

WELCOME:

NO IN-CHURCH WORSHIP - Sunday October 25th.
Our Worship Service will be recorded & shown remotely.

Reminder: Your council members have made the decision to suspend worship services, for the **next TWO WEEKS** r/t the spike in Covid-19 cases in Stillwater County.

On Sunday October 25th @ 9:30am,

You will have the opportunity to watch our service via....

[YouTube link](#)
Click above to watch on YouTube

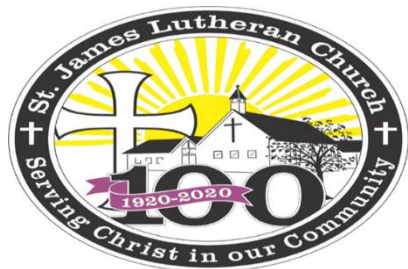
or

[Our FB page link](#)
Click above to watch on FaceBook

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

PRINT THIS 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.

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

October 25th, 2020 – 21st 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

Faithful God, have mercy on us. We confess we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Assurance of God's Love

Gathering Hymn: "A Mighty Fortress is our God"

- Vs 1 A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper frees us from the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe, forsworn to work us woe,
with guile and dreadful might is armed to wage the fight;
on earth there is no equal.
- Vs 2 If we in our own strength confined, our striving turns to losing;
The righteous one fights by our side, the one of God's own choosing.
You ask who this may be: Christ Jesus, it is he,
The Lord of hosts by name. No other God we claim!
None else can win the battle.
- Vs 3 Though all the world with devils fill and threaten to devour us,
We tremble not, we trust God's will: they cannot overpower us.
Though Satan rant and rage, in fiercest war engage,
This tyrant's doomed to fail; God's judgement must prevail!
One little word shall triumph.
- Vs 4 God's Word shall stand above the powers, shall end all their thanksgiving.
The Spirit and the gifts are ours, for God with us is living.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
Though all of these be gone, they yet have nothing won.
The kingdom's ours forever!

Prayer of the Day:

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

Hear the 1st Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

¹The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. ¹⁵You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD. ¹⁷You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

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

Hear the Reading of Psalm 1

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful! ²Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night. ³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves which do not wither; everything they do shall prosper. ⁴It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away. ⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous. ⁶For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.

Hear the 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

¹You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, ²but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. ³For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, ⁴but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. ⁵As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; ⁶nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, ⁷though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. ⁸So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

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

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 22:34-46

³⁴When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" ³⁷He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." ⁴¹Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴²"What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." ⁴³He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, ⁴⁴'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'? ⁴⁵If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" ⁴⁶No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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

Sermon: "Choose Love"

Hymn for Reflection: "Here I Am, Lord"

Vs 1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"

Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

Vs 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?" **Back to Refrain:**

Vs 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide, till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?" **Back to Refrain:**

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

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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.

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

SENDING

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

Sending Hymn: "Amazing Grace"

- Vs 1 Amazing grace! How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; Was blind, but now I see.
- Vs 2 Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.
- Vs 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
- Vs 4 The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my Shield and Portion be, as long as life endures.
- Vs 5 When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.

Dismissal: Remember the poor as you are sent to **reflect the love of God.** Go in peace.

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

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING US FOR THIS SERVICE:

Pastor Tonia, Betty Ames, Larry & Joy Goehner, Brian & Sheri Luepke.

1st Official Notice (according to our By-laws) of an upcoming Special Congregational Meeting for St. James – Sunday, 11/8, immediately after our worship service, provided that the council approves of our re-opening r/t the current COVID cases in Stillwater County at that time.

Wednesday October 21st: Pastor Tonia recorded.....

**A “Word on Wednesday” –
“We are Fearfully and Wonderfully Made”**



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!

A reading from Psalm 139

*I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful, I know that - full well.*

(Psalm 139:14)

In the poem, “In-victus,” by William Henley, we hear:

“I am the master of my fate. I am the captain of my soul.”

Well, that doesn't give me much confidence, I have no training on how to be a captain. What gives me peace, is knowing God is the captain. God created me, God is aware of all which is happening in my life and God walks with me through the dark valleys. God sails with me on the high seas. God rests with me at the end of the day and God - know - I'm going crazy during this season of Covid.

I don't know about you, but my mind quit working right in March. I face more challenges, and they are HUGE! I can't wrap my mind around my to-do list, let alone my “plans for the future” journal.

A friend sent me an article by Alexis Rokley, who lists her qualifications this way: Psychologist, certified coach and fellow human. Her words gave me peace, the peace of knowing - I'm not going crazy. In case you're in the same boat, I would like to share her words with you. In them I see that, medically speaking, many of us are having trouble as we fear, face, and deal with this Pandemic.

According to Alexis Rokley:

If you have that FEELING of being “ALL OVER THE PLACE?” This is a symptom of stress, NOT personal failure.

Do you feel FLAKEY AND INCONSISTENT? That's because our brains don't know what news to brace for next, or what next month will hold.

Are you EASILY TIRED? That's because our brains are burning our energy 10x faster than usual.

Do you find CAN'T SEEM TO FOCUS? That's because our brain has temporarily shut down some functionality in our pre-frontal cortex - the part which juggles complex tasks and planning – due to the stress response.

Is your feeling of CREATIVELY BLOCKED? That's because our brains have temporarily diverted all their creativity, like the ability to solve unique problems like “how do I avoid dying?” while in a narrowed, slow-burn, fight-or-flight state.

Do you find you SUDDENLY DON'T CARE about future-based goals, projects, or dreams like you used to? That's because our brain knows being short-sighted in a - safer way to cope right now.

Our plans, creativity, energy, focus and motivation are on a YO-YO right now, because our brains believe we need to be EXTREMELY ADAPTIVE.

We will not be on this rollercoaster forever. Be patient with your brain.

Alexis Rokley's explanation reminds me we were created by a loving God. We were created to react to events in life in ways which protect us. We are, as she says, to be adaptive to the situations in which we find ourselves. Do not forget, we are not an accident.

God has created us to be adaptive. To persevere. So - be patient – with yourself and others. Be kind – to yourself and others. Be forgiving – of yourself and others. And do not forget, we are fearfully and wonderfully made - by a loving and present God.

Let us pray.

Creator God, thank you for forming us in your image, for creating us with the tools we need so we can deal with difficult situations, for giving us a brain which can adapt, for words of wisdom used to comfort us in our times of uncertainty and insecurity. Thank you, God that though we do not understand, YOU do! Help us to be adaptive, to be patient, kind and forgiving during this season of Covid. We put our faith and trust in you for the good of the world, You so love. Amen.



Montana Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Also, read the Wednesday Blog from Bishop Laurie Jungling

Words from the Bishop: Fool for Christ

A man and his pastor were walking through the parking lot toward the church one Sunday. It was a cold and blustery day and snow had carpeted the asphalt in front of the building. Both were wearing thick winter coats and boots and gloves. The pastor was also wearing a mask to protect against the spread of Covid, but the man was not.

As they approached the door, the man said, “Pastor, why are you wearing that mask? You look like a fool. Don’t you have faith in God? You should take it off and trust that God will protect you.”

The pastor studied the man for a moment and then said, “I notice that you’re wearing your heavy winter coat and warm gloves and good snow boots, John.”

John paused, wondering at this change in subject, and finally said, “Of course I am. It’s my turn to shovel the walks and it’s cold outside. So what?”

The pastor said, “So, why don’t you take off all those clothes and trust that God will keep you warm while you shovel? Don’t you have faith that God will protect you from the cold?”

John’s mouth moved up and down silently for several seconds as he caught the pastor’s meaning. “Yeah, well, that’s different,” he finally mumbled looking away.

“You’re right, John, it is different,” the pastor replied with a smile easily seen behind the mask. “You’ve decided to use the brain God gave you to keep yourself warm. I’ve decided to use the brain and the love God gave me to protect you from a virus that could hurt or kill you. And if being a fool for Christ means loving you by wearing a mask, that’s what I’m going to do.”

In his first letter to the Corinthians (chps 1-3), Paul declares himself a fool for Christ’s sake and that Jesus’ followers in Corinth should be become fools in order to become wise in God’s way of the gospel. “If you think you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you can become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God,” he writes. What did Paul mean by this?

Well, he certainly didn’t mean shoveling snow without warm clothes on. Nor did he mean choosing not to wear a mask to prove our faith or because it makes us look silly. No, faith in God does not mean we’re supposed to dump reason beside the road altogether just because we’re anxious.

Instead, God’s foolishness is a message of love in a world of hate; a message of meekness that empowers others rather than powers over others; a message to support one another instead of competing with each other; a message to come together in a community of peace instead of falling into division and fighting over something doctors, nurses, and tricker-treaters wear regularly. God’s foolishness is a proclamation of hope in a time of despair and a flaring of light in the midst of deep darkness. Finally, God’s gospel foolishness says “no” to the world’s judgment, meanness, apathy and selfishness and says a resounding “YES” to forgiveness, kindness, compassion and generosity.



In the end, God gave us brains as well as hearts, bodies and spirits, and we are called to use our whole selves in the best possible way to protect the lives God gave us as well as protect and care for the lives of our neighbors. “Love your neighbor as yourself,” remember?

You don’t have to shovel snow in the cold naked to prove your faith to God or others. And neither do you have to go maskless to show your trust in God. Instead, in today’s world, wearing a mask to protect others from the Covid-19 virus is a sure sign of faith in God and in the love God gives us in Christ. And it is this very faith that calls us to share God’s love with all whom we meet, even if the world thinks it looks foolish.

Bishop Laurie

WHAT’S HAPPENING AT ST. JAMES THIS WEEK & BEYOND...

Tuesday October 27th:

Bible Study @ 2:00pm by **ZOOM*

**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.



****To the participants, watch for your personal invitation to arrive in your email on Monday 10/26. Instructions on how to connect will also be provided to you.**

Wednesday October 28th: Pastor Tonia will record.....

A “Word on Wednesday” – Watch on our FB page.

November 1st...



Our Worship Service will be recorded & shown remotely

Sunday November 1st.

**We will be honoring our departed loved ones on this day –
Please give Pastor Tonia their names to be included in our prayers.**



For giving your support to:
Project Hope
& the
Columbus Senior Center.

St. James was proud to help our community the month
of October, thru the God's Work, Our Hands Program!



Happy October Anniversary
Roger & Leslie Mullin 10/17



Happy October Birthday

Justin Lofing 10/3; Leslie Mullin 10/3; BJ Morse 10/5;
Toni Rouane 10/9; Brian Luepke 10/10; Joni Morse 10/20;
Pastor Tonia 10/23; Ken Hajek 10/24; Eric Bjorkman 10/24;
Molly Adams 10/25; Mary Hajek 10/26; Chris Hollingsworth 10/27

Mission Offering for October benefits...
St. John's United



For new prayer requests, please contact **Judy Bjorkman** at 321-2988, text or call or by email at 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.

God's healing & recovery for Don Meierhoff, Denise & Steve Cowan's son-in-law who had back surgery and for Janet Overhuls hospitalized for diverticulitis

Your continued healing God for 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.

Health to our Montana Synod staff during their office closure for 2 weeks quarantine associated with contact tracing.

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.**

“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.

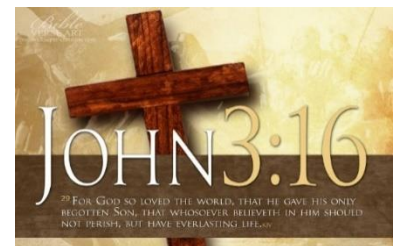
Continued reminder of how to give your monthly tithe or offering to your church..

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).

A FAVORITE FOR
**ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH,
IS THIS BEAUTIFUL VERSE – JOHN 3:16**



This is so fitting to use as our church Wi-Fi password.

TO CONNECT YOUR DEVICE, PHONE or IPad/TABLET,

CLICK ON - **St. James**

Then, USE THIS PASSWORD: **SJLvs3:16**

How exciting!

Cookbooks have arrived!!

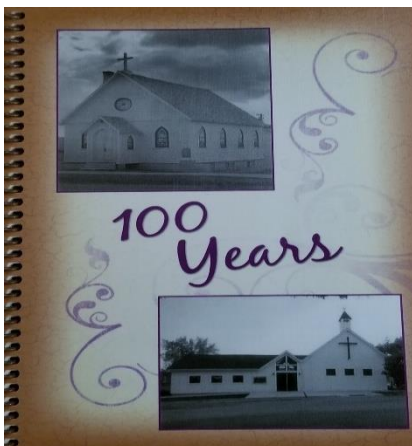
They are for sale **NOW!** **\$10 each**

ALSO.....

**100th 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 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.**

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



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY - ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.

ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20TH, 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 blessed
a family in Stillwater County.**



Simple Reminders...

live now

be kind

share

ENJOY

create

smile

laugh

help others

regina

AMEN!