



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church Newsletter

July 2025

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.



**The call person for the month
of July is**

Bonnie Berglind

406 266-3043

406-980-0067

Greeters and Ushers for July

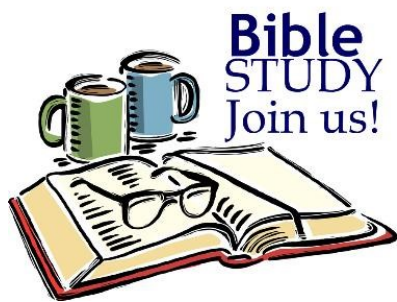
July 6	Rick and Deb Arnold
July 13	Erick and Jackie Sorenson
July 20	Jim and Darlene Beck
July 27	Chuck Smith and Bonnie Berglind



Sunday & Festival	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
July 6 4th Sunday of Pentecost	Isaiah 66: 10-14	Psalm 66: 1-9	Galatians 5: 1, 13-25	Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20
July 13 5th Sunday of Pentecost	Deuteronomy 30: 9-14	Psalm 25: 1-10	Colossians 1: 1-14	Luke 10: 25-37
July 20 6th Sunday of Pentecost	Genesis 18: 1-10	Psalm 15	Colossians 1: 15-28	Luke 10: 38-42
July 27 7th Sunday of Pentecost	Genesis 18: 20-32	Psalm 138	Colossians 2: 6-15, 16-19	Luke 11: 1-13



- July 3 NO Thursday Bible Study (will resume July 10th)**
- July 4 Happy Independence Day!**
- July 8 WELCA meeting 4:00 p.m. at the church**
- July 13 Church Council Meeting– following church services**
- July 21 Adult Confirmation Classes begin at 9:00 a.m.**



Breakfast & Blessings Bible Study meets 9 a.m. Thursday mornings at the church. We discuss the lessons for the coming week from the devotional, *Christ in Our Home*, which is available at the church. **Everyone is welcome! Please join us! Special thanks to Gretchen Carrels who provides breakfast for the group.**

The afternoon Bible Study is on break for the summer but will resume on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. in September.

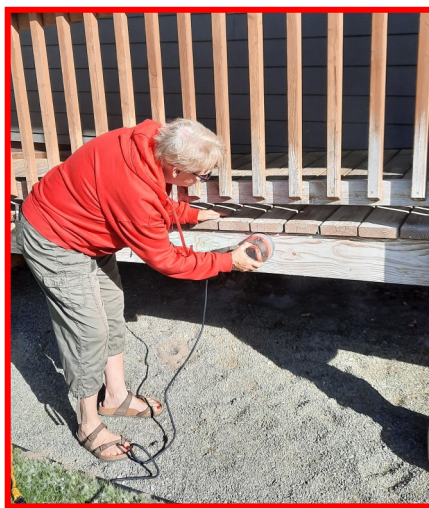


Steve Ward will be leading Adult Confirmation classes beginning July 21st. Classes will run for six weeks and begin at 9:00 a.m. ELCA confirmation is designed to help adults deepen their understanding of the Lutheran faith and potentially become a member of the church. Additionally, Steve has encouraged attendance to confirmed adults who might like a refresher class.

Please add your name to the sign-up sheet at the back of the church if you are planning to attend.

★
thanks

A huge thank you goes out to Lisa and Dave Rowell who refinished all of the spindles and modernized the hand-rails of the ramps and steps at the church. They spent many hours removing, refinishing and restoring each piece! What a beautiful improvement this makes to our church!



In addition to our refurbished entrances, we want to express appreciation to Teresa Raisland for keeping the yard so lovely. It's a busy job keeping up with mowing and trimming!

Thanks to Ken and Margie Urich for cleaning out the stairwell to the basement entry. The area was a mess of several inches of hardened pollen and cotton that had collected.

Thank you Daryl and Marilyn Blumhagen for representing our church at the Synod Assembly in Great Falls. Your leadership in our church and your commitment has been amazing over the last two decades.



Thank you to the quilters who provided quilts for Flathead Bible Camp this year. The quilts are used on the campers' beds to offer warmth and a homey feel. Special thanks to Teresa Raisland who transports these to camp each year!

Psalms 127:3 Children are a blessing and a gift from the LORD

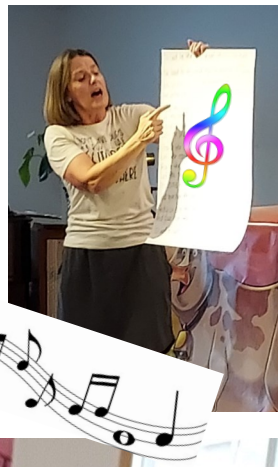


Twenty seven children participated in VBS! The children enjoyed worship, music, Bible stories, art, games, and snacks!

Yee Haw! It was fun!

Thanks to everyone who helped share Jesus' **LOVE!**





Check out our July birthdays. I don't have any names for July anniversaries. If you would like to add a name to the birthday/ anniversary list, place it on the sign up sheet at the back of the church.



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

It's time for the Swim & Float again!

As an outreach, the church will provide a afternoon of free swimming and free root beer floats under the pavilion in the park. Swimming is scheduled for:

Sunday, August 3rd

beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Watch for posters and a sign-up sheet for workers to help with the floats!



**Happy 40th Wedding Anniversary
to Ross & Diane Johnson**



It was fun to have
Ross & Diane celebrate
their anniversary with us
after church on June 8th.

Lovely decorations, a cake,
and a caring church family
make for a wonderful
celebration!



June 8, 2025 Meeting of the SVLC Council

Council members present: Clint Watson, Dave Rowell, Jim Beck, and Rick Arnold

Council members absent: Aiden Mosher, Julie Mikula, James Lucas, and Virgil Binkley

Others attending the meeting: Treasurer Mike Colbert, Daryl Blumhagen, and Steve Ward, SAM

The meeting was called to order at 10:56 am by President Rick Arnold. Rick led the council in prayer.

Church member comments:

Daryl Blumhagen reported that the ownership question of an inactive church in Missoula was discussed at the synod assembly. He noted the model constitution, due out in September of this year, will have new/modified language concerning the disposition of the assets of inactive congregations.

Steve Ward made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 4, 2025 regular-meeting. The motion was seconded by Dave Rowell and passed.

Treasurer's report: Mike Colbert reported:

The May offering totaled \$5444

Church expenses for the month were \$3225

May rental income was \$1650 with associated expenses of \$1654, which included \$1304 for property tax

The checking balance was \$4580

The balance of the money market account was \$47,580, of which \$3000 is incumbered

A total of \$210,000 is held in CDs with \$30,000 of that in a plumbing reserve

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

There was discussion concerning two people who are interested in assuming the treasurer's position when Mike Colbert retires. The consensus was that someone could work with Mike for a period of time and Mike would be able to retire at the end of a fiscal year. Steve Ward made a motion to offer the position of assistant treasurer to Lisa Rowell. Jim Beck seconded the motion and it passed.

SAM Report: Steve Ward plans to initiate the adult confirmation class on Monday, July 21 at 9:00 am. The class will meet weekly for six weeks.

Committee Reports:

Call Committee: The call committee, after visiting with some members of the New Life call committee, is considering a lunch involving both committees. When Pastor Brenda conducted our service on May 18, Rick Arnold and Margie Ulrich discussed the potential for New Life and SVLC considering a Helena man, currently in seminary, for a call. The call committee will follow up with Pastor Brenda, or her successor, in early 2026 to remind her of our interest.

The standing committees reported:

The lawn sprinklers were activated on May 5 and the lawn was fertilized the same day. It was noted that the coverage angle for some sprinklers should be adjusted to minimize wetting of the building and structures.

The sump pump was started on May 10, when water was within 2-inches of the basement floor.

The on-line giving portion of the web site is now functional. Treasurer Colbert asked if the members could be made aware that company which handles the on-line giving transactions charges a 3% fee on those donations.

The monitoring software has been installed on the associated computer. The HDMI receiver and receiver mount for a second monitor is on hand.

Continuing Business:

Council Position No. 9, currently held by James Lucas, is being vacated. Marcia Bieber, Diane Johnson, and Daryl Blumhagen expressed interest in the position. The council elected Diane Johnson to the vacant position.

Discussion of the possible expansion of the handicap parking area was postponed until the July regular meeting.

The Constitution Committee met twice in May. With the release of the new model constitution (see Member Comments) a report from the committee will be scheduled for the November regular meeting.

Clint Watson reported that the Rental Committee had met with the renter of 307 N Cherry. A rental agreement has been signed which included a rent increase to \$840 per month, beginning in July. He also noted several repairs of the rental, for which the committee has obtained cost estimates. He was asked to contact the renter at the parsonage (208 N Cherry) to obtain a new rental agreement reflecting a \$90 per month rent increase beginning in August.

Jim Beck made a motion to authorize the Rental Committee to proceed with the enumerated replacements of the kitchen light, two wall heaters, bathroom and kitchen flooring, and two screen doors in the rental (307 N Cherry). Steve Ward seconded the motion and it passed.

The Property and Maintenance Committee presented several options, with recommendations, and related costs for repair and/or upgrades for the decks, ramps, and stairs on the exterior of the church. As the East Deck-church entrance has sun and wind protection and therefore is in better condition, it was recommended that repairs/upgrades for it be postponed for 1-2 years.

Jim Beck made and Steve Ward seconded a motion to have the Property and Maintenance Committee proceed with the committee recommended repair/upgrade options for the front (south) entrance, the west deck, and the east deck-office entrance. The motion passed.

New Business:

Mike Colbert reminded the council that there was over \$40,000 in the money market account, which pays a relatively low interest rate.

Steve Ward made, and Clint Watson seconded a motion to purchase and additional \$20,000 CD from Mission Investment Fund. The motion passed.

Council Member Concerns:

Jim Beck provided information about the current pumping from the drain sump. The water level is being maintained 7-inches below the basement stairwell floor. The average withdrawal rate is 4.6 gallons per minute (gpm), but the pump can maintain a 35-gpm discharge. There was discussion concerning alternative ways to dispose of the drainage water and of allowing the maintained water level to be a few inches higher.

There being no further business, Jim Beck made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Steve Ward and passed at 12:46 pm. The meeting attendees prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Jim Beck, Secretary

Rick Arnold, President