

WELCOME to St. James Lutheran Church

205 E 1st Ave. N. Columbus, MT 59019 (406) 321-5100

Leader: Pastor Tonia Fisher

Email: toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com

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



Sunday February 25th, 2024 – 2nd Sunday in Lent

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 with you.

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

GATHERING

Lenten Litany

P: In the dry wildernesses of our lives, in the days of heat and thirst, you offer us living water,

All: Thank you, gracious and generous God.

*P: When we begin to doubt your presence, and grumble because we feel Your love is unreliable, you
offer us living water,* **All: Thank you, gracious and generous God.**

*P: When life's regrets and the bad choices we have made leave us feeling excluded and unworthy,
you offer us living water,* **All: Thank you, gracious and generous God.**

*P: When circumstances, or the inhumanity of others, have left us alone and wounded, you offer us
living water,* **All: Thank you, gracious and generous God.**

*P: We thank you and praise you, O God, so however we may thirst, whatever we may need to satisfy
our souls, you offer it freely and abundantly in Christ;* **All: So, we go down to drink deep of the living
water and, as we draw from your wells, we seek to pass the cup to others who, like us, are
thirsty for Your grace. Thank You gracious and generous God.**

Gathering Hymn: "Down to the River to Pray"



As I went down to the riv - er to



pray, stud - y - ing a - bout that good old ___ way, and ___

who shall wear the robe and crown? Good Lord,
 show me the way. O bro - thers,
 let's go down, ___ let's go down, ___ come on
 down. ___ O bro - thers, let's go down, ___
 down to the riv - er to ___ pray!

Confession & Forgiveness

Holy God, we confess we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways which silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

Assurance of God's Love

Service of the Lenten Candles

Candle Service Devotion for this 2nd Sunday of Lent

EXTINGUISHING OF SECOND LENTEN CANDLE

Let us pray... Loving God, as we journey through this holy season of Lent, may we be open to your presence. Give us the strength to make the changes which are needed in our lives and the courage to take on the work of transforming the world. Amen.

Lenten Choral Introit -

In life, in death we - trust. In - God's mo-st ho - ly name.
 For - ev - er traced by wa - ter sign, and sealed by - Spir - it flame.

Prayer of the Day

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, 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 17:1-7, 15-16

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you." ¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

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

Read Psalm 22:23-31 responsively by whole verse

²³*You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.* ²⁴**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.** ²⁵*From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.* ²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!** ²⁷*All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.* ²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.** ²⁹*Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.* ³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.** ³¹*They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"*

Hear the 2nd Reading: Romans 4:13-25

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

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

The Gospel Acclamation for Lent: ELW #151

We sing:

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful.
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The Gospel according to Mark:

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

Mark 8:31-38

³¹Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” ³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The Gospel of the Lord:

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

Sermon: “Any Time or Any Place”

Reflection Hymn: “Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said”

To the tune “I Know that My Redeemer Lives!”

2 Take up your cross; let - not its - weight per - vade your
3 Take up your cross, nor - heed the - shame, nor let your
4 Take up your cross and - fol - low Christ, nor think till
my dis - ci - ple be; for - sake the pa - st, a - nd
soul with vain a - larm; his strength shall bear - your -
fool - ish heart re - bel; for you the Lor - d en -
death to lay it down; for those who hu - m - bl - y
co - me th - is day, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."
spir - it - up, sus - tain your heart, and nerve your arm.
dur - ed the - cross to save your soul from death and hell.
bear - the - cross one day will wear the glor - ious crown.'"/>

1 "Take up your cross," the - Sav - ior - said, "if you would
2 Take up your cross; let - not its - weight per - vade your
3 Take up your cross, nor - heed the - shame, nor let your
4 Take up your cross and - fol - low Christ, nor think till
my dis - ci - ple be; for - sake the pa - st, a - nd
soul with vain a - larm; his strength shall bear - your -
fool - ish heart re - bel; for you the Lor - d en -
death to lay it down; for those who hu - m - bl - y
co - me th - is day, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."
spir - it - up, sus - tain your heart, and nerve your arm.
dur - ed the - cross to save your soul from death and hell.
bear - the - cross one day will wear the glor - ious crown.

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

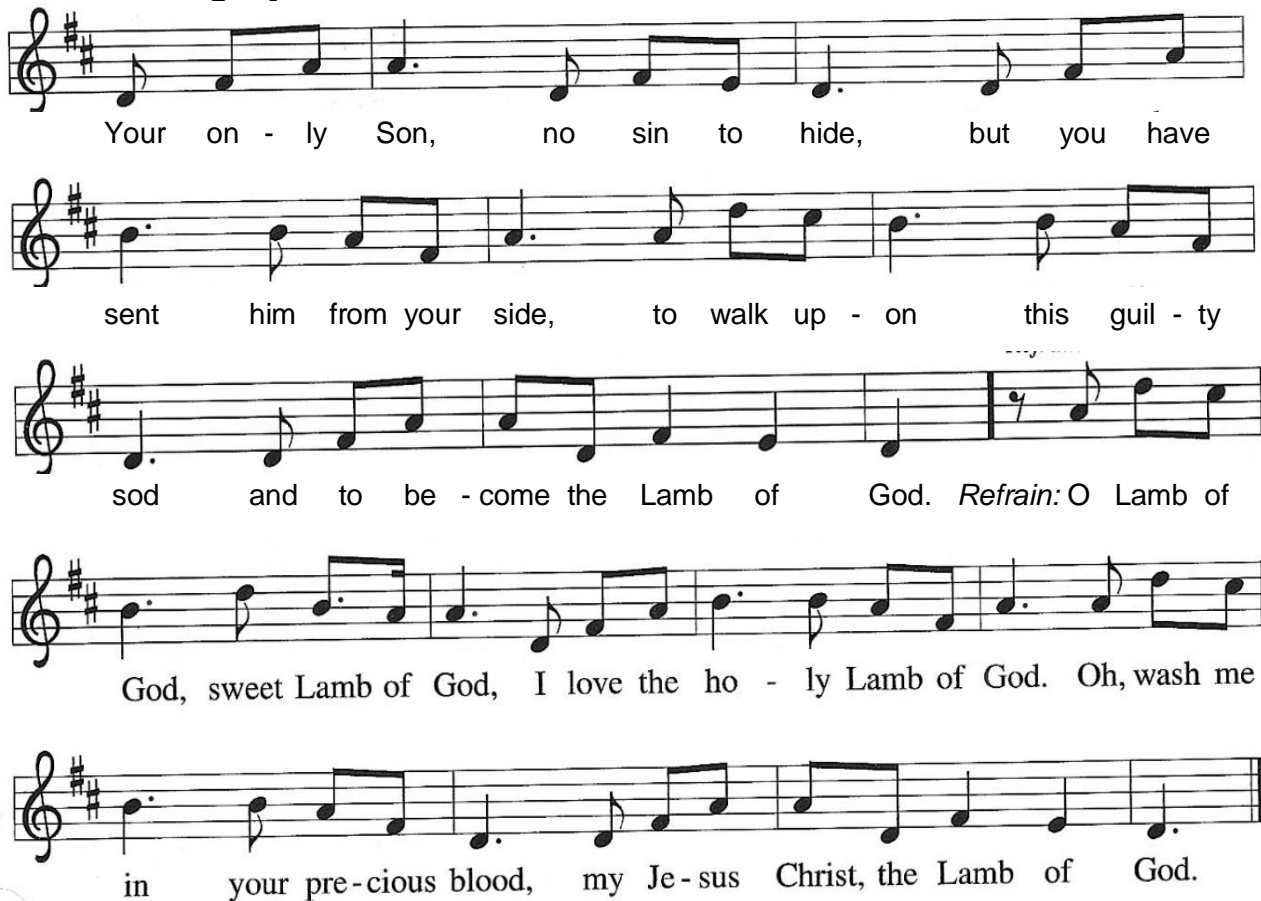
P: O healing river, **ALL:** pour down Your waters and heal Your people.

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 #336 "Lamb of God"



Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
sent him from your side, to walk up - on this guil - ty
sod and to be - come the Lamb of God. *Refrain:* O Lamb of
God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me
in your pre-cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Offering Prayer

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. **Bless these gifts we have gathered so all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.**

Table Setting Hymn: ELW #592 "Just as I Am, without One Plea"

Ju - st as I a - m, with - out one plea, but th - at thy blood was
shed for me, a - nd that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.

AMEN.

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 #779 "Amazing Grace"



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

ELW #838 "Beautiful Savior"



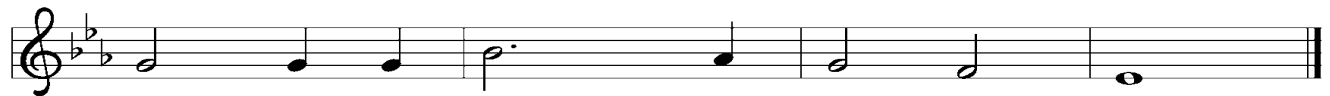
1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

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

SENDING

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

Sending Hymn: ELW #423 "Shall We Gather at the River"



- 1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
- 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
- 3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
- 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Dismissal: Go in peace. Share Your Bread. Thanks be to God.

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

TODAY – Church Council Meeting immediately after worship.

**February Mission Offering continues and
benefits the Columbus Senior Center!**

The February Mission Offering supports the effort of Columbus Senior Center to serve nourishing meals in our community of Columbus. In December 2023,

the Senior Center served 349 meals to members at the center. In addition to in house meals, the Center prepared 356 meals for home delivery or picked up at the Center. The Senior Center not only has a cost for food but there are costs for items necessary to prepare and serve those meals and upkeep costs at the Center.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING

February 2024 Altar Guild: Maureen Hemphill

March 2024 Altar Guild: Kim Behrent

February 2024 Cleaner(s): Leanne Sekora and Pat Lofing

March 2024 Cleaner(s): Pete & Amber Lofing and Betty Ames

February 2024 Reader(s): Pat Lashley

March 2024 Reader(s): Randy or KayDel Shelton

February 25th, 2024 Communion Helper(s):

Thank you, Maureen Hemphill & Pat Lashley for serving communion last Sunday.

March 3rd, 2024 Communion Helper(s):

February 25th, 2024 Usher(s):

Thank you, Bill Strickland for helping to usher last Sunday.

March 3rd, 2024 Communion Helper(s):

February 25th, 2024 Gate Keepers: Leanne Sekora & Leslie Mullin

March 3rd, 2024 Gate Keepers: Leanne Sekora & Bill Strickland

2024 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 Pastor Tonia or Bill S. know!!

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

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

*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 continued prayers for:

Your healing and wisdom Lord for KayDel's niece, Eileen; Pamela Shultz; Pastor Tonia; Joy & Larry Goehner; Jim Dickey; Merridy Gauthier; LaNita Maurer; Steve Cowan; Ken & Pete Hegg; Gary Lofing; Joan Elser; and Bonny Rouse;

Those living with cancer: Kaci Thomason; Brian Wanner; Bob Rouane; Aracelii Enano; Ashley Foster; Jenny Hansen Cheff; Shane Fouhy and 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.***



Happy February Birthday

Ken Carlson 2/9; Bill Strickland 2/10; Cindy Smith 2/15;

Jim Salte 2/18; Brian Wanner 2/19; Jason Williams 2/23



Happy February Anniversary

Gary & Pat Lofing 2/12; Jim & Barb Salte 2/19; Jason & Holly Williams 2/29



****If we have your email,
Check your inbox for the monthly ecard!
Other members, check your mailbox!**

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.....

February 4 th Offering gratefully received:	\$1,440.00
February 11 th Offering gratefully received:	\$1,505.00
February 18 th Offering gratefully received:	<u>\$2,220.00</u>
Total received so far this month	\$5,165.00

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)

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. 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.....

STORYTIME – EVERY WEDNESDAY @ 10AM

B I N G O is EVERY WEDNESDAY @ 1pm!

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





A WONDERFUL PROJECT FOR LENT

St. James' annual "PIGGY" Bank Program will be observed again during this time of Lent.

Piggy banks will be available for pick-up any **Sunday or you may use your own zip-lock baggie!**

Start saving your coins for the "Good Gifts" cause. St. James has always designated your gift for the purchase of farm animals for a family, sponsoring a child in school and sponsoring a woman in gardening classes. Your coin makes a difference. Jesus said, "Feed my sheep". You are feeding God's people. Thank you for your generosity.

UPCOMING 2024 DATES:

- **February 27th** – 1st Chorale Practice @ UCC 6pm to practice for the upcoming Spring Concert TBA.
- **February 28th** - Our 2nd Mid-week Lent Service with Soup & Bread Fellowship



Meal starts 5:30pm / Service approx. 6:15pm

@ St. James Lutheran Church.

****THANK YOU for signing up for soup & bread**

2/28 - Soup: Kim Behrent & Bill & Rae Ellen Strickland

Bread: Stricklands

- **March 3rd - 3rd Sunday of Lent** This is "STAY & INVITE" Sunday!
Pat Lashley **INVITES** your family or your "pew neighbor" to **STAY** after worship **TODAY** for fellowship & laughter!



Coffee Fellowship



Sunday March 10th, 2024 Spring Forward Time Change

Tuesday March 19th, 2024 1st Day of Spring



Palm Sunday March 24th, 2024

Holy Week: Maunday Thursday Service - March 28th, 2024 @ UCC 7pm

Good Friday Service - March 29th, 2024 @ St. James 7pm

Easter Sunday is March 31st, 2024.

Sunrise Service (east hill) 7am

Brunch @ St. James 8am

(compliments of the church council)

EASTER SERVICE @ 9:30am

