



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

December 2024 Newsletter

Usher &
Greeter
Ministry



December call person
Marilyn Blumhagen
Phone: 406-670-5035

DECEMBER

December 1	Carol McGuire & Helen Turcotte
December 8	Tom Grabinski & Gretchen Carrels
December 15	Ken & Margie Urich
December 22	Daryl & Marilyn Blumhagen
December 24	Lori & Tizer Rains
December 29	Ross & Diane Johnson

December 1	Decorating the Church following worship Potluck following the decorating
December 5	Choir Rehearsal: 12:00 p.m.
December 7	CHURCH Bake Sale and Raffle at the Creative Closet during the Stroll 3:30 p.m.– 7:00 p.m. See sign-up sheet
December 8	Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Church Council– following services
December 15	Sunday School Program during church, KIDS COUNT RAFFLE drawing,
December 24	Christmas Eve service 7:00 p.m.

Bible Readings for December: The Season of Advent

Dec. 1	Jeremiah 33:14-16	Psalm 25:1-10 (1)	1 Thess. 3:9-13	Luke 21:25-36
Dec. 8	Malachi 3:1-4	Luke 1:68-79 (78)	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
Dec. 15	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Isaiah 12:2-6	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
Dec. 22	Micah 5:2-5a	Luke 1:46b-55	Psalm 80:1-7	Luke 1:39-45
Dec. 24	Isaiah 62:6-12	Psalm 97 (11)	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20
Dec. 29	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	Psalm 148 (13)	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52



Lutheran Church Bake Sale

@ the Christmas Stroll

Saturday, December 7th

Please bring your items to the
Creative Closet by 3:30.

We welcome your special gifts.

**Baked goods, jams and jellies, Christmas
gifts and treats, crafts, etc...**

WELCA Raffle to benefit **KIDS COUNT**

Kids Count provides necessities for children who need school supplies, warm clothing or other essentials. All proceeds from this raffle go directly to the Kids Count program.

WELCA is providing a wreath with \$250 worth of gift cards for the raffle. Second prize is a quilted throw.

- ◆ Tickets are \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00.
- ◆ Tickets are now available Sunday at church & the Creative Closet during the Stroll (Dec. 7, 4-7:00 p.m.)
- ◆ The drawing will be held December 15, following church.



You have to get up pretty early in the morning to shop with these ladies. Susan, Lisa, and Diane shopped for WELCA's Christmas gifts for the Sunday School children. It's a gift of patience, competence, and love to shop for 19 Kiddos before 9 a.m. They also proudly displayed their complimentary Murdoch's bags for the people at God's Love.

Worship, Education & Growth Opportunities for Everyone!



New Voices are Welcome!!

Choir will rehearse Thursday, December 5th at 12:00 noon.
We will also meet at 8:30 a.m. on December 8th to rehearse for worship Sunday worship. Thank you to Linda Mosness for her musical leadership.



Come Hear the **"Good News"**

Presented by the Sunday School children

9:30 a.m. Sunday, December 15th

Students will practice the program on
Sunday, December 1st & 8th during the
children's sermon & Sunday School
lesson time.



The Advent Wreath

The wreath and candles are symbolic of the Christmas season. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, and the everlasting life we find in Christ. The wreath is made of evergreens and signifies continuous life.

The four candles on the Advent wreath represent the light of Christ entering the world. One candle is lit each Sunday, marking the progression of the four weeks of Advent. Each candle represents a theme for each week of Advent — **hope, peace, joy, and love.**



Candlelight Services

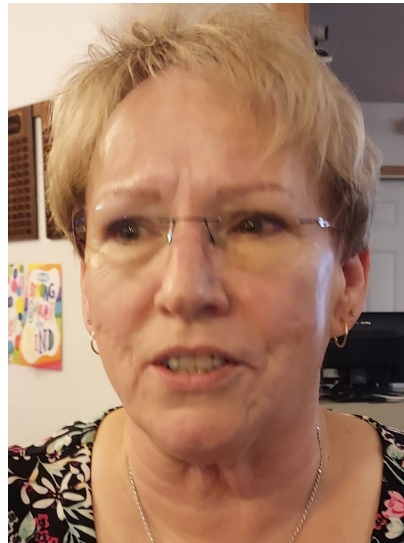
December 24th

7:00 p.m.

In Fellowship with Christ we celebrate:



Special Music from our Sunday School Children



Thank you Lisa and Dave Rowell for writing Thrivent grants to make Christmas brighter for the seniors and children in our communities.



The quilters displayed their quilts for Lutheran World Relief
at the Thankoffering Service.



We had three deliveries to God's Love. You shared personal care kits, clothing, medical equipment and food. Thank you!



Our church donated a total of \$480 for the Campus Ministry at both Universities. Grizzly Fans donated \$190 and Bobcat Fans donated \$290.



Dee Hoppe & Lori Rains do an amazing job quilting.



The mission kits are a gift of love and hope worldwide for all those in need.

November 10, 2024 Meeting of the SVLC Council

Council members present: Margie Urich, Ross Johnson, Marilyn Blumhagen, Bonnie Berglind, Jim Beck, and Rick Arnold

Council member absent: Clint Watson

Others attending the meeting: Treasurer Mike Colbert, Alieda Stone, and Darlene Beck

The meeting was called to order at 10:59 am by President Margie Urich. Margie led the council in prayer.

Church member comments:

Alieda Stone mentioned that the Sunday School Christmas program will take place during the church service on December 15. She asked if the altar could be moved back to make more room on the stage. She also would like to move the candles off of the altar so they will not accidentally be tipped during the program. The council assured her that the suggested accommodations will be made.

Darlene Beck was present to participate in the discussion concerning a church web site (see New Business)

Marilyn Blumhagen made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 13, 2024 regular-meeting. The motion was seconded by Ross Johnson and passed.

Treasurer's report: Mike Colbert reported:

The October offering was \$6380 or \$1595 per service . Church expenses for the month were \$4015.

October's rental income was \$1660 with expenses of \$256. The end of the month checking balance was \$4024.

There was \$\$31,500 in the money market account, of which \$3500 is encumbered. The CD balance is \$200,000, \$30,000 of which is a plumbing reserve

Treasurer Colbert mentioned that the money market balance was such that an additional \$10,000 or so could be used to secure another CD.

Ross Johnson made and Marilyn Blumhagen seconded a motion to transfer \$10,000 from the money market account to an MIF CD. The motion passed. Ross Johnson moved to accept the treasurer's report, Rick Arnold seconded the motion, and it passed.

Mike Colbert presented a preliminary 2025 budget totaling \$97,400. It included adjustments for areas where costs will be increasing, such as city services, taxes, and utilities. He also included SVLC's half of a beginning pastor's salary. The council will review the budget and discuss it at the December council meeting.

SAM's Report: Steve Ward was unable to attend the meeting. See discussion relating to the SAM in Old Business.

Committee Reports:

Call Committee: Jim Beck referred to a communication from Pastor Brenda Frelsi that he read during the service in the presence of all the attending council members. Generally, Pastor Brenda said that she felt that New Life and SVLC were doing well in the absence of a called pastor. She continues to look for a pastor to match our needs, but there are not many pastors available.

The committees reported a couple of church winterizing projects and had an update of the current WELCA activities.

Continuing Business:

Jim Beck reported, on behalf of Steve Ward, that the, 33 volume, New Testament commentaries he was suggesting cost \$530. He hopes to find a used set of commentaries for a lower price.

Ross Johnson reported that the monitor is connected to the computer. Colter McCarty from the Synod office will be at SVLC on Tuesday, November 12 to make suggestions concerning the use and operation of the monitor.

Last month Steve Ward asked for a discussion of a raise in his compensation to cover additional duties. It was decided that the current contract with Steve would be made available to the council prior to the December meeting and the compensation increase would be addressed then.

New Business:

A website for the church was discussed. Darlene Beck said that most younger people seek a web site to learn about the church. She felt that the newsletter could reside on the web site and that she could make it timelier by updating the newsletter as required.

Ross Johnson made and Marilyn Blumhagen seconded a motion to set up a web site for the church, the motion passed. President Urich appointed a committee of Lisa James, Darlene Beck and herself to explore the issues and options of a church web site.

Linda Mosness has asked if she could be compensated for directing the choir. After some discussion, the council concluded that paying for a traditionally volunteer position could cause hard feelings with people doing other volunteer tasks or result in other compensation requests from volunteer positions or tasks.

Jim Beck asked if the church would be interested in obtaining a few large print hymnals. After conversation among the council, it was decided that Jim would order one large print hymnal for review by the council and potential users.

Ross Johnson made a motion to purchase study books for the afternoon Bible study group. Bonnie Berglind seconded the motion and it passed.

Council Member Concerns:

It was asked how the pastor rotation was scheduled. Margie Urich said that normally she does the scheduling in consultation with Steve Ward. During October and November, Steve and Gretchen Carrels had done some rescheduling to meet their plans.

Steve Ward asked Jim to remind the council that up to five confirmation books and materials will be needed once the regular confirmation class begins. The beginning date for that class is still being decided.

There being no further business, Jim Beck made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Marilyn Blumhagen and passed at 12:36 pm. The meeting attendees prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Jim Beck, Secretary Margie Urich, President



Virgil and Judith Binkley

December 5th

Ron and Linda Mosness

December 30th



Sharon Ragen	December 1
Dee Hoppe	December 5
Sheri Brastrup	December 9
Carla Hilton	December 11
Linda Mosness	December 12
Lorri Bennett	December 14
Amanda Stiles	December 18
Steve Ward	December 19
Darlene Beck	December 19
Saint Stiles	December 21
Lori Rains	December 21
Hannah Funkhauser	December 22
Pam Watson	December 22
Carol McGuire	December 25