

WELCOME to St. James Lutheran Church

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

PRINT THE ATTACHED BULLETIN...to follow along with tonight'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.

Worship Service - Streaming live @ 5:00pm or watch later!



Click on image OR
FB Search: Saint James Lutheran Church of Columbus, Montana



Click on image or the link below to be directed to our website:
www.lutheranchurchcolumbusmt.org

****Scroll down to "Click here for the St. James YouTube link"**

To our faithful followers at home or where ever you are, PLEASE let us know you are watching by writing a post or give your name.
We'd love to hear from you!

St. James Lutheran Church

205 E 1st Ave. N. Columbus, MT 59019
Leader: Pastor Tonia Fisher (406) 656-9557
Email: toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com

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

**Friday December 24th, 2021 –
Christmas Eve Service @ 5:00pm**

"O Come Let Us Adore Him"

Welcome, Announcements & Opportunities for Serving

Blessings to all of you, whether you are joining us in the house of God,
joining us by watching the live/recorded service or in spirit and prayer.

Prelude, Welcome, Announcements & Opportunities for Serving



Call to Worship: ELW #283 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (Vs 1-4)



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Lighting the Christ Candle:

To the tune of "O worship the King, All Glorious Above!"

The Christ candle's light that shines for us here. Tells out the good news that God has come near! God came, a poor baby, in one time and place, to show all creation the wealth of God's grace.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.....

.....and also be with you.

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

GATHERING

Confession & Forgiveness:

Holy God, we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, so all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.

Assurance of God's Love

Gathering Hymn: "Joy to the World"

- Vs.1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- Vs.2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields & floods, rocks, hills, & plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- Vs. 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
- Vs. 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Prayer of the Day:

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Sermon

WORD

Hear the 1st Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is name, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

Read Psalm 96 responsively by whole verse

¹Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. ²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.** ³Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples. ⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.** ⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens. ⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.** ⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power. ⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.** ⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, ¹⁰all the earth. ¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."** ¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein. ¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.** ¹³You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

Hear the 2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

Please stand, as you are able, to welcome the Gospel.

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

Hear the Reading of the Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus for all the world to be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

Sermon: "O Come, Sing for Joy"

Hymn for Reflection: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Vs. 1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:

"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."

The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Vs. 2 Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heav'nly music
floats o'er all the weary world.

Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,

and ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

Vs. 3 And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow:

look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;

oh, rest beside the weary road

and hear the angels sing!

Vs. 4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old, when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,

when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,

and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

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

.....and also with you.

Special Music from Tessa Shelton "O Holy Night"

MEAL

....we thank you for your faithful generosity to St. James in sharing your tithes and offerings which allows us to do God's work with our hands.

Offering Prayer

Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Table Setting Hymn: "What Feast of Love" to the tune of "What Child is This"



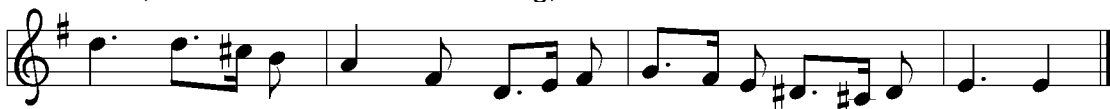
What feast of love is of-fered here, what banquet come from heaven?



What food of ev - er lasting life, --what gracious gift is given?



This, this is Christ the King, the bread come down from heaven.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the ma - nna given!

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

The Lord's Prayer

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

Invitation to Communion

In this meal of bread and wine, we believe Christ is truly present forgiving sin, reconciling us to God and one another, and giving new life. Christ is host. Christ is the one who invites us to the table even while it is properly understood as the meal of the baptized. All are welcome at the Lord's Table.

As communion is distributed, you are invited to sing the following hymns:

ELW #270 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Vs. 1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies; with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Vs. 2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity! Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Vs. 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

ELW #277 "Away in the Manger"

Vs. 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the sky looked down where he lay; the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Vs. 2 The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Vs. 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

ELW #279 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

- Vs. 1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
- Vs. 2 For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
- Vs. 3 How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n. No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
- Vs. 4 O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

ELW #289 "Angels We Have Heard on High "

- Vs. 1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.
- Vs. 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?
Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.
- Vs. 3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

Prayer after Communion.....

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

Benediction..... and we say: Amen.

Sending Hymn: "Silent Night"

- Vs. 1 Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
- Vs. 2 Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
- Vs. 3 Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Dismissal:

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior. Thanks be to God.

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

***Will you share your poinsettias to adorn
our church on Christmas Eve?***



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING

Donna Zeigler – helping Pastor Tonia with our special services this month.

December 2021 Altar Guild: The team will be sharing this month.

December 2021 Cleaner(s): Merridy Gauthier, Leanne Sekora and Pat Lofing

December 2021 Reader: Maureen Hemphill

December 2021 Usher(s): Thank you Steve Cowan for helping last Sunday!

December 2021 Communion Helper(s): Thank you Donna Zeigler & Brian Luepke for helping last Sunday!

December Gate Keepers: *Donna Zeigler, Carrie Williams, Steve & Denise Cowan,
Larry & Joy Goehner, Brian & Sheri Luepke, Chris Fluery & Judy Bjorkman*

Musician(s): Marge Sunvold and Betty Ames

Coming this Week.....

- **Sunday December 26th** Church Council Meeting immediately after worship
- **NO** Bible Study until **Tuesday January 4th, 2022 @ 2:00pm**
- Watch Pastor Tonia's a "Word on Wednesday" live on FB **Wednesday December 29th** or recorded on our FB Page or catch up on past letters you may have missed attached to an email or can be found on our Website.
- **HAPPY NEW YEAR – 2022!!**

*Would you like the opportunity to serve on
St. James' church council?*

Your council is accepting nominations for yourself or
for the name of another member to serve.

Please let one of the council nominating team members know of your interest.

We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Email or call or text:

Pastor Tonia Fisher toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com **656-9557**

Betty Ames, President bytames@yahoo.com **671-0090**

Steven Cowan, Vice-President denisecowan48@yahoo.com **671-6458**

An opportunity to care for the Lord's Table....

Altar Guild is looking for new members..... The schedule has been arranged to be more flexible to meet your needs. A specific task list and personal instruction will be given to anyone who would like to be involved in this ministry. For more information, please contact:

Kim Behrent (406) 321-2535 or **Pastor Tonia** (406) 656-9557

“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 our 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).



Is there any member interested in assuming the ministry of Prayer Chain requests? A group email list of those who have been interested in receiving this information, will be provided to you. Church members will contact you with a prayer request, providing you with names (ask for sp. If unsure) and all pertinent and correct information. You will then email the request to the specified group. Please let Pastor Tonia or Betty Ames know if you’d be interested in this ministry.

In the meantime, continue to contact Pastor Tonia, either by text or email (see info top of page)

PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER.....

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

We offer continued prayers for:

Your healing and wisdom Lord for Jerry Brown; Denise Cowan; Steve Cowan; Lix Cox’s mother-in-law; Baby Quincy Davis; Zane Fluery; Gary Lofing; Roger Mullen; Kyme Noble; Victoria Seymour; Stephen Steffenson and Zaden Sundberg.

Those living with cancer: Aracelii Enano; Ashley Foster; Jenny Hansen Cheff; Rick Cox; Delbert Goehner; Les Lane; Ann Pomeroy; Barb Potzman; Jim Wilson and Sandy Yoder’s daughter in law, Lola.

Those with COVID and those dealing with its lasting effects, especially Vi’s brother, Ron.

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



Happy December Birthday

Pete Hegg 12/4; Sydne Wanner 12/6; Maureen Hemphill 12/7;

Nancy Stennerson 12/7; Rusty Stennerson 12/8;

Larry Goehner 12/14; Carrie Williams 12/14; Peggy Herzog 12/23;

Lisa Kem 12/29;



Happy December Anniversary

Steve & Cindy Smith 12/7; John & Arlene Mitchell 12/15;

Danny & Betty Ames 12/26; Don & Peggy Herzog 12/26;

Steve & Denise Cowan 12/28;

Merry Christmas



May the peace and blessings of
Christmas be yours;

And may the coming year be
filled with happiness.

Welcome
2022

*Happy
New Year*

Each new year brings us new opportunities
to know Him more, to walk in faith,
and grow by His grace.

May your year be
blessed in the Lord.

“...Eye hath not seen, nor ear
heard, neither have entered
into the heart of man, the
things which God hath
prepared for them that love
Him.” — 1 CORINTHIANS 2:9 KJV