



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church Newsletter July 2026

svlctownsend.org



“Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord” –Psalm 33:12.

As you celebrate the Declaration of Independence this weekend, take a few minutes to pray for this great Nation under God, the future of it, and all her people, and for life, liberty, and justice for all. Amen.



Greeters and Ushers for July

- July 5** Erick and Jackie Sorenson
- July 12** Chuck Smith, Diane & Bonnie Berglind
- July 19** Jim and Darlene Beck
- July 26** Sharon Ragen & Gayle Curtis



Sunday & Festival	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
July 5 6th Sunday of Pentecost	Zech 9:9-12	Psalm 145: 8-14	Romans 7: 15-25a	Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30
July 12 7th Sunday of Pentecost	Isaiah 55: 10-13	Psalm 65: 1-13	Romans 8: 1-11	Matthew 13: 1-23
July 19 8th Sunday of Pentecost	Isaiah 44: 6-8	Psalm 145: 8-21	Romans 8: 12-25	Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43
July 26 9th Sunday of Pentecost	I Kings 3: 5-12	Psalm 119:129-136	Romans 8: 26-39	Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52



July Dates to Remember:

- July 4 Independence Day**
- July 12 Church Council to follow services**
- July 14 WELCA 4:00 p.m.**

Regularly Scheduled Activities:

- Steve Ward, SAM, Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-12:00, Monday & Wednesday**
- Quilting & Mission Kits: 9:00 a.m.-11:00, Wednesdays**
- Breakfast Blessings Bible Study: 9:00 a.m. Thursdays**



Welcome to VBS



Singing His praises!



Snacks



Memory verses



The lesson



Art





Thank you Margie Urich, Lisa Rowell and Linda Mosness for special music, *Thine the Kingdom, Thine the Praise*

Photo credit: Susan Ramsey

thanks



A huge thank you to the marvelous mothers and volunteers who created an AWESOME Vacation Bible School experience for 33 wonderful children! Thanks to your dedication, the kids enjoyed a week filled with faith-building lessons, scripture verses, creative art, music, delicious snacks, and fun games. We also want to express our deep gratitude to everyone who contributed to and helped serve the dinner for our VBS families and congregation members. We appreciate you all!



We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the following individuals who generously directed their Thrivent Financial Choice Dollars to support various ongoing missions at Shepherd of the Valley:

- Rick and Deb Arnold
- Nancy Highland
- Erick & Jackie Sorenson
- Jessica Lancello
- Judith Binkley
- Bruce Brensdal

Your continued support and dedication play a vital role in our church's outreach and ministry programs. We are deeply grateful for your regular partnership and for everyone who helps make these missions possible.



SVLC Spring Updates

The parsonage received several updates this spring, including new interior and exterior paint, new living room flooring, and upgraded vents. To accommodate the new water pressure, water valves were also replaced at both the parsonage and the rental property.

In addition to the property improvements, Dave Rowell constructed a desk for our projectionist. We appreciate the professional looking and size appropriate desk that fits into our small area.



June 14, 2026 Meeting of the SVLC Council

Council members present: Margie Urich, Dave Rowell, Jim Beck, and Rick Arnold

Council members absent: Clint Watson, Aiden Mosher, Julie Mikula, and Diane Johnson

Others attending the meeting: Treasurer Lisa Rowell, Daryl Blumhagen, and Steve Ward, SAM

The meeting was called to order at 10:42 am by President Rick Arnold. Rick led the council in prayer.

Church member comments: Daryl Blumhagen outlined the letters sent to and sent by the renter at 307 N Cherry St. He asked the reason for the lease termination for the rental. President Arnold explained that the lease was month-to-month and could be terminated at any time, with proper notice. Several concerns over the renter's tenure were noted.

Margie Urich made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2026 regular-meeting with corrections.

The motion was seconded by Steve Ward and passed.

Steve Ward made and Dave Rowell seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2026 special council meeting. The motion passed.

Treasurer's report: Lisa Rowell reported:

The average attendance for May was 50

The May offering was \$6815 and \$623 of other income, and a \$2403 loss from the rentals

The church expenses for May were \$8387, including \$1091 for Synod assembly, \$442 for publications from Augsburg-Fortress, and \$2000 for Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

The monthly rental income was \$1970 with expenses of \$4373, including \$2500 to complete the painting contract and \$1007 for taxes

The month end checking balance was \$1116

The money market balance was \$43,594, with \$5771 of that encumbered

The MIF CD balance was \$250,000, with \$30,000 in a plumbing reserve

Margie Urich moved to accept the treasurer's report, Jim Beck seconded the motion, and it passed.

SAM Report:

Steve Ward stated that the Synod assembly was interesting. He believes that Bishop Quanbeck is taking the Synod in a positive direction.

Call Committee:

Jim Beck reported on a May 7 Zoom call and a June 4 update from Bishop Quanbeck

Three Synod churches have called a pastor

Three churches are losing their pastor

Three to five pastors have shown interest in Montana Synod appointments

There is a clergy couple, each of whom is seeking a full-time position that may be a fit for Butte/Anaconda or Polson/Ronan

Some churches are exploring TEEM ministry where an LMA trains on line and at seminary for 3 years to become a minister and then returns to the sponsor church for a period of time

Committee Reports:

The sump pump is running periodically

Dave and Lisa Rowell volunteered to spray the weeds in the church parking areas

Continuing Business:

Rick Arnold met with attorney Peter Simon to determine the course of action if the renter does not vacate after the termination of the rental contract. Mr. Simon said that event, an Action of Possession would have to be filed. He noted that an extension of a few extra days could be granted, in writing, if the renter was in the process of moving out of the house. Rick will decide on June 15 whether to have a reminder letter sent to the renter.

Because of budget concerns, the discussion of concrete work at the parsonage was postponed until the July council meeting.

Aiden Mosher was not at the meeting to discuss the stair cover project so it was postponed until the July meeting.

New Business:

Jim Beck reported that the stairway chair on the southwest basement stairs is not operational. A new battery is probably needed to restore the chair to operation. Additionally, the chair would have to be inspected by the state before it could be operated. Since the completion of the church addition, there has been very little demand for the chair. He sees three options that he asked the council to consider over the next couple of months.

Not doing anything. Leave the chair in place and repair and inspect it if it is needed.

Repair and inspect the chair and put it back into service in the near future.

Remove the chair and chair rail.

The second, unused, piano in the basement was moved to facilitate the placement of other furniture and a caster came off of one leg. The piano was given to a parishioner and the parishioner agreed to move the piano, but that has not occurred. Margie Urich made and Dave Rowell seconded a motion to have the parishioner remove the piano or the church facilitate the removal of the piano.

Council Member Concerns:

Rick Arnold asked the council members present to encourage the remaining council members to attend the meeting so that a wider range of ideas can be presented at the meetings.

There being no further business, Steve Ward made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Margie Urich and passed at 11:50 am. The meeting attendees prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Jim Beck, Secretary

Rick Arnold, President

SWIM & FLOAT Scheduled for Sunday, August 2nd

As an outreach, WELCA & Thrivent will sponsor free swimming from 1:00-3:00 p.m., and floats will be served under the pavilion.





Check out our July birthdays! We don't have any July anniversaries on file yet. If you'd like to add your birthday or anniversary to the list, please reach out to Darlene Beck.



Gordon Huft July 1
Josh McNamer July 2
Aubree McNamer July 6
Cole Mikula July 6
Kari Williams July 20
Clint Watson July 21
Anthony Borer July 21
Addy Mosher July 22
Bentley Hoppe July 22
Dax Gillespie July 23
Diane Johnson July 24
Jackie Sorenson July 25
Margie Urich July 30
Terry Stocks July 31