

WELCOME to St. James Lutheran Church

For the “Love of One Another” at St. James, we will continue to take every reasonable precaution to protect those who worship in-church each Sunday by honoring the 3 W’s.....

“WATCH” our physical distancing

“WEAR” our masks properly and for the entire service

“WASH” and/or sanitize our hands

Please, if you do not feel comfortable to attend in person, you have the opportunity to watch FB Live or a recorded version later in the day.

Blessings to all of you, whether you are joining us in the house of God, joining us by watching the FB Live service or in spirit and prayer.

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!
[FB Search: Saint James Lutheran Church of Columbus, Montana](#)

2nd Official Notice (according to our By-laws) of our upcoming Annual Congregational Meeting for St. James – Sunday, February 28th, immediately after our worship service.

This meeting will be available by **Zoom for those of you at home. **Watch for an invitation to join and instructions for those of you not familiar.

Coming this week and beyond....

- Bible Study - Tuesday February 23rd @ 2pm
- Watch Pastor Tonia's a "Word on Wednesday" live on FB February 24th or recorded on our FB Page or catch up on past letters you may have missed attached to the February weekly preparing for worship email.
- Watch the **recorded** Wednesday Lenten Service Wednesday February 24th on our FB Page or on YouTube

(your bulletin and link to YouTube will be emailed before Wednesday's service)

Remember.....

We will **NOT** be gathering for in-person **weekly** Wednesday Lenten Services at the church



St. James Lutheran Church

205 E 1st Ave. N. Columbus, MT 59019
Leader: Pastor Tonia Fisher (406) 656-9557
Email: toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com

February 21st, 2021 – 1st Sunday of Lent

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

I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Ps 122:1

Welcome

Announcements & Opportunities for Serving

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

GATHERING

Confession & Forgiveness

Fountain of living water, **pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

Assurance of God's Love

Gathering Hymn: "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" Vs 1 & 2



1 A might - ty for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er
2 If we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing turns to
3 Though all the world with dev - ils fill and threat - en to de -
4 God's Word shall stand a - bove the pow'rs, shall end all their thanks-



fail - ing; our help - er frees us from the flood of
los - ing; the righ - teous one fights by our side, the
vour us, we trem - ble not, we trust God's will: they
giv - ing. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours, for



mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe,
one of God's own choos - ing. You ask who this may be:
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Though Sa - tan rant and rage,
God with us is liv - ing. Let goods and kin - dred go,



for - sworn to work us woe, with guile and dread - ful might
Christ Je - sus, it is he, the Lord of hosts by name.
in fierc - est war en - gage, this ty - rant's doomed to fail;
this mor - tal life al - so; though all of these be gone,



is armed to wage the fight: on earth there is no e - qual.
No oth - er God we claim! None else can win the bat - tle.
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word shall tri - umph.
they yet have noth - ing won. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Prayer of the Day:

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation, you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, 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 1st Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

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

Hear Psalm 25:1-10

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. ²My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. ³Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous. ⁴Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths. ⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long. ⁶Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting. ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD. ⁸You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore, you teach sinners in your way. ⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way. ¹⁰All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

Hear the 2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

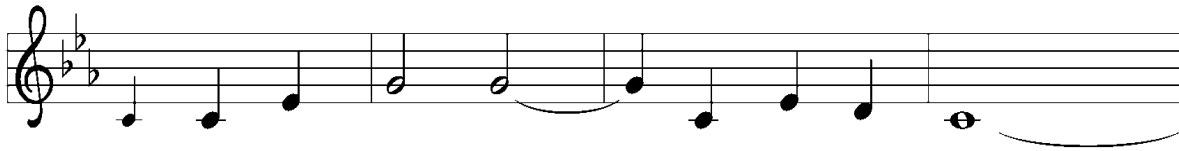
Hear the Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

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

Sermon: “The Sign of the Covenant”

Hymn for Reflection: "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" Vs 1 & 2



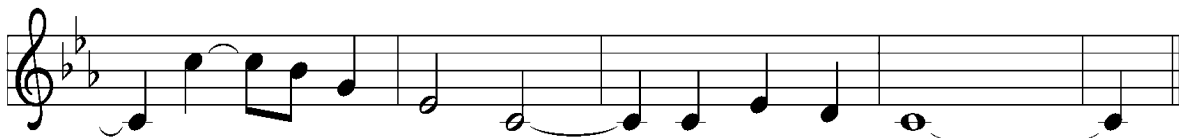
1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

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

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

O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. Amen.

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

Mystery of our Faith. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

Communion will look a little different during our season of Covid-19. It will still be the Lord's supper.

We **will** partake the body of Christ **with Pastor.**

We **will** partake the blood of Christ **with Pastor.**

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

SENDING

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

Sending Hymn: "Bless Now, O God, the Journey" Vs 1 & 2



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Dismissal:

Go in peace. Share the good news as you **reflect the Light of God.**

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



**Mission Offering for February 2021 benefits...
Project Hopes' "Food Bank Program"**

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING

February 2021 Altar Guild: Kim Behrent

February 2021 Cleaner(s): Leanne Sekora, Pat Lofing, Leslie Mullin & Betty Ames

February Gate Keepers: Donna Zeigler, Carrie Williams, Steve & Denise Cowan and
Larry & Joy Goehner

Musician(s): Marge Sunvold and Betty Ames



*...has arrived in Columbus and it's here to stay for a while! A big **THANK YOU** to the angel(s) who braved the cold and shoveled the sidewalk and road this week!*

*If anyone would be willing to help during future storms, please let a council member or Pastor Tonia know. We can come up with a schedule. **Thank you!***

*For new prayer requests, please contact **Judy Bjorkman** at 321-2988, text or call or by email at jdbjorkman@hotmail.com*

PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER...

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

We offer continued prayers for:

Your continued healing God for Leslie's parents, Les and Renae Kercher; Sheri Todd; Roger Mullin; Bill Strickland; Gary Lofing and Jenny Steffenson.

We lift up those living with cancer: Barb Potzman; Delbert Goehner; Dennis Gauthier; Arvid Barnam, Les Lane and Jim Wilson

All countries affected by the Coronavirus/Cofid-19 as they struggle to contain it and treat those who have contracted it. Please guide them; heal those who are afflicted with the virus; watch over their doctors, nurses and first responders; and halt its spread.

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

"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).

*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 a council member or Pastor Tonia know of your interest.

We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Pastor Tonia Fisher toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com

Church Council Members

Betty Ames, President bytames@yahoo.com

Steven Cowan, Vice-President denisecowan48@yahoo.com

Joy Goehner; Brian Luepke;

Harold Riensche; Carrie Williams; Donna Zeigler

Church Financial Team:

Amber Lofing, Financial Treasurer & interim Financial / Council Secretary

*****See your church directory or website for all council members phone #'s and emails***