

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

January 2026 Newsletter

Website: svlctownsend.org



Date	Festival	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
January 4	Christmas	Jeremiah 31: 7-14	Psalm 147: 12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1: 10-18
January 11	Baptism of Our Lord	Isaiah 42: 1-9	Psalm 29	Acts 10: 34-43	Matthew 3: 13-17
January 18	2nd Sunday Epiphany	Isaiah 49: 1-17	Psalm 40: 1-11	I Corinthians 1: 1-9	John 1: 29-42
January 25	3rd Sunday Epiphany	Isaiah 9: 1-4	Psalm 27: 1, 4-9	I Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4: 12-23



The call person for January is
Teresa Raisland
406-949-2101

Greeters and Readers for January:

January 4 Tom Helm and Aleida Stone

January 11 Beth Ward

January 18 Laura Ascheman & Teresa Raisland

January 25 Gretchen Carrels



January 7 Wednesday afternoon Bible Study resumes, 1:00 p.m.

Quilting resumes

January 8 Breakfast Blessings Bible Study resumes, 9:00 a.m.

January 10 Return of Survey information on church properties

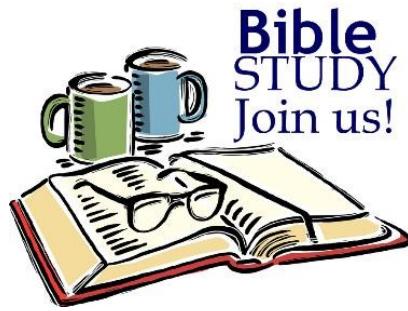
January 11 Church Council Meeting following Church

January 13 WELCA MEETING- 4:00 p.m.

January 18 Annual Meeting & Potluck following Sunday service

January 20 Men's Prayer Breakfast at SVLC 6:00 a.m. to help cook

A
NEW YEAR
FOCUSED
ON JESUS



CHILDREN'S
Sunday School

Sunday School resumes January 11th
9:45 a.m.

January 18th following church service

Annual Meeting ► Voting on Budget ► Presentation of Committee Reports
► Election of Church Council Members



December 14, 2025 Meeting of the SVLC Council

Council members present: Aiden Mosher, Diane Johnson, Virgil Binkley, Jim Beck, and Rick Arnold

Council members absent: Clint Watson, Dave Rowell, and Julie Mikula

Others attending the meeting: Treasurer Mike Colbert, Assistant Treasurer Lisa Rowell, and Steve Ward, SAM

The meeting was called to order at 11:20 am by President Rick Arnold. Steve Ward led the council in prayer.

Church member comments:

Mike Colbert asked if the children's message presenter could use a microphone. Steve Ward made and Diane Johnson seconded a motion to purchase a second headset wireless microphone. The motion passed.

Steve Ward made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 9, 2025 regular-meeting. The motion was seconded by Virgil Binkley and passed.

Treasurer's report:

Mike Colbert reported that the November offering was \$7082 and other income was \$1204. Church expenses were \$7860, with \$2200 of that for tree removal and \$695 pass through for the Cat/Griz offering and to WELCA.

The monthly rent was \$2660 with expenses of \$1357, with \$1007 of that for taxes

The end of November checking balance was \$6096. The money market balance was \$22,606, with \$3000 of that encumbered. The MIF CD balance was \$250,000, with \$30,000 of that in a plumbing reserve.

Steve Ward moved to accept the treasurer's report, Diane Johnson seconded the motion, and it passed.

Treasurer Colbert presented proposed 2026 church and rental budgets to the council. After adjustments for supply pastors and rent income (see Continuing Business and Council Member Concerns), Steve Ward made and Diane Johnson seconded a motion to present the proposed budgets to the congregation at the annual meeting. The motion passed.

SAM Report:

Steve Ward noted that there was potential for 4 infant/youth baptisms in the few months. Jim Beck said that he, Steve Ward, and several leaders from New Life met with Bishop Quanbeck. According to Bishop Quanbeck, there are not any potential seminary graduates available this year for the New Life/SVLC opening. The Bishop presented a couple of long-term strategies to increase the number of Montana students at seminaries and to recruit more seminary graduates to Montana.

The call committee was asked to explore the possibility of obtaining a pastor from another Lutheran denomination and to determine if there are retired military chaplains with interest in coming to western Montana.

Committee Reports: Aiden Mosher presented drawings of the proposed retaining wall and roof cover options for the basement stairwell. It was the consensus of the council that the Property and Maintenance Committee should proceed with the plan without the south and east walls (only support posts for the roof).

Continuing Business: It was noted that Beth Ward, Aubra Lewis, and Jim Beck spent an hour working with the Easy Worship software without finding a way of conveniently assembling slides or projecting them. Beth will attempt to get someone she knows who uses the software to present a training session for potential users at SVLC.

Notice has been given to the residents at both rentals of rent increases beginning in February 2026. Rental contracts have been completed and given to the renters, but have not yet been returned to the church representatives.

A congregational survey, and survey explanation, was presented to the council. After discussion and revision of the documents, it was decided to mail out the surveys sometime the week of December 14 with a requested response by January 10, 2026. The survey results would be tabulated for the January 11 council meeting and be available to the congregation before and during the annual meeting.

New Business:

There was no new business to come before the meeting.

Council Member Concerns:

Steve Ward asked for a \$200 per month increase in his compensation for his synod approved minister (SAM) work. Diane Johnson made a motion to increase the SAM compensation by \$250 per month (to bring the yearly compensation to \$24,600). Virgil Binkley seconded the motion and it passed.

A bill for \$165 was presented for a clip-on piano light. The configuration of the new piano does not lend itself to a light mounted on a base. Diane Johnson made and Virgil Binkley seconded a motion to authorize reimbursement for the light. The motion passed.

It was noted that there is a file cabinet with at least 150 selections of choir music and numerous other choir books and music. As we add choir music, should there be sorting and indexing of the choir music? President Arnold asked the Worship and Music Committee to consider the situation and provide a recommendation to the council.

Jim Beck noted that the table for the monitor computer was not very user friendly and provided no storage for books, manuals, or remotes. This drawback would be even more of a problem if Easy Worship is used and slide shows are created at the computer. President Arnold asked that the Worship and Music Committee consider options for the monitor computer table and convey them to the council.

Jim Beck indicated that, at times, church storage areas are in a condition that does not allow access to the items normally stored there. He asked if there were solutions to this problem. No action was taken at this time.

There being no further business, Steve Ward made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim Beck and passed at 1:21 pm. The meeting attendees prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Jim Beck, Secretary Rick Arnold, President



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Alanna Oiestad	January 5
Chuck Smith	January 10
Mary Kondelik	January 14
Ari Ross Rains	January 19
Bob Brastrup	January 19
Joe Kondelik	January 26
Roy Watne	January 30
Diane Berglind	January 30



Jami & Kari Williams January 8

Joe & Kim Kondelik January 13



Mike Colbert will be returning to his home by ambulance under hospice care on December 31st.

Please honor these days for Mike and his family. Heather has said that they would welcome notes and cards:

Mike Colbert 63 Manor Drive Townsend, MT 59644

Photos from the Sunday School Program, December 14, 2025



The Sunday School presented:

"TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRIST'S BIRTH"

Many thanks go to the many hands that put this program together. Julie Mikula, Deb Arnold worked with lines, costumes and props and parents assisted with direction.

A great thanks goes to Aubra Lewis who always provides the musical accompaniment for the programs.



Thanks to Lisa & Dave's Thrivent grants we provided gifts for our three area rest homes. An impromptu caroling group delivered the gifts with some songs of the season.

