

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 3rd, 2024 – 3rd 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



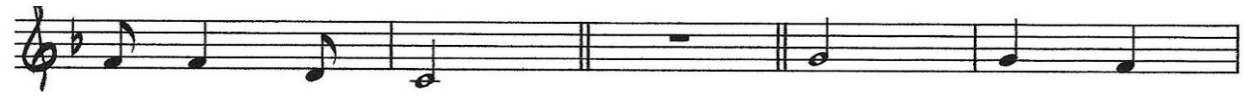
As I went down to the riv - er to



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 chil - dren,



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



down. ___ O chil - dren, 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 3rd Sunday of Lent

EXTINGUISHING OF THIRD LENTEN CANDLE

Let us pray... Draw us together in your love, O God. May our restless hearts not resist you, but continue to search until they find their rest in you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Lenten Choral Introit -



We pledge our - selves a - new, to - flee the - lures of hell.



To cling to Christ's com - mu - ni - ty, in jus - tice, peace to dwell.

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only 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: Exodus 20:1-17

¹God spoke all these words: ²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything which is in heaven above, or on the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all which is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. ¹²Honor your father and your mother, so your days may be long in the land which the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵You shall not steal. ¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything which belongs to your neighbor.

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

Read Psalm 19 responsively by whole verse

¹*The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.* **²One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.** ³*Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,* **⁴their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.** ⁵*It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.* **⁶It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again, nothing is hidden from its burning heat.** ⁷*The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.* **⁸The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.** ⁹*The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.* **¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.** ¹¹*By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.* **¹²Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.** ¹³*Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.* **¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

Hear the 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the

power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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 2:13-22

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” ¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The Gospel of the Lord:

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

Sermon: “Centered”

Reflection Hymn: ELW #758 “You Are the Way”

- 1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;
- 2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
- 3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
- 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,

all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.
you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

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.

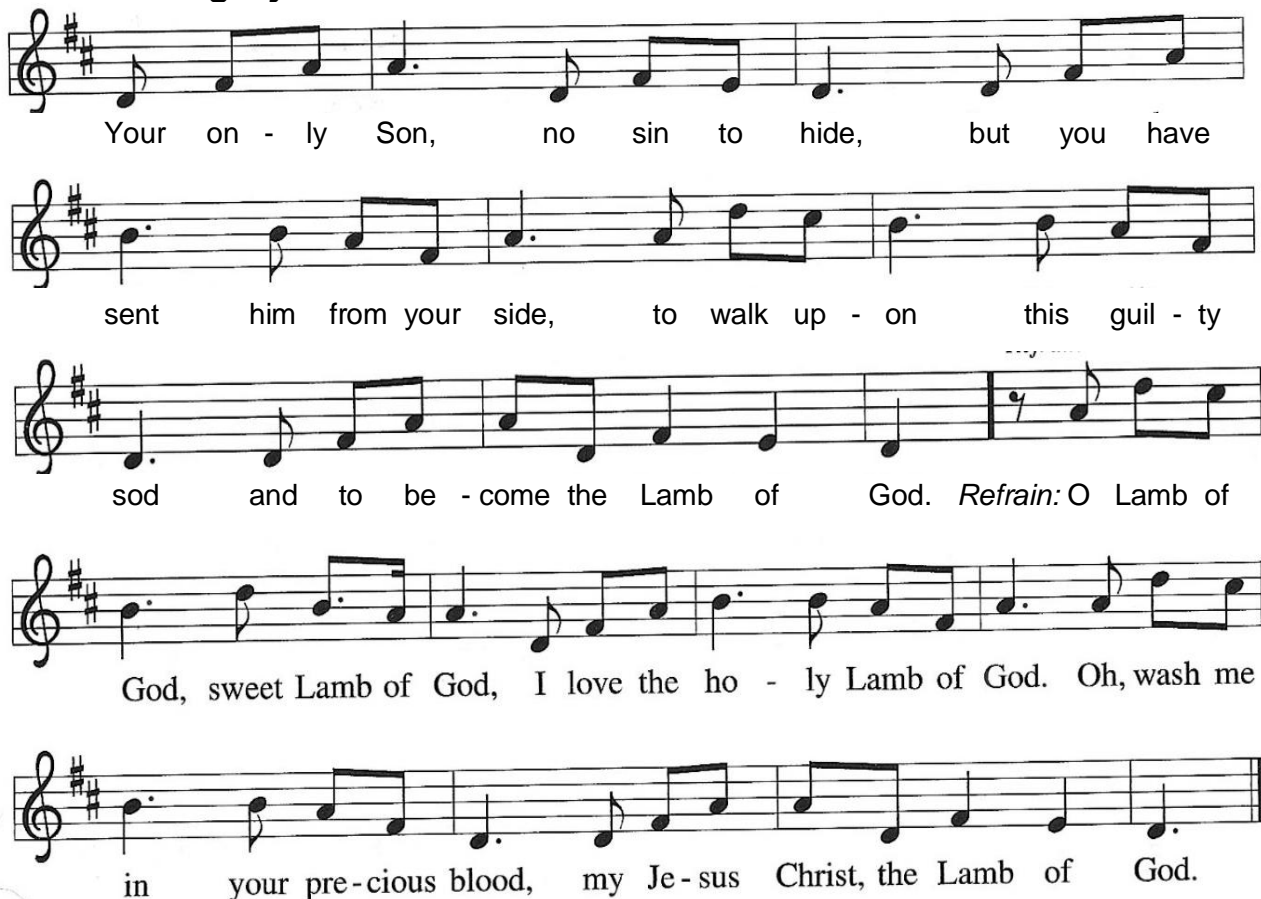
Passing of the Peaceand we say: **and also with you.**

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

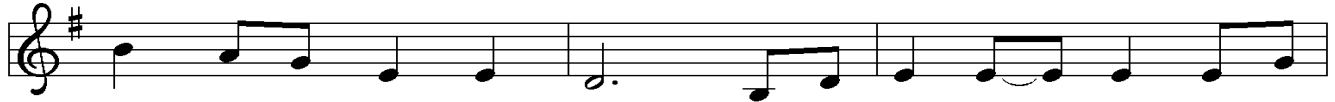
In this meal of bread and wine, we believe Christ is truly present forgiving sin, reconciling us to God and one another, and giving new life. Christ is host. Christ is the one who invites us to the table even while it is properly understood as the meal of the baptized. All are welcome at the Lord's Table.

As communion is distributed, you are invited to sing the following hymns:

ELW #723 "Canticle of the Turning"



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

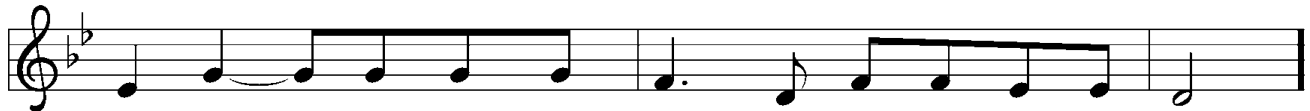
ELW #856 "How Great Thou Art"



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun - tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

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.

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!

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 3rd, 2024 Communion Helper(s):

Thank you, Maureen Hemphill & Leslie Mullin for serving communion last Sunday.

March 3rd, 2024 Usher(s):

Thank you, Leanne Sekora for helping to usher last Sunday.

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

2024 Musician(s): Marge Sunvold & Betty Ames



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



****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:	\$2,220.00
February 25 th Offering gratefully received:	<u>\$4,070.00</u>
Total received this month	\$9,235.00

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)

*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

Pat Lashley who had back surgery on Wed 2/28 and is recovering at her home in Park City with help from her family and friends.
The family and friends of Patty Sundberg as they mourn the death of Patty’s mother, Joan Elser. Joan’s services will be July 29th, 2024 at the Dutton United Methodist Church, Dutton, MT

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 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.

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

BINGO is EVERY WEDNESDAY @ 1pm!

Crochet and Knit club Every Saturday from 10 - 11:30am



Beartooth Humane Alliance



Join us for BHA's introduction to fostering animals.



27 N 4th St, Columbus

**Saturday
MARCH 9TH
@ 1:00PM**



A WONDERFUL PROJECT FOR LENT

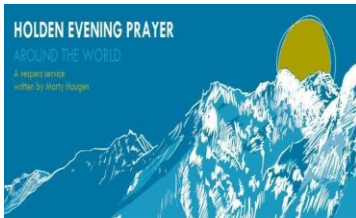
St. James' annual "PIGGY" Bank Program will be observed again during this time of Lent.

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:

- **March 5th** – Chorale Practice @ UCC 6pm to practice for the upcoming Spring Concert TBA.
- **March 6th** - Our 3rd Mid-week Lent Service with Soup & Bread Fellowship



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

@ Columbus Congregational Church.

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

3/6/24 - Soup: Betty Ames

Bread: Marge Sunvold & Pastor Tonia

- **March 10th - 4th Sunday of Lent**

**Sunday March 10th, 2024
Spring Forward Time Change**



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

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 .



SERVICE - MARCH 28TH

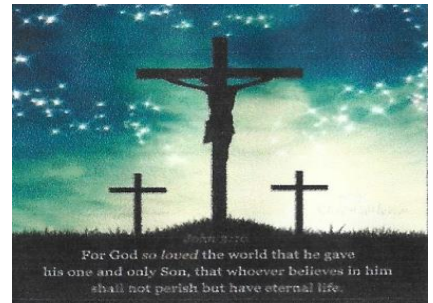
7 PM

@ 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

