

# 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)

**\*\*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!**

## 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 December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent**  
**"Blue Christmas Service"**  
**"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.

**Prelude, 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: ELW #283 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (Vs 1-3)



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!

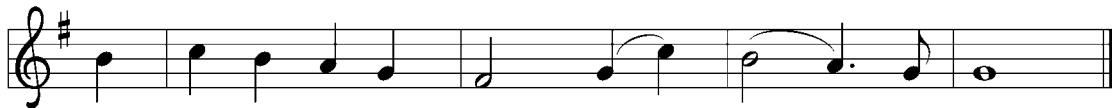


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*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 Advent Candle Litany:

*L:* We light this candle to remember those who have been loved and lost. We pause to remember their name, their face, their voice. We give thanks for the memory which binds them to us this in this time of year.

**All:** May God's eternal love surround them and us. (Pause for reflection)

*L:* We light this second candle to redeem the pain of loss: the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs, the loss of home, the loss of health. To remember what has been lost to Coronavirus. As we gather up the pain of the past, we offer it to you, O God, asking that into our open hands you will place the gift of peace.

**All:** Refresh, restore, renew us, O God, and lead us into your future. (Pause for reflection)

L: We light this third candle to remember ourselves as Christmas approaches. We pause and remember the past weeks, months and even years of down times. We honor the power of the emotions our memories stir. We acknowledge the sadness, the hurts, the grief, the pain of reflecting on our own mortality.

All: Let us remember the light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it. (Pause for Reflection)

L: We light the fourth candle to remember our faith and the gift of hope which God offers to us in Christ – God with us, Emmanuel. We remember God who shares our life, promises us a place and time of no more pain and suffering.

All: Let us remember the One who shows the way and who goes with us into our tomorrows. (Pause for Reflection)

### Let us pray our Advent Prayer:

Gracious God, Father of the Prince of Peace, help us to follow where Your light shines. Hope is the destination of our faith and peace gives us the courage to travel the journey with joy. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

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

## GATHERING

### Gathering Hymn: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (Verses 1,5,6, & 7)

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Vs 5 O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. **Refrain**

Vs 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. **Refrain**

Vs 7 O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one;  
Refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new. **Refrain**

## Prayer of the Day:

Come, Lord, come soon. I don't mean to be rude or sound impatient, but this Christmas the manger still seems empty. Your psalms seem to give permission to ask, "How long, O Lord?" So, it must be OK. You know our circumstances. You know our emptiness. Clearly, by the presence of others here today, we're not the only ones who are waiting for some sign, some comfort, some greater hope. Maybe this is the beginning just knowing we're not alone. Keep listening as we sit here today. Keep reaching for us – as we reach for you. Amen.

## WORD

### Hear the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

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

### Read Psalm 146:5-10 responsively by whole verse

<sup>5</sup>Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God, <sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all which is in them; who keeps faith forever; <sup>7</sup> who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free; <sup>8</sup> the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. <sup>9</sup> The LORD watches over the strangers; He upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked He brings to ruin. <sup>10</sup> The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

### Prayer for Strength

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

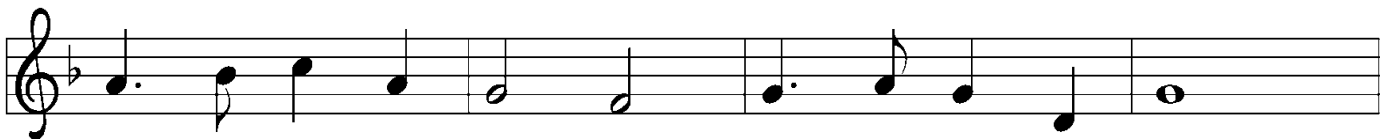
The Holy Gospel according to Luke: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### Hear the Reading of the Gospel: Luke 1:39-55

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

### Sermon: "Light Shines on a Blue Christmas"

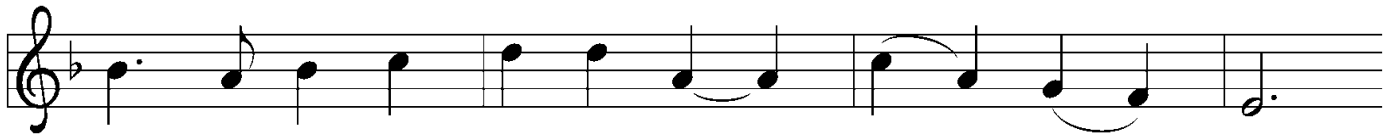
### Hymn for Reflection: "In the Bleak Midwinter"



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.

**Hear the Prayers for our Losses**

**Prayers of the People**

Lord in your mercy, **hear 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 #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:

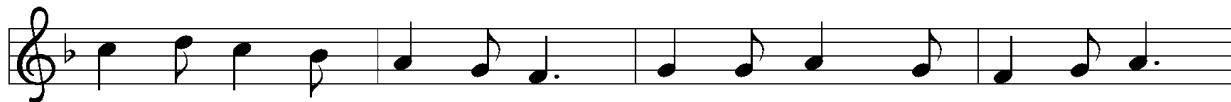


Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

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!

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

## SENDING

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

### **Sending Hymn: “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”**



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born king;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heav’n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



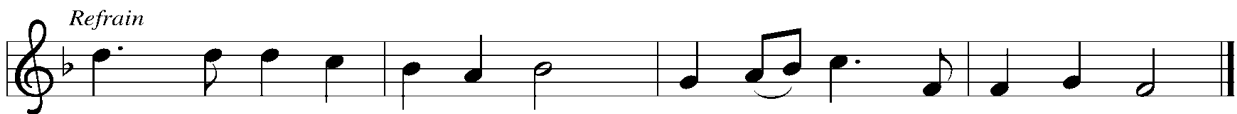
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled.”  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born king!”

### **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 Bob Hemphill for helping last Sunday.

December 2021 Communion Helper(s): Thank you Brian & Sheri Luepke for helping last Sunday.

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

## **Thanks to those who participated in our Annual Progressive Dinner ...**

*Here are a few pictures for your pleasure.....*





*Thank You Pastor Tonia for always taking pictures at our events!*

*Coming this Week.....*

- Tuesday December 21<sup>st</sup> Bible Study @ 2:00pm
- December 22<sup>nd</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.
- December 26<sup>th</sup>: Church Council Meeting immediately after church

## **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!**

***Will you share your poinsettias to adorn our church on Christmas Eve?***



*Would you like the opportunity to serve on St. James' church council?*

# Your council is accepting nominations for yourself or for the name of another member to serve.

Please let one of the council nominating team members know of your interest. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

## **Email or call or text:**

**Pastor Tonia Fisher** [toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com](mailto:toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com) 656-9557

**Betty Ames, President** [bytames@yahoo.com](mailto:bytames@yahoo.com) 671-0090

**Steven Cowan, Vice-President** [denisecowan48@yahoo.com](mailto:denisecowan48@yahoo.com) 671-6458

*"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 new prayers for:***

Liz Cox's son, Steven, who will be undergoing surgery to remove a growth found last week. Also, for her mother-in-law who is being affected by a blocked artery. And for Rick Cox as he begins his chemo treatments this week.

### ***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**

