

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!

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 25th, 2022

Christmas Day Service - "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 Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace
This holy tide of Christmas all other doth deface **Refrain:**

GATHERING

Christmas Litany

*We looked for a warrior; **You sent a baby.***

*We looked for royalty; **You were born to peasants.***

*We looked for power; **You showed us meekness.***

*We looked among rulers & politicians; **You were found among cattle and shepherds.***

*We looked for military victory; **You gave us resurrection.***

*We looked for riches; **You gave us selflessness.***

*We looked for a king; **You gave us a servant.***

Assurance of God's Love

Gathering Hymn: ELW #270 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain: *Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

- 2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! **Back to Refrain**
- 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. **Back to Refrain**

Prayer of the Day

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, 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: Isaiah 62:6-12

⁶Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, ⁷and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. ⁸The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; ⁹but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. ¹⁰Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. ¹¹The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." ¹²They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

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

Read Psalm 97 responsively by whole verse

¹The LORD reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the isles be glad. ²**Clouds and darkness surround the LORD, righteousness and justice are the foundations of God's throne.** ³Fire goes before the LORD, burning up enemies on every side. ⁴**Lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.** ⁵The mountains melt like wax before the Lord of all the earth. ⁶**The heavens declare your righteousness, O LORD, and all the peoples see your glory.** ⁷Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! Bow down before the LORD, all you gods. ⁸**Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O LORD.** ⁹For you are the LORD, most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods. ¹⁰**You who love the LORD, hate evil, God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand of the wicked.** ¹¹Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the honest of heart. ¹²**Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, and give thanks to God's holy name.**

Hear the 2nd Reading: Titus 3:4-7

⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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 2:4-20

⁴**Joseph** 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: “Behold the Child”

Reflection Hymn: “What Child is This?”

*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 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

- 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

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

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:

"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.

"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!

“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.

“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 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 mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*
- 3 Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Dismissal

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

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



Thank you, Joy Goehner

PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER...

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

We offer new prayers for:

Merridy Gauthier, who is hospitalized in Billings, and to LaNita Maurer, who is battling complications from a stroke. Give wisdom to their doctors and compassion to the nurses and CNA's who minister to them. Give comfort, peace, and strength to their families. We give thanks for Your Spirit which surrounds them during this time. Amen.

We offer continued prayers for:

Your healing and wisdom Lord for Tonia's brother, John Strohecker; Steve & Denise Cowan; Bob & Bev Kem; Vi Ekle; Bonny Rouse; Joy Goehner; Pete Hegg; Gary Lofing; Kyme Noble.

Those living with cancer: Brian Wanner; 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

➤ Sunday January 1st, 2023 New Year's Day Service 9:30am

Come **COMFY**

grab a cup of **COFFEE** and a **CINNAMON ROLL**

THEN...

join us at **CBURCS** for Worship and **COMMUNION**

As we welcome in

2023

New Year's Day is a Sunday this year. What a wonderful way to welcome in the New Year.
Come celebrate with your church family.

We tend to say up late on New Year Eve, so, you're welcome to come in your jeans.
Don't worry about your hair or your make-up, feel free to bring your pillow.
You'll be greeted with a cup of coffee and a fresh warm cinnamon roll –
which you are welcome to bring to your pew.

Let's ring in 2023 together.

➤ Sunday January 15th, 2023 St. James' Annual Meeting immediately after worship. ****Watch for email with information to read/study ahead of this meeting.**

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING

December 2022 Altar Guild: Sheri Luepke

January 2023 Altar Guild: Kim Behrent

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

January 2023 Cleaner(s): Mina Morse, Jean Voldseth, Leslie Mullin & Betty Ames

December 2022 Reader(s): Maureen Hemphill

January 2023 Reader(s): Randy and KayDel Shelton

December 25th, 2022 Communion Helper(s): Brian & Sheri Luepke

Thank you, Brian & Sheri Luepke for helping with communion Sunday December 18th.

January 1st, 2023 Communion Helper(s): **Will someone sign up to help today?**

December 25th, 2022 Usher(s): Joy Goehner

Thank you, Steve Cowan for ushering Sunday December 18th.

January 1st, 2023 Usher(s): **Will someone sign up to help today?**

December 25th, 2022 Gate Keepers: Joy Goehner & Brian Luepke

January 1st, 2023 Gate Keepers: Leslie Mullin & Rae Ellen Strickland

2022 & 2023 Musician(s): Marge Sunvold & Betty Ames

We are  to have hired Will Moore to keep our sidewalk and street free from snow and ice and safe for the members of St. James!!



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.”

FOR YOUR REVIEW AND PRAYER.....

December 4 th Offering gratefully received	\$3,240.00
December 11 th Offering gratefully received	\$1,628.00
December 18 th Offering gratefully received	<u>\$1,615.00</u>
Total received so far this month	\$6,483.00

**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).

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES
to REFLECT GOD’S LOVE to OURSELVES, to EACH OTHER
and to OUR NEIGHBORS

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.



WEEKLY REMINDERS:

➤ **NO BIBLE STUDY TUESDAY DECEMBER 27TH**

- **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, the "Children's Worship Bulletins" series for you to open & enjoy and share with your family & friends.
- **Every Sunday** Attend Worship Service in person @ St. James 9:30am or watch on-line (see info above to connect to FB or to our Website)

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.

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

FINAL CONVERSATION on this Thursday Dec 29, 2022

To Join Zoom Meeting: Click on the link below:

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

Meeting ID: 843 3685 9392 Passcode: 740661

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:

A good portion of our patrons are taking advantage of these free programs.

*** See information below. Have you taken a look?*

They are housed inside our Libby application. If you need help, feel free to come in and ask. We would love to get you started.

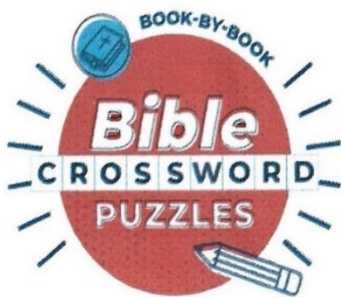
[FREE PROGRAM LINK
CLICK HERE](#)

I Want to Take a Class in...

	<p>Accounting Over 45 online courses</p>		<p>Alternative Medicine Over 40 online courses</p>		<p>Crafts & Hobbies Over 70 online courses</p>
	<p>Business Over 100 online courses</p>		<p>Career Training Over 100 online courses</p>		<p>Computer Training Over 55 online courses</p>
	<p>Entrepreneurship Over 100 online courses</p>		<p>Finance Over 70 online courses</p>		<p>General Education Over 95 online courses</p>
	<p>Health & Medicine Over 45 online courses</p>		<p>History Over 30 online courses</p>		<p>Homeschooling Over 45 online courses</p>
	<p>How To / Do It Yourself Over 55 online courses</p>		<p>Language Arts Over 35 online courses</p>		<p>Law/Legal/Criminal Over 45 online courses</p>

THIS WEEKS ANSWERS:

**** Check Wednesday 12/21 e-mail for these puzzles**



Nahum

1. Avenging
2. Trouble
3. Unpunished
4. Skirts
5. Attacker
6. Plunder
7. Victims
8. Corpses
9. Grasshoppers
10. Indignation

Habakkuk

1. Violence
2. Faithfulness
3. Time
4. Injustice
5. Naked
6. Pestilence
7. Deeds
8. Tremble
9. Wrongdoing
10. Babylon
11. Eagles

Zephaniah

1. Mankind
2. Baal
3. Consumed
4. Humility
5. Judah
6. Mocking
7. Unrighteous
8. Punishment (across)
8. Pastures (down)
9. NONE
10. Jerusalem