# WELCOME to St. James Lutheran Church

Below are the suggested recommendations for our process of Worship each Sunday.....

The wearing of a mask is now considered "optional".

\*\*Please respect the decision of others, as they choose to wear or not to wear a mask.

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"

# 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

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



# Sunday December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent **"O Come Let Us Adore Him"**

#### Welcome, Announcements & Opportunities for Serving

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

#### Call to Worship: ELW #283 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (3rd verse only)



#### Lighting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Candle of Advent:

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.

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

.....and also be with you.

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

#### **GATHERING**

#### Confession & Forgiveness:

God for whom we wait, in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

#### Assurance of God's Love

#### Gathering Hymn: "Joy to The World"



#### Prayer of the Day:

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; 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: Zephaniah 3:14-20

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. <sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing <sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so you will not bear reproach for it. <sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressor, at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. <sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

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

#### Read Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6 responsively by whole verse

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation. <sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. <sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim this name is exalted. <sup>5</sup>Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. <sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

#### Hear the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Word of Wisdom, Word of God. **THANKS BE TO GOD**.

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

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

#### Hear the Reading of the Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." <sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup>He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." <sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." <sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

Sermon: "O Come, Sing for Joy"

#### Hymn for Reflection: "Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn"



#### 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, receive our prayer.

#### Passing of the Peace

.....and also with you.

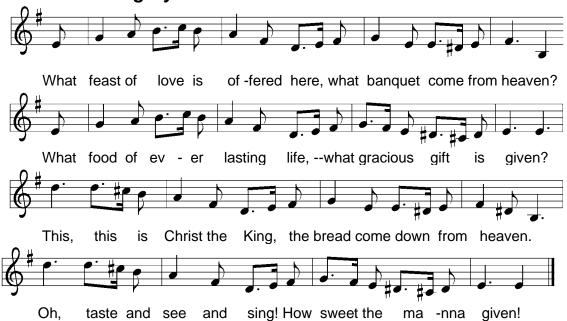
#### **MEAL**

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

#### Offering Prayer

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.

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



#### Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise** ....we join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

#### Words of Institution

#### The Lord's Prayer

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

#### Invitation to Communion

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

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

ELW #289 "Angels We Have Heard on High"







- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es tate where ox and ass are feed ing?
- 3 So bring him in cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing? Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing. The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

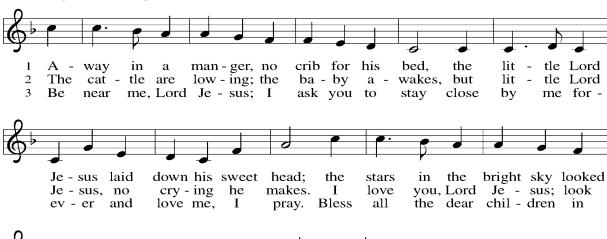


This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing; Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you; Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y! to Word made flesh, Mar - y! hail, hail the the babe, the son of for Christ is born, the babe, the son Mar - y! joy, joy, of

#### ELW #277 "Away in the Manger"





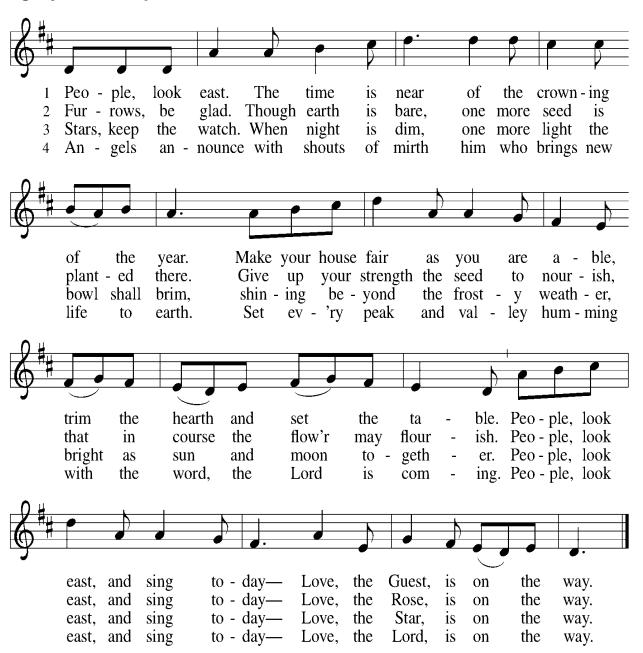
down where he lay, lit tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the the down from the and by my cra - dle till morn-ing is sky stay your ten - der care and fit us for heav-en, to live with you there.

#### Prayer after Communion.....

# and we say: Amen SENDING

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

Sending Hymn: "People Look East"



#### Dismissal:

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

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

#### A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING

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

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

December 2021 Reader: Maureen Hemphill

December 2021 Usher(s): Thank you Steve Cowan for helping.

December 2021 Communion Helper(s): Thank you Brian & Sheri Luepke for helping. December Gate Keepers: *Donna Zeigler, Carrie Williams, Steve & Denise Cowan,* 

Larry & Joy Goehner, Brian & Sheri Luepke, Chris Fluery & Judy Bjorkman

Musician(s): Marge Sunvold and Betty Ames

# We hope some of you had a chance to enjoy the Columbus event last evening....the community enjoyed our gift of Lefse and Coffee & Cocoa to stay warm before the Parade! Here are a few pictures for your pleasure.....



To begin, our Lefse Ladies and Gents, peeled, cooked and riced 30# of potatoes on Wednesday.

The following day, the crew rolled and cooked up some of the rounds ahead of time, to keep up with the demand at the parade.





Of course, we can't forget to clean up after!

Thank you - Mina, Jean, Pastor Tonia, Donna,

Brian & Sheri, Steve and Denise.

A big THANK YOU to Mina & Joe for opening your home to prepare for this event and allowing us to use your main-street building for our outreach event.



### Before the Parade..... the gift of our lefse to the community!



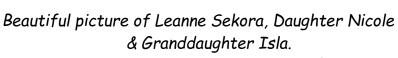


#### At the Parade....











Thank you so much Nicole for letting me "borrow" your pictures from FB!

# **SUNDAY: December 12th**

# Annual Progressive Dinner – after worship...

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!

Bring your potluck dish to the appropriate house!!



# Join St. James for fun and fellowship during this Christmas Season.

#### **Also Sunday:**

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



### Coming this Week .....

- Tuesday December14<sup>th</sup>: Bible Study @ 2:00pm
- December 15<sup>th</sup>: Watch Pastor Tonia's a "Word on Wednesday" live on FB or recorded on our FB Page or catch up on past letters you may have missed found on our Website.

# St James' Christmas Eve Service Friday December 24<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm



# No RSVP or assigned seating this year! Please join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!

"Your faith in God's mission for St. James is unshakeable."

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

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

- 1. Mail your offering to the church at St. James Lutheran Church, PO Box 356, Columbus, MT, 59019
- 2. Take your envelope offering to Pastor Tonia's parsonage and put in the designated box on her front porch.
- 3. Stop in at your bank and arrange a monthly auto pay transaction.
- 4. Give online through **Tithe.ly**, a giving app endorsed by the ELCA. Each transaction carries a small fee. Your gift is safe / secure and goes directly to our church or ministry. Plus, you'll be able to track all your gifts, setup recurring, and more!

<u>Tithe.ly</u> (click on this blue "Tithe.ly" link – takes you directly to St. James' account to sign-up) Remember that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### We offer continued prayers for:

Your healing and wisdom Lord for Chris Fleury's grandson, Zane; Liz Cox's husband Rick;

Patty Sundberg's mother, Joan; Steve Cowan; Baby Quincy Davis; Bev Kem; Jerry Brown; Victoria Seymour; Zayden Sundberg; Denise Cowan; Roger Mullin and Gary Lofing.

Those living with cancer: Sandy Yoder's daughter in law, Lola; Ashley Foster; Aracelii Enano; Ann Pomeroy;

Jenny Hansen Cheff; Kyme Noble; Barb Potzman; Delbert Goehner; Les Lane and Jim Wilson

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

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

## Happy December Birthday

Pete Hegg 12/4; Sydne Wanner 12/6; Maureen Hemphill 12/7; Nancy Stennerson 12/7; Rusty Stennerson 12/8; Larry Goehner 12/14; Carrie Williams 12/14; Peggy Herzog 12/23; Lisa Kem 12/29;

## Happy December Anniversary

Steve & Cindy Smith 12/7; John & Arlene Mitchell 12/15; Danny & Betty Ames 12/26; Don & Peggy Herzog 12/26; Steve & Denise Cowan 12/28;

Simple Reminder....

