

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 March 17th, 2024 – 5th 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"

Guitar: Stan Meisner



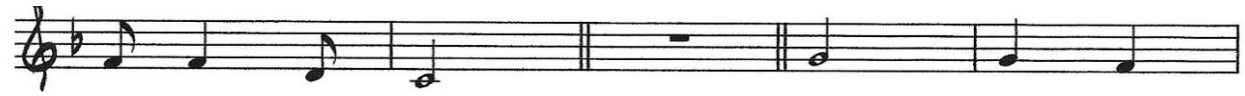
As I went down to the riv - er to



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 fa - thers ,



let's go down, ___ let's go down, ___ come on



down. ___ O fa - thers, let's go down, ___



down to the riv - er to ___ pray! ** Repeat once

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 5th Sunday of Lent

EXTINGUISHING OF FIFTH LENTEN CANDLE

Let us pray... Loving God, we open our hearts to you. We invite you into our inmost being, only to find you already there. Strengthen us in our quiet places and then lead us into the work of justice and peace. Amen.

Lenten Choral Introit -



Re - mem - ber and re - joice, re - newed by - floods of grace.



We bear the sign of Je - sus Christ, that time can - not e - rase.

Prayer of the Day

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to Yourself, and in mercy You receive our prayers. **Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, so through life and death we may live in 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: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant which they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

Read Psalm 119:9-16 responsively by verse

⁹How shall the young keep their way clean? *By keeping to your word.* ¹⁰**With my whole heart I seek you; let me not stray from your commandments.** ¹¹*I treasure your promise in my heart, so I may not sin against you.* ¹²**Blessed are you, O LORD; instruct me in your statutes.** ¹³*With my lips I recite all the judgments of your mouth.* ¹⁴**I take greater delight in the way of your decrees than in all manner of riches.** ¹⁵*I will meditate on your commandments and give attention to your ways.* ¹⁶**My delight is in your statutes; I will not forget your word.**

Hear the 2nd Reading: Hebrews 5:5-10

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; ⁶as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” ⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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 John:

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

John 12:20-33

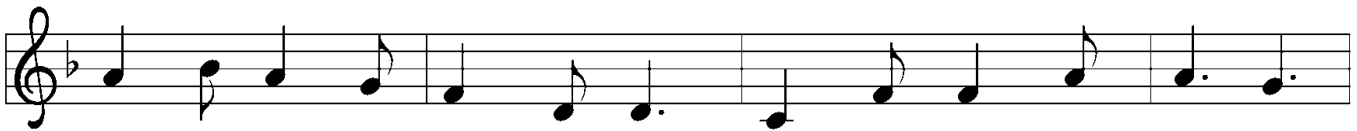
²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. ²⁷"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The Gospel of the Lord:

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

Sermon: "This is the Hour"

Reflection Hymn: ELW #335 "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross"

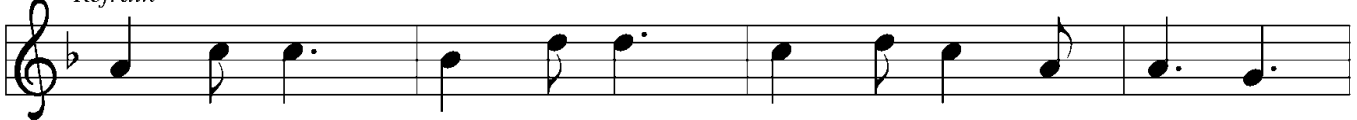


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



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.

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.*

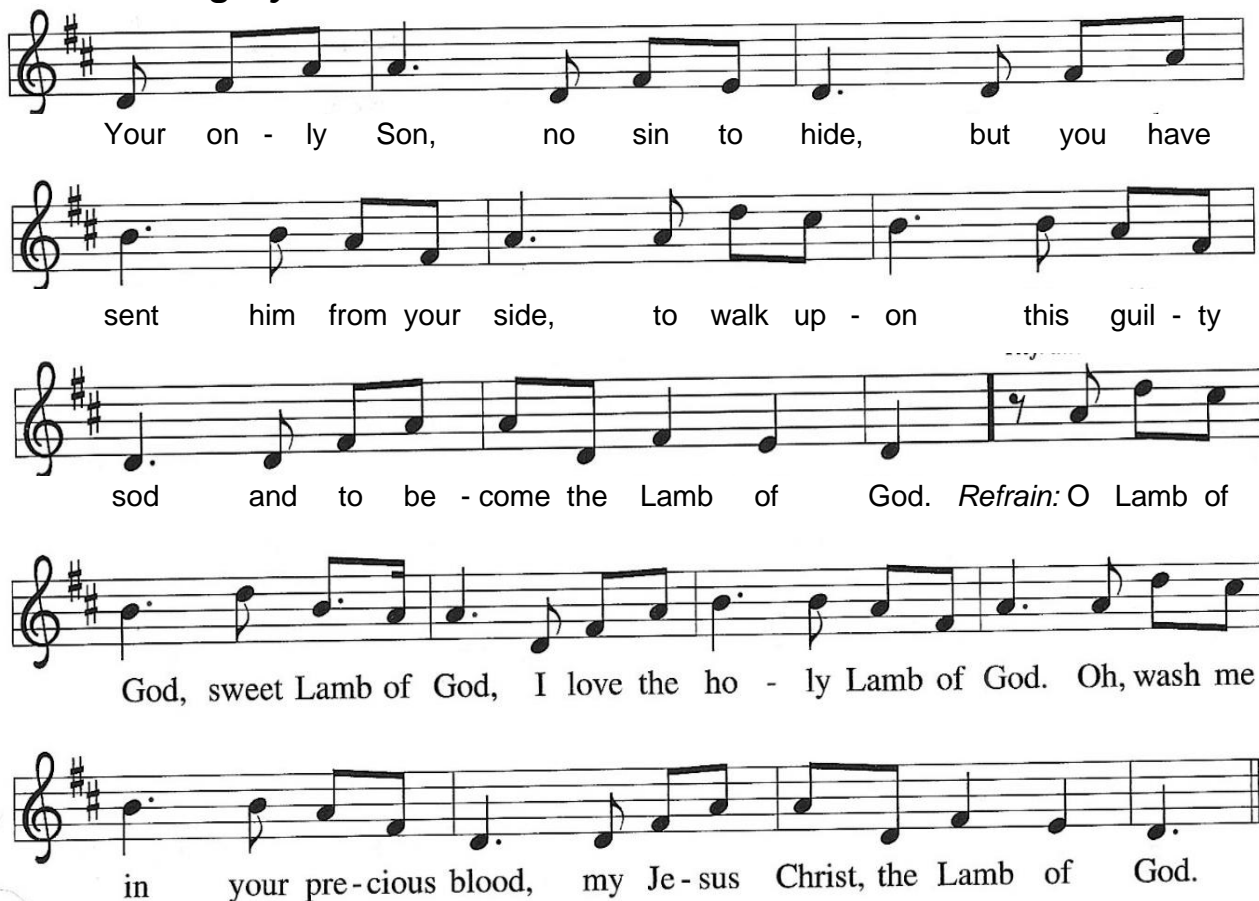
Passing of the Peaceand we say: **and also with you.**

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 #661 "I Love to Tell The Story"



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain

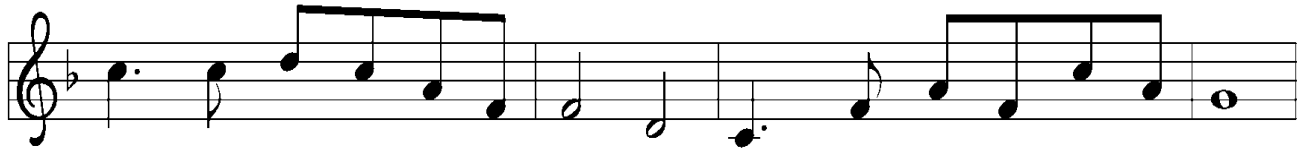


I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

ELW #742 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"



- 1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
- 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
- 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - row share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

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*



March Mission Offering..... benefits Rocky Boy Parsonage Fund

A pastor is being called to serve the Rocky Boy congregation. The congregation needs to replace pastor housing because the former housing is "unlivable". The Synod is asking for individual and congregational donations toward replacing the needed pastor housing at Rocky Boy. Our March Mission giving will be forwarded to the Synod designated for the Rocky Boy Parsonage.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING

March 2024 Altar Guild: Kim Behrent

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

March 2024 Reader(s): Randy or KayDel Shelton

March 17th, 2024 Communion Helper(s):

Thank you, Kim Behrent & Mina Morse for serving communion last Sunday.

March 17th, 2024 Usher(s):

Thank you, Bill Strickland for helping to usher last Sunday

March 17th, 2024 Gate Keepers: Leslie Mullin & Leanne Sekora

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 Pat Lashley; KayDel's niece, Eileen; Pamela Shultz; Pastor Tonia; Joy & Larry Goehner; Jim Dickey; Merridy Gauthier; LaNita Maurer; Steve Cowan; Ken & Pete Hegg; Gary Lofing 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 & overs, as well as their spouses and children.



Happy MARCH Birthday

Kristi Lofing 3/6; Morgan Radford 3/11; Pat Lofing 3/17; Greg Lofing 3/17; Jo Lind 3/19; Holly Williams 3/19; Bob Hemphill 3/25; Irmgard Houghton 3/25; Gary Lofing 3/29; Sheri Luepke 3/31



Happy MARCH Anniversary

Bill & Karen McDonald 3/6

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.....

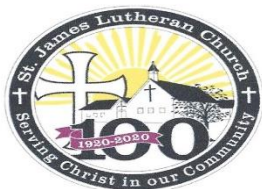
March 3 rd Offering gratefully received:	\$1,355.00
March 10 th Offering gratefully received:	\$ 585.00
Total received so far this month	\$1,940.00

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)



Calendar & Council Chatter...



**Email with important monthly information
*watch your inbox**

March Calendar of Events Kids March Coloring Calendar

Review information from February 25th, 2024 Council Meeting:

Jan. Meeting Minutes; Jan. Monthly Donation Deposits; Jan. Profit & Loss; YTD Comparison View

Note: You should have received your first Calendar & Council Chatter email on Wed. 3/6/24.

In the future, this information will be emailed immediately after our Monthly Council Meeting.

Reminder - all documents reflect the previous month from the council meeting date.

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.
 - ~ The Columbus Senior Center exercise class at 10:30am
- 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

- 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
- Every Thursday we are invited to join:
 - ~ The Columbus Senior Center exercise class at 10:30am
 - ~ A Community Co-ed Yoga Class at 5:45pm @ the Little Stone Church starting March 7th.

For more Library information, see the “Table Posters” at St. James.

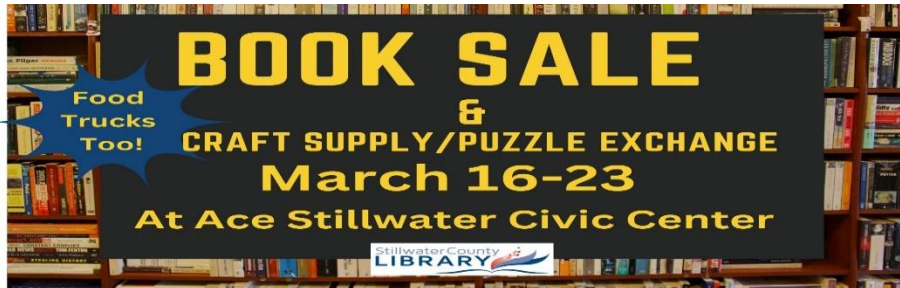


Join the fun each week.....

STORYTIME - EVERY WEDNESDAY @ 10AM

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

Crochet and Knit club Every Saturday 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:



**Tuesday March 19th, 2024
1st Day of Spring**

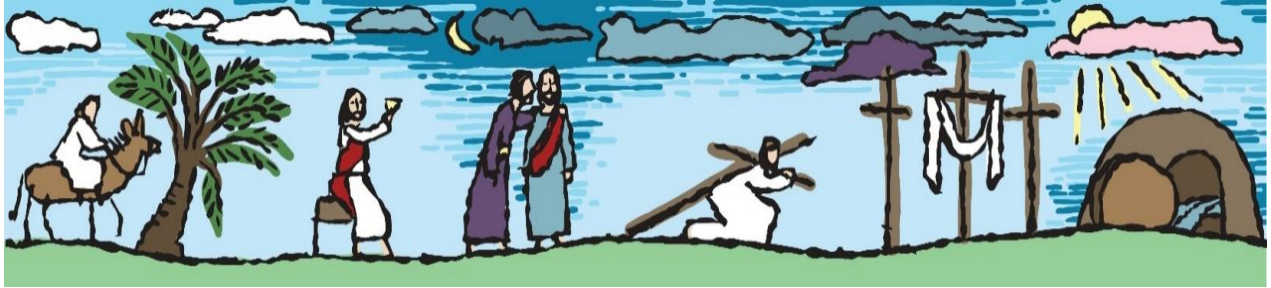
- **March 19th – Chorale Practice @ Congregational Church in Absarokee 6pm**
- **March 20th - Our 5th Mid-week Lent Service with Soup & Bread Fellowship**



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

****THANK YOU for signing up for soup & bread
3/20/24 - Soup: Maureen Hemphill
Bread: Pastor Tonia**

HOLY WEEK - 2024



March 24th 9:30am

Hosanna!

Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.

Luke 19:38, KJV



No midweek Lenten Service on Wednesday 3/27/24 .



Maundy Thursday

SERVICE - MARCH 28TH

7 PM

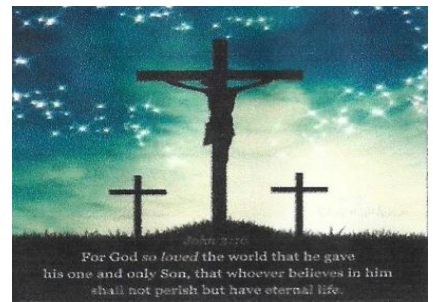
@ COLUMBUS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Good Friday Service –

March 29th

@ St. James 7pm

Through the remembrance of Good Friday, we come to a fuller realization of the gracious gift of God and are able to more fully celebrate Easter Morning!



Come Celebrate!

Easter Sunday Services March 31st

Community Service East Hill – Columbus 7am

Pastries and Fruit (before our service 8:00ish)

Provided by the Church Council Members

St. James' Service 9:30am

