2-12
- † John 8:31-47

March 29 - Palm Sunday

- † Isaiah 43:8-15
- † Romans 1:8-15
- † John 8:48-59



COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Meeting Minutes: February 10, 2026 *(Subject to approval)*

Respectfully Submitted by Nancy Purcell, Acting Council Secretary

Present: George Simon, Diane Fried, LaLita Tadena, Pat Woods, Vicki Egesdal, and Nancy Purcell. Also present were Jen Bomhard, Bob McMahan, and Diane Bertholet. Charlie May, Denel Ingraham, and Sandy Hoveskeland were absent. Also absent was Pastor Ed due to illness.

Call to Order: President, George Simon, called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

Devotional: Pat led devotions on *Waiting on the Lord* based on the feeding of the 5,000 with five loaves and two fishes from Matthew 14:13-20.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Vicki and seconded by LaLita to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2026 meeting as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Vicki presented the Treasurer’s report. She advised that our Total Assets are up over last year. This could be because some members give quarterly or annually (as opposed to weekly) and those gifts are recorded as “unearned givings” liabilities. These gifts become income throughout the year. Our plate offerings for January, 2026, were higher than last year in January. The Net Income on the Profit & Loss Statement is negative, in part because we paid a full year on our business insurance and last year it was paid on a monthly basis. Also low snow removal costs this year were a benefit.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| STCU Checking | \$32,446.12 |
| Schwab Building Fund | \$36,960.43 |
| Schwab Savings | \$86,419.56 |
| Schwab - Savings VIGAX Fund | \$24,567.64 |



2026 Budget: The proposed budget for the 2026 calendar year was presented to the Council for review and discussion. Bob suggested the budget be presented in a positive way showing we are moving ahead and growing. After review of the budget, LaLita made a motion to present the budget to the congregation at the annual meeting for approval. Diane seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Pastor’s Report: In his absence, Pastor Ed had prepared a written report to present to the Council which George shared. Pastor Ed preached every Sunday and taught adult Sunday School. He led chapel at Valley Christian School twice and visited and/or counseled with several people during the month. Sunday, January 25, he baptized Belle M. and welcomed Bob and Pam McMahan, Rich and Jan Weatherly, and Joyce Rock as new members of Holy Trinity. Pastor Ed advised that he had been asked by Dan Olson to connect with Bite2Go, a program which feeds hungry kids. He also was asked by the Counselor at South Pines Elementary if Holy Trinity might be available to tutor kids who need a bit of extra help. Pastor Ed met with Cole Britton, who would like to be baptized at our church. He has been attending regularly. However, Cole would like to be baptized by immersion. Is there a way we can meet his request? After discussion the Council has no objection to baptizing Cole by immersion and will support Pastor Ed if he has a plan on how that might work.

(Continued on next page)

COUNCIL MINUTES

(Continued from previous page)

Council indicated we would support Pastor Ed and Cole in any way we can to accomplish his baptism at a Sunday morning worship service.

Properties and Maintenance: User group meeting at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 21. No additional report submitted by Charlie May.

Worship and Music: See report submitted by Nancy Purcell.

Congregational Ministries: No report submitted this month.

Christian Education: See report submitted by Pat Woods.

Social Care and Concerns and Care Team: See report submitted by Diane Fried. Further discussion as to whether or not Diane Fried would be willing to continue with the visitations because she is going off Council this year after nine years of service. Thank you, Diane. Diane indicated she would be willing to serve on the committee and continue with visitation. Jennifer Bomhard indicated she would be willing to take over as the liaison to Council for Social Cares and Concerns and Diane and Jen will work together.

Old Business: Nancy presented the list of active members who are entitled to vote at the annual meeting in accordance with the constitution. We have 62 members who qualify. The membership listing was accepted as presented. The constitution requires: "Thirty percent of the Voting Members of this congregation shall constitute an official Meeting Quorum." Based on the listing of active members as agreed upon by the Council, we must have 19 people to form a quorum.

New Business:

April LCMC District Gathering Participation: LCMC moved our time for leading worship at the yearly gathering in April from Saturday evening to Sunday morning. Pastor Ed has been in contact with them advising this is not possible. We don't know if we will be leading the Saturday worship at this time but are willing to do so. George indicated he would be available to help with registration if LCMC needs assistance on Thursday or Friday.

Audit Report: George presented the audit report which was prepared on January 22, 2026, for the year 2025, by the Audit Committee. It was suggested that we ask the user groups to make their donations by check rather than cash to prevent any possible misunderstandings. The counters will then count all donations received during the week on Sunday mornings with the rest of the giving. Vicki made a motion to accept the audit report as presented and present it to the congregation at the annual meeting. LaLita seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Easter Breakfast: Nancy reported that because of health reasons Denel would no longer be able to be in charge of organizing Easter Breakfast. There was discussion as to who might be willing to take over for Denel. Thank you, Denel, for your many years of service. There was further discussion if we would want to switch to a "Continental Breakfast" with rolls, fruit and any other suggestions if no one was willing to take over

(Continued on next page)

COUNCIL MINUTES

(Continued from previous page)

organizing breakfast or not have breakfast at all. Serving breakfast gives the congregation a time to gather for fellowship before worship as we usually do not have fellowship after service on Easter Sunday. We will check with Denel to see if we could still get warming trays from Longhorn. If yes, George will make an announcement on Sunday to see what the congregation thinks and if there is anyone who might be willing to be in charge of the breakfast.

National Night Out, August 4, 2026: There was discussion on hosting a National Night Out as one of our “sticky” events this summer. We have hosted one in the past but it has been many years. It must be August 4, as it is in conjunction with events all over the U.S. Vicki reported we just need to officially register to be a site. In the past the Valley Fire Department brought a fire truck, as well as a police car and officer from the Valley Police Department. We would invite the neighborhood and possibly offer ice cream cones as refreshment. Council approved the idea and Vicki volunteered to coordinate the event and register Holy Trinity as a site. More information will follow.

Member Items: Nancy indicated both she and Sandy will be gone for the March Council meeting and Sandy would need someone to take minutes for the meeting. Jennifer indicated she would be willing to prepare minutes for the March Council meeting.

Next Month Devotional: Bob McMahan

Counters: LaLita Tadena and Bob McMahan

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:00 p.m.



Easter Flowers Order Form

We will be decorating our sanctuary with flowers for Easter. If you are interested in providing flowers, please complete this form and return it to the church office or place in the offering plate **by Sunday, March 15, 2026.**

Flowers can be given in memory or honor of loved ones. **Please write a separate check** for your flowers and write ***“Easter Flowers”*** in the memo area of your check.

I would like to give: _____ Mums @ \$16.50 each _____ Lilies @ \$16.50 each

From: _____

() In Memory of: _____

() In Honor of: _____

Flowers may be taken home after the Easter Worship Service.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Meeting Recap

Agenda Items approved:

- Annual Congregational Mtg. Minutes - March 2, 2025
- 2026 Proposed Budget

Council Members approved:

- Pat Woods – President
- Charlie May – Vice President
- Vicki Egesdal – Treasurer
- Sandy Hoveskeland – Secretary
- LaLita Tadena – Member at Large
- Bob McMahan – Member at Large
- Diane Bertholet – Member at Large
- Jen Bomhard – Member at Large

Nominating Committee Mbr. approved:

- Sandy Hoveskeland

*Thank you all who attended the meeting.
Your support of HTLC is appreciated!*



Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 8, don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour.



You are invited to share together in Lenten Meals and Worship Services.

Wednesday, March 4

Wednesday, March 11

Wednesday, March 18

Wednesday, March 25

Lenten Soup Suppers at 6:00 pm

Lenten Worship Service at 6:45 pm



Please sign-up to bring soup to share at one of our Lenten Soup Suppers. We also need set-up and clean-up helpers.

There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex.

MARCH 2026

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SRG (AM) 7:00 pm AA—SRG (PM) | 2 Pastor Ed's 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 | 3 Pastor Ed's Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—B2B | 4 Pastor Ed's Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:00 pm Soup Supper 6:45 pm Lent Service 7:00 pm NA—WNW | 5 Pastor Ed's Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm Tracy's Office Hours: 11:00 am—1:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 4:00 pm Jr. Fiddlers 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm Choir Practice | 6 7:30 am Breakfast and Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm AA-HHG Game Night 6:30 pm—7:00 pm NA Book Study | 7 8:00 am AA—MWU 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM |
| 8-Daylight Saving Time | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SRG (AM) 5:30 pm—6:30 pm NA Committee Mtg 7:00 pm AA—SRG (PM)  | 16 Pastor Ed's 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 | 17-St. Patrick's Day Pastor Ed's Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:30 pm Council Meeting 7:00 pm NA—B2B | 18 Pastor Ed's Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:00 pm Soup Supper 6:45 pm Lent Service 7:00 pm NA—WNW | 19 Pastor Ed's 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 4:00 pm Jr. Fiddlers 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm Choir Practice | 20-1st Day of Spring 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 | 21 8:00 am AA—MWU 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM |
| 22 4th Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SRG (AM) 7:00 pm AA—SRG (PM) Newsletter Articles Due | 23 Pastor Ed's 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 | 24 Pastor Ed's Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—B2B  | 25 Pastor Ed's Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:00 pm Soup Supper 6:45 pm Lent Service 7:00 pm NA—WNW | 26 Pastor Ed's Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm Tracy's Office Hours: 11:00 am—1:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 4:00 pm Jr. Fiddlers 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm Choir Practice | 27 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 | 28 8:00 am AA—MWU 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM |
| 29 5th Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SRG (AM) 5:30 pm—6:30 pm NA Committee Mtg 7:00 pm AA—SRG (PM) | 30 Pastor Ed's 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 | 31 Pastor Ed's Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—B2B | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Palm Sunday 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SRG (AM) 7:00 pm AA—SRG (PM) | Pastor Ed's 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 Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—B2B |  | | | |

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.”*



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@holytrinitylcmc.org, or call (509) 926-7966.

March Events

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Daylight Saving Time <i>Set your clocks ahead</i> | Sunday, March 8 |
| Council Meeting | Tuesday, March 10 @ 6:30 pm |
| Serving Lunch at UGM Men’s Shelter | Thursday, March 12 11:15 am—1:00 pm |
| Easter Flowers Orders Due | Sunday, March 15 |
| Newsletter Articles Due | Sunday, March 15 |
| Lenten Soup Suppers | Wednesdays @ 6:00 pm March 4 - March 25 |
| Lenten Worship Services | Wednesdays @ 6:45 pm March 4 - March 25 |
| Worship & Music Committee Meeting | Thursday, March 26 @ 1:30 pm |
| Mid-week Bible Study | <i>On break until Wednesday, April 8</i> |
| Choir Practice | Thursdays @ 7:00 pm |
| Breakfast & Bible Study | Fridays @ 7:30 am |