

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 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 12th, 2021 – 3rd 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)



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Lighting the 3rd 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"



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

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

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵The 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. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The 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 ¹⁸as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹I 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. ²⁰At 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

²Surely 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. ³**With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.** ⁴And 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. ⁵**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.** ⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Hear the 2nd Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And 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

⁷John 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? ⁸Bear 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. ⁹Even 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." ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers 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." ¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John 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. ¹⁷His 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." ¹⁸So, 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"



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

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"



What feast of love is of-fered here, what banquet come from heaven?



What food of ev - er lasting 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 ma - nna given!

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 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
- 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
- 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis

De - o;

glo



ri - a

in ex - cel - sis

De

o.

ELW #276 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
 2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
 saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
 Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
 Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

ELW #288 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

ELW #296 "What Child is This?"



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

ELW #277 "Away in the Manger"



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn-ing is nigh.
 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"



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Dismissal:

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

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....



Beautiful picture of Leanne Sekora, Daughter Nicole & Granddaughter Isla.

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

It's that time of year again...		
KIDS' CHRISTMAS SHOPPING DAY		
SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER 1 TO 3 PM		FOR STILLWATER COUNTY KIDS IN GRADES K-6 \$3 FOR UP TO 5 GIFTS STILLWATER PAVILION
	Parents enjoy coffee & cookies while kids shop!	

Coming this Week.....

- Tuesday December 14th: Bible Study @ 2:00pm
- December 15th: 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 24th

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!

[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).



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.....

**This is the
season**

**This is the
reason**

