



## St. James Lutheran Church Celebrating 100 years in 2020

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

**MAY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 5/3/20**

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

**Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Worship Service online

You will be viewing this Sunday's service on the trusted and personal site of KayDel's called Vimeo.  
Watch for the Worship Service email on this Sunday Morning!

#### **ZOOM Council meeting summary.....**

**We will be cautious and will be working to make sure the church is ready to meet the mandates, that we sanitize and are able to maintain physical distancing – so we can have more than 10 people within the church at one time and adhere to the "65 & Over" distancing order.**

**Upon following the Governors, Bishop Laurie's & our local Health Dept. guidelines in order to safely open our church doors TO YOU..... Your council approved a motion to "TENTATIVELY SET ON OPEN DATE FOR SUNDAY, MAY 24TH. THE COUNCIL WILL MEET EACH WEEK via ZOOM UNTIL THAT DATE TO EVALUATE THE SCENARIO".**

**We are meeting again this Sunday to confirm our decisions that were discussed and presented to the council for thoughts & comments i.e. needed cleaning supplies & a list of WHO CAN HELP TO FULLY CLEAN BEFORE OPENING; setting up sanitizing stations with supplies; assure that we CAN SAFELY adhere to physical distancing throughout the entire service; what will our worship service will "look like"; ect. ect. ect.**

### **A HUGE *THANK YOU* FOR:**

- Patience as we continue to worship together in Spirit through technology and patience as we, your council members, make decisions for the good of all.
- KayDel Shelton for undertaking the role as "videographer" and her creation of our worship service throughout out the rest of our closure time.
- Pastor Tonia, our LPA's and Council Members for keeping in contact with all of you and **TO YOU**, for your gracious comments, financial offerings and prayers.

## Recipes are still needed.....

The "100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK" committee have asked me to AGAIN ask all of our members to submit a recipe or two or three or four! PLEASE, PLEASE we want to make this an heirloom to remember our Lutheran heritage.

**The deadline to submit our recipes is  
May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020!**



**That date will be here before we know it!**

**Print off the attached form (it's actually attached this time) and  
send to:**

**Karen McDonald 63 Ponderosa Ridge Road Columbus, MT 59019 OR**

**Denise Cowan 45 Bugling Elk Lane Columbus, MT 59019**

**If you can scan, send to Karen's email: [mschilly2020@gmail.com](mailto:mschilly2020@gmail.com)**

**Thank you in advance!**



**We Could Use Your Prayers!**

If you know of anyone sick, preparing for surgery, struggling with health problems, mending or healing from illness or surgery, shut-ins, or loss of a loved one, traveling, in the service of our country, and peace in the world, 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:**

The families of Roger Sunvold, Doug Miller and Doug Bursema as they all mourn the loss of their loved one.

Evan Hill, a friend of Joy and Larry Goehner's grandson in California; Jay Jaworski; Pete Hegg; Max, friend of Pastor Tonia; Brian Wanner's father, Jerry; Harold Riensche; Donna Zeigler; Sally Bisch; Dennis Gauthier; Jason Nielsen, Judy Bjorkman's brother; Les Lane; Kevin Ramer; Arvid Barnam; Gary Lofing and Jenny Steffenson.

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.**

### **FOR YOUR REVIEW AND PRAYER.....**

**\*\*Our 2020 monthly budget to meet is \$8,008.33**

**FYI.....YTD (Jan - March 2020)**

**(\$6,251.28)**

**UNDER monthly budget**

April 5 <sup>th</sup> Offering Gratefully Received	<u>\$11,435</u>	<u>OVER</u> monthly budget \$3,426.67
April 12 <sup>th</sup> Offering Gratefully Received	<u>\$ 4,290</u>	<u>OVER</u> monthly budget \$7,716.67
April 19 <sup>th</sup> Offering Gratefully Received	<u>\$ 1,175</u>	<u>OVER</u> monthly budget \$8,891.67
April 26 <sup>th</sup> Offering Gratefully Received	<u>\$ 1,375</u>	<u>OVER</u> monthly budget \$10,266.67

“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).  
We should consider His church to be the same.**

### ***FYI to the members of our congregation:***

*Amber, Treasurer, applied from the Columbus Yellowstone Bank, for the PPP (paycheck protection program) money being offered to non-profit groups. Yesterday, Friday May 1<sup>st</sup>, as President of the Council, I signed the paperwork for a granted amount of \$9,800 to be used for Pastor Tonia’s wages, Health Insurance and Retirement for up to 8 weeks. More talk on the who, what, when, where and why re. this grant will be discussed by your council at the end of the 8-week period! Betty*



***Mission Offering for May benefits  
our local Project Hope Program!***

***“We worship together, grow in faith, share our faith and serve with the love of God”***

***St. James’ Mission Statement***

Such a strange time. Never have we seen such a day. Quarantine. Masks. Numbers, numbers of infected and dead. Numbers of unemployed. Lives changed. Outlooks changed. Plans changed. Daily life - changed.

No matter where it came from, how it’s been handled or is being handled, no matter if it’s natural or created; Covid19 has changed our world, our lives. What can we do?

St. James’ Mission Statement states we worship together. Don’t we wish. We haven’t gathered in worship for over a month. Thanks to modern technology we do continue to worship. We stay in touch. We listen. We encourage. We vent. We cry. We share our fears. We pray.

During this time, we turn to God, we pray, we question, we cry, we wonder, we – grow in faith.

But how can we be in mission and serve others while we self-isolate. It’s hard to gather and stay 6’ apart? I’ve pondered this, over and over during these uncertain times.

In Deuteronomy we are told, "If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother." (Deut 15:7) Many have become poor this year, due to no action of their own. Businesses have closed. People have been laid off. Some receive unemployment. Some work from home, some took a pay-cut, some will return to work, some will have to go look for a new job. People have less to spend, people have become poor.

Later we read, "For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore, I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'" (Deut 15:11)

St. James does not have a food pantry. We do not have a store room of clothing, household good to meet daily needs. But we do, as a church and as individuals, support Project Hope, which DOES. Many of us volunteer at Project Hope. This is one way we, "Serve with the Love of God."

Project Hope's thrift store and Laughing Ladies have not been open during this time of quarantine. However, the food bank continues to provide food. During these uncertain times the number of people who come for food has increased. In their generosity, with faith in God's faithfulness to provide, each box holds more than usual, for the need is more than usual. Project Hope is also expecting to see more need for help with rent.

To live out our mission statement, we listen to the words of James, who tells us our gifts are given to show our faith. "What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and filled,' without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also, faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works." (James 2:14-18)

This month we will show our faith as we give our monthly mission offering to help feed the hungry and care for those in need in our community.

***Please, send your check to: St. James and be sure to put "Mission Offering" or "Project Hope" in the memo line.***

Thank you for your generosity and continued support of God's mission for St. James.

I bid you peace

*Pastor Tonia*



### ***Happy May Birthday***

*Jean Voldseth 5/5; Harold Riensche 5/8; Lance Sundberg 5/10;  
AJ Makoff 5/20; Lian Radford 5/21; Bev Kem 5/23; Ingrid Short 5/24;  
Mike Koski 5/29; Chip Kem 5/30*



### ***Happy May Anniversary***

*Lance & Patty Sundberg 5/17; Nick & Marian Lofing 5/22;  
Ken & Pam Carlson 5/27*

***Recipes – We need more! See above information!***

**As St. James continues to celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the year 2020....** We will continue to keep you up to date with all information.

***Please, save these upcoming dates, just in case:***

~~~ 5/17 Remembering our Norwegian Heritage Dinner & fun. Time & events TBA.~~

*The Dinner committee for this event has decided to postpone until the late fall. We will keep you all informed of the projected date & time. We truly hope and pray that this event will continue to happen.*

~ 8/23 Our Church's 100<sup>th</sup> year worship service w/the Bishop & previous pastors & a Banquet to celebrate with all of our members & the community. Time & events TBA.

~ 9/20 Remembering our German Heritage Dinner & music. Time & events TBA.

December – We will enter a float in the Parade of Lights celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> Year!

**We hope you will continue to enjoy excerpts of St. James History throughout this year and remember the "Good 'Ole Days" and all that has happened for 100 Years in our small but mighty Lutheran Church!!**

*Simple Reminders...*



*FYI.....Our community non-profits need us now more than ever!*



## COLUMBUSMTGIVES.ORG

Columbus Community Foundation hosts  
the 5th Annual Columbus MT Gives event!  
May 4-8th, 2020!



With these uncertain times, our non-profits need your help now more than ever. This week long giving event will benefit the following non-profits.

Show your support by donating online at [www.columbusmtgives.org](http://www.columbusmtgives.org).

Or you can leave a donation in the night drop at Yellowstone Bank in Columbus.



**THANK YOU  
TO OUR SPONSORS!**



**THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**