

WELCOME to St. James Lutheran Church

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.*

Worship Service - Streaming live @ 9:30am 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

****On the website, scroll down to "Click here for the St. James FB link"**

To our faithful followers at home or wherever 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 (406) 321-5100

Leader: Pastor Tonia Fisher

Email: toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com

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



Sunday January 7th, 2024 –

"Baptism of Our Lord" Sunday

Welcome, Announcements & Opportunities for Serving

"Happy are those who hear the joyful call to worship, for they will
walk in the light of your presence, LORD...You are their glorious strength.

It pleases you to make us strong." (Ps 89:15,17)

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

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

GATHERING

Confession & Forgiveness

*God, our rock and refuge, we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not
always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not
always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew
your creation. Restore us, so we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.*

Assurance of God's Love

Gathering Hymn: ELW #399 "O Holy spirit, Root of Life"



1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, root of life, cre -
2 E - ter - nal vig - or, Sav - ing One, you
3 O ho - ly Wis - dom, soar - ing pow'r, en -



a - tor, cleans - er of all things: a - noint our wounds, a -
free us by your liv - ing Word, be - com - ing flesh to
com - pass us with wings un - furled, and car - ry us, en -



wak - en us with lus - trous move - ment of your wings.
wear our pain, and all cre - a - tion is re - stored.
cir - cling all a - bove, be - low, and through the world.

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, so we may follow after your Son, 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: Genesis 1:1-5

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

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

Read Psalm 29 responsively by whole verse

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. ²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. ³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters. ⁴The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor. ⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon; ⁶the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox. ⁷The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes. ⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. ⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!" ¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore. ¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

Hear the 2nd Reading: Acts 19:1-7

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

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

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

The Gospel Acclamation: ELW #151

We sing: Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

The Gospel according to Mark:

We sing the response after the announcement: **"Glory to you, O Lord"**

Mark 1:4-11

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." ⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord:

We sing the response after the conclusion: **"Praise to you, O Christ"**

Sermon: "Tov"

Reflection Hymn: ELW #442 "All Who Believe and Are Baptized"



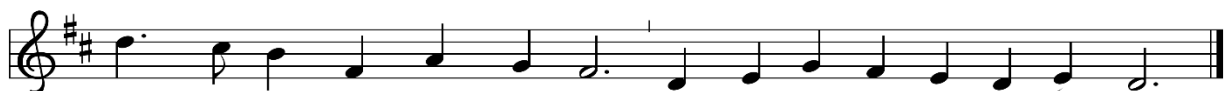
1 All who be - lieve and are bap - tized shall see the Lord's sal -
2 With one ac - cord, O God, we pray, grant us your Ho - ly



va - tion; bap-tized in - to the death of Christ, they are a
Spir - it; help us in our in - fir - mi - ty through Je - sus'



new cre - a - tion; through Christ's re-demp-tion they will stand a -
blood and mer - it; grant us to grow in grace each day by



mong the glo - rious heav'n - ly band of ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion.
ho - ly bap - tism, that we may e - ter - nal life in - her - it.

Apostle's Creed ELW #105

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

After each petition: *P: Lord, in Your mercy, C: hear our prayer*

After last petition: **All: AMEN.**

Passing of the Peaceand we say: **and also with you.**

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.

Bread & Wine and Our Gifts are brought forward..... while we sing
The Offering Hymn: ELW # 692 "We Are an Offering"

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a 7/8 time signature. It features various rhythmic values including eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and triplet markings. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,
We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, so we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Table Setting Hymn: "Come, Let Us Eat"

Leader or All



Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
Our Lord's bo - dy let us take to - ge - ther.
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - ge - ther.

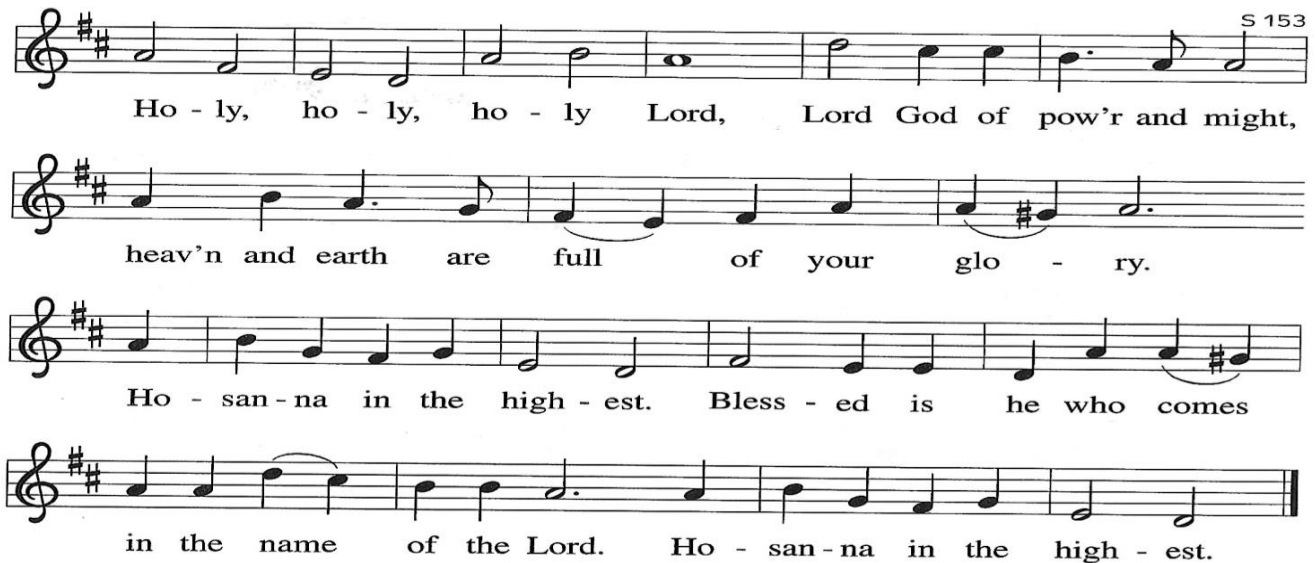
Great Thanksgiving ELW #153

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

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 #592 "Just As I Am"



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a con - flict,
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry



shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

ELW #638 "Blessed Assurance"



1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
an - gels de - scend - ing bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

Refrain

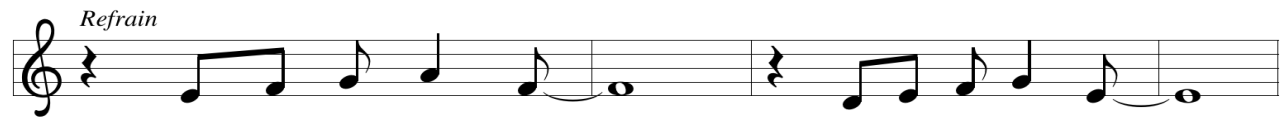


This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long:

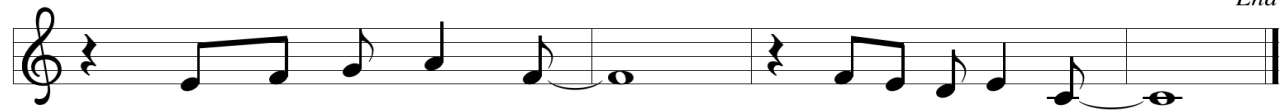


this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

ELW #801 "Change My Heart O God"



Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

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

SENDING

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

Sending Hymn: ELW #453 "Baptized and Set Free"



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.

Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
 For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
 As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
 Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be

to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
 end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
 pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
 one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Dismissal: Go in peace. You are God's beloved. **Thanks be to God.**

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

1st Official Notice (according to our By-laws) of our upcoming
Annual Congregational Meeting – Sunday, January 21st, 2024
immediately after our worship service.



St. John's United is dedicated to the care and welfare of their residents.
 Part of this care requires supplying the residents with personal care items i.e.
 shampoo, toothpaste and soap. Maybe other items also.

January Mission offering helps
St. John's United meet their resident needs.
Thank you for your generosity!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING

January 2024 Altar Guild: Kim Behrent

January 2024 Cleaner(s): Mina Morse & Jean Voldseth and Betty Ames & Leslie Mullin

January 2024 Reader(s):

January 7th,2024 Communion Helper(s): Will someone sign up to help?

Thank you, Steve & Denise Cowan for helping with communion last Sunday

January 7th,2024 Usher(s): Will someone sign up to help this Sunday?

Thank you, Bill Strickland for ushering last Sunday.

January 7th,2024 Gate Keepers: Pat Lashley & Leslie Mullin

2024 Musician(s): Marge Sunvold & Betty Ames

OPPORTUNITIES to SERVE at ST. JAMES.....

*Would you consider helping each Sunday with **Ushering**,
being the **Reader**, assisting during **Communion** w/Pastor Tonia,
being a member on the **Altar Guild**, OR
offering to **Clean** our church (with another family) one or two times per year?*

If you are interested in helping, please let Donna Z. or Pastor Tonia know!!

More detailed information on our opportunities may be found on our website:

www.lutheranchurchcolumbusmt.org Click on the "Serve With Us" tab. Thanks!



Happy January Birthday

Butch Behrent 1/13; Pam Carlson 1/21; Leanne Sekora 1/28;
Arlene Mitchell 1/28.



Happy January Anniversary

Larry & Joy Goehner 1/3



****If we have your email,
Check your inbox for your ecard!
Other members, check your mailbox!**

*For new prayer requests, please contact **Pastor Tonia**. Text or call her at (406) 656-9557 or
email her at toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.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:

Your healing and wisdom Lord for Pastor Tonia; Joy & Larry Goehner; Jim Dickey; Merridy Gauthier; LaNita Maurer; Steve Cowan;
Ken & Pete Hegg; Gary Lofing; Joan Elser; and Bonny Rouse;
Those living with cancer: Father Fenton; Kaci Thomason; Brian Wanner; Bob Rouane; Aracelii Enano; Ashley Foster; Jenny Hansen
Cheff; Shane Fouhy and Sandy Yoder's daughter in law, Lola.
Those with COVID and those dealing with its lasting effects.
The children of the world, this is a big request, but God is big. Children who are food & home insecure.
Victims of violence and of natural disasters.

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

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

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

FOR YOUR REVIEW AND PRAYER.....

December 3 rd Offering gratefully received	\$1,995.00
December 10 th Offering gratefully received	\$1,335.00
December 17 th Offering gratefully received	\$1,400.00
December 24 th Offering gratefully received	\$1,902.00
December 31 st Offering gratefully received	<u>\$2,230.00</u>
Total received this month	\$8,862.00

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

Mail your offering to the church; Take your offering to the parsonage; Auto pay thru your bank and **Tithe.ly**.

Tithe.ly (click on this “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 certainly hope you are

Having Fun with Faith...

We hope you are enjoying the series of “Children’s Worship Bulletins”, which are **found on our website.**

www.lutheranchurchcolumbusmt.org

These games are geared toward all age levels, so, everyone can join in the fun!

PLEASE FORWARD & SHARE these bulletins with your kids, grandkids, friends & friend’s friends!!!



Every Tuesday,

Bible Study is held at St. James 2:00pm.

We study the upcoming Sunday lessons.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

Every Wednesday, continue to watch for the Word(s) on Wednesday email with a copy of Pastor Tonia’s weekly message or watch recorded on our FB page. Print the Bible WORDsearch Puzzles. Enjoy!

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES
TO REFLECT GOD’S LOVE TO EACH OTHER
AND TO OUR NEIGHBORS**

MORE Community Events for St. James:

- Every Monday we are invited to join:
 - ~The Stillwater Youth Center for coffee and visiting from 8-10am.
- Every Tuesday we are invited to attend:
 - ~ The Women’s Adult Group at the Stillwater Youth Center at 9:30am and/or 7:00pm for an inductive study on Revelation
 - ~ Absarokee Quilting Group – 10am in the basement of the Cobblestone building. Knitters, crocheters and embroiderettes are welcome.
- Every Wednesday we are invited to join:
 - ~ Social Hour at the Columbus Senior Center at 9:30am
 - ~ The Stillwater Youth Center for coffee and visiting from 8-10am

For more Library information, see the “Table Posters” at St. James.



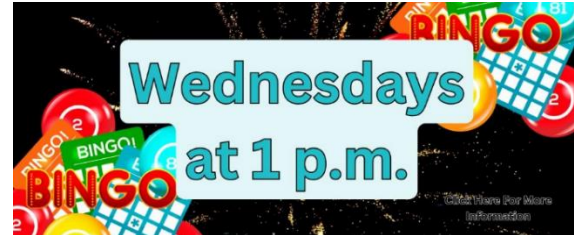
Join the fun each week.....



**Crochet and Knit club Every Saturday
starting Jan 6th
10 – 11:30am**



BINGO is EVERY WEDNESDAY!



So long...



Welcome January

January is a time of quiet and new beginnings - is the perfect time to reflect on how you want to live your life.

January is the perfect time to refocus on your priorities and set goals.

FUTURE DATES:



Sunday January 14th, 2024 –
“So long, wish you well, we’ll miss you”
potluck for Steve and Denise Cowan
immediately after worship.
****Watch for more information.**

- **Sunday January 21st, 2024 – Annual Congregation Meeting immediately after worship**
- **Sunday January 28th, 2024 – Council Meeting immediately after worship**
- **“Soup”er Bowl Sunday is February 11th, 2024.**
~ You decide which team wins!
Feb. Mission Offering will benefit the Columbus Senior Center!
~ Stay after church for a “soup”er delicious coffee hour!
- **Tuesday February 13th, 2024 – “Fat Tuesday”**
Annual Pancake supper @ UCC
- **Wednesday February 14th, 2024 - Valentine’s Day**
Also, February 14th, 2024 – Ash Wednesday
FYI - Wednesday Lent Services start Feb 21st.



Easter Sunday is March 31st, 2024.