

TIDINGS

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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January 2026

Volume 66, Number 1

Monthly Newsletter

Regular Worship Schedule

Sunday School @ 9:30 am

Worship Service w/Communion @ 10:30 am

THREE DAYS OF PRAYER



**Join us at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church for
“Three Days of Prayer”**

Monday, January 5, — Wednesday, January 7, 2026

Sanctuary open from 9:00 am—5:00 pm

Bring a family member or friend and pray together or come by yourself and have someone pray with you. There will be prayer guides (from LCMC) available to help you get started.

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The Twelve Days of CHRISTmas

by Pastor Ed Backell

During my family's celebration of Christmas, I wrote a personal view of the 12 Days of Christmas. I suppose you could say that I was listening to my own sermons and trying to do the work of introspection during this holiday time.

I posted each day's thought to Facebook, and received rather encouraging comments from friends who were reading along, so I thought I'd post them here.

To save space, I'll just post the entry for Day 12, and I'm sure you'll be able to work backwards from there.

On the Twelfth Day of Christmas, the Savior gave to me:

- ***vision for the future,***
- ***insight to my background,***
- ***peace amidst my sorrow,***
- ***hope for tomorrow,***
- ***the Word so I can hear it,***
- ***power from the Spirit,***
- ***a call to serve God's people,***
- ***good friends and blessings,***
- ***family to shape me,***
- ***three precious children,***
- ***a spouse who really loves me,***
- ***and a new life to show the world I'm free***

And now, we're approaching our Annual Meeting at the end of February. I'm sure that we'll also use that time to be somewhat introspective, hearing reports of what we, as a church family, have done in God's Kingdom during 2025.

But as much as I've been encouraging us to stop and look at the work of the Savior in our lives during Advent and Christmas, I also want to point to the future. The Lord has many more adventures in store for us in 2026, and I'm sure looking forward to finding out what our role in the Kingdom is going to be.

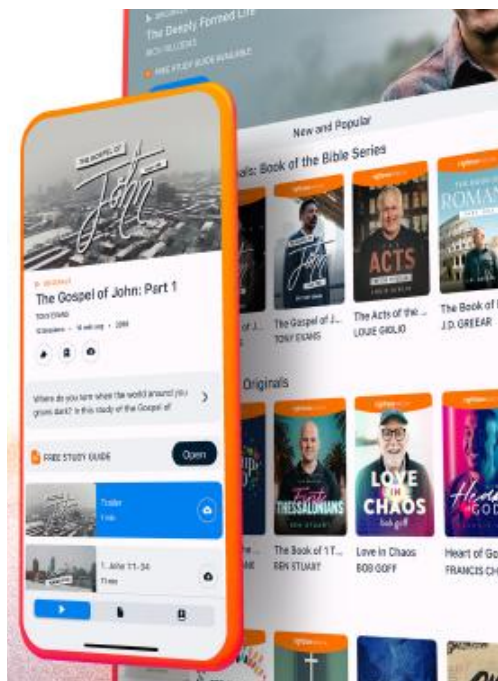
For now, one thing I can do is hold fast to the words of St. Paul, as he also focused on what the Lord would do through him. He wrote in his letter to the saints at Philippi: *"[faithful family members], I do not consider that I have made [completeness in Christ] my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."*

Let's do the same this year!

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

“Every Thought Captive: How Renewing Your Mind Can Change Your Life”

*4 session video series
by Kyle Idleman*



In Every Thought Captive, you will explore a topic crucial for your spiritual growth: the battle for your mind. In Romans 12:2, we read these words:

“Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” This isn’t a study on the power of positive thinking—or how you have the power to change your life—but about learning how God made your brain. He will transform your life as you learn to take every thought captive and submit it to the truth of his Word.

“Jesus’s Farewell Message”

*6 session video series
by Francis Chan*



Do you know Jesus? It’s one thing to know facts about him, but to experience his love, wisdom, and guidance in your life is what it means to follow him. On the night before he was crucified, Jesus invited his disciples into a deep relationship with the triune God—and his invitation stands for us too. In this 6-part series, Francis Chan dives into John 13–17, a passage rich in promises, commands, and eternal truths. He’ll remind us we aren’t called to a part-time faith—we were made to know, walk with, and commune with God.



January Birthdays

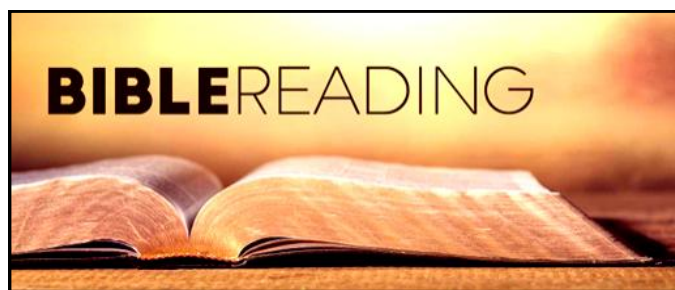
Caroline Materu	January 1
Caitlyn Fletcher	January 7
Sharon Nelson	January 8
Lukas Peterson	January 12
Don Russell	January 13
Nikki Taes	January 19
Al Marsh	January 20
Mark Andreasen	January 26
Pam McMahan	January 26

Christmas Decorations

"Take-Down"

Please join us **Saturday, January 10,**
at **10:00 am** and help "take-down" the
Christmas decorations around the church.

Many hands will make light work.
Donuts will be provided for the helpers.



January 4 — 2nd Sunday of Christmas

- † Exodus 25:1-40
- † Hebrews 8:1-13
- † Matthew 11:12-24

January 11 — 1st Sunday after Epiphany

- † Leviticus 16:29-34
- † Hebrews 9:11-15; 24-28
- † Matthew 14:1-12

January 18 — 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

- † Isaiah 26:7-13
- † Hebrews 10:13-25
- † Matthew 8:1-4

January 25 — 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

- † Job 32:1-10
- † Hebrews 11:1-7, 39-40
- † Luke 5:27-39

I call on you, my
God, for you will
answer me; turn
your ear to me and
hear my prayer.

PSALM 17:6

COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Meeting Minutes: December 9, 2025 (Subject to approval)

Respectfully Submitted by Sandy Hoveskeland, Council Secretary

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

Call to Order: President George Simon called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Devotional: Pat provided the devotional based on 2 Chronicles 7:14. "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Charlie and seconded by LaLita to approve the November 11, 2025 minutes as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Vicki provided the Treasurer's report. Total Assets are down about \$20,500 from the prior year. The difference is depreciation on the building. Cash assets are a little higher than last year. Plate offerings to date are about \$17,000 greater than at this time last year. Total expenses are \$179,278 compared to \$158,682 at this time last year, mainly due to having a full-time pastor this year. Thanks to increased contributions, our net loss so far this year is a small amount greater than last year. The budget committee met November 18 and will meet again in January to finalize a proposed budget for review. A motion was made by Charlie and seconded by Nancy to approve the December 9, 2025 Treasurer's report as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

STCU Checking:	\$ 11,761.52
C. Schwab Building Fund:	\$ 36,739.79
C. Schwab Savings:	\$ 91,894.19
C Schwab Savings VIGAX Fund:	\$ 25,021.70



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 Worship and Music monthly planning committee meeting. He and Diane met with Cher Brown and gave her communion. He visited with teachers at South Pines Elementary and sent an email to Paula Bonney regarding a partnership between HTLC and South Pines Elementary regarding blessing the teachers and helping disadvantaged students for Christmas.

He also sent an email to Kim Baumann, Student Support Coordinator at South Pines Elementary, supporting their school. Kim gave him the names, ages and sizes of two children and their mother for HTLC to support with Christmas gifts. Diane will make tags for the Tree of Sharing in the Fellowship Hall for gifts for this family. He got a call from Katie Chilcote from Communities in Schools and agreed to help support their Thanksgiving food drive.

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COUNCIL MINUTES

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The November discretionary money of \$100 was used for this donation. Along with donations from other participating churches, HTLC helped feed 20 families. We received a thank you letter which will be read to the congregation. Katie gave Pastor Ed full access to the staff page for the school so we can write encouraging notes to the teachers. He delivered advent devotionals to shut-ins and absentees. There were no yellow card follow-ups this month. Pastor Ed and Jami are planning to start a community-wide choral group of young people. The group will be called Glory of the Father.

Properties and Maintenance: See report submitted by Charlie May. Maintenance of the church is ongoing thanks to Tom, Brent and Charlie.

Worship and Music: See report submitted by Nancy Purcell. The church was decorated for Christmas on December 6. Decorations will be taken down and stored on January 10. Caroling and picking up the food drive donations will be on December 14 after church.

Congregational Ministries: See report submitted by LaLita Tadena. Marcia coordinated the 10th annual food drive. HTLC has donated 547 lbs. to the Food Bank so far in 2025, but this amount will increase substantially once the food drive sacks are collected.

Christian Education: See report submitted by Pat Woods.

Social Cares and Concerns and Care Team: See report submitted by Diane Fried. The care team continues to visit and offer communion to shut-ins. A group from HTLC served lunch at the UGM men's shelter on November 13.

Old Business:

1. Special Speaker on Palm Sunday from Chosen People Ministries: Pastor Ed provided an update on having a speaker from Chosen People Ministries speak to our congregation on Palm Sunday. The original discussion was for the program to cover the Sunday School and worship time frame. Pastor Ed has since found out they can only be here that evening at 6 p.m.

New Business:

1. Review 2026 Draft Budget: The budget has not been finalized due to variables still being discussed. The state law on part-time employees accruing sick and annual leave will be reviewed. Pastor Ed's health insurance cost will change. He will be added to Jami's health insurance policy on January 1, 2026. That premium is lower than the policy he has been paying for since he started at HTLC.
2. HTLC Directory and Member Identification: Individuals who completed Pastor Ed's membership classes in October will be accepted as new members during a regular worship service in January.
3. Future Plan for HTLC: Denel proposed a plan for the future of HTLC where Pastor Ed would be a mentor to a seminary student going into the ministry. The job description would focus on aspects of

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COUNCIL MINUTES

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the ministry that are not learned in seminary. After discussion it was agreed that this is a good idea, but Pastor Ed is still working on completing his schooling in addition to getting to know the congregation and completing goals that he set when he came to HTLC.

4. Correction to HTLC Website: The HTLC website needs to be updated to remove a section that states there are no visitors at HTLC, only members. Pastor Ed will see that the site is updated.
5. New Emergency Action Plan: HTLC has passed the inspection, so we now have the Permit. George will work with Tracy on locations in the church to post notices. The immediate location is in the back as soon as possible, so the user groups have the instructions. The leaders of the groups will be asked to review the instructions with their groups. This will be added to the Agenda for the Annual Meeting and copies of the instructions will be distributed to the congregation.

Next Month's Devotional: Nancy

January Counters: Vicki and George

Adjournment: The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:13 p.m.



Christmas Staff Gift Thank-you's

by HTLC Staff



Dear friends at HTLC—Jami and I are so incredibly blessed to be here, and we're so very grateful for your Christmas gift to our family. We hope the rest of the Christmas season went well for all of you, and that as we move through Epiphany, that we all would be visited by wisdom in whatever way the Lord deems best for us. Thank you once again for your love and generosity! ~ KFJ - Pastor Ed

I want to thank you all so much for the generous Christmas gift. We are so blessed to have you as our church family. God's blessings to you all. ~ Love, Judy

I am so blessed to be part of Holy Trinity church. I want to thank everyone for such kindness and the generous Christmas gift. ~ Larry Tyler

Thank you all so much for your generosity to me this Christmas! I am very appreciative. Blessings to you all in 2026! ~ Love, Tracy

10th Annual Neighborhood Holiday Food Drive Results

by Marcia Taes

Sunday, December 14, was our 10th Annual Neighborhood Holiday Food Drive for Partners Inland Northwest Food Bank. Yokes grocery on Sprague donated all the grocery bags and several people helped staple 500 fliers onto the bags in preparation for the food drive. Cindy Slaton applied for a grant from Thrivent to pay for the pizza party following the drive and excess funds were used to purchase food for the food bank. Many of our members helped to make this event possible.



Sunday, December 7, the bags were distributed to the neighborhood and then picked up on Sunday, December 14. With the help of God, those who helped volunteer their time and effort driving, distributing and picking up the bags were instrumental in helping to feed those who are less fortunate. Our surrounding neighbors were very generous this year surpassing last years food total by a 21% increase donating 2,413 pounds of food.

The pizza and chili party celebration was a success with all who caroled and picked up food. Jack Tiley had his famous hot chocolate waiting for the volunteers when they returned to the church. This was one of the largest donations of food by churches in this area.

Tree of Sharing

by Diane Fried

Thank you so much to all who contributed to the Tree of Sharing!

All the tags on the tree were taken and gifts were purchased by people at HTLC. The wrapped gifts were returned to the Tree of Sharing. Vicki and I made sure all the gifts were in, and Pastor Ed delivered them to South Pines on Thursday, December 19.

Many people were blessed at Christmas by your generosity!



JANUARY 2026

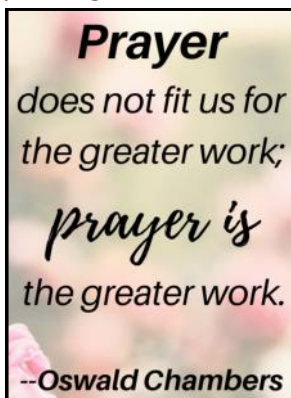
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1-New Years Day	2	3
				Pastor Ed's Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm Tracy's Office Hours: 11:00 am—1:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 4:00 pm Jr. Fiddlers 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm Choir Practice	7:30 am Breakfast and Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:30 pm—7:00 pm NA Book Study	8:00 am AA—MWJ 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2nd Sunday of Christmas 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 9:00 am—5:00 pm 3 Days of Prayer 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 9:00 am—5:00 pm 3 Days of Prayer 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 9:00 am—5:00 pm 3 Days of Prayer 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	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 Take-down Christmas Decorations 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1st Sunday after Epiphany 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 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 12:00 pm AA—VNG 4:00 pm Jr. Fiddlers 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm Choir Practice Newsletter Articles Due	7:30 am Breakfast and Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 5:30 pm—8:30 pm AA-HHG Game Night 6:30 pm—7:00 pm NA Book Study	8:00 am AA—MWJ 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
2nd Sunday after Epiphany 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	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 2:00 pm W&M Meeting 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 AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
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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.

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January Events

Three Days of Prayer HTLC Sanctuary	Monday—Wednesday, January 5—7, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Serving Lunch at UGM Men's Shelter	Thursday, January 8 11:15 am—1:00 pm
Take-down Christmas Decorations	Saturday, January 10 @ 10:00 am
Council Meeting	Tuesday, January 13 @ 6:30 pm
Newsletter Articles Due	Thursday, January 15
Worship & Music Committee Meeting	Thursday, January 22 @ 2:00 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

Regular Worship Schedule

9:30 am Sunday School for all ages
10:30 am Worship Service w/communion
11:30 am Fellowship time