

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 26th, 2021 – The Festival of Lessons and Carols

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.

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: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Vs 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to you, O Israel

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

GATHERING

Confession & Forgiveness:

Holy God, we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, so all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.

Assurance of God's Love

Gathering Hymn: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

Vs 1 It came upon a 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.

Prayer of the Day:

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

THE FIRST LESSON: From the prophet Isaiah

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

"I Wonder as I Wander"

- Vs 1 I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor ord'n'ry people like you and like I. I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.
- Vs 2 When Mary birthed Jesus, all in a cow's stall, came wise men & farmers & shepherds & all,
And high from the heavens a star's light did fall; the promise of the ages it then did recall.
- Vs 3 If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing, a star in the sky or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing, he surely could have had it, 'cause he was the king.
- Vs 4 I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor ord'n'ry people like you and like I. I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

THE SECOND LESSON: From 1 Samuel

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

“What Child is This” Vs 1-2

- Vs 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!
- Vs 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!

THE THIRD LESSON: From the Gospel of Luke

The angel appears to Mary. You shall call him Jesus.

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

- Vs 1 Hark! The herald Angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing “Glory to the newborn king!”

THE FOURTH LESSON: From the Gospel of Luke

The Child is Born

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

- Vs 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.

THE FIFTH LESSON: From the Gospel of Luke

The Shepherds go to the manger.

“Joy to the World”

- Vs 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.

THE SIXTH LESSON: From the Gospel of Matthew

Led by the star to Jesus.

“The First Noel” vs 1 & 5

- Vs 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.*

- Vs 2 Then entered in those wisemen three, full rev’reently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence, their gold and myrrh, and frankincense.

Refrain: *Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.*

THE SEVENTH LESSON: From the Gospel of John
St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

Reflection: "The Coming of the Light"

Reflection Hymn: "O Come All Ye Faithful" Vs 1-2

Vs 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!

Vs 2 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:

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

Prayers of the People

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Passing of the Peace

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.

Offering Prayer

Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. 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 -na 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:

"Angels We Have Heard on High "

Vs. 1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

Vs. 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

Vs. 3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

"Away in the Manger"

Vs. 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the sky looked down where he lay; the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Vs. 2 The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes, 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.

Vs. 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.

"Silent Night "

Vs. 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.

Vs 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!

Vs 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.

Prayer after Communion.....

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. 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!

Vs 1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. **Refrain:**

Vs 2 The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. **Refrain:**

Vs 3 Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain:**

Dismissal

Go in peace and joy to remember the story and to share the story in word and work.
AMEN, may it ever be so.

*Music Published by Permission, CCLI #11445215
Worship Service recorded by Permission, CSPL #1686*

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING

Donna Zeigler – helping Pastor Tonia with our special services this month.

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 Christmas Eve!

December 2021 Communion Helper(s): Thank you Brian & Sheri Luepke for helping Christmas Eve!!

December Gate Keepers: *Larry & Joy Goehner and Brian & Sheri Luepke.*

Musician(s): Marge Sunvold and Betty Ames

Coming this Week.....

- **Tomorrow December 26th** Church Council Meeting immediately after worship
- **NO** Bible Study until **Tuesday January 4th, 2022 @ 2:00pm**
- Watch Pastor Tonia's a "Word on Wednesday" live on FB **Wednesday December 29th** or recorded on our FB Page or catch up on past letters you may have missed attached to an email or can be found on our Website.
- **HAPPY NEW YEAR – 2022!!**

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 656-9557

Betty Ames, President bytames@yahoo.com 671-0090

Steven Cowan, Vice-President denisecowan48@yahoo.com 671-6458

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

"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)

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 Jerry Brown; Denise Cowan; Steve Cowan; Lix Cox's mother-in-law; Baby Quincy Davis; Zane Fluery; Gary Lofing; Roger Mullen; Kyme Noble; Victoria Seymour; Stephen Steffenson and Zaden Sundberg.

Those living with cancer: Aracelii Enano; Ashley Foster; Jenny Hansen Cheff; Rick Cox; Delbert Goehner; Les Lane; Ann Pomeroy; Barb Potzman; Jim Wilson and Sandy Yoder's daughter in law, Lola.

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

*And may the coming year be
filled with happiness.*



Welcome 2022

Each new year brings us new opportunities
to know Him more, to walk in faith,
and grow by His grace.

May your year be
blessed in the Lord.

"...Eye hath not seen, nor ear
heard, neither have entered
into the heart of man, the
things which God hath
prepared for them that love
Him." — 1 CORINTHIANS 2:9 KJV

