

# 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](http://www.lutheranchurchcolumbusmt.org)

\*\*On the website, 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!**

## A suggestion just for safety:

In this time of Cold, Flu, Covid & other RESPIRATORY health issues, please feel free to wear a mask to church activities and worship. There is **NO** requirement to wear a mask. You do what you feel comfortable with to protect your health and know you are supported in your decision. Donna Zeigler

**2<sup>nd</sup> Official Notice (according to our By-laws) of our upcoming  
Annual Congregational Meeting  
for St. James – Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
immediately after our worship service.**

*This meeting will be available by Zoom for those of you at home.*

*\*\* Watch for an invitation to join and instructions for those of you not familiar to Zoom.*

Please join us for a potluck **Brunch**   
immediately after the Annual Meeting.

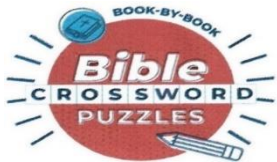
**Bring your favorite hot dish, pastries, fruit etc and enjoy fellowship!**

**We certainly hope you are**

## **Having Fun with Faith...**

We hope you are enjoying the series of "Children's Worship Bulletins", attached to **Every Weekly Preparing for Worship Email**. These games are geared toward all age levels, so, everyone can join in the fun! PLEASE FORWARD & SHARE these with your kids, grandkids, friends & friend's friends!!!!

**ALSO, Every Wednesday**, continue to watch for the Word(s) on Wednesday email with a copy of Pastor Tonia's weekly message.



We hope you enjoyed the weekly Bible Crossword Puzzles.

**You have completed the series "Book-By-Book"! WOW!!!**

## **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)

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

**Sunday January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Baptism of Our Lord**

**Welcome, Announcements & Opportunities for Serving**

*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.*

**Call to Worship: Completion of the Nativity Scene**

**Call to Worship Hymn: "The First Noel"**

- 1 The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Refrain*

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

- 2 They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*
- 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*
- 4 This star drew near to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*
- 5 Then entered in those wise men three, full rev'rently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*



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

## GATHERING

### **Confession & Forgiveness**

*Holy One, source of our renewal, we confess we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, so we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.*

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

### **Gathering Hymn: "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!

### **Prayer of the Day**

*O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, 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 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. <sup>2</sup>He will not cry or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street;

<sup>3</sup>a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. <sup>4</sup>He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. <sup>5</sup>Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread forth the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: <sup>6</sup>"I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, <sup>7</sup>to open the eyes which are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. <sup>8</sup>I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to graven images. <sup>9</sup>Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them."

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

### ***Read Psalm 29 responsively by whole verse***

<sup>1</sup>Bravo, GOD, bravo! Gods and all angels shout, "Encore!" In awe before the glory, in awe before God's visible power. <sup>2</sup>**Stand at attention! Dress your best to honor him!** <sup>3</sup>GOD thunders across the waters, brilliant, his voice and his face, streaming brightness—GOD, across the flood waters. <sup>4</sup>**GOD's thunder tympanic, GOD's thunder symphonic.** <sup>5</sup>GOD's thunder smashes cedars, GOD topples the northern cedars. <sup>6</sup>**The mountain ranges skip like spring colts, The high ridges jump like wild kid goats.** <sup>7</sup>GOD's thunder spits fire. GOD thunders, the wilderness quakes; <sup>8</sup>**He makes the desert of Kadesh shake.** <sup>9</sup>GOD's thunder sets the oak trees dancing a wild dance, whirling; the pelting rain strips their branches. We fall to our knees—we call out, "Glory!" <sup>10</sup>**Above the floodwaters is GOD's throne from which his power flows, from which he rules the world.** <sup>11</sup>GOD makes his people strong. GOD gives his people peace.

### ***Hear the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Acts 10:34-43***

<sup>34</sup>Peter began to speak to Cornelius and his household: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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 Matthew:* We say: **"Glory to you, O Lord"**

### ***Hear the Reading of the Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17***

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

*The Gospel of the Lord:* We say: **"Praise to you, O Christ"**

### ***Sermon: "Into the Water"***

## Reflection Hymn: "Baptized in Water"

*At this time, you are invited to go forward and light a candle of remembrance  
as we take time to reflect on God's word*



1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the  
2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the  
3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the



blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust-ing his  
tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -  
sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's



prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.  
giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.  
chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise we 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 "O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

*Lord in your mercy,*



O Lord, hear my prayer.....

*Amen.*



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.

**Passing of the Peace** .....and 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: "What Feast of Love"** \*\*to the tune "What Child Is This"

What feast of love is offered here? What banquet come from heaven?

What food of everlasting 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 manna given!

### **Offering Prayer**

**Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior. Amen.**

### **Table Setting Hymn: "In the Singing"**



1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,



in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,

### **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:

**(C) sings: 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**

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:

**"Lamb of God"**



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have  
 2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and  
 3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y  
 scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a  
 brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of  
 fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.  
 rod and to be called a lamb of God.



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me



in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

**"I Come with Joy"**



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are  
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er  
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in  
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

## "Here is Bread"



1 Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, he is with us.  
2 Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, he is with us.  
3 Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, he is with us.



Break the bread, taste the wine, Christ is with us here.  
Know his grace, find his peace, feast on Je - sus here.  
We'll pro - claim till he comes Je - sus cru - ci - fied.



In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup is life for - ev - er.



In this mo - ment, by the Spir - it, Christ is with us here.

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

## SENDING

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

**Sending Hymn: "Wade in the Water"**

*Refrain*

All



Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,



wade in the wa - ter, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.



Leader

All

1 See that host all dressed in white,  
 2 See that band all dressed in red,  
 3 Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?  
 4 If you don't be-lieve I've been re - deemed,

God's a-goin' - a trou-ble the

wa - ter; the lead - er looks like the Is - ra - 'lite,  
 looks like the band that . . . Mo - ses led,  
 the Ho - ly Ghost a - com-ing on me,  
 just fol - low me down to . . . Jor - dan's stream,

All

Refrain

God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

**Dismissal:** Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

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



We will be “de-Christmas”ing the Sanctuary after worship **TODAY** Sunday January 8<sup>th</sup>.  
 Your help with this would be most appreciated!

**2<sup>nd</sup> Official Notice** (according to our By-laws) of our upcoming  
**Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**for St. James – Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**immediately after our worship service.**

*This meeting will be available by Zoom for those of you at home.*

*\*\*Watch for an invitation to join and instructions for those of you not familiar to Zoom.*

Please join us for a potluck **Brunch**   
 immediately after the Annual Meeting.

**Bring your favorite hot dish, pastries, fruit etc and enjoy fellowship!**

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

January 2023 Altar Guild: Kim Behrent

January 2023 Cleaner(s): Mina Morse, Jean Voldseth, Leslie Mullin and Betty Ames

January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Reader(s): Randy & KayDel Shelton

January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Communion Helper(s): Kim Behrent & Chris Fleury

*Thank you, Kim Behrent & Rae Ellen Strickland for helping with communion last Sunday.*

January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Usher(s): Carrie Williams

*Thank you, Leslie Mullin for ushering last Sunday.*

January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Gate Keepers: Carrie Williams & Chris Fleury

2023 Musician(s): Marge Sunvold & Betty Ames



*January 2023 Mission Offering*

*~ Your continued support benefits.....*

**“St John’s United” Chapel Court  
residents’ wish list!**

**YOUR MONEY** generosity will let staff provide the residents with a few of their needed things i.e. toilet paper; kleenex; shampoo; word search books; microwave popcorn; socks; puzzles, etc etc.

*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.”**

**2022 YTD complete Income vs Expenses will be available  
during the upcoming Annual Meeting. Thank you for your generosity!**

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

Our NEW 2023 monthly budget to be used will be voted on at the Annual Meeting - Sunday Jan 15<sup>th</sup>.

January 1<sup>st</sup> Offering gratefully received      \$ 390.00  
Total received so far this month \$ 390.00

### **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).**



**Happy January Birthday**

Con Lofing 1/3; Mikaela Koski 1/8; Butch Behrent 1/13;  
Anders Bjorkman 1/16; Pam Carlson 1/21; Carter Short 1/23;  
Leanne Sekora 1/28; Arlene Mitchell 1/28



**Happy January Anniversary**

Larry & Joy Goehner 1/3

**It's a new year and new beginnings..... for those with email, watch your inbox for your special Birthday or Anniversary cards from St. James. It will show up from the trusted site of American Greetings and look like the image below! Other members (with no email) will receive your card by "snail mail".**

**Note:** Parents, please watch your email or mail for St. James' birthday greetings to share with your children / grandchildren, who are on our list. Thank you!



**YOU RECEIVED AN ECARD!**

Betty Ames ([btyames@yahoo.com](mailto:btyames@yahoo.com)) has sent you an ecard from American Greetings

**VIEW ECARD**

### **PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER...**

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

#### ***We offer PRAISE for good news and continued prayers:***

*From Brian & Sydne Wanner:* The Dr called us with the biopsy results. It was a stage 1 non-aggressive cancer and they are certain that they got it all! Praise God! He will have ongoing scans, is still sore and out for about another month, but seems a lot better in the last day or two. Very relieving news in a very scary situation. It all happened fairly fast. Again, thank you for your prayers!

*From Steve & Denise Cowan:* Our daughter Kristi Meierhoff has a good report from her Dr. After the second surgery for precancerous cells the margins are clean, and all is clear! Praise God!

#### ***We offer continued prayers for:***

Your healing and wisdom Lord for Merridy Gauthier; LaNita Maurer; Tessa Rouane's husband, Conner; Tonia's brother, John Strohecker; Steve & Denise Cowan; Bob & Bev Kem; Vi Ekle; Bonny Rouse; Joy Goehner; Pete Hegg; Gary Lofing; Kyme Noble.

Those living with cancer: Brian Wanner; Bob Rouane; Aracelii Enano; Rick Cox; Ashley Foster; Jenny Hansen Cheff; Shane Fouhy; Jim Wilson 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 insecure & home insecure. Pray especially for a little boy named Luke and a little girl named Nevaeh.

Ukraine and her people

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

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES  
to REFLECT GOD'S LOVE to OURSELVES, to EACH OTHER  
and to OUR NEIGHBORS**

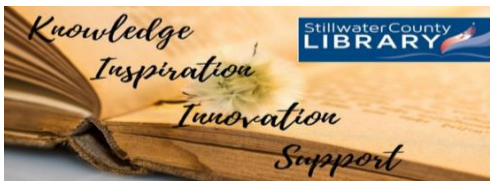
#### **REMINDERS:**

- **Every Wednesday** Watch Pastor Tonia's "Word on Wednesday" message on FB or open the Word(s) on Wednesday email with a copy of Pastor Tonia's weekly message

- **Every Friday or Saturday** The Weekly Preparing for Worship email arrives in your inbox with the bulletin for the upcoming Sunday Worship service and, also, the “Children’s Worship Bulletins” series for you to open & enjoy and share with your family & friends.

## 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 embroiderers 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



### Upcoming Future Library Events:

**Cricut Class** Saturday, Jan 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 1pm

**Memory + Imagination = Fiction presentation with Craig Lancaster & Elisa Lorella** Saturday, Jan 14<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30pm

