

# WELCOME:

**We are having in-church worship service this  
Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30am.**

We will be adhering to our previous recommendations of social distancing,  
wearing a mask, no singing and sanitizing.

The six leaders will be there to record the worship service.

Please, if you don't feel comfortable to attend in person,  
you have the opportunity to watch FB Live or a recorded version later in the day.

*We ask you to, if you wish.....*

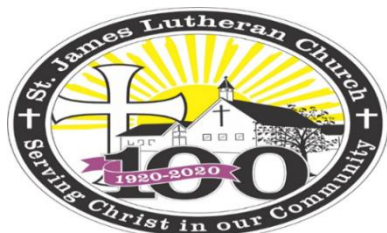
**PRINT THE ATTACHED BULLETIN..... to follow along with Sunday's  
Service. As you are worshipping from home, you are invited to set aside  
a sacred space for worship. Light a candle and set out your bread and wine.**

facebook 

**Worship Service - Streaming live or watch later!**

**[FB Search: Saint James Lutheran Church of Columbus, Montana](#)**

**We appreciate hearing from all of you joining us online.  
We would LOVE for you to share your insights or leave us a greeting.  
We are blessed to count you among those who worship  
at St. James Lutheran Church each Sunday morning.**



**St. James Lutheran Church**

205 E 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. N Columbus, MT 59019  
Leader: Pastor Tonia Fisher (406) 656-9557  
Email: [toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com](mailto:toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com)

**November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – 25th Sunday after Pentecost**

*Our Mission: "We worship together, grow in faith, share our faith  
and serve with the love of God"*

*I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Ps 122:1*

## **Welcome**

Blessings to all of you, joining us by watching our remote service or in spirit and prayer.

## ***Announcements & Opportunities for Serving***

Let us stand, as you are able, and prepare our hearts for worship

### **GATHERING**

#### ***Confession & Forgiveness***

*Holy One, we confess we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin which divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.*

#### ***Assurance of God's Love***

#### ***Gathering Hymn: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"***

- Vs 1 O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come.  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.
- Vs 2 Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.
- Vs 3 Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame,  
From everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.
- Vs 4 A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.
- Vs 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all our years away;  
They fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the op'ning day.
- Vs 6 O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come.  
Still be our guard while troubles last and our eternal home.

#### ***Prayer of the Day:***

*O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

### **WORD**

#### ***Hear the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16***

<sup>12</sup>Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her. <sup>13</sup>She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her. <sup>14</sup>One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for she will be found sitting at the gate. <sup>15</sup>To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care, <sup>16</sup>because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought.

Word of Wisdom, Word of God. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

#### ***Hear the Reading of Psalm 70***

<sup>1</sup>Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me. <sup>2</sup>Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded; let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced. <sup>3</sup>Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back because of their shame. <sup>4</sup>Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the LORD!" <sup>5</sup>But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God. You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

*Please stand, as you are able, for the Gospel.*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Hear the reading of the Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13**

Jesus said to the disciples: <sup>1</sup>“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup>But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon: “Ready or Not”**

**Hymn for Reflection: “In the Singing”**

Vs 1 In the singing, in the silence, in the hands expectant, open,  
In the blessing, in the breaking, in your presence at this table,

**Refrain:** Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace;  
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.

Vs 2 In the question, in the answer, in the moment of acceptance,  
In the heart’s cry, in the healing, in the circle of your people,

**Refrain:** Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace;  
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.

**Apostle’s Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven. He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

**Prayers of the People:**

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

**Passing of the Peace**

## MEAL

...we thank you for your faithfulness to St. James in sharing your tithes and offerings and allowing us to do God's work with our hands.

### **Offering Prayer**

God of all goodness, **generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them so, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. Amen.**

### **Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...we join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

### **Words of Institution**

Mystery of our Faith. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Invitation to Communion**

*Communion will look a little different during our season of Covid-19.  
It will still be the Lord's supper.*

*As you worship from home, you are invited to eat your bread and drink your wine when invited to the table.*

We **WILL** now partake the body of Christ **with Pastor.**

We **WILL** now partake the blood of Christ **with Pastor.**

**Prayer after Communion.....** and we say: **Amen**

## SENDING

**Blessing.....** and we say: **Amen.**

### **Sending Hymn: "Blessed Assurance"**

**Vs. 1:** Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

#### **Refrain:**

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long:  
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

**Vs. 2:** Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
Angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

#### **Back to refrain:**

**Vs. 3:** Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

#### **Back to refrain:**

**Dismissal:** Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord as we **reflect the love of God.**

*Music Published by Permission, CCLI #11445215  
Worship Service recorded by Permission, CSPL #168651*

***Special Congregational Meeting for St. James –  
Today, 11/8 immediately after worship.***

We will be offering our Special Meeting attendance to those at home  
by ZOOM @10:30am and you are invited to join.

Here is your ZOOM invitation:

St. James Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Special Congregational Meeting

Time: Nov 8, 2020 10:30 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/7945785804?pwd=eHFxNm1KMTIzdXNwbm9obXNOSG1OUT09>

Meeting ID: 794 578 5804

Passcode: g0xSvw

***See attachments to this email for your review.....***

***IMPORTANT:***

***2<sup>nd</sup> Official Notice*** (according to our By-laws) of our upcoming  
***Annual Congregational Meeting for St. James – Sunday, 11/15,***  
***immediately after our worship service.***

***Again,*** we will be offering our Annual Meeting attendance  
by ZOOM @10:15am, to those at home,  
and **you are invited to join.**

Watch for a separate email of information re. this Annual Meeting. We ask that you  
look this over. If you have any questions or concerns, get ahold of Betty prior to the  
meeting, so your council may have a chance to discuss and then come to this meeting  
with answers/solutions. Thank You.

***A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING US***

November 2020 Altar Guild: Karen McDonald

November 2020 Cleaner(s): Bill & Karen McDonald & Randy & Nance Stennerson

November 2020 Gate Keepers: Donna Zeigler, Brian & Sheri Luepke,

Steve & Denise Cowan and Larry & Joy Goehner

November Song Leaders at Worship: Brian & Sheri Luepke and Larry & Joy Goehner

Musician(s): Marge Sunvold and Betty Ames

Wednesday November 4<sup>th</sup>: Pastor Tonia recorded.....

## A "Word on Wednesday" –

“ ”



### Watch on St. James' FB Page –

**\*\*Click on the picture to be directed to the church FB Page.**

Welcome to a word on Wednesday.

We take a few minutes each Wednesday to hear from God's Word.

Let God speak to you.

Bring up memories, bring out deep thoughts.

Reflect on how God speaks to our world today, to the situations  
we are facing as individuals,

as a church, as a country, and as the world God so loves.

### Or read the full Pastoral Letter below!

*And then the Philistines were back at it again, plundering in the valley. David again prayed to God. God answered, "This time don't attack head-on; circle around and come at them out of the balsam grove. When you hear a sound like shuffling feet in the tops of the balsams, attack; God will be two steps ahead of you,"*  
*(I Chronicles 14:14-16)*

The way you did it last time worked well, but, "This time - don't attack head-on; circle around and come at them out of the balsam grove... God will be two steps ahead of you." I love it. God gives them a new way, gives the details, then goes ahead them.

Life is full of surprises, some "same old same old's", some "new opportunities," some "more of the same's," and – "some changes." "It worked last time, it should work this time, too." We are just not fond of change. But the only constant in life - is change. How we face it defines our future. Will we be victorious? Can we make the new way work? Can we trust God to be in control of this new plan? Will God go ahead of us this time, too?

We may not know where we are going. What is waiting around the corner? How we can make it through an unexpected turn of events. For some, things may not be going according to their plan, but we pray for God's will - not ours. We can trust God to be two steps ahead of us.

It's 9 am on Wednesday and the race for President has not yet been called. God raises up leaders for God's purpose. We pray for a peaceful resolution to the counting. May the result be accepted by everybody. May all Americans stand united behind the winner when he is announced so peace may come over the citizens. There will be some new elected Representatives, Senators, local legislators, Governors and a variety of other elected officials today. Some of our candidates won and some lost. Our trust, however, remains in God - and God goes ahead of us

No matter what changes we face, God's character does not change. And what God's asks of us does not change. God remains, "gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." (Psalm 145:8)

Some things remain the same, some things change, but God's love for us never changes. God's desire for us to be kind, to forgive, to love one another - never changes. In the middle of change is a good time to remember how we are to imitate Christ. How important it is, for the good of the World God so loves, for us to come together, be unified and work for peace in our country. Just because it didn't go our way, or because it is different, or because it is divisive – doesn't mean God is not in it.

God remains in control. We pray for God's will to be done, for we trust in the God who has gone before us.

Our God is a creative God, sometimes the old way won't work this time and we need to try something different. After all, God has laid it all out and has gone before us. In God we trust.

### *Let us pray.*

**Lord, we ask for peace and unity for our country as we face the future. May we seek Your will, trusting You have gone before us. We pray for our newly elected and re-elected leaders, give them Your wisdom and compassion as they lead. We pray for peaceful transitions. May we all give our elected officials respect as they govern our states and our country. Thank you for this county and we pray, God, bless America. Amen.**



### *Happy November Anniversary*

*Chris & Brett Hollingsworth 11/1; Bob & Lanita Maurer 11/15*



### *Happy November Birthday*

*Linda Alton 11/4; Carli Lofing 11/4; Brenna Rouane 11/14;  
Stacy Lofing 11/22; Amber Lofing 11/24*

**“Your faith in God's mission for St. James is unshakeable.”**

*Thank you for your prayers and generosity. May the Lord bless you and give you peace.*

***Continued reminder of how to give your monthly tithe or offering to your church..***

1. Mail your offering to the church at St. James Lutheran Church, PO Box 356, Columbus, MT, 59019
2. Take your envelope offering to Pastor Tonia's parsonage and put in the designated box on her front porch.
3. Stop in at your bank and arrange a monthly auto pay transaction.
4. Give online through **Tithe.ly**, a giving app endorsed by the ELCA. Each transaction carries a small fee. Your gift is safe / secure and goes directly to your church or ministry. Plus, you'll be able to track all your gifts, setup recurring, and more!

***[Tithe.ly](#) (click on this blue “Tithe.ly” link – takes you directly to St. James' account to sign-up)***

***Remember that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).***

*For new prayer requests, please contact **Judy Bjorkman** at 321-2988, text or call or by email at [jdbjorkman@hotmail.com](mailto:jdbjorkman@hotmail.com)*

**PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER...**

*For those hospitalized, in nursing homes and homebound, and those battling cancer or other illnesses.*

**We offer continued prayers for:**

God's peace, timing and comfort for the family and friends of Deloris Etchart.  
God's loving presence to surround the residents & staff at Meadowlark Assisted Living.  
Your continued healing God for Bill Strickland, Janet Overhuls; Roger Mullin, Gary Lofing, Jenny Steffenson and Barb Salte.  
We lift up those living with cancer: Dennis Gauthier; Arvid Barnam, Les Lane and Jim Wilson.

All countries affected by the Coronavirus/Cofid-19 as they struggle to contain it and treat those who have contracted it.  
Please guide them; heal those who are afflicted with the virus; watch over their doctors, nurses and first responders; and halt its spread.

**Please pray for all of those who serve in our military domestically and overseas,  
As well as their spouses and children at home.**

*How exciting!*

**Cookbooks have arrived!!**

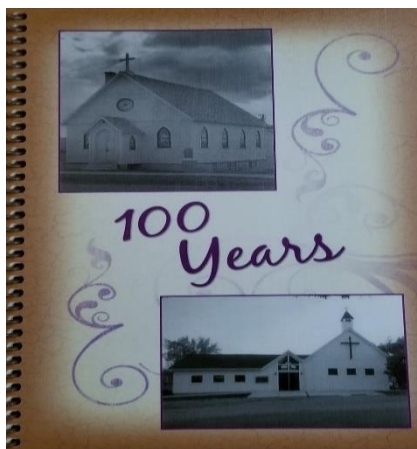
They are for sale **NOW!**      **\$10 each**

**ALSO.....**

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary etched mugs  
and wine glasses have arrived!!**

*They are on display at the church!*

They are **also** for sale **NOW!**      **\$10 each**



Pick yours up at church on Sunday, doors are open for Bible Study on Tuesday's 2pm-3pm (church closed for two weeks) or get in touch with Pastor Tonia, Karen, Denise or Betty and we will make sure you get a copy/mug/glass or two or three of each! 😊

**\*\*Please designate on your check memo or envelope the purpose of your money.**

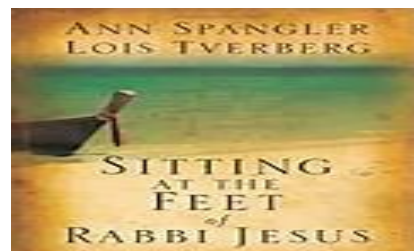
**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. JAMES THIS WEEK & BEYOND...**

**Tuesday November 10<sup>th</sup>:**

**\*Bible Study @ 2:00pm @ the Church**

**\*B.Y.O.B.B. & B. - Bring your own Beverage, Bible & Book!**

We are reading and discussing the book, Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus by Ann Spangler and Lois Tverberg.



**Wednesday November 11<sup>th</sup>:**

Pastor Tonia will record.....

**A "Word on Wednesday" – Watch on our FB page.**





HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

# VETERANS DAY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

***November 11<sup>th</sup>,  
2020***



*Mission Offering for November benefits...  
Project Hopes' "Thanksgiving Care Boxes"*



## REVERSE

# ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY - ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.

ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>, DONATE THE CONTENTS TO PROJECT HOPE!

## HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO OUR COMMUNITY

October 26 –box of cereal  
 October 27 –peanut butter & jelly  
 October 28 –macaroni and cheese  
 October 29 –canned fruit  
 October 30 –canned tomatoes  
 October 31 –Halloween candy  
 November 1 –canned tuna  
 November 2 –jar of applesauce  
 November 3 –dessert mix  
 November 4 –can chili  
 November 5 –box of crackers  
 November 6 –package of rice  
 November 7 –package of oatmeal

November 8 –package pasta  
 November 9 –spaghetti sauce  
 November 10 –chicken noodle soup  
 November 11 –cans of vegetables  
 November 12 –stuffing mix  
 November 13 –boxed potatoes  
 November 14 –canned sweet potatoes  
 November 15 –can green beans  
 November 16 –cranberry sauce  
 November 17 –box of roll mix  
 November 18 –pie filling  
 November 19 –box pie dough mix  
 November 20 –Thanksgiving decorations

# Thankful

Deliver to Project Hope and know that you bless a family in Stillwater County.



## *Simple Reminders...*

I don't know who drew this...  
but this art 🎨 speaks louder  
than words...!

