

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

Website: svlctownsend.org

September 2026 Newsletter

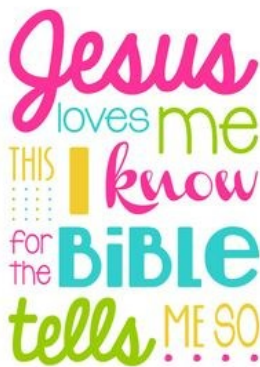


The call person for September
Teresa Raisland
Phone: 949-2101

Greeters and Readers for September:

September 6	Tom Helm and Aleida Stone
September 13	Teresa Raisland & Laura Ascheman
September 20	Ed & Wanda Watson
September 26	Teresa Raisland

Bible Studies Resume:



Looking to dive deeper into God's Word? The **Lunch Lessons Bible Study** begins on **Thursday, September 3rd 11:30 @ SVLC**. We are using the devotional **Christ in Our Home**, which you can pick up for free at the back of the church. Everyone is welcome—come join the conversation!

The **Wednesday afternoon Bible Study** resumes at Shepherd of the Valley on **September 23rd at 1:00 p.m.** Please sign up for the Bible Study and we will provide a book for you. Join us!



August 29	Judy Arensmeyer Birthday Celebration 4:00-6:00 p.m. at <i>The Betsy</i>
September 3	Lunch Lessons Bible Study meets Thursdays, 11:30 in the fellowship area
September 6	Congregational Meeting and Rental tour
September 8	WELCA meeting
September 13	1st day of Sunday School, Church Picnic at SVLC after church
September 15	Men's Prayer Breakfast— details will be announced
September 20	Church Council meeting after the service
September 23	Wednesday afternoon Bible Study resumes 1:00 conference room
October 2-3	Montana Synodical Women's Convention— Billings— see the bulletin board for more information
October 1 & 8	Choir Practice 12:00 noon

MISSIONS: OFFERING COMFORT & CARE TO THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST!!

Our church has many outreach projects in place today.

World Hunger

Food Pantry

Montana Synod

Ministerium

Christmas Connection

Flathead Bible Camp

Personal Health Kits

Quilts

School Kits

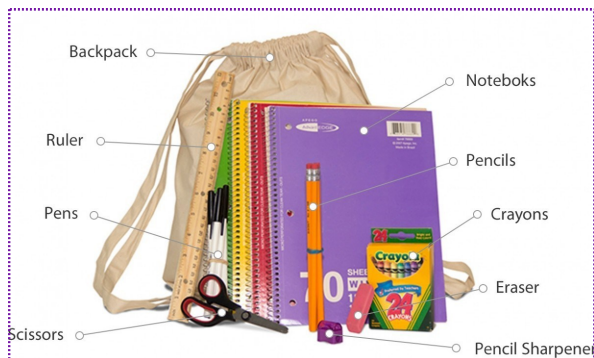
Baby Kits

Bonnie's Kits



Lutheran World Relief's Personal Care Kits provide critical aid to people facing disasters. Locally, we call these "Bonnie's Kits" to honor Bonnie Berglind, who launched this beautiful ministry at our church. We need your help to keep it growing! We are collecting bars of soap, toothbrushes, bath towels, nail clippers, and wide-tooth combs. If you can provide any of these items, please bring them to the church for assembly.

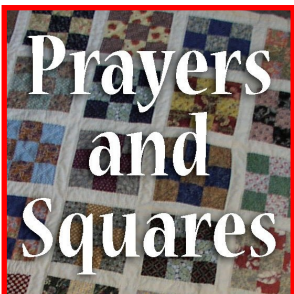
School Kits



Our mission kits offer extraordinary gifts of love for people coping with war, disaster and poverty. This is the season for finding those **school** bargains! Whatever you add will help provide a school kit for a child in need. See the supply list and box in the narthex of the church.

We can't control when disasters strike and we can't end poverty overnight; but there are things we can do to help people reach their full potential.

What's Happening at Quilting?



Did you know SVLC's quilting ministry started with Helen Burmaster sewing polyester quilts to "help keep the world warm"? Jan Stocks later built on that legacy with weekly quilting days to benefit Lutheran World Relief. Today, Dee Hoppe and a wonderful group of women carry the torch, sewing and tying quilts for local emergencies, Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, and global relief efforts.

Dozens of quilts are already boxed and ready for shipping, with many more to come before May. As the saying goes, many hands make light work and wonderful fellowship! Come be a part of the joy every **Wednesday morning from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at SVLC**. No experience is necessary—just a servant's heart.

choir practice

October 1 & 8— 12:00 noon, SVLC



Sunday School Grades K-5

Shepherd of the Valley, 301 N. Cherry Street

Beginning September 13th, 9:30 a.m.

Bring a friend!



ALL-CHURCH PICNIC

Sponsored by WELCA

Bob's chicken & beverages are provided!

Please sign up at the back of the church so we have an accurate head count.

There's a sign-up sheet if you would like to help with a side.

We're looking forward to seeing you there!



If you are interested in having your student attend Confirmation classes to make public affirmation of Baptism, Please contact Deb Arnold to let your interest be known.



Marcus, Wesley, Dax, Haaken Payton, and Abi attended their First Communion class on August 26th.

Deb Arnold and Alieda Stone talked about how we commune with Jesus when we take Communion and remember His sacrifice. He feeds our hearts and offers love and forgiveness in His presence in the feast.



Montana Synodical Women's Convention 2026

Convention: October 2nd

Gathering: October 3rd

Location: St John's United Lillus Chapel
2429 Mission Way
Billings, Montana

Check the bulletin board for more details
and a registration form.



WELCA highlights of the August 11th meeting:

- ◆ Deb Arnold gave devotions for 9 ladies present
- ◆ Under Expenditures, Marilyn Blumhagen reported that WELCA supported: Donuts for Father's Day, \$50 for the Christmas Connection, posters and a TV for Sunday School area, supplies for quilting and mission kits, the balance for the City pool rental, and ice cream and root beer for the Swim & Float.
- ◆ Future projects include sponsoring the Annual Church Picnic, the Women's Gathering in Billings, the Chili Cook-off and Bingo Night for all ages in October and the 60th anniversary Celebration of the church in 2027.
- ◆ All ladies are encouraged to attend our monthly meetings held the 2nd Tuesday of each night at 4:00 p.m. We are actively supporting our church and community.



Swim & Float

The Swim & Float offers free swimming & root beer floats to the community. We also distributed an invitation to church and Sunday School.

Thank you Teresa Raisland for the photos.



August 16, 2026 Meeting of the SVLC Council

Council members present: Margie Urich, Dave Rowell, Aiden Mosher, Diane Johnson, Jim Beck, and Rick Arnold

Council members absent: Clint Watson and Julie Mikula

Others attending the meeting: Steve Ward, SAM

The meeting was called to order at 10:47 am by President Rick Arnold. Mr. Arnold led the council in prayer.

Church member comments: Gretchen Carrels will begin a Bible study on Thursdays from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm, unless there was objection from the church council. No concerns were voiced by the council.

Margie Urich made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 12, 2026 regular-meeting. The motion was seconded by Steve Ward and passed.

Margie Urich made and Diane Johnson seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the August 2, 2026 special meeting. The motion was passed.

Treasurer's report: Dave Rowell presented the treasurer's report on behalf of Lisa Rowell who was unable to attend the meeting. He reported:

The average attendance for July was 37 people per service

The July offering was \$5762 and other income was \$1610

Church expenses for the month were \$4730

Monthly rental income was \$1080, with expenses of \$350

The end of July checking balance was \$4965

End of the month money market balance was \$47,105, with \$5771 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.

SAM Report:

Steve Ward asked Jim Beck to follow up on the paperwork for two potential new members as he hopes to have a new member recognition in the last half of September.

He said that Aleida Stone may instruct the confirmation class. He noted that there may be up to six potential confirmands.

Steve reminded the council that he does not plan to renew his SAM contract in January 2027. He will still lead occasional services.

Call Committee: Jim Beck said that there was nothing new to report.

Committee Reports: It was recounted by Dave Rowell that the parking lot weeds are under control. He has received a quote of \$225 to apply a ground sterilant herbicide to back parking lot. President Arnold asked that decision to have a ground sterilant applied be revisited in April 2027.

Continuing Business:

Aiden Mosher said that he was still working through the process with the Boy Scout Council to proceed with his Eagle project of a roof over the basement stairway. Rick Arnold asked him to stay in communication with Dave Rowell and Clint Watson concerning his plans/specifications and construction sequencing, both for his assistance and to avoid any misunderstandings relating to the project.

President Arnold delegated the planning an implementation of the 60th anniversary celebration WELCA. Margie Urich reported that she has selected some members of the anniversary committee and hopes to add at least one more. The celebration it tentatively planned for October 2027.

Several suggestions were made to the rental options narrative discussed at the August 2, 2026 meeting. Jim Beck will incorporate those suggestions and provide a draft to the council by August 16, 2026. The council members will provide any further edits by August 20 so that the final document can be prepared for the August 23 & 30, 2026 tours of the rental (307 N Cherry St.).

There was discussion of replacing the house at 307 N Cherry St. with a new house or multiplex, if the congregation authorized the removal the existing house. It was decided that such a discussion could occur if the house was removed and there was more time to consider the options in greater detail.

New Business: There was no new business to come before the meeting.

Council Member Concerns:

Because of a conflict with the church picnic, the regular September council meeting was moved from September 13 to September 20, 2026.

The council was reminded that Sunday School begins on September 13.

Dave Rowell asked if there was any further progress on the design of a buried seepage area for the basement drain water. President Arnold asked Jim Beck to prepare a presentation for the October meeting.

Council members said that the 33-watt (300-watt incandescent equivalent) LED bulb in the Fellowship Room light was an improvement. Margie Urich made and Diane Johnson seconded motion to spend up to \$145 to replace the current bulbs with LEDs in all of the fixtures. The motion passed.

There being no further business, Margie Urich made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim Beck and passed at 11:46 am. The meeting attendees prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Jim Beck, Secretary Rick Arnold, President



Who?	All members of SVLC
What?	Congregational Meeting
When?	September 6, 2026 following church service
Where?	In the sanctuary
Why?	To determine the future of the rental

Judy Arensmeyer	September 1
Jessica Lancello	September 4
Abi Lancello	September 7
Daryl Blumhagen	September 10
Ryan Lancello	September 14
Beth Ward	September 19
Aiden Mosher	September 25
Helen Turcotte	September 28

Dave & Lisa Rowell September 9