

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!

A Special Thank You to.....

- ~ those who brought Poinsettias to adorn our Altar.
- ~ Amber, Arianna & Emma Lofing & Brian Luepke for gatekeeping on Christmas Eve.
- ~ Brian Luepke for helping Pastor Tonia with the readings & prayers for the 4th Advent and Birth of Christ and the lighting of the candles.
- ~ the St. James Choir for the special music "Were You There on That Christmas Night?"
- ~ the little ones who came forward to hear the Children's Sermon
- ~ Tessa Shelton, accompanied by her mother, KayDel for the beautiful song "Mary Did You Know?"
- ~ Steve & Denise Cowan, for gathering our tithes and offerings & ushering.
- ~ Brian & Sheri Luepke for assisting Pastor Tonia with communion.
- ~ the St. James family & friends for filling our church with love, praise and singing as we welcomed & celebrated the Birth of Our Lord, Jesus

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 31st, 2023 –
1st Sunday of Christmas**



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: ELW#283 “O Come All Ye Faithful”

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 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:**

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 that 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: ELW #275 “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

Vs 1 Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Vs 2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Vs 3 Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Vs 4 All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Special Music: "One Small Child"

by Mina Morse accompanied by Marge Sunvold

WORD

Please STAY SEATED as we listen to the Gospels.....

The Gospels according to Luke & Matthew:

We **SAY** this response after the announcement: **"Glory to you, O Lord"**

The Gospels of the Lord:

We **SAY** this response after the conclusion: **"Praise to you, O Christ"**

Hymn after the reading of the Gospels: ELW #279 "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
- 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!

Sermon: "The Spider Who Saved Christmas"

Reflection Hymn: ELW #300 "The First Noel"

- 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 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:**
- Vs 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:**
- Vs 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:**
- Vs 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:**

Nicene Creed ELW #104

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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 Peaceand 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.

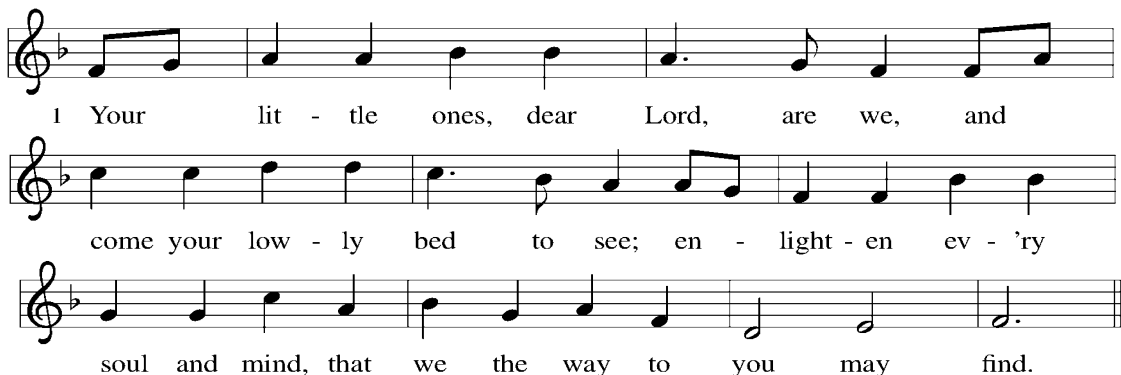
Bread & Wine and Our Gifts are brought forward..... while we sing
The Offering Hymn: ELW #282 "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" Vs 1

Vs 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.

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: ELW #286 "Your Little Ones" Vs 1



1 Your lit - tle ones, dear Lord, are we, and
come your low - ly bed to see; en - light - en ev - 'ry
soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.

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:

1 verse of each Hymn:

ELW #267 "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.

ELW #270 "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 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!"

ELW #275 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

Vs 1 Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

ELW #277 "Away in a 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 bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

ELW #289 "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

ELW #296 "What Child is This?"

Vs 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthem 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!

ELW #281 "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.

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

SENDING

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

Sending Hymn: ELW #290 “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: *Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news* **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: Denise Cowan

January 2024 Altar Guild: Kim Behrent

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

January 2024 Cleaner(s): Mina Morse & Jean Voldseth and Betty Ames & Leslie Mullin

December 2023 Reader(s): Maureen Hemphill

January 2024 Reader(s):

December 31st, 2023 Communion Helper(s): Will someone sign up to help?

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

December 31st, 2023 Usher(s): Will someone sign up to help this Sunday?

Thank you, Leslie Mullin for ushering last Sunday.

December 31st, 2023 Gate Keepers: Leslie Mullin & Steve Cowan

2023 Musician(s): Marge Sunvold & Betty Ames

OPPORTUNITIES to SERVE at ST. JAMES.....

*Would you consider helping each Sunday with **Ushering**,*

*being the **Reader**, assisting during **Communion** w/Pastor Tonia,*

*being a member on the **Altar Guild**, OR*

*offering to **Clean** our church (with another family) one or two times per year?*

If you are interested in helping, please let Donna Z. or Pastor Tonia know!!

More detailed information on our opportunities may be found on our website:

www.lutheranchurchcolumbusmt.org Click on the “Serve With Us” tab. Thanks!



Happy January Birthday

Butch Behrent 1/13; Pam Carlson 1/21; Leanne Sekora 1/28;
Arlene Mitchell 1/28.



Happy January Anniversary

Larry & Joy Goehner 1/3

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 3 rd Offering gratefully received | \$1,995.00 |
| December 10 th Offering gratefully received | \$1,335.00 |
| December 17 th Offering gratefully received | \$1,400.00 |
| December 24 th Offering gratefully received | <u>\$1,902.00</u> |

Total received so far this month \$6,632.00

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.

We offer new prayers for:

Pastor Tonia, whose brother, Jim Wilson, passed last Tuesday morning. Lord of Comfort, we ask You to lift up Pastor Tonia and ask You to comfort her during her time of grief as she mourns the loss of her brother. We also ask for Your comfort and peace for his mother, Sharon, and his family and friends.

We offer continued prayers for:

Your healing and wisdom Lord for 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 & 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 Library information, see the "Table Posters" at St. James.



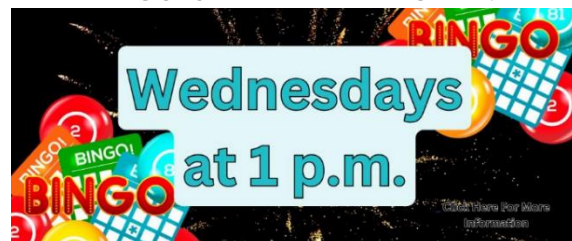
Join the fun each week.....



**Crochet and Knit club Every Saturday
starting Jan 6th
10 – 11:30am**



BINGO is EVERY WEDNESDAY!



So long...



Welcome January

January is a time of quiet and new beginnings - is the perfect time to reflect on how you want to live your life.

January is the perfect time to refocus on your priorities and set goals.

FUTURE DATES:

- **Sunday January 14th, 2024 - “So long, wish you well, we’ll miss you” potluck for Steve and Denise Cowan immediately after worship.**
 - **Watch for more information.**
- **Sunday January 21st, 2024 – Annual Congregation Meeting immediately after worship**
- **Sunday January 28th, 2024 – Council Meeting immediately after worship**
- **“Soup”er Bowl Sunday is February 11th, 2024.**
 - ~ You decide which team wins! Feb. Mission Offering TBA!**
 - ~ Stay after church for a “soup”er delicious coffee hour!**
- **Tuesday February 13th, 2024 – “Fat Tuesday” Annual Pancake supper @ UCC**
- **Wednesday February 14th, 2024 - Valentine’s Day**
Also, February 14th, 2024 – Ash Wednesday
FYI - Wednesday Lent Services start Feb 21st.
- **Easter Sunday is March 31st, 2024.**