

TIDINGS

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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December 2025

Volume 65, Number 12

Monthly Newsletter

Regular Worship Schedule

Sunday School @ 9:30 am

Worship Service w/Communion @ 10:30 am



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Happy Birthday Jesus

by Pastor Ed Backell

I made a bargain with my wife years ago...when I was a bit of a Scrooge. I told her that she could only play Christmas music AFTER Thanksgiving was over. (And mind you, I came up with that idea long before I really knew about Advent.) Well, Jami takes advantage of that now in a BIG way...I'm not sure we've heard anything BUT Christmas music since the beginning of the month.

And, of course, since our family celebrates all 12 days of Christmas...I'll be hearing it up until January 5. Truth be told, I don't mind it anymore. My family has really taught me volumes about the meaning of Christmas, and I get...well, positively JOLLY around this time of year. I listen carefully for lyrics in unfamiliar Christmas songs, to see if I can catch a glimpse of Christ in the songs.

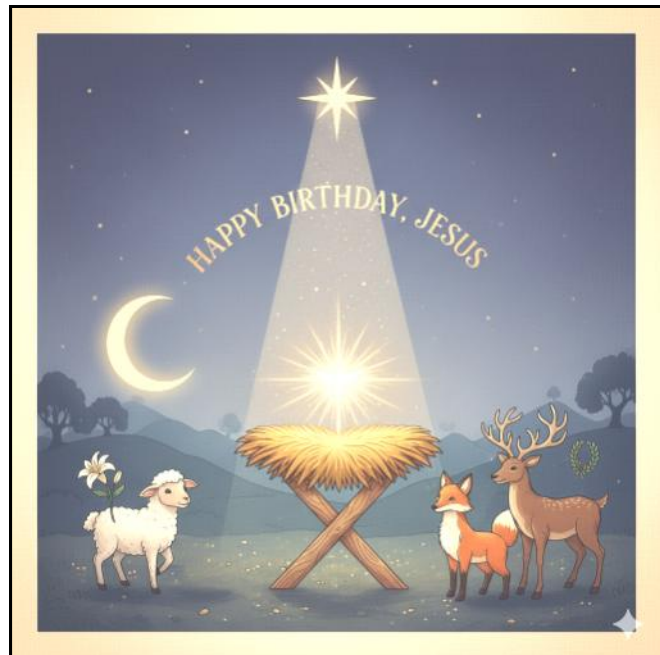
I'd like to share with you the lyrics for a song I've not heard in a few years. It was recorded by a 4-year-old girl with the cutest little lisp...and it really tugs on my heart strings.

Here are the lyrics for "Happy Birthday Jesus":

***Happy Birthday Jesus
I'm so glad it's Christmas
All the tinsel and lights
And the presents are nice.
But the real gift is you.***

***Happy Birthday Jesus
I'm so glad it's Christmas
All the carols and bells
Make the holiday swell
And it's all about you.***

***Happy Birthday Jesus,
Jesus I Love You.***



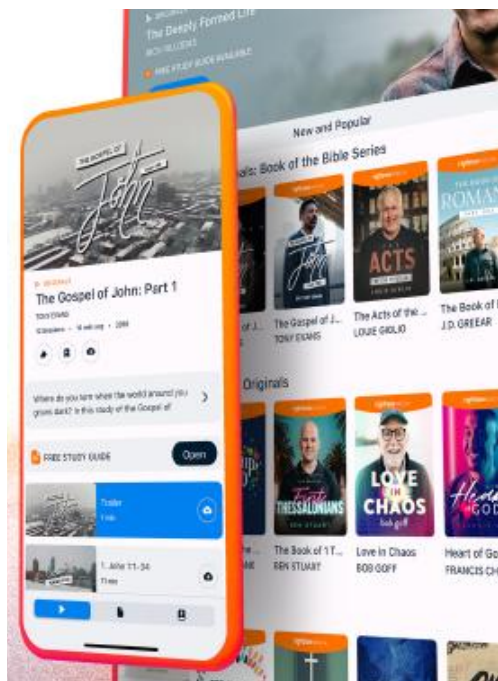
(Words and music by Carol Cymbala, ©1992, Word Music.)

I just want to take this opportunity to remind you...we celebrate Jesus' birth at this time of the year...let's not forget to celebrate His life throughout the entire year to come. Like the song says, "the presents are nice..." but the PRESENCE of Christ in our midst is life changing.

Let's share that with someone this week, shall we?

Keep Following Jesus—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!



Videos of the Month

“Advent”

*4 session video series
by J.D. Greear*



The Christmas story, or Advent, is more than a sentimental myth or a quiet manger scene we use to decorate our living rooms.

Join J.D. Greear in this four-session series as he takes a deeper look at Jesus as Emmanuel, our Wonderful Counselor, the Everlasting Father, and the great I Am.

When you know Jesus, you will realize Christmas is more than a nice story—the arrival of Jesus changes everything.



“The Wonder of Christmas”

*4-part video series
by Pastor Jarrett Stephens*



Many of us are familiar with the story of Christmas. But what if we revisited the Christmas story with new eyes?

What would we discover? In this four-part series, Pastor Jarrett Stephens will unpack Jesus’s birth story in the Gospel of Luke.

Join Jarrett and rekindle the wonder of Christ’s presence, his good news, his plan, and his people.



December Birthdays

Barbara Miller	December 8
Jami Backell	December 10
George Simon	December 11
Lynn Olson	December 23



December Anniversaries

Tom & Nancy Purcell

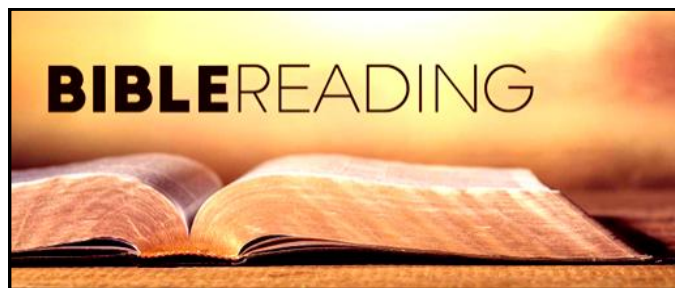
Celebrating 54 years of marriage
December 18, 1971



Help us decorate the church for Christmas
on Saturday, December 6 @ 10:00 am.

*Chili and cornbread will be served
after we are done.*

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



December 7 (2nd Sunday of Advent)

- † Numbers 20:7-12
- † Hebrews 3:1-19
- † Luke 1:67-79

December 14 (3rd Sunday of Advent)

- † Joshua 23:6-11
- † Hebrews 4:1-11
- † Luke 3:23-38

December 21 (4th Sunday of Advent)

- † Numbers 14:1-9
- † Hebrews 6:9-20
- † John 3:22-38

December 28 (1st Sunday of Christmas)

- † Genesis 14:11-20
- † Hebrews 7:1-3; 15-17; 25-28
- † Matthew 8:14-34



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

*All are welcome, please invite your family
and friends to celebrate with us.*

COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Meeting Minutes: November 11, 2025 (Subject to approval)

Respectfully Submitted by Nancy Purcell, Acting Secretary

Present: George Simon, Vicki Egesdal, LaLita Tadena, Diane Fried, Charlie May, Denel Ingraham, Pat Woods, and Nancy Purcell. Also present was Pastor Ed Backell. Sandy Hoveskeland was absent.

Call to Order: President, George Simon, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Devotional: Vicki led devotionals from the book *Help, Lord! I'm Having a Senior Moment*, by Karen O'Connor entitled "My Forgetter" based on Isaiah 43:25.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Diane and seconded by LaLita to approve the October 14, 2025 minutes as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Vicki presented the Treasurer's report.

We are 83% of the way through the year, and so far our income is a little higher and our expenses a little lower than we budgeted. Total assets are down about \$17,500, which is primarily the depreciation on the building, which is a paper loss. Our cash assets are a little higher than last year. Our plate offerings to date are \$17,000 greater than at this time last year. Our expenses are slightly higher this year because we now have a full-time pastor, but because of the increase in giving, our net loss so far for the year is only a small amount greater than last year. Our Budget Committee will meet November 18 to draft a budget for 2026.

STCU Checking:	\$ 7,075.53
C. Schwab Building Fund:	\$ 36,636.42
C. Schwab Savings:	\$ 101,620.21
C. Schwab Savings VIGAX Fund:	\$ 25,473.65



Pastor's Report: Pastor Ed preached and taught adult Sunday School class each week. He attended the weekly Wednesday morning Bible study, the Tuesday men's group, and the Friday morning breakfast and study. He also attended the Worship and Music monthly planning committee meeting. Pastor reported there were five attendees in the first membership class, which went great. He met individually with Joyce regarding questions about Lutheranism. He read to the second grade class at Valley Christian School, as well as helping the School to set up the sound system for the Veterans' Day Program and running the sound system for the actual program. He sent out a special prayer request for Virginia Boyles when she was hospitalized for an emergency artery stint. He visited with Sean, a guest at the Friday breakfast. Pastor helped Don Russell with a recording project. He also counseled with James, a mechanic. He met with RightNow Media. He took Cathie to surgery and performed a wedding for Heidi H., his sister in Ellensburg. There was one prayer request that was turned in on the yellow cards in the pews. Pastor reported there is a one-week delay if you listen to the service on You-Tube but you can watch the service live each week on Facebook.

Properties and Maintenance: See report submitted by Charlie May. Thanks to Bob McMahan for fixing the capacitor on the air conditioner. The bulb in the projector needs to be changed and the projector cleaned.

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COUNCIL MINUTES

(Continued from previous page)

Worship and Music: See report submitted by Nancy Purcell.

Congregational Ministries: No report submitted for November.

Christian Education: See report submitted by Pat Woods.

Social Care and Concerns, and the Care Team: See report submitted by Diane Fried.

Old Business: Charlie requested clarification for the Nominating Committee as to what positions needed to be filled on Council for 2026. George Simon indicated he would not seek re-election so we need to fill the position of President. LaLita indicated she would not seek re-election as Vice President. In order that the office of President and Vice President would not need to be filled in the same year and in the future the terms would expire in alternating years, Charlie May indicated he would be willing to serve as Vice President for one year. Sandy Hoveskeland's term as Secretary also expires this year and will need to be filled. Vicki Egesdal indicated she would be willing to fill a two-year term as Treasurer. Nancy Purcell has one year remaining on her term as a member-at-large and Pat Woods has two years remaining on his term. The terms for member at large for Denel Ingraham, Diane Fried, and Charlie May are all ending leaving three open positions for a member at large. LaLita Tadena indicated she would be willing to fill one of those positions.

New Business:

Speaker from Chosen People Ministries for Palm Sunday: Pastor Ed indicated that he had been contacted by Chosen People Ministries asking if we would be interested in having a special speaker come to our church on Palm Sunday. Dr. Daniel Nessim, Pastor and teacher of Messianic Congregation Kehilat (Zion Congregation) will be in our area during March and is available to lead an overview of the Passover and Spring Feasts. There are four different options available, each varying in length. After discussion, Diane made a motion and Vicki seconded it that Pastor Ed visit with Chosen People Ministries and arrange for Dr. Nessim to present a program to our congregation on Palm Sunday. Motion passed unanimously. The program would cover the Sunday School and worship time frame. Pastor Ed will determine which program will work best for us. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. This will be a great way to learn more about the traditional elements of the Jewish Passover Seder. Cost is a love offering, plus \$200 to help cover travel costs, along with overnight lodging. Pastor Ed will check to see if the lodging could be provided by a member. Watch for further information as the Lenten season approaches.

Emergency Action Plan and Map: The Valley Fire Department is requiring that the church submit an updated floor plan of the building and a written "Emergency Action Plan." Council reviewed the floor plan and updated building usage where appropriate. Because the draft of the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) that we received to help us draft our own plan was for a business, not a church, Pastor, Vicki, Charlie, and George agreed to review the draft EAP and adapt it for our worship facility. They will report back to Council.

Computer Issues: Tracy has reported experiencing problems with the computer, especially when she is working remotely. After discussion Charlie made a motion to hire Gabe, from Vega Discoveries, to see if he can determine what is causing our issues. The motion was seconded by Vicki and passed unanimously. Gabe has assisted us before with computer problems.

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COUNCIL MINUTES

(Continued from previous page)

Christmas Outreach to South Pines Elementary: In the hope of keeping our Christmas outreach more local than a family from UGM, Pastor Ed and Dan Olson are meeting with Paula Bonney, a teacher at South Pines Elementary, on November 12. In addition, they hope to be able to speak with the principal and explore ways Holy Trinity could reach out to the school.

HTLC Benevolence Fund: Pastor Ed has been contacted by people seeking assistance for food, gas, etc., and was wondering if HTLC had funds available for such requests. Because we want to be good stewards of our funds and still reach out to those in needs, it was suggested that rather than cash, we have vouchers available for food, gas, etc. Because Fred Meyer is more of a one-stop shopping center, including gas, Pastor Ed will contact them regarding vouchers. Charlie made a motion, seconded by Diane, to set up a discretionary fund in the amount of \$100 for Pastor's use, such fund to be replenished monthly to maintain a balance of \$100. Motion passed unanimously.

LCMC District Meeting: The Northwest District Meeting for LCMC will be held at Lutherhaven on April 23-26, 2026. Holy Trinity will be in charge of the Saturday evening service. If you would like to attend but need transportation, please let a member of the Council know. The National meeting for LCMC will be held in West Des Moines, Iowa, on October 4-7, 2026.

Next Month Devotional: Pat Woods

Counters: LaLita Tadena and Nancy Purcell

Adjournment: Meeting was closed with prayer at 8:04 p.m.



10th Annual Neighborhood Holiday Food Drive:

*Bag Distribution and
Christmas Caroling & Bag Pick-up*

Bag Distribution
Sunday, December 7
Meet at HTLC at 2:00 pm

Christmas Caroling & Bag Pick-up
Sunday, December 14
Meet at HTLC at 1:00 pm

*Please save these two dates and join us as we support our local food bank this holiday season.
Hot chocolate, salad, pizza and chili will be served after caroling & bag pick-up is done on 12/14.*

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

The more, the merrier!



The following people donated Poinsettias to Holy Trinity's Sanctuary for the Christmas Season.

We thank you for your generosity!

DONATED BY:	IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF:
Abitz, Sue	Norm & Marge Erickson (parents)
Allen, Bob & Tracy	Pastor Thomas & Betty Ledbetter (Tracy's mom & dad) & Ruth Riechenbach (Bob's grandmother)
Andreasen, Mark & Lynette	Romona Gonzalez (Aunt Nan)
Backell, Pastor Ed & Jami, and Cathie Wallace	Jim Wallace, Carolyn Jacobson, & Janet Fritts
Benham, Ilene	Parents & Siblings
Bertholet, Diane	In memory of sister - Elaine
Boudewyns, Lester	Sue, Ellen, & Lester Boudewyns
Boyles, Virginia	Daughters: Kristin, Karen, & Ann
Egesdal, Brent & Vicki	
Ingraham, Denel & Judy	Our Parents: Claud & Lorreine Ingraham, Neal & Betty Shay
McMahan, Bob & Pam	Theil & Richard Kunitz, & Betty & Ed McMahan
May, Charlie & Squeaky	Charles & Vera Lutz, Charles & Mary May, & Elyse Marie May
Miller, Barbara	Kenneth & Opal Miller
Olson, Dan & Lynn	
Peterson, Kelly & Kirsten	Gary Peralá, Terry Peterson, Robin Peterson, Grandpa & Grandma Peralá, Grandpa & Grandma Distad, Grandma Bernie Bear and Grandpa & Grandma
Purcell, Tom & Nancy	Our Parents: Herbert & Marie Hinkelmann, Mike & Florine Purcell
Rock, Joyce	Family
Slaton, Cindy	In memory of Don & Marcia Macholl, & Doug Slaton
Tadena, LaLita	George & Jackie, & Loren
Rich & Jan Weatherly	Our daughter-in-law's mother: Jean Hansen
Woods, Pat & Caren	Our Parents

Giving Through Donor Advised Funds

This is a great time to consider your **2026 giving** and start planning accordingly. There are a few members who direct qualified charitable distributions out of their IRA or retirement plan accounts **to HTLC in January for the whole year.**

If you would like to give to HTLC out of an IRA or retirement account, contact the church office at (509) 926-7966 or office@holyltrinitylcmc.org for more information.



DECEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
	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 6:00 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	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—MWJ 10:00 am Decorate the Church for Christmas 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
2nd Sunday of Advent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SMG 2:00 pm Food Drive Bag Distribution 7:00 pm AA—SRG	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 6:00 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	7:30 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—MWJ 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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 Pick-up & Christmas Caroling 5:30 pm—6:30 pm NA Committee Mtg. 7:00 pm AA—SRG	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 Newsletter Articles Due	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 6:00 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 1:30 pm W&M Meeting 4:00 pm 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—MWJ 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
21	22	23	24—Christmas Eve	25—Christmas Day	26	27
4th Sunday of Advent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SMG 7:00 pm AA—SRG	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	Office Closed 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:00 pm NA—WNW 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	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 6:30 pm—7:00 pm NA Book Study	8:00 am AA—MWJ 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
28	29	30	31—New Years Eve			
1st Sunday of Christmas 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SMG 5:30 pm—6:30 pm NA Committee Mtg. 7:00 pm AA—SRG	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 6:00 pm NA—WNW			

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

December Events	
Decorate the Church for Christmas	Saturday, December 6 @ 10:00 am
10th Annual Neighborhood Food Drive Bag Distribution	Sunday, December 7 @ 2:00 pm
Council Meeting	Tuesday, December 9 @ 6:30 pm
Serving Lunch at UGM Men’s Shelter	Thursday, December 11 11:15 am—1:00 pm
Neighborhood Food Drive Bag Pick-up & Caroling	Sunday, December 14 @ 1:00 pm
Newsletter Articles Due	Monday, December 15
Worship & Music Committee Meeting	Thursday, December 18 @ 1:30 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Wednesday, December 24 @ 6:30 pm
Mid-week Bible Study	Wednesdays @ 10:00 am
Craft Club	On break until Spring
Choir Practice	Thursdays @ 7:00 pm
Breakfast & Bible Study	Fridays @ 7:30 am