

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"**

St. James Lutheran Church

205 E 1st Ave. N. Columbus, MT 59019
Leader: Pastor Tonia Fisher (406) 656-9557
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*Our Mission: "We worship together, grow in faith,
share our faith and serve with the love of God"*



Saturday December 24th, 2022

"Christmas Eve Candlelight Service"

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 And when they came to Bethlehem where our dear Savior lay
They found Him in a manger where oxen feed on hay
His Mother Mary kneeling down unto the Lord did pray *Refrain:*

Lighting the Christ Candle: Pastor Tonia & Donna Zeigler, LPA

WE SING:

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

The Christ candle's light that shines for us here. Tells out the good news that God has come near! God came, a poor baby, in one time and place, to show all creation the wealth of God's grace.

GATHERING

Confession & Forgiveness

God of life, you promise good news of great joy for all people and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

Assurance of God's Love

Gathering Hymn: "O Come All Ye Faithful"

- 1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels:

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

- 2 The highest, most holy, light of light eternal born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain:*
- 3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain:*
- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain:*

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

Hear the 1st Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

Read Psalm 96 responsively by whole verse

¹Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. ²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.** ³Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples. ⁴**For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.** ⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens. ⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.** ⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power. ⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.** ⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth. ¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."** ¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all which is therein. ¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.** ¹³You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

Hear the 2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

Hear the Reading of the Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus for all the world to be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had

been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

Sermon: "God Rest All Ye Merry People"

Reflection Hymn: "The First Noel"

*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 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:**

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.

Special Song by Tessa Shelton

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?

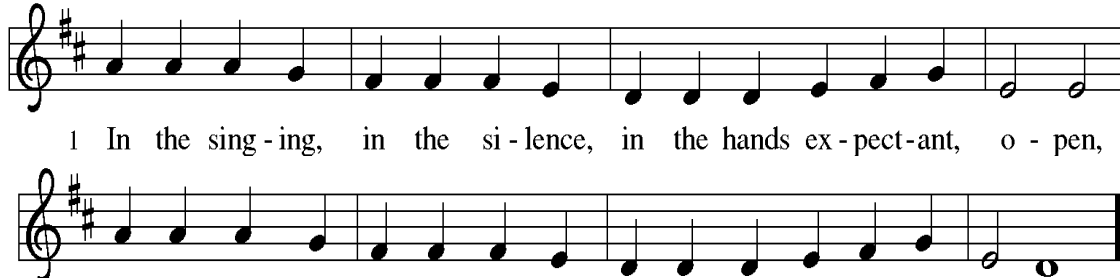
This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.

Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!

Offering Prayer

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. 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:

"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.

“Away in the Manger”

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
- 3 How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
- 4 O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.
- 3 And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!
- 4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

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

SENDING

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

Sending Hymn: "Silent Night"

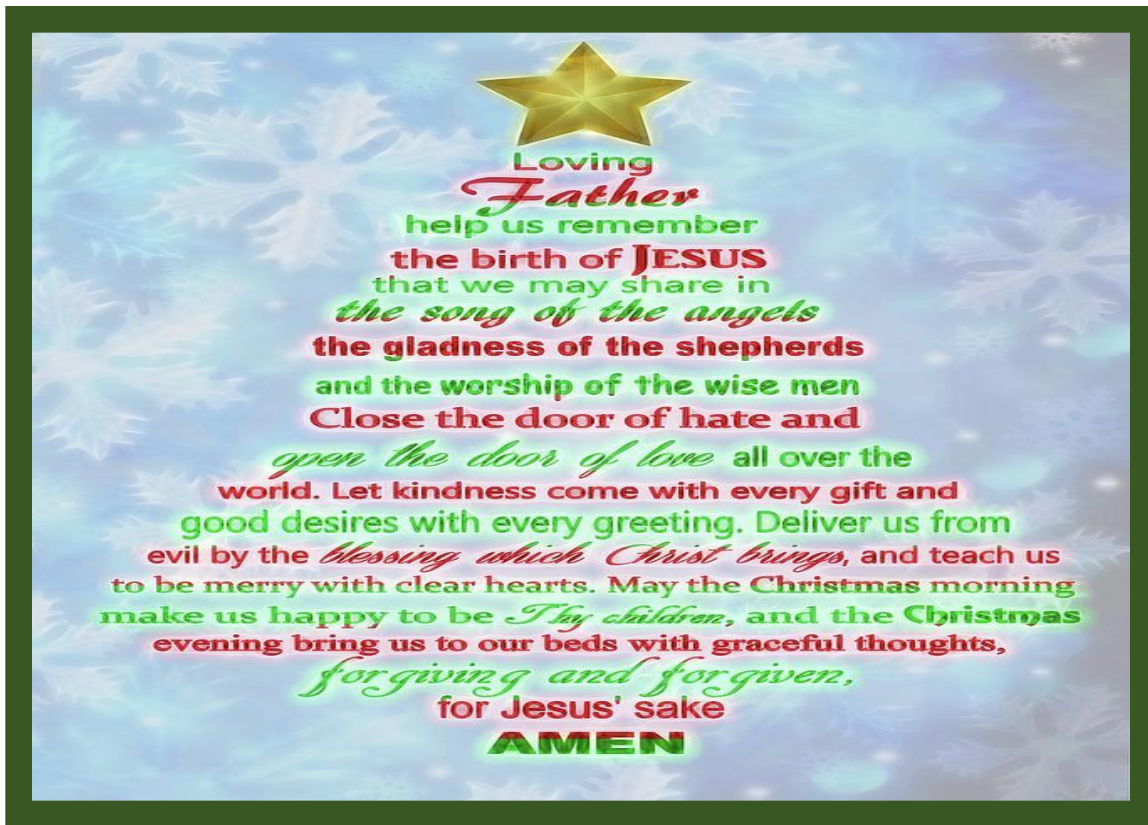
*** While you are twisting the flame of your candle to "lite", please hum through Silent Night once before starting to sing the verses.*

- 1 Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Dismissal

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim the good news. Thanks be to God.

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May the peace and blessings of Christmas be yours.
And may the coming year be filled with happiness.