

Tidings Newsletter

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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May 2026

Volume 66, Number 5

Monthly Newsletter

Summer Worship Schedule

Begins Sunday, May 24 - No Sunday School

Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:30 am



The importance of prioritizing spiritual devotion and attentiveness to Jesus over being consumed by worldly tasks and distractions. ~ Luke 10:38-42

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Checking Out My Check List

by Pastor Ed Backell

Some time ago, I was sharing with someone about spiritual growth, and they had expressed frustration that they weren't as connected to God as they felt they should be. I encouraged them to look up Romans 12:1-2. Let me share it here:

"I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, [which is] your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." {NASB}

This brought to mind an interesting conversation with some friends. One comment that particularly stands out in my mind is something like, "You know, as I make my to-do list for the day, I don't put spiritual goals on that list. I don't mark down how many people I'm going to share Christ with..."

That really grabbed my attention! I wonder how many of us *plan* to incorporate specific spiritual activities into our lives? I know, for example, that I have a general weekly schedule; I know when I'll be spending extra time in study, I know when I plan to write my sermon and prepare for my Sunday School lesson...but how often do I make room for the movement of the Holy Spirit in my everyday life?

It's certainly given me pause for reflection: I ask that God would use me whenever the Lord saw fit...but are there opportunities that I'm missing because I'm preoccupied with just living my life? Are you?

Please join us in being more intentional by making room in your life for the various opportunities we have to learn together. We have THREE meetings you might like:

Wednesday mornings at 10:15 am for Bible study. Right now, we're still working our way through Genesis. Friday mornings at 8:00 am, we have a prayer/discussion breakfast. The food is tasty, and the conversation is soul-filling... so don't miss out!

And on the LAST THURSDAY of every month, we're starting TableTalk - this is a *very old* concept from our Lutheran forebearers, where various people who hung around with Martin

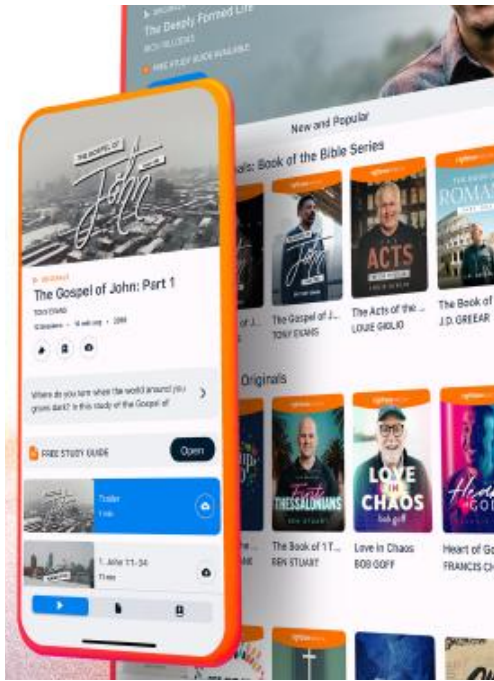
Luther would write down his conversations from an informal setting around the table. We're doing much the same thing: the last Thursday morning of every month, at 10:00 am, Pastor Ed will have coffee on, and anyone who wishes can just show up and ask any question you'd like. Let's delve into discussion together!

Come join us this Spring as we sharpen one another in our walk with the Lord.

Keep Following Jesus - Pastor Ed



rightnow MEDIA



Free Access to +25,000 Bible Study Videos

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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 - May 2026

“Undistracted”

By Bob Goff, a 5-session study

You have permission to eliminate distractions!
You have permission to live a more fulfilling life!

Distractions cause more harm than you might think. And they're all around us, all the time. They can disrupt our focus on what really matters, interfere with our true priorities, and divert our attention from the God who created us for His good purpose.

Bob Goff, bestselling author of *Love Does*, has created this video Bible study to give you guidance in and joyful permission to:

- Identify the distractions in your life
- Eliminate them so that you can recharge and refocus on your God-given purpose
- Start living a less-distracted and more joy-filled and love-oriented life

Distractions can get you stuck in the past, worried about the present, and frazzled by any future you could possibly fret over. It's time to discover how to get undistracted in all aspects of your life.

To view the video of the month,
scan the QR Code
using your cell phone camera.





May Birthdays

Chuck Taes	May 2
Jack Tiley	May 6
Ken Stoop	May 11
Pastor Ed Backell	May 23
Drew Taes	May 25



Don & Arlene Russell

Married May 1, 2021
 Celebrating 5 years!

Jim & Sue Abitz

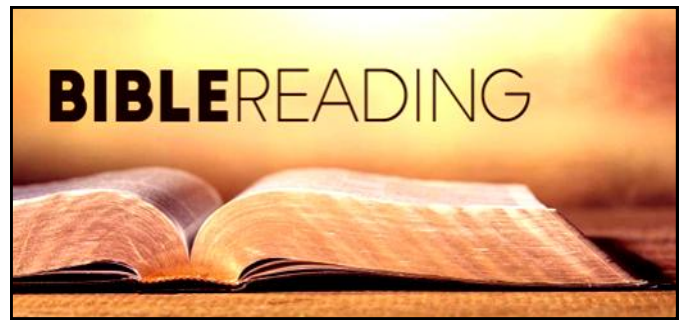
Married May 5, 1990
 Celebrating 36 years!

Pastor Ed & Jami Backell

Married May 6, 1989
 Celebrating 37 years!

Charlie & Squeaky May

Married May 25, 1985
 Celebrating 41 years!



May 3 - 5th Sunday of Easter

- ✝ 2 Kings 4:38-44
- ✝ 2 Corinthians 8:7-15
- ✝ Mark 8:11-21

May 10 - 6th Sunday of Easter

- ✝ Deuteronomy 15:1-11
- ✝ 2 Corinthians 9:5-15
- ✝ Luke 9:46-50

May 17 - 7th Sunday of Easter

- ✝ Jeremiah 9:23-24
- ✝ 2 Corinthians 10:1-5
- ✝ Mark 11:27-33

May 24 - Day of Pentecost

- ✝ Leviticus 10:1-5, 10-11
- ✝ 2 Corinthians 11:1-6
- ✝ Matthew 10:9-23

May 31 - Holy Trinity Sunday

- ✝ Ecclesiastes 8:12-17
- ✝ 2 Corinthians 13:4-9
- ✝ John 15:18-27

Craft Club



All are welcome to join us
 on Wednesdays from
 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
 in the Fellowship Hall.

Contact Sue Abitz or Barbara Miller for more information.



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

National Night Out

Tuesday, August 4, 2026

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is hosting **National Night Out Against Crime** on **Tuesday, August 4**, in the early evening.

National Night Out is an annual community -building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live.

National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community.

Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

Contact Vicki Egesdal for more information.



Summer Worship Schedule

Begins Sunday, May 24 at 9:30 am

We will take a break from Sunday School during the summer.

Summer worship schedule runs the Sunday before Memorial Day until the Sunday before Labor Day.

Regular Worship Schedule

Resumes the Sunday after Labor Day, on September 13. Sunday School will begin at 9:30 am. Worship Service will begin at 10:30 am.



New Member's Class

(Part 1 & 2)

**Sunday, May 10 & Sunday, May 17
12:15 pm - 2:15 pm**

Talk to Pastor Ed if interested.

COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Meeting Minutes: April 14, 2026 (Subject to approval)

Respectfully Submitted by Sandy Hoveskeland, Council Secretary

Present: Pat Woods, Charlie May, Denel Ingraham, LaLita Tadena, Pastor Ed Backell, Nancy Purcell, Vicki Egesdal, Bob McMahan, Diane Bertholet and Sandy Hoveskeland. Jen Bomhard was absent.

Call to Order: President Pat Woods called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Devotional: Pat provided the devotional from the publication, *Our Daily Bread*. Wait patiently for him. Trust in God to wait. Praying, Resting, Waiting and Trusting.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Charlie and seconded by Vicki to approve the March 10, 2026 minutes as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Vicki provided the Treasurer's report. Total income is higher than first quarter last year due to an increase in plate offerings and an in-kind donation of a new printer for the office. Vicki will work with Tracy to review Larry's time sheets to understand how he splits his time so the salary portion can be moved from Property to Payroll.

STCU Checking:	\$ 34,061.51
C. Schwab Building Fund:	\$ 37,057.18
C. Schwab Savings:	\$ 105,645.78
C Schwab Savings VIGAX Fund:	\$ 23,530.68



Approval of Treasurer's Report: A motion was made by LaLita and seconded by Charlie to approve the April 14, 2026 Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Ed preached and taught adult Sunday School every Sunday. He met weekly with the Wednesday Bible study group, Tuesday men's fellowship, and Friday morning breakfast group. He attended the monthly Worship and Music committee meeting. He spoke at chapel at Valley Christian School. He met with Roger Bagby and his children about having a funeral for Roger's wife at Holy Trinity. Roger and his wife Verna were married at Holy Trinity in 1961. Pastor Ed met with several people during the month for visitation and counseling. A highlight in March was the baptism of Cole Britton. Pastor Ed took vacation the week after Easter to drive his daughter's family to Oklahoma where her husband will attend seminary. Charlie asked Pastor about pastoral visits with people in their homes who used to attend church here. Pastor does deliver devotionals to those people. Charlie and Squeaky will invite some former members and Pastor and Jami to their home for dinner.

Properties and Maintenance: See report submitted by Charlie May. Charlie reported that the wind ripped off a piece of fascia above the School for Little People entrance and a few shingles are missing. Drew from AA is repairing the damage at no cost to the church. Some of the AA members do things around the church as community service. Bob McMahan has taken a proactive approach to addressing electrical issues in the church to make sure everything electrical is right. Bob will work with Charlie on this.

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COUNCIL MINUTES

(Continued from previous page)

Worship and Music: See report submitted by Nancy Purcell. Rich and Jan Weatherly have offered to donate banners for the wall behind the choir. Further discussion of the banners will be at the next Worship and Music committee meeting on April 30.

Congregational Ministries: See report submitted by LaLita Tadena. Cole Britton was baptized on March 29. Karaoke will be held in the Fellowship Hall on April 17. The District Gathering of the LCMC will be at Camp Lutherhaven the weekend of April 23-26.

Christian Education: Diane Bertholet will prepare a report for Christian Education from now on. Pat Woods will follow up with Diane to show her the format and process.

Social Cares and Concerns and Care Team: See report submitted by Jennifer Bomhard. Lunch was served at the UGM Men's Shelter. Donations were given to the UGM Women's Shelter. Visitation and communion were given to Al Marsh, Morgan Christian, Joyce Isakson and Ilene Benham. A phone visitation was made with Sharon Nelson.

Approval of Committee Reports: A motion was made by Vicki and seconded by Nancy to approve the Committee Reports as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

Old Business:

1. Easter Breakfast: Rich and Jan Weatherly organized the Easter breakfast. The menu was a continental breakfast this year and was well attended.
2. Report on Zoom Meeting on Insurance Needs: Vicki and Pat attended the Zoom meeting. Pat received information from Ministry Pacific indicating that we are responsible and can be held accountable for claims made by user groups. The greatest issue is liability and whether user groups have insurance set up to protect Holy Trinity. Ministry Pacific wants Holy Trinity to get proof of insurance from each user group that names Holy Trinity as co-insured on user group policies. AA groups should be able to get a policy from their local AA district or region. Charlie indicated that the requirement for user groups to have insurance was edited out of our policy several years ago. If we require user groups to have insurance, we will lose them. Pat did a cost analysis to determine the cost to the congregation for allowing user groups to use our facility, and we could then charge them an appropriate amount. A committee of Vicki, Charlie and Bob was formed to review the insurance policy and the user group agreement. Vicki will get the information from Pat and will lead the committee.
3. Insurance Needs – Update Bylaws: The committee reviewing the requirements from Ministry Pacific regarding liability insurance from user groups will also review our Constitution and Bylaws, along with Pat's cost analysis, and make a recommendation to the Council regarding how to move forward.
4. National Night Out – August 4th: Vicki is looking for volunteers to help with planning. She will make an announcement at church.

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COUNCIL MINUTES

(Continued from previous page)

5. Annual Events: The LCMC District Gathering is April 23-26 at Camp Lutherhaven. The camp invited members of Holy Trinity to join the Saturday evening service April 25. Details are on the Northwest LCMC website.

New Business:

1. Pastor's Request for LCMC Annual Gathering: Council voted by email for Pastor Ed and Jami to attend the District Gathering at Camp Lutherhaven at a cost to Holy Trinity of \$700 for 3 nights. Tracy processed their registration.
2. Bite2Go Information: Pastor Ed received a request from Bite2Go, a food program for students to take food home so they have something to eat when they are not at school. The request is for Holy Trinity to sponsor 30 kids from Bowdish Middle School at a cost of \$22 per month per child. A store would be set up at the school for the child to select food for their backpack. Pastor suggested having a representative make a presentation during a service and inviting them to stay for fellowship and bring samples of the food that would be provided. Pastor Ed will follow up with the school.
3. Pastor's NALC Classes: NALC asked Pastor Ed to take two more classes to be listed as a NALC Pastor. The first class is in June. He will register and provide details at the next Council meeting.
4. Pastor's Vacation Request: Pastor Ed requested to use 4 vacation days from Monday, April 6 through Thursday, April 9 to help move his daughter's family to Oklahoma. This request was approved.
5. Review for Compliance: Constitution and Bylaws: Tabled to the May 12 Council meeting.

Next Month's Devotional: Nancy

May Counters: Vicki May 3 and 10; Nancy May 17, 24 and 31; Sandy will count all month.

Adjournment: The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:25 p.m.



Thank-You to Those that Decorated the Church for Easter

A thank-you to the following people who helped decorate the church for Easter: Rich and Jan Weatherly, Pam McMahan, Marcia Taes, Sandy Hoveskeland, George Simon, Pastor Ed and Jami Backell, Judy Ingraham and Tom and Nancy Purcell. Also, thanks to Brent and Vicki Egesdal for bringing in the cross. If I missed someone, I apologize. Many hands make the work lighter, and you are all appreciated.

~ Nancy Purcell

MAY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
					8:00 am Breakfast and Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	8:00 am AA—MWU 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5th Sunday of Easter 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service 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	Pastor Ed's 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 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	8:00 am Breakfast and Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	8:00 am AA—MWU 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
10 - Mother's Day	11	12	13	14	15	16
6th Sunday of Easter 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship New Members Class 12:15 pm - 2:15 pm 10:00 am AA—SRG (AM) 5:30 pm—6:30 pm NA Committee Mtg 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 6:30 pm Council Meeting 7:00 pm NA—B2B	Pastor Ed's 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 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	8:00 am Breakfast and Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG Newsletter Articles Due	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
7th Sunday of Easter 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship New Members Class 12:15 pm - 2:15 pm 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	Pastor Ed's 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 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	8:00 am Breakfast and Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	8:00 am AA—MWU 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
24 - New Worship Time	25 - Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30
Day of Pentecost No Sunday School 9:30 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)	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	Pastor Ed's 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 Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 10:00 am Table-Talk Tracy's Office Hours: 11:00 am—1:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 1:30 pm W&M Committee Mtg 4:00 pm Jr. Fiddlers 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm Choir Practice	8:00 am Breakfast and Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	8:00 am AA—MWU 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Holy Trinity Sunday 9:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SRG (AM) 7:00 pm AA—SRG (PM)						

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.

May Events

Happy Mother’s Day!	Sunday, May 10
Council Meeting	Tuesday, May 12 @ 6:30 pm
Serving Lunch at UGM Men’s Shelter	Thursday, May 14 @ 11:15 am
Newsletter Articles Due	Friday, May 15
New Worship Service Time	Sunday, May 24 @ 9:30 am
Memorial Day - Remember Our Fallen Heroes!	Monday, May 25
Worship & Music Committee Meeting	Thursday, May 28 @ 1:30 pm
Mid-week Bible Study	Wednesdays @ 10:00 am
Table-Talk	Last Thursdays @ 10:00 am
Choir Practice (begins 5/14)	Thursdays @ 7:00 pm
Breakfast & Bible Study	Fridays @ 8:00 am - new time

Regular Worship Schedule — ends Sunday, May 17

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship w/Communion, fellowship after

Summer Worship Schedule — begins Sunday, May 24

No Sunday School

9:30 am Worship w/Communion, fellowship after