

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

301 N. Cherry Street, Townsend MT

svlctownsend.org

May 2026 Newsletter



These May flowers are some of the children in our church. We are blessed to have them in our midst.

Date	Festival	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
May 3	5th Sunday of Easter	Acts 7: 55-60	Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16	I Peter 2: 2-10	John 14: 1-14
May 10	6th Sunday of Easter	Acts 1: 1-11	Psalm 66: 8-20	I Peter 3: 13-22	John 14: 15-21
May 17	7th Sunday of Easter	Acts 1: 6-14	Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35	I Peter 4: 12-14, 5: 6-11	John 17: 1-11
May 24	Day of Pentecost	Acts 2: 1-21, or Numbers 11: 24-30	Psalm 104: 24-34, 35 B	I Corinthians 12: 3b-13	John 20: 19-23
May 31	The Holy Trinity	Genesis 1: 1– 2:4a	Psalm 8	II Corinthians 13: 11-13	Matthew 28: 16-20

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



May Greeters & Ushers:

May 3	Tom Helm and Alieda Stone
May 10	Ed and Wanda Watson
May 17	Shirley Wilson & Gordon Huft
May 24	Beth Ward
May 31	Laura Ascherman & Teresa Raisland

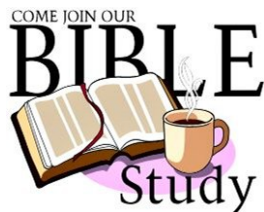


Rehearsals:

Wednesday, May 6, 12:15-1:00

Thursday, May 7, 12:00

Sunday morning May, 10th 8:30 a.m.



Scriptures Study– Thursday morning 9:00 a.m.

Christ in Our Home- Daily readings- available at the church

Bible Study, Wednesday, 1 p.m. @ the church The Twelve Apostles



Men's Breakfast —Cooks are needed

May 19th — 6:00 a.m.

Shepherd of the Valley



Loading Mission Boxes_ Saturday, May 9th The truck will arrive approximately 11:00 a.m. Please come to the basement of the church.

We have boxes of quilts, layettes, personal care kits and school kits to load on the truck. Many hands make light work; we appreciate anyone willing to help!

**ELCA
GOOD
GIFTS**



ELCA GOOD GIFTS (catalog and online) has been a means to help those in poverty build a sustainable income. In the past, Sunday School, VBS, Confirmation, and the Memorial Committee have held special fundraisers to purchase animals and/or health items. At one time we had ELCA Good Gifts as a line item in our annual budget. There is a box at the back of the church for those wishing to support this ministry.



Quilters and Mission Kit Workers meet WEDNESDAY mornings 9-11. Come work on LWR projects and enjoy devotions and fellowship.



- May 3 Church Council Meeting-following church
- May 9 Please help load the truck with boxes of quilts and kits 11:00 a.m. (Saturday)
- May 10 Happy Mother's Day,
- May 12 WELCA Meeting
- May 15 YARD SALE— Set up —see sign up sheet for specifics
- May 16 WELCA YARD SALE 8:00 a.m. –2:00 p.m.
- May 19 Men's Prayer Breakfast– 6:30 a.m.—Lutheran Church
- June 9-11 Vacation Bible School 4:00 –6:00 p.m.



Sharon Borer 5/14

Virgil Binkley 5/15

Dylan Lancello 5/25

Gretchen Carells 5/27

Lee Lewis 5/31

Daryl & Marilyn Bloomhagen 5/2

Steve & Beth Ward 5/19

Ed & Wanda Watson 5/27



☀️ Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church Presents: ☀️

Tropical Trek VBS 2026

An Island Adventure with Jesus!

Get ready for an unforgettable 3 days of fun, faith, and friendship at **Tropical Trek VBS**! Kids will explore God's love through exciting Bible stories, upbeat music, creative crafts, games, and tasty snacks—all with a tropical twist!

 **Dates:** June 9th-11th

 **Time:** 4-6 P.M.

 **Location:** Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry St, Townsend, MT 59644

Please scan the QR code for registration:

Registration is due by May 26th



Women of the ELCA 



Good, clean, saleable items are needed for the church yard sale.

Please bring your items to the church
Thursday or Friday morning
May 14th and 15th (9-11)

Please sign up for a shift to help.

May 16th Indoor Yard Sale

8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

301 N. Cherry Street

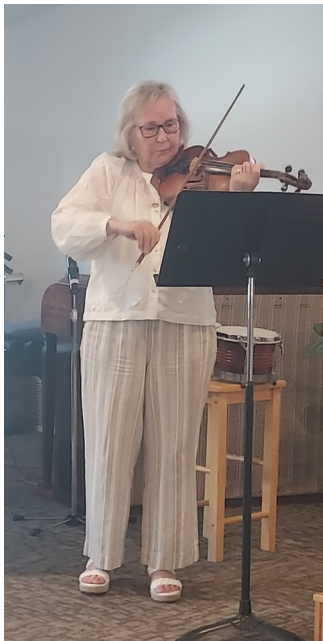
Prices are Donations

(Come find something you can't live without!)



Marilyn, Diane, Darlene and Margie

These four ladies recently attended a Women's retreat at Flathead Bible Camp. They participated in sessions with Lois Ohmsted, featured speaker and author. They attended several breakout sessions with topics: "The Gift of Tension" "What Keeps You Awake at Night?" "When Cancer Calls— Ways to help yourself and others" and "Journey with Jesus— a Devotional Bracelet Project." There were worship services, service projects, delicious meals, and a silent auction. The SVLC contributions to our garden wagon & flower pot raised \$200 for future retreats. Thanks for all the generous donations.



We were honored to have guest violinist, Linda Kuntz of Missoula for her special music: "The Old Rugged Cross"

Linda has played for 40+ years in the symphony and has taught numerous students over the years. What a lovely addition to our worship!

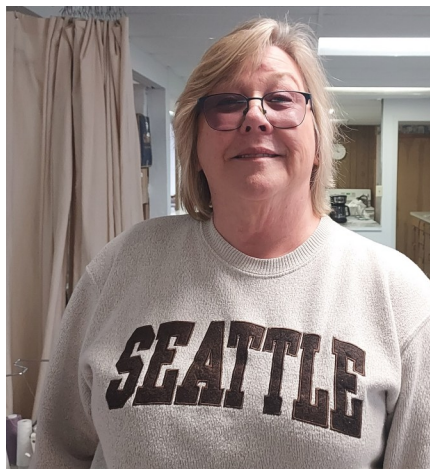


Thank you to everyone who participated in the Lenten Services and Soup Suppers. We averaged 20+ people each week. Everyone enjoyed hearing the speakers and enjoying the fellowship of worship and a meal.

Marge Kroeger spoke to the Wednesday Quilt group about the Quilts of Valor, sponsored by the Quilts of Valor Foundation, dedicated to covering veterans and service members touched by war. Dee helps Marge display one of her quilts. Marge has a goal to share 10 quilts in this area. What an inspiration she is!



Thank you Deb Arnold & Margie Urich for Writing Thrivent Grants. Thank you Susan Ramsey for shopping for kit supplies with your Thrivent Choice Dollars.



So many people provided supplies for our kits and quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Some sew, shop, knit, or write grants. We are excited to send off our boxes to aid those who really need our help! Thank you everyone!



The Lenten journey brought us to Palm Sunday in preparation for Holy Week. Our processional was a an opportunity to give honor and praise to our Savior:



Christ Made All Things New!
Alleluia!



April 12, 2026 Meeting of the SVLC Council

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

Council members absent: None

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:54 am by President Rick Arnold. Rick led the council in prayer.

Church member comments: There was no correspondence from a member or a member present at the meeting.

Margie Urich made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 8, 2026 regular-meeting. The motion was seconded by Diane Johnson and passed.

Treasurer's report: Lisa Rowell reported:

Average attendance for the month was 52

Offering for March was \$10,585 and other income was \$808

Monthly expenses were \$10,699, which included a \$5911 yearly insurance payment

Rental income was \$2625 with expenses of \$1735, including a \$1386 insurance payment

The end of March checking balance was \$6667

The money market balance was \$41,583 with \$5771 of that encumbered

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

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

SAM Report: Steve Ward said that he will be gone during the last half of April and into May. He will miss the services from April 19 – May 10. He plans to use his vacation Sundays during his absence.

Call Committee Report: There have not been any new opportunities to seek a pastor. New Life was not able to contract with Adam Burnhart as a part time, interim, pastor.

Committee Reports: Dave Rowell related that the flooring has been placed in the living room and hallway of the parsonage. The renter has painted the hallway and replaced the furnace registers in both rooms. Margie Urich made and Clint Watson seconded a motion to reduce the parsonage renters' May rent by \$180 to compensate them for the furnace registers and paint. The motion passed.

Painting of the parsonage exterior is planned to begin at the end of April, weather permitting.

Dave reported that the clothes washer is broken and he recommended replacement because of the nature of the repair needed and the age of the washer. Dave presented five wash machine options, recommending the middle-of-the-line Whirlpool washer. Steve Ward made a motion to purchase and install the recommended washer and a matching dryer. Diane Johnson seconded the motion and it passed. Dave Rowell was tasked with securing the laundry pair.

President Arnold asked that the smoke/carbon monoxide detectors be installed in the rentals and the lease rewrite be completed by April 27.

Concrete work at the parsonage was discussed. Further discussion was postponed until the June council meeting.

Jim Beck stated that the sump pump stand had been improved, and the sump pump had been reinstalled and is operational.

Dave Rowell has completed the staining of rails and spindles on the deck at the east sanctuary entrance. He mentioned that replacing the decking with Trex decking would cost about \$2000.

Aiden Mosher suggested that the stair cover for the basement stairs could be an Eagle Scout project for him. Rick Arnold asked Aiden to present a more detailed plan at the June council meeting.

Continuing Business:

Steve Ward reviewed the recently renewed insurance policy. He made the following suggestions:

Consider comparing other insurance providers

The personal property coverage seems low

Both rental replacement coverages seem low

The additional coverages suggested would likely raise the premium to at least \$8000 per year

A more detailed insurance review was postponed until the July council meeting.

A decision on the constitutional review was postponed until the July council meeting; after Synod Assembly.

Margie Urich made and Clint Watson seconded a motion to spend up to \$500 to secure a microphone for the children's message presenter and new mixer board, if necessary.

Steve Ward reported that he had discussed the second nativity proposal with Sharon Borer and she did not have any concerns.

Julie Mikula told the council that Vacation Bible School has been scheduled for June 9-11, with sessions in the late afternoon/early evening. A meal is planned for the last evening of the program.

Ross Johnson has agreed to review the church's financial records. Lisa Rowell will schedule a date for the review.

Any additional handicapped parking will be in the purview of Tom Helm as his schedule allows.

New Business:

Aiden Mosher suggested that our Sunday service broadcast be streamed on Tic Toc as well as Facebook. He felt that more people under age 30 might be reached with that medium. Aiden was asked to coordinate with Daryl Blumhagen and report further details at the May council meeting.

Council Member Concerns: There were no council member concerns expressed.

There being no further business, Steve Ward made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dave Rowell and passed at 12:04 pm. The meeting attendees prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Jim Beck, Secretary

Rick Arnold, President

Attendance & Offering for April, 2026

Date	Attendance	Offering
April 5	80 people	\$2433
April 12	52 people	\$3566
April 19	54 people	\$1918
April 26	43 people	\$710



Much thanks for the Spring Yard Work: Alieda raked and weeded the lawn and cleaned the flower bed; Teresa mows and trims our yard weekly, and Diane has planted a new array of flowers.



Much thanks to Lisa & Dave Rowell! What a great team! They have done everything from sanding and refinishing, to shopping for a washer and a dryer, and aiding repairs at the parsonage. We can't even count all your projects, but we are very appreciative of your time and hard work!



Thanks Jim for building a new sump pump table and installing the pump. We like the rain, but not in our basement.