

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

**On the website, scroll down to "Click here for the St. James FB link"

To our faithful followers at home or wherever you are, PLEASE let us know you are watching by writing a post or give your name. We'd love to hear from you!

Today December 3rd



Coffee Fellowship

Carrie & Evelyn Williams and Betty Ames INVITES
your family and/or your "pew neighbor" to STAY after
worship to enjoy fellowship & laughter!

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 3rd, 2023 –

1st Sunday in Advent - "Unto Us a Child is Born"

Welcome, Announcements & Opportunities for Serving

"Happy are those who hear the joyful call to worship, for they will
walk in the light of your presence, LORD...You are their glorious strength.
It pleases you to make us strong." (Ps 89:15,17)

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 for HOPE: "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn" Vs 1 & 3 only



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.

Lighting the 1st Candle of Advent: Pastor Tonia

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

The candle of hope, we light in this hour; proclaims that the Lord is coming in power. We wait for a future, now hidden from view, when Christ in his glory will make all things new.

GATHERING

Confession & Forgiveness

Everlasting God, You love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness which make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

Assurance of God's Love

Gathering Hymn: ELW #251 "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness"



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.
the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—
The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

Hear the 1st Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your
adversaries, so the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds which we did not
expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear
has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those
who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you
hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are
like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who
calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered
us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people

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

Read Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 responsively by whole verse

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you who are enthroned upon the cherubim. ²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.** ³Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. ⁴**O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?** ⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink. ⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.** ⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. ¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.** ⁸And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name. ¹⁹Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Hear the 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God which has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

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

The Gospel Acclamation: ELW #151

We sing: Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

The Gospel according to Mark:

We sing the response after the announcement: **“Glory to you, O Lord”**

Mark 13:24-37

Jesus said: ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man

going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Gospel of the Lord:

We sing the response after the conclusion: **“Praise to you, O Christ”**

Sermon: “Preparation and Proclamation”

Reflection Hymn: ELW #260 “The King Shall Come”



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

Apostle’s Creed ELW #105

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

After each petition: *P: Lord, in Your mercy,* **C: hear our prayer**

After last petition: **All: AMEN.**

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.

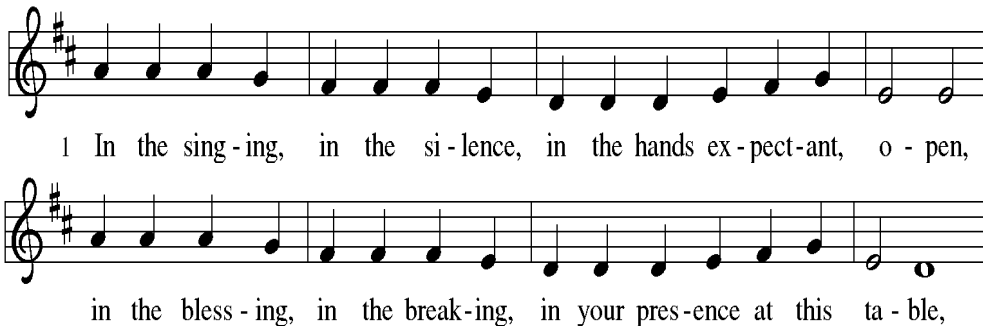
Bread & Wine and Our Gifts are brought forward..... while we sing
The Offering Hymn: ELW #487 “What Feast of Love” ***to the tune “What Child is This”

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 our provider, **by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth.**
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your
steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

Table Setting Hymn: ELW #466 “In the Singing” **1st vs only- no refrain



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 ELW #153

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 ELW #154

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:

“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!

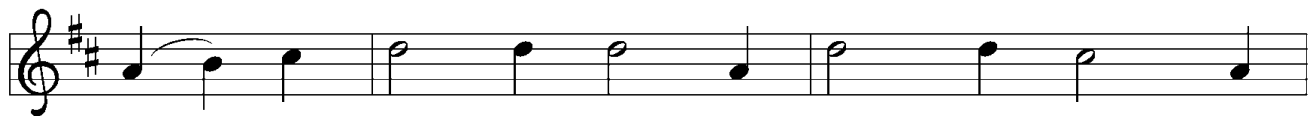
- 2 In Bethlehem, in Israel this blessed Babe was born
And laid within a manger upon this blessed morn
The which His Mother Mary did nothing take in scorn **Refrain:**

- 3 From God our Heavenly Father a blessed Angel came
And unto certain Shepherds brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by Name? **Refrain:**

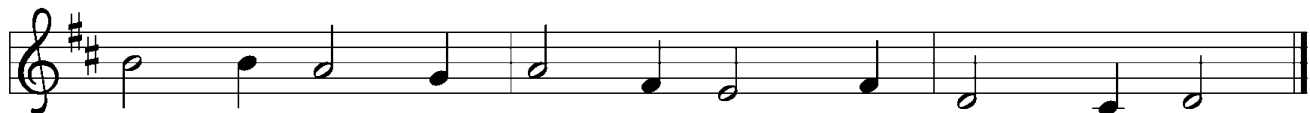
“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” ELW #249



- 1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



- that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



- for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

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

SENDING

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

Sending Hymn: ELW #239 "Hark, the Glad Sound"



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Dismissal: Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God.**

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

December Mission offerings.....

~ Your continued support benefits

ELCA Charities

i.e. World Hunger & Relief; Freedom in Christ; Good Gifts

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING

December 2023 Altar Guild: Sheri Luepke

December 2023 Cleaner(s): Leanne Sekora & Pat Lofing

December 2023 Reader(s): Maureen Hemphill

Thank you, Leanne, KayDel, Bob K, Pat L, Leslie & Betty for reading last Sunday

December 3rd, 2023 Communion Helper(s): Will someone sign up to help this Sunday?

Thank you, Brian & Sheri Luepke for helping with communion last Sunday

December 3rd, 2023 Usher(s): Will someone sign up to help this Sunday?

Thank you, Carrie Williams for ushering last Sunday.

December 3rd, 2023 Gate Keepers: Carrie Williams & Pat Lashley

2023 Musician(s): Marge Sunvold & Betty Ames



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; Sarah Norslien 12/14; Peggy Herzog 12/23;
KayDel Shelton 12/26; Lisa Kem 12/29



Happy December Anniversary

Cindy & Steve Smith 12/7; Danny & Betty Ames 12/26;
Don & Peggy Herzog 12/26; Steve & Denise Cowan 12/26.

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.....

November 5 th Offering gratefully received	\$1,595.00
November 12 th Offering gratefully received	\$1,735.00
November 19 th Offering gratefully received	\$ 190.00
November 26 th Offering gratefully received	<u>\$1,145.00</u>
Total received so far this month	\$4,665.00

Continued reminder of how to give your monthly tithe or offering to your church.....

Mail your offering to the church; Take your offering to the parsonage; Auto pay thru your bank and **Tithe.ly**.

Tithe.ly (click on this “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)

*For new prayer requests, please contact **Pastor Tonia**. Text or call her at (406) 656-9557 or email her at toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com*

PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER...

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

Your healing and wisdom Lord for Bob Hemphill; Bill Strickland; Pastor Tonia; Joy & Larry Goehner;

Jim Dickey; Merridy Gauthier; LaNita Maurer; Steve Cowan; Ken & Pete Hegg; Gary Lofing;

Joan Elser Bonny Rouse;

Those living with cancer: Father Fenton; Kaci Thomason; Brian Wanner; Bob Rouane; Aracelii Enano;

Ashley Foster; Jenny Hansen Cheff; Shane Fouhy; Jim Wilson & 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 & home insecure.

Victims of violence and of natural disasters.

***Please pray for all of those who serve in our military domestically & overseas,
As well as their spouses and children.***

We certainly hope you are

Having Fun with Faith...

We hope you are enjoying the series of “Children’s Worship Bulletins”, which are **found on our website.**

www.lutheranchurchcolumbusmt.org

These games are geared toward all age levels, so, everyone can join in the fun!

PLEASE FORWARD & SHARE these bulletins with your kids, grandkids, friends & friend’s friends!!!



Every Tuesday,
Bible Study is held at St. James 2:00pm.
We study the upcoming Sunday lessons.
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

Every Wednesday, continue to watch for the Word(s) on Wednesday email with a copy of Pastor Tonia's weekly message or watch recorded on our FB page. Print the Bible WORDsearch Puzzles. Enjoy!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES TO REFLECT GOD'S LOVE TO EACH OTHER AND TO OUR NEIGHBORS

MORE Community Events for St. James:

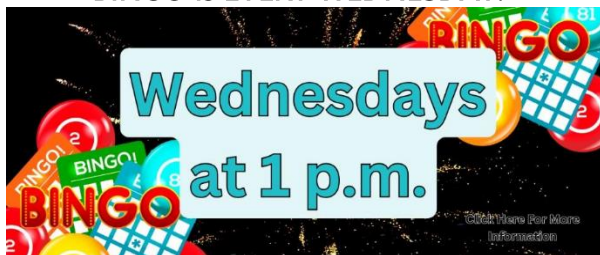
- Every Monday we are invited to join:
~The Stillwater Youth Center for coffee and visiting from 8-10am.
- Every Tuesday we are invited to attend:
~ The Women's Adult Group at the Stillwater Youth Center at 9:30am and/or 7:00pm for an inductive study on Revelation
~ Absarokee Quilting Group – 10am in the basement of the Cobblestone building. Knitters, crocheters and embroiderettes 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 8-10am



For more information,
see the "Table Posters"
at St. James.

Join the fun this week.....

BINGO is EVERY WEDNESDAY!



FUTURE DATES:

➤ **Tuesday**

December 5th -

Chorus Practice 6:00pm @ UCC

We will be practicing for a “Christmas Cantata!”

You are invited to.....

“A Christmas Musical Cantata”

Directed by Sharron Bruesch and accompanied by Marge Sunvold

The Stillwater Community Chorus

(with members from Columbus, Absarokee, Rapelje, Molt and Park City)

will have two performances this December!

**** 1st PERFORMANCE:**

Saturday December 9th 4:00pm

@ the Columbus Middle School Gymnasium

**** Doors open 1/2 hr before event Everyone Welcome.**

St. James’ Annual Progressive Dinner

Sunday, December 10th 11:00am

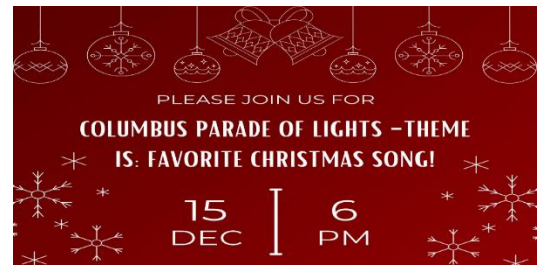
First stop – Pastor Tonia will host at the Parsonage with potluck appetizers, then off to the church for the potluck main course, hosted by Leanne Sekora & Pat Lofing and ending at the Morse’s for potluck desserts and carols!

Thank you for signing up for your potluck dish to bring to the appropriate house!! Reminder: Join us at all three “homes” or come to just one or two!



Join us for fun and fellowship during this Christmas Season!

➤ **Friday December 15th –**
Columbus Parade of Lights
**** Watch for more information**



You are invited to.....

“A Christmas Musical Cantata”

Directed by Sharron Bruesch and accompanied by Marge Sunvold
The Stillwater Community Chorus
(with members from Columbus, Absarokee, Rapelje, Molt and Park City)
will have two performances this December!

****2nd PERFORMANCE:**

Sunday December 17th 1:30pm

@ the Cobblestone Center in Absarokee

**** Doors open ½ hr before event Everyone Welcome.**

A promotional graphic for "KIDS' CHRISTMAS SHOPPING DAY". It features a blackboard-style text box with "It's that time of year again...", a holly leaf with berries, the event title "KIDS' CHRISTMAS SHOPPING DAY", a date box for "SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER 1 TO 3 PM", a red Christmas ornament, a box for "FOR STILLWATER COUNTY KIDS IN GRADES K-5 \$3 FOR UP TO 5 GIFTS STILLWATER PAVILION", a candy cane, and a blackboard-style text box with "Parents enjoy coffee & cookies while kids shop!".

➤ **Sunday December 17th –**

Council Meeting immediately after worship



**Share your poinsettia's to adorn our altar
on Christmas Eve.**

Columbus now has two flower shops to provide your flower needs:

Vera's Garden on main street (Old Eagle's Nest) 514 E Pike Ave, Columbus, MT

Full Circle Floral Studio (Apple Village Complex) 565 N 9th, Columbus, MT,

Come celebrate with us....



***The 4th Day of Advent and
The Birth of our Lord
Christmas Eve Service***

One service on:

Sunday December 24th @ 4:30pm