

# WELCOME to St. James Lutheran Church

Below are the suggested recommendations for our process of Worship each Sunday.....

- The wearing of a mask is now considered “optional”.  
*\*\*Please respect the decision of others, as they choose to wear or not to wear a mask.*

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](http://www.lutheranchurchcolumbusmt.org)

**\*\*Scroll down to “Click here for the St. James YouTube link”**

## St. James Lutheran Church

205 E 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. N. Columbus, MT 59019  
Leader: Pastor Tonia Fisher (406) 656-9557  
Email: [toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com](mailto:toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com)

*Our Mission: “We worship together, grow in faith,  
share our faith and serve with the love of God”*



**Sunday December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent**  
**“O Come Let Us Adore Him”**

**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.

**Call to Worship: ELW #283 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (2<sup>nd</sup> verse only)**



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

**Lighting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Candle of Advent:**

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

**The candle of love tells what we are worth: God loves us so much God came to the earth! An angel brought news of a child who would be; The one who would save us and set us all free.**

*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.**

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

## GATHERING

### **Confession & Forgiveness:**

*God for whom we wait, in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.*

### **Assurance of God's Love**

### **Gathering Hymn: "Prepare the Royal Highway"**



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

### **Prayer of the Day:**

*Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through 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 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Malachi 3:1-4**

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who

can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

### ***Read Psalm: Luke 1:66-80 responsively by whole verse***

<sup>68</sup>Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, <sup>66</sup>All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him. <sup>67</sup>**Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:** <sup>68</sup>Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free. <sup>69</sup>**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David.** <sup>70</sup>Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies, <sup>71</sup>**from the hands of all who hate us,** <sup>72</sup>to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant. <sup>73</sup>**This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:** <sup>74</sup>to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship you without fear, <sup>75</sup>**holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.** <sup>76</sup>And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way, <sup>77</sup>**to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.** <sup>78</sup>In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, <sup>79</sup>**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.** <sup>80</sup>The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

### ***Hear the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Philippians 1:3-11***

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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:* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### ***Hear the Reading of the Gospel: Luke 3:1-6***

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; <sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

*The Gospel of the Lord:* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### ***Sermon: "O Come, Shine on Those in the Wilderness"***

### ***Hymn for Reflection: "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"***



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.  
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!  
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.  
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum - ble fa - vor.  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

### ***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, **receive our prayer.**

### ***Passing of the Peace***

**.....and also with you.**

## **MEAL**

*....we thank you for your faithful generosity to St. James in sharing your tithes and offerings which allows us to do God's work with our hands.*

## Offering Prayer

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. 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 -nna 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:

ELW #277 "Away in the Manger"



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord  
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord  
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked  
 Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look  
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
 your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

ELW #289 "Angels We Have Heard on High"



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

*Refrain*



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

ELW #276 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;  
 2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
 saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:  
 Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:

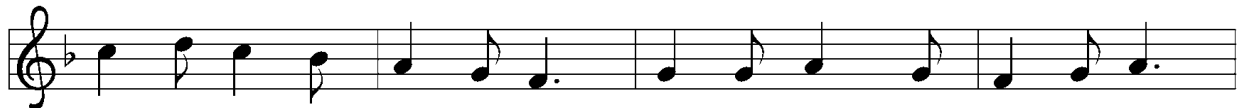


Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!  
 Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

ELW #288 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"



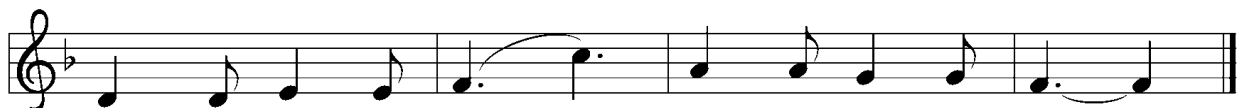
1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!





1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.  
The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

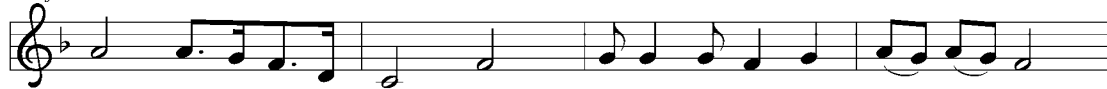
**Prayer after Communion.....** and we say: **Amen**

## **SENDING**

**Blessing.....** and we say: **Amen.**

### **Sending Hymn: "Go Tell it on the Mountain"**

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

### **Dismissal:**

**Go in peace. Christ is near. Thanks be to God.**

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

### **A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING**

- 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):
- December 2021 Communion Helper(s):
- December Gate Keepers: *Donna Zeigler, Carrie Williams, Steve & Denise Cowan, Larry & Joy Goehner, Brian & Sheri Luepke, Chris Fluery & Judy Bjorkman*
- Musician(s): Marge Sunvold and Betty Ames

### **Coming this Week.....**

- **Tuesday December 7<sup>th</sup>: Bible Study @ 2:00pm**
- **December 8<sup>th</sup>: Watch Pastor Tonia's a "Word on Wednesday" live on FB or recorded on our FB Page or catch up on past letters you may have missed found on our Website.**
- **Columbus Parade of Lights Friday December 10<sup>th</sup>. We are planning to make and serve lefse for all who attend.**



*St. James is in the planning stages of serving/making lefse DURING the Parade of Lights. All Parade attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy fresh lefse and hot beverages as they prepare to watch the event. A free will offering will be available with all proceeds benefitting Project Hope and the Senior Center.*

**WATCH for more information to help with this great event for St. James!**

# Annual Progressive Dinner – December 12<sup>th</sup> Immediately after worship.....

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 & Merridy Gauthier and ending at the Morse's for potluck desserts and carols!

*There will be an opportunity to sign up for your potluck dish to bring to appropriate house!!*



Join St. James for the fun and fellowship during this Christmas Season.

*FYI..... Help to pass the word to your family and friends, neighbors etc*

<p>It's that time of year again...</p>		
<p>KIDS' CHRISTMAS SHOPPING DAY</p>		
<p>SUNDAY <b>12</b> DECEMBER 1 TO 3 PM</p>		<p>FOR STILLWATER COUNTY KIDS IN GRADES K-6 \$3 FOR UP TO 5 GIFTS STILLWATER PAVILION</p>
	<p>Parents enjoy coffee &amp; cookies while kids shop!</p>	

# St James' Christmas Eve Service

## Friday December 24<sup>th</sup>

### 5:00pm



**No RSVP or assigned seating this year! Please join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!**

*"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)***



## *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

### **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 Chris Fleury's grandson, Zane; Liz Cox's husband Rick;

Patty Sundberg's mother, Joan; Steve Cowan; Baby Quincy Davis; Bev Kem; Jerry Brown; Victoria Seymour; Zayden Sundberg; Denise Cowan; Roger Mullin and Gary Lofing.

Those living with cancer: Sandy Yoder's daughter in law, Lola; Ashley Foster; Aracelii Enano;

Ann Pomeroy; Jenny Hansen Cheff; Kyme Noble; Barb Potzman; Delbert Goehner; Les Lane and Jim Wilson

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;*