

Happy New Year!

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

January 2025 Newsletter



Date	Festival	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
January 5	2nd Sunday of Christmas	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalm 147: 12-20	Ephesians 1: 3-14	John 1: 1-9, 10-18
January 12	Baptism of our Lord	Isaiah 43:1-7	Psalm 29	Acts 8: 14-17	Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22
January 19	Second Sunday after Epiphany	Isaiah 62:1-5	Psalm 36: 5-10	I Corinthians 12: 1-11	John 2: 1-11
January 26	Third Sunday after Epiphany	Nehemiah 8: 1-10	Psalm 19	I Corinthians 12: 12-31	Luke 4: 14-21



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

Greeters and Readers for January:

January 5 Tom Helm and Alieda Stone
January 12 Beth Ward
January 19 Gretchen Carrels
January 26 Teresa Raisland and Laura Ascherman

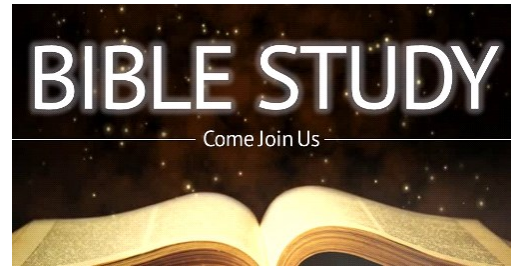
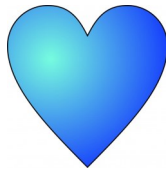
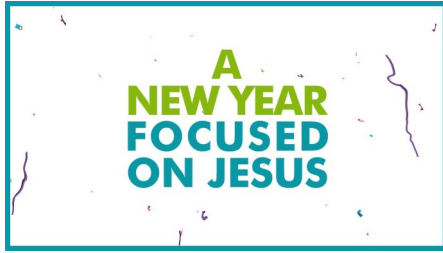


January 12 Church Council Meeting– following church
January 14 WELCA meeting 4:00 p.m.
January 19 Confirmation Sunday
January 21 Men's Prayer Breakfast– 6:30 a.m. (place TBA)
January 26 Annual Meeting with a Potluck to follow

Annual Meeting January 26th



Christian Education & Growth Opportunities for Everyone!



Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study: 1:00 p.m. at the Church
(resuming January 8th)

Resource: Hebrews- books are available

Thursday Bible Study: 9:00 a.m. At The Mint (resuming January 9th)

Resource: Christ in Our Home

Sunday School Grades K–5 will meet
during church on the following Sundays:

January 5th

January 12th

January 26th

There is a sign-up sheet at the church if you can help
teach Sunday School.



Thanks to everyone who helped
with the quilt/wreath raffle and the
bake sale. Whether you bought
tickets or baked goodies, you are
a winner!

The proceeds from the raffle go to
support Kids Count in our local
schools.

This year's winner of the quilt is
Susan Ramsey and the winner of
the wreath is Bonnie Berglund.

In Christian Fellowship We Celebrate our Youth



The news reporters are searching for a story about the Messiah!



The angels told the Shepherds The Good News.



Thank you to the Sunday School and their teachers for providing the congregation with the Good News of the season.



The youth enjoyed refreshments and gifts from WELCA following the program.



THRIVENT FINANCIAL® *Action Teams*

Thrivent grants provide resources, up to \$250 in seed money, to support church, non-profit organizations, or fundraising causes. A Thrivent member may gather a team of friends, family, or neighbors to host a fundraiser, educational event, or service activity and apply for up to 2 Thrivent grants per year. Thanks to all of the individuals who wrote grants to provide for church and community projects.

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

Jami & Kari Williams	January 8
Joe & Kim Kondelik	January 13



Shepherd of the Valley will soon have a web page for everyone to see what's happening and provide newcomers with information about our church.

Lisa James presented the council with the information and cost for setting up a web page. With their approval, she has been working on the design. Thank you Lisa for volunteering your time and expertise for our church. Watch for more information about the web page.

Thank you Linda Mosness for directing the choir and providing special music for our congregation. The choir is always welcoming new voices. There's not a better time to join the choir than in January 2025.



December 8, 2024 Meeting of the SVLC Council

Council members present: Clint Watson, Margie Urich, Marilyn Blumhagen, Bonnie Berglind, and Jim Beck

Council members absent: Ross Johnson and Rick Arnold

Others attending the meeting: Treasurer Mike Colbert, SAM Steve Ward, Aiden Mosher, Lisa James, and Darlene Beck

The meeting was called to order at 10:47 am by President Margie Urich. Margie led the council in prayer.

Church member comments:

Aiden Mosher informed the council that he would like to offer the lyrics of the hymns on the sanctuary monitor. Currently he has to type in the lyrics or scan them. Both options are time consuming. He asked if there were other options to obtain the hymns in an electronic format. The council discussed upgrading the church's Sundays and Seasons subscription to include hymns or obtain a software package designed for church projection needs. The additions would cost from \$80 to \$200+ per year. The council will further consider the options.

Marilyn Blumhagen made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 10, 2024 regular-meeting. The motion was seconded by Steve Ward and passed.

Treasurer's report: Mike Colbert reported:

The November offering was \$5781, an average of \$1445 per service

Church expenses for the month were \$4675

The rental income was \$1100 with expenses of \$1607; taxes were \$1304 of those expenses

The end of the month checking balance was \$2840

There was \$24,500 in the money market account, with \$3500 of that encumbered

The MIF CD balance was \$210,000, with \$30,000 of that a plumbing reserve

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

Mike Colbert presented 2025 budgets for the church and rentals. Most budget items followed closely with the 2024 budget, except for insurance, and supply pastor and pastoral wage related categories. The insurance was estimated to increase by 30% and that expense was split between the church and rentals, based on their insurance assessed values. It was decided to set the supply pastor category at the known amount from our SAM covenant and fill in pastor stipends. The balance of \$43,900 (the amount determined during Anthony Windau's call) will be in the pastoral wage related categories.

Jim Beck moved to accept the budget for presentation to the congregation. Marilyn Blumhagen seconded the motion and it passed.

Treasurer Colbert presented a breakdown of projected income and expenses for the rentals. It indicated that the net income, especially for the rental (307 N Cherry St.), is small. That brought forth the recurring question if the rentals are intended as a money earning investment or if they are an outreach of our church. Secretary Beck was asked to prepare a congregational survey concerning the rentals for review at the next council meeting.

SAM Report:

Steve Ward asked if 10 confirmation books could be purchased at \$16 each for upcoming confirmation classes. He mentioned that up to six students may take the class next year and he would be willing to offer 4-6 sessions of adult confirmation/confirmation refresher at some point.

Clint Watson made, and Marilyn Blumhagen seconded, a motion to authorize Steve to purchase the 10 confirmation books. The motion passed. The council asked Jim Beck to prepare a congregational survey to assess the interest in an adult confirmation class.

Committee Reports:

WELCA reported that they were preparing gifts for the Sunday School students to be presented at the December 15 service

Cork strips have been placed in the basement for use by the Sunday School

Since disconnecting the sump pump five weeks ago, the groundwater level has remained 6-8 inches below the basement floor level

Three flow monitoring/shutoff valves were researched. Some units send an alarm of a water system leak and others shut off the water supply and send an alert. The cost of the units reviewed ranged from \$400 to \$900, with installation estimated to be at least \$500. At this time, we have not received information about the insurance discount associated with the monitoring/shutoff valve installation.

Continuing Business:

Steve Ward said that he was no longer considering New Testament commentaries. While they would be a benefit to him, he was not sure they would be beneficial enough to a called minister to justify their cost.

Lisa James reported the potential for a website for the church. She suggested that both “.com” and “.org” domains be purchased at \$87 and \$92 per 5 years, respectively. Additionally, the website costs \$120 per year.

Steve Ward made, and Clint Watson seconded, a motion to authorize \$299.81 for the domain names and to secure a website. The motion passed.

Steve Ward explained that the time commitment for the Synod Authorized Minister (SAM) was greater than he anticipated. He asked if his covenant could be renegotiated for an \$1800 per month compensation. There was a discussion of the Sundays off from the current covenant (for the 5 months of the current covenant, 6 Sundays off will have accumulated, through December 31, 2024, and 7 will have been used).

Marilyn Blumhagen moved to increase the SAM compensation to \$1800 per month. Bonnie Berglind seconded the motion and it passed. It was decided to allow 13 Sundays off in the 2025 covenant, with a parenthetical explanation why the number had been reduced for this specific covenant.

New Business:

Jim Beck explained that the furnace for the old basement had failed to operate during several quilting days. In the past week he was in the basement and the furnace was operating. Subsequently, he adjusted the thermostat temperature setting and the furnace operated normally. He will continue to check the furnace and report any problems.

President Urich set Sunday, January 26, 2025, after the service, as the date and time of the annual meeting. A draft annual meeting report was circulated for the council's comment.

Council Member Concerns:

Jim offered to reprint the sign for the exterior office door. Steve Ward agreed to have his telephone number displayed on the sign.

In the past the church has had a Good Gifts project organized by the Sunday School or Tom Arensmeyer. By general consent it was decided that members would be offered an opportunity to contribute for Good Gifts as a tribute to Tom, with unquantified contributions from the Memorial Committee and WELCA.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Margie Urich with general consent at 12:39 pm. The meeting attendees prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Jim Beck, Secretary Margie Urich, President