

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



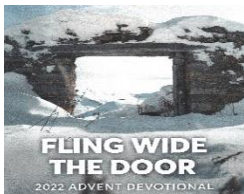
Click on image or the link below to be directed to our website:
www.lutheranchurchcolumbusmt.org

**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!

****We hope these attachments are an encouragement to you as we are.....**



~ "Fling Wide the Door" Advent Devotional from Luther Seminary
~ "Names of Jesus Advent Calendar Weekly Devotional to help you focus on Jesus as we get closer to Christmas Eve."



John 15:1,5

Isaiah 40:5

Isaiah 53:3

Revelation 1:8

Isaiah 9:6

John 14:6

Acts 2:36

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"*

Sunday December 11th, 2022

3rd Sunday in Advent – "Comfort and Joy"

Welcome, Announcements & Opportunities for Serving

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

*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

Call to Worship: "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

- 1 God rest ye merry, gentlemen let nothing you dismay
Remember, Christ, our Savior was born on Christmas day
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray

Refrain:

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tidings of comfort and joy!

- 2 "Fear not then", said the Angel "Let nothing you affright
This day is born a Savior of a pure Virgin bright
To free all those who trust in Him from Satan's power and might" ***Refrain:***

Lighting the 3rd Candle of Advent: Pastor Tonia & Donna Zeigler, LPA

WE SING: ***to the tune of "O worship the King, All Glorious Above!"*

**The candle of joy reminds us to sing, for God is at work to do a
new thing. The proud will be humbled; the lowly will rise.
God's kingdom is one of delight and surprise.**

GATHERING

Confession & Forgiveness

***God of new beginnings, we confess we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have
strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one
another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on
your way of love, so we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your
coming among us. Amen.***

Assurance of God's Love

Gathering Hymn: “Joy to the World”

- 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.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 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.
- 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

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, so, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; 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: Nehemiah 8:10

Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.

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

Read Psalm 146:5-10 responsively by whole verse

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God; ⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all which is in them; who keeps promises forever;** ⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The Lord sets the captive free. ⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.** ⁹The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow but frustrates the way of the wicked. ¹⁰**The Lord shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

Hear the 2nd Reading: James 5:7-10

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

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

The Gospel Acclamation:

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

The Gospel according to Matthew:

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

Matthew 26:26-29

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, ‘Take, eat; this is my body.’ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink

from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you; I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.'

The Gospel of the Lord:

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

Sermon: "The Joy of the Table"

Reflection Hymn: ELW #726 "Light Dawns on a Weary World"

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 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

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 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

Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ 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

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:

"In the Bleak Midwinter"



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;

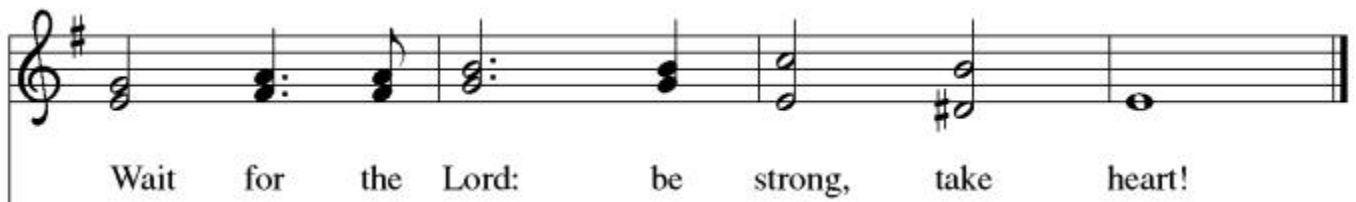


in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

"Wait for the Lord"



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.



Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Repeat:

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

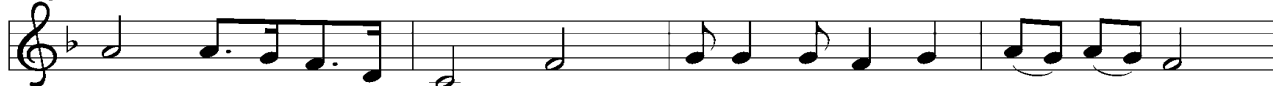
Prayer after Communion..... and we say: **Amen.**

SENDING

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

Sending Hymn: "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Dismissal Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

TODAY – SUNDAY 12/11!!!

FYI.....

*Help to pass the word to
your family and friends,
neighbors etc*

<i>It's that time of year again...</i>		
KIDS' CHRISTMAS SHOPPING DAY		
SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER 1 TO 3 PM		FOR STILLWATER COUNTY KIDS IN GRADES K-5 \$3 FOR UP TO 5 GIFTS STILLWATER PAVILION
	<i>Parents enjoy coffee & cookies while kids shop!</i>	

St. James' Annual Progressive Dinner **Sunday, December 11th 4:00pm**

First stop – Pastor Tonia will host at the Parsonage with potluck appetizers, then off to the church for the potluck main course, hosted by Leanne Sekora, Pat Lofing & Merridy Gauthier and ending at the Morse's for potluck desserts and carols!

***Thank you for signing up for your potluck dish -
Please bring your dish to the appropriate house!!***



Join us for fun and fellowship during this Christmas Season.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING

December 2022 Altar Guild: Sheri Luepke

December 2022 Cleaner(s): Leanne Sekora, Pat Lofing & Merridy Gauthier

December 2022 Reader(s): Maureen Hemphill

December 11th,2022 Communion Helper(s): **Will someone sign up to help today?**

Thank you, Brian & Sheri Luepke for helping with communion last Sunday

December 11th,2022 Usher(s): **Will someone sign up to help today?**

Thank you, Chris Fleury for ushering last Sunday.

December 11th,2022 Gate Keepers: Brian Luepke & Leslie Mullin

2022 Musician(s): Marge Sunvold & Betty Ames

December Mission offering.....

~ Your continued support benefits

ELCA Charities

i.e. World Hunger & Relief; Freedom in Christ; Good Gifts

We will continue the "Reverse Advent Calendar" for Project Hope's Food Bank



***Add your choice to the box at the front of the IGA store or
create your own box and give to PH by or on December 19th!
Thank you again in advance!!***

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.”

FYI: At the annual meeting held Jan 16th, 2022,

\$96,100 was the yearly approved 2022 budget ÷ 12 months = \$8,008.33 needed each month.

FOR YOUR REVIEW AND PRAYER.....

December 4th Offering gratefully received \$3,240.00

Total received so far this month \$3,240.00

****Our 2022 monthly budget to meet is \$ 8,008.33**

Jan (\$634.43) + Feb (\$1,718.33) + Mar (\$3,428.33) + Apr (\$1,868.33) - May \$6,476.91 + June \$(2,613.33) + July (2,248.33) + August (\$2,250.33) + September (\$1,432.33) + October (\$1,528.03) + November (2,283.33) =

YTD UNDER Monthly Budget by negative (\$13,528.19)

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).

*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 new prayers for:

Brian Wanner, who was just diagnosed with kidney cancer and is having kidney removal in December. Lord be with Brian. Give wisdom to his surgeon and bring healing to his body. Give Brian and Sydne peace as they begin this journey. We put them and their family in Your faithful hands. Amen.

We offer continued prayers for:

Your healing and wisdom Lord for Steve & Denise Cowan; Bob & Bev Kem; Vi Ekle; Bonny Rouse; Joy Goehner; Pete Hegg; Gary Lofing; Kyme Noble.

Those living with cancer: Bob Rouane; Araceli 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***



Happy December Birthday

Pete Hegg 12/4; Sydne Wanner 12/6; Maureen Hemphill 12/7; Nancy Stenerson 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; Danny & Betty Ames 12/26;
Don & Peggy Herzog 12/26; Steve & Denise Cowan 12/28

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 and two Bible Crossword Puzzles.
- **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, Reflections during Advent. The "Children's Worship Bulletins" series for you to open & enjoy and share with your family & friends will now be available on our website during Advent.

Reminder... GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS at St. James



We are again providing the St. James "Taxi" Service from Meadowlark to Church, this time for Jo Lind.

Anyone, anytime, give Jo a call @ (406) 322-4497 to offer a ride to our Sunday service. She is living in Suite #13.

We have members who have moved away from Columbus and members whom we miss coming to St. James:

Please remember them all in our prayers and reach out to them with a card or phone call.



Dwelling in the Word

Join in a 30-minute Zoom conversation with others around the Montana Synod for a time of "Dwelling in the Word", a practice of listening to a passage of scripture and pondering what the Holy Spirit might be saying to each person during the time together. Since March of 2020, DEM Peggy Paugh Leuzinger and others in the Synod have joined in this time to pray, converse, and support one another.

The same Zoom link will be used for the rest of 2022.

Please save the link to your calendar to use each week or as often as you are able to join.

Topic: Dwelling in the Word every Thursday 8:30 am

Every week on Thu, until Dec 29, 2022, 18 occurrence(s)

To Join Zoom Meeting: Click on the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84336859392?pwd=QXR1ZXNCSjFuZTJQaUZHWVWmK3F6QT09>

Meeting ID: 843 3685 9392

Passcode: 740661

FUTURE DATES:

➤ *Wednesday December 14th,2022 Choir Practice 4:00pm @ UCC*

St James' Christmas Eve Service

Saturday December 24th

5:30pm



Please join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!

St James' Christmas Day Service

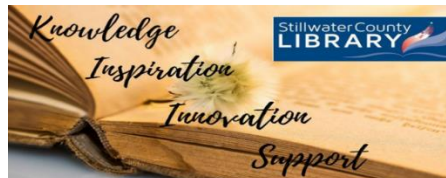
Sunday December 25th

9:30am



MORE Community Events for St. James:

- Every Monday we are invited to join:
 - ~The Stillwater Youth Center for coffee and visiting from 8-11am.
- 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 8-11am

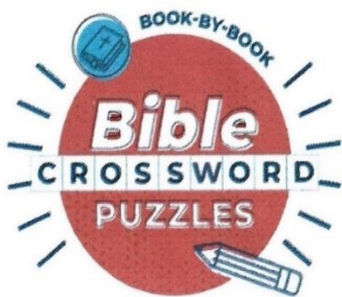


Upcoming Future Library Events:

Dungeons & Dragons- Open to kids ages 8+ 1:00-4:00pm
Saturday December 10th

THIS WEEKS ANSWERS:

*** Check Wednesday 12/7 e-mail for these puzzles*



Hosea

1. Knowledge
2. Egypt
3. Promiscuous
4. Sacrifice
5. Jezreel
6. Prophets
7. Gomer
8. Ephraim
9. Grapes

Joel

1. Visions
2. Gloom
3. Anguish
4. Soldiers
5. Deliverance
6. Philistia
7. Foreigners
8. Locusts
9. Drunkards
10. Harvest

Amos

1. NONE
2. Prophets
3. Famine
4. Agreed
5. Restore
6. Exile
7. Despise
8. Wither
9. Darkness
10. Lord
11. Disaster

