

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!

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 4th, 2024 – 5th Sunday after Epiphany



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

GATHERING

Confession & Forgiveness

*God, our rock and refuge, we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not
always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not
always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew
your creation. Restore us, so we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.*

Assurance of God's Love

Gathering Hymn: ELW #759 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Prayer of the Day

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, so your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Installation of 2024 Council Members and Commission of Altar Guild

WORD

Hear the 1st Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; ²³who brings princes to naught and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. ²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. ²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. ²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

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

Read Psalm 147:1-11, 20c responsively by whole verse

¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

²The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem, and gathers the exiles of Israel. ³The LORD heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. ⁴The LORD counts the number of the stars and calls them all by their names. ⁵Great is our LORD and mighty in power; there is no limit to God's wisdom. ⁶The LORD lifts up the lowly, but casts the wicked to the ground. ⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music upon the harp to our God, ⁸who covers the heavens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains. ⁹God provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they cry. ¹⁰God is not impressed by the might of a horse, and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner, ¹¹but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD, in those who await God's steadfast love.

^{20c} **Hallelujah!**

Hear the 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. ¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

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 1:29-39

²⁹As soon as Jesus and the disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The Gospel of the Lord:

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

Sermon: "And So It Begins"

Reflection Hymn: OSB #155 "On Eagle's Wings" vs 1-3

G D/F# G

1. You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in His shadow for
 2. Snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no
 3. You need not fear the terror of the night, not the arrow that flies by

D/F# F Dm

life Say to the Lord, "My refuge, my
 fear un - der His wings your refuge, His
 day; though thou - sands fall - a bout you,

F Gm Asus 4 A mf D

Rock in whom I trust. And He will raise you up on
 faith - ful - ness your shield .
 near, you it shall not come.

Em A7 D cresc. D7

ea - gle wings bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the

G A Bm F#m Em7 dim A D mp

sun, and hold you in the palm of His hand. 2. The

Fine

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 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 #471 "Let Us Break Bread Together"



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;




let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, so we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Table Setting Hymn: ELW #494 "For the Bread Which You Have Broken"



1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the wine which you have poured,



for the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.

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:

S 153

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 #335 "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross"

- 1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
- 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
- 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
- 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;
till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

ELW #656 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;

the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

ELW #863 "My God, How Wonderful Thou Art"

1 My God, how won - der - ful thou art, thy maj - es - ty how bright!
2 How won - der - ful, how beau - ti - ful the sight of thee must be—
3 No earth - ly fa - ther loves like thee; no moth - er, e'er so mild,
4 Yet I may love thee too, O Lord, al - might - y as thou art,
5 My God, how won - der - ful thou art, thou ev - er - last - ing friend!

How beau - ti - ful thy mer - cy seat in depths of burn - ing light!
thine end - less wis - dom, bound - less pow'r, and awe - some pu - ri - ty!
bears and for - bears as thou hast done with me, thy sin - ful child.
for thou hast stooped to ask of me the love of my poor heart.
On thee I stay my trust - ing heart till faith in vi - sion end.

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

SENDING

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

Sending Hymn: ELW #765 "Lord of All Hopefulness"



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Dismissal: Go in peace. You are God's beloved. **Thanks be to God.**

Music Published by Permission, CCLI #11445215

Worship Service recorded by Permission, CSPL #168651

**Tomorrow SUNDAY February 4th, 2024 – Installation of our Council
and Commissioning of our Altar Guild**

**Leslie Mullin and Betty Ames invite you to stay after worship
service for a coffee hour to honor our new Council & Guild.**

**Also, this Sunday, the Columbus Congregational Church invites you
to a Baroque Music Montana Concert @ 2:00pm.**

****Donations encouraged to cover the musicians' expenses.**



"Keeping Seniors Connected With Their Community"

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.

**February Mission offering helps
Columbus Senior Center meet the community needs.
Thank you for your generosity!**

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING

February 2024 Altar Guild: Maureen Hemphill

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

February 2024 Reader(s): Pat Lashley

February 4th, 2024 Communion Helper(s): Will someone sign up?

Thank you, Kim Behrent & Bill Strickland for helping serve communion last Sunday

February 4th, 2024 Usher(s):

Thank you, Donna Zeigler for helping to usher last Sunday.

February 4th, 2024 Gate Keepers: Pat Lashley & Mina Morse

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 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!

NOTE:

Thank you for your response to the "update the directory" request.

Please look at your information & let me know if there are any changes.

Thank you to those of you who have already responded!

****FYI - Don't print the recently emailed copy of the directory just yet. I will give it about a month for changes to come in, correct and email to you a newly updated version!** Thanks again, Betty

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:

KayDel's niece, Eileen who will be having brain surgery on Friday 2/9 which will remove the AVM mass on the outside of her brain, that was found during her angiogram procedure. This surgery will take most of the day, so prayer warriors keep your prayers going!

We offer continued prayers for:

Your healing and wisdom Lord for Pamela Schultz; 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: Father Fenton; Kaci Thomason; Brian Wanner; Bob Rouane; Aracelii Enano; Ashley Foster; Jenny Hansen Chef; 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 your 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.....

January 7 th , 2024 Offering gratefully received	\$2,075.00
January 14 th , 2024 Offering gratefully received	\$ 595.00
January 21 st , 2024 Offering gratefully received	\$1,231.00
January 28 th , 2024 Offering gratefully received	<u>\$ 550.00</u>
Total received this month	\$4,451.00

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 a “Word 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



is EVERY WEDNESDAY @ 1pm!

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



FUTURE DATES:

➤ **“Soup”er Bowl Sunday is February 11th, 2024.**

Who will be our Super Bowl Winner?

SAN FRANCISCO 49ER’S vs KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

~ You decide which team wins!

But the REAL winner is the Columbus Senior Center!

**** All extra proceeds donated today will benefit the Center!**

THEN, stay after church for a “soup”er delicious coffee hour!

➤ **Wednesday February 14th, 2024 - Valentine's Day**

Also, February 14th, 2024 – Ash Wednesday

FYI - Wednesday Lent Services start Feb 21st – March 20th

** Sign up sheet will be passed around for soup and bread.

➤ February 18th, 2024 – March 17th, 2024 5 Sunday's in Lent



Sunday March 10th, 2024

Sunday March 17th, 2024



Sunday March 24th, 2024

Thursday March 28th, 2024 –

Maundy Thursday Service at UCC 7:00pm

Friday March 29th, 2024 –

Good Friday Service at St. James 7:00pm

Easter Sunday is March 31st, 2024



7:00am – Sunrise Service on the East Hill

8:00ish Brunch at St. James compliments of our Council

Easter Service - 9:30am