



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

December 2025 Newsletter

Steve Ward, SAM

svlctownsend.org

**Usher &
Greeter
Ministry**

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

December 7	John & Lori Rains
December 14	Ross & Diane Johnson
December 21	Gretchen Carrels
December 24	Carol McGuire
December 28	Daryl & Marilyn Blumhagen



November 30	1st Sunday of Advent
December 4	Choir Rehearsal, 12:00 noon
December 6	CHURCH Bake Sale and Raffle at the Creative Closet during the Stroll 3:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. See sign-up sheet to help.
December 7	Potluck & Decorating the Church following worship
December 9	WELCA meeting 4:00 p.m. (wrapping gifts for youth)
December 14	Sunday School Program during church, Potluck following KIDS COUNT RAFFLE drawing, December 24 Church Council Meeting following the festivities
December 16	Men's Prayer Breakfast SVLC, 6:30; 6:00 a.m. to cook
December 21	Caroling -3 nursing homes (WELCA will provide gifts & cards)
December 24	Candlelight Christmas Eve service 7:00 p.m.

Bible Readings for December: The Season of Advent

Dec. 7	Isaiah 2: 1-5	Psalm 122	Romans 13: 11-14	Matthew 3: 1-12
Dec. 14	Isaiah 35: 1-10	Psalm 146: 5-10	James 5: 7-10	Matthew 11: 2-11
Dec. 21	Isaiah 7: 10-16	Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19	Romans 1: 1-7	Matthew 1: 18-25
Dec. 24	Isaiah 9: 2-7	Psalm 96	Titus 2: 11-14	Luke 2: 1-14
Dec. 25	Isaiah 62:6-12	Psalm 97	Titus 3: 4-7	Luke 2: 1-20
Dec. 28	Isaiah 63: 7-9	Psalm 148	Hebrews 2: 10-18	Matthew 2: 13-23



Lutheran Church Bake Sale

@ the Christmas Stroll

Saturday, December 6th

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. Additional prizes include a quilt and wall hanging

- ◆ Tickets are \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00.
- ◆ Tickets are now available Sunday at church & the Creative Closet during the Stroll (Dec. 6, 4-7:00 p.m.)
- ◆ The drawing will be held December 14, following church.



The WELCA ladies did some problem solving concerning traffic flow during fellowship. Deb's Thrivent grant provided a coffee cart to provide some serving options. Several ladies helped with the assembly; however, we did not refuse assistance from Dave and Jim!

Worship, Education & Growth Opportunities for Everyone!



Choir Practice: December 4th 12:00 noon!



Decorating & Potluck

December 7th following church

It's wonderful to come to a beautifully decorated church and celebrate Christ; however decorating takes some effort.

Many hands make light work.



Bible Study Opportunities:

Wednesdays 1:00 p.m.

Thursdays 9:00 a.m.



Children's Program:

The Christmas Story

Presented: December 14,

9:30 a.m.

Children's Party and Potluck to follow



Candlelight Services

December 24th

In Fellowship with Christ we celebrate: Share Love 



The quilting ladies wrap the world in warmth and love by shipping their lovely quilts. Our congregation assembles school kits, fabric kits, personal care kits, and baby kits for those in need. Thank you to the congregation for providing funds to help with transportation of the Lutheran World Relief gifts.



The purchase of a grand piano was made possible and expediated because of a generous memorial given to honor John and Marlene Freund, (Beth's parents) and Bill Ward, (Steve's dad). A very special thanks to Beth & Steve for honoring their parents with this musical treasure.



Our church donated a total of 492.00 to the university church ministry.

The Bobcat fans donated 343.00 and the Grizzly Fans donated 149.00.

The offering will be divided evenly between the universities.

Both of the university communities donated an unprecedented amount of food and funds to their Food Pantries this year:

Grizzlies: 209,847 pounds of food and \$881.907

Bobcats: 335,189 pounds of food and \$683,424

November 9, 2025 Meeting of the SVLC Council

Council members present: Rick Arnold, Julie Mikula, Dave Rowell, Clint Watson, Aiden Mosher, Virgil Binkley and Diane Johnson.

Council members absent: Jim Beck.

Others attending the meeting: Steve Ward SAM, Treasurer Mike Colbert and Assistant Treasurer Lisa Rowell.

The meeting was called to order at 11:01 AM by President Rick Arnold. Rick led the council in prayer.

Church member comments: There were no comments.

Treasurer's report: Mike Colbert reported the following:

The October giving was \$7474 and other income was \$339

Monthly church expenses were \$3356

Rental income for the month was \$1000 from the parsonage. Noted that we received \$600 for the rental in November with another \$240 still owing. Monthly expenses were \$349.86

End of month checking balance was \$4110.31 with the Money Market balance at \$42,602.58 with \$3000 of that encumbered

The CD balance was \$230,000 with \$30,000 of that in a plumbing reserve

It was noted that \$6400 of the balance in the miscellaneous column will be moved to the memorial column

Steve Ward moved to approve the treasurers report. Dave Rowell provided the second and the motion carried.

Mike Colbert asked if the council would like to purchase another \$20,000 CD with some of the money market funds. Dave Rowell moved to approve the purchase of a \$20,000 CD. The motion was seconded by Steve Ward and carried.

Mike Colbert also reported that he had talked to the renter of the parsonage regarding fixing the leaking roof. The leak has been fixed, and it was reported that the fix cost about \$100. Dave Rowell moved to give a credit on the rent for the repair, this was seconded by Virgil Binkley and the motion carried.

SAM Report:

Steve Ward summarized his meeting with the new Bishop and noted that it went very well. He and Pastor Duvall reiterated to the Bishop the effort of New Life and Shephard of the Valley's ongoing efforts to secure a pastor. Steve noted that there is a candidate in mind that will be graduation in May and outlined the process for the candidate to get assigned to the Montana Synod should he so desire. Rick Arnold asked Steve Ward to contact the Synod to see if the Assistant Bishop will be managing pastor placement going forward so that we get our concerns to the correct people.

Steve Ward noted that he would like to have some special music for Christmas Eve and it was noted that Linda has already purchased music for an anthem for Christmas Eve. Mike noted that Linda had presented a bill for the music, and Steve moved to approve paying Linda \$100 for the purchase. Clint Watson seconded the motion, and it carried.

Steve also reported that he has been approached by some members to get the Easy Worship software installed and working on the computer so we can have the whole bulletin on the screens. Rick appointed a committee of Aiden Mosher, Beth Ward, Aubra Lewis, and Darlene Beck.

Call Committee Report:

There was no report

Construction Committee Report:

Report on procurement of a piano. Steve and Beth Ward donated the piano to the church in memory of Beth's parents and Steve's father. The old piano has been moved to the basement and the older piano in the basement is going to Sharon Ragen, and she will have it moved.

Report on tree removal and trimming. Diane Johnson presented a bill for \$2200 for the trimming of the front tree and removal of one tree in the back.

Diane Johnson reported that WELCA will not be donating a quilt for raffle next year and asked the council to be thinking about some other item for the raffle.

Continuing Business:

The council discussed the review of the rent increases, after discussion, it was decided that Clint will present a letter to each renter noting that their rent will increase another \$90 February 1st 2026. It was also noted that the rental house had been reviewed by the Department of Revenue (DOR) and the council agreed to accept the findings of the informal review.

New Business:

Steve mentioned the possibility of selling both properties and purchasing a newer home for the parsonage. Rick Arnold asked Steve Ward to contact Marcia Bieber to get a Comparative Market Analysis (CMA) on both properties. Steve Ward made a motion to prepare a survey with the CMA included regarding the proposal to sell both properties and purchase a newer property for a parsonage and present the survey to the congregation at the annual meeting. The motion was seconded by Diane Johnson and carried.

Mike Colbert reviewed the budget changes to the council and noted that it would be helpful if the maintenance committee could get some prices for the improvements of the parsonage to him before the next meeting. Discussion ensued, the council will review the changes, and approval will be made at the December meeting.

Council Member Concerns:

There were no Council member concerns.

There being no further business, Steve Ward moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:21. The motion was seconded by Virgil Binkley and carried. The meeting attendees prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Lisa Rowell, Acting Secretary

Rick Arnold, President



**Virgil and Judith Binkley
December 5th**



Special thanks goes to our Murdock shoppers who make the youth feel special. With names and sizes and the holiday spirit, they attack a list with gusto! Special thanks for Lisa & Dave's Thrivent grants which help provide gifts for the youth and the nursing home residents.



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
Pam Watson	December 22
Carol McGuire	December 25