

# WELCOME to St. James Lutheran Church

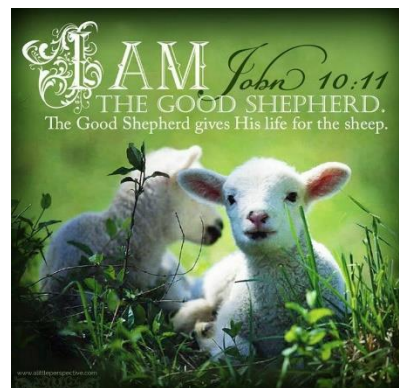
205 E 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. N. Columbus, MT 59019 (406) 321-5100

Leader: Pastor Tonia Fisher

Email: [toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com](mailto:toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com)

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

**Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 –  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**



## Special Reminder:

### A WONDERFUL PROJECT FOR LENT .....



Please: **Turn in your Piggy Bank or your zip-lock baggie  
full of coins, green or a check by April 28<sup>th</sup>!**

The council will designate what to purchase for the "Good Gifts" campaign.  
Your coin makes a difference. Jesus said, "Feed my sheep".

You are feeding God's people. Thank you for your generosity.

## Announcements & Opportunities for Serving – Bill Strickland

### Welcome- Susan Leaverton, LPA

*P:* Alleluia, Christ is risen. **All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with  
you all .....and also be with you.*

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

## GATHERING

### THANKSGIVING for Baptism Confession

*P:* Look, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

*P:* Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life. Look, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

*P:* At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

As we give thanks for our baptism let us confess our sins:

*P:* Risen Christ, **C: Wash away our sin and all which separates us from you.**

### Assurance of God's Love

## Gathering Hymn: ELW #819 "Come All You People"



*U - ya - i - mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;*  
1 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;  
2 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;  
3 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;



*u - ya - i - mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;*  
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;  
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;  
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;



*u - ya - i - mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;*  
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;  
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;  
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;



*u - ya - i - mo - se Zvi - no.*  
come now and wor - ship the Lord.  
come now and wor - ship the Lord.  
come now and wor - ship the Lord.

### Prayer of the Day

*O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father + and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

## WORD

### Hear the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Acts 4:5-12

<sup>5</sup>The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it

has become the cornerstone.' <sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

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

### **Let us read together from Psalm 23**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. <sup>2</sup>The LORD makes me lie down in green pasture and leads me beside still waters. <sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake. <sup>4</sup>Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. <sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over. <sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

### **Hear the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 John 3:16-24**

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? <sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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:

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

### **The Gospel according to John:**

We sing after  
the announcement:

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

### **John 10:11-18**

[Jesus said:] <sup>11</sup>"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will

listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

**The Gospel of the Lord:**

We sing after  
the conclusion:

Praise to you, O Christ.

**Sermon: “Abiding in Truth”**

**Reflection Hymn: 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.

## **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**

*God of grace, **hear our prayer***

**Passing of the Peace** .....and 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 #807 "Come Thou Fount"**



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,  
teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.

## **Offering Prayer**

*Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. **May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.***

**Table Setting Hymn: ELW #686 "We Give Thee but Thine Own"**



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

## 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 #481 "Come to the Table"

Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.

All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

### ELW #502 "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness  
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed  
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant  
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der  
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.  
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
 thine unction grace bestoweth;  
 and, oh, what transport of delight  
 from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,  
 thy goodness faileth never.  
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
 within thy house forever.

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

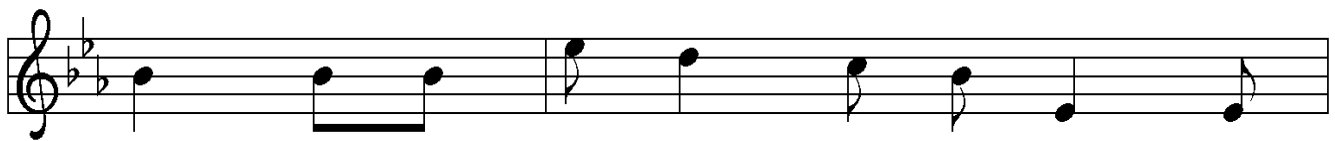
## SENDING

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

**Sending Hymn: ELW #764 "Have No Fear, Little Flock"**



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle  
2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle  
3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -  
4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to



flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to  
flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in  
bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -  
God, for he stays close be - side you, in



give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!  
his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!  
lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!  
all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

**Dismissal: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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

**TODAY April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

**Thank  
You**

Susan Leaverton, LPA for officiating today, while Pastor Tonia is recovering from her recent cataract surgeries.

Please stay for coffee hour & fellowship!

we donut  
know what  
we'd do  
without you!





**This week we continue to contact Donna Zeigler, LPA  
for any prayer requests, visits or concerns.**

**Donna's contact information is cell # (406) 321-4452 and email is [dlaburn640@gmail.com](mailto:dlaburn640@gmail.com)**

**Donna will then send out prayer requests for the bulletin,  
or contact Pastor Kate Stulce from the Congregational Church for your Pastoral needs.**



**.....for Pastor Tonia, we pray for your continued recovery from your recent eye surgeries. KEEP taking time for yourself this week!!  
We will be glad to see you next Sunday 4/28!!**

## **April Mission Offering benefits.....**

### **The Stillwater Youth Center**



The vision for the Stillwater Youth Center was birthed in the spring of 1994, out of a mother's prayer to the Lord for her three teenagers to be surrounded by fellow Christians, regardless of denomination, who would reinforce the importance of following biblical principles and strong moral values through positive peer pressure.

After meeting at homes around Columbus, in an old jewelry store & BG's (Bob Grumett) two-door garage, they were lucky enough to rent the health & recreation building (their current home) in Columbus with the option to buy. The spaciousness of this new building allows them to welcome & offer more to the area youth, so they can feel safe and love no matter what their background. This building houses a racquetball, volleyball, and basketball court with restrooms equipped with showers; a game room; a ministry-media room, where youth can get help with homework, study the Bible, Worship God and hang out with friends; a snack shop and a kitchen/café area called "Anchors Kaffee", with lounge hours Mondays and Wednesdays from 8-11am (days & hrs may vary based on volunteers) for the community to come for socialization. A huge thank you to Joanie Matovich, Founder and Director of Ministry for her vision.

**Thank YOU for your support & generosity to this very important ministry for our area youth!**

*While Pastor Tonia is recovering from her double cataract eye surgery,  
for any new prayer requests, please contact Donna Zeigler, LPA  
Call her cell at (406) 321- 4452 or email her at [dlaburn640@gmail.com](mailto:dlaburn640@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:**

Allen Hansen, LPA. **Susan Leaverton, LPA shared her email with us:** "I just got word this morning that very suddenly, LPA and Synod Council member Allen Hansen died on Saturday. We had just been chatting on Wednesday and he seemed to be doing well. His heart pacemaker/defib did "set off" recently but he had apparently recovered from that episode. His passing will be a huge loss to Messiah, Red Lodge and to the synod in general. Allen had made our new altar and wall cross as well as other gorgeous wooden accessories. Please keep his wife Suzi and their family in prayer. They were avid hikers, and tandem bikers....always on the go. That certainly reminds us to treasure each day as a gift, and to communicate our final wishes to family in advance."

**Note:** He was a supply pastor for us when Pastor Tonia was on her sabbatical. Prayers from St. James.

#### **We offer continued prayers for:**

Your love & comfort Lord for the family & friends of Willie Gauthier and Jim Dickey, who are mourning their deaths.

Your healing and wisdom Lord for Leo Uhrich; Vi Ekle; Pat Lashley; Pastor Tonia; Joy & Larry Goehner;

Merridy Gauthier; LaNita Maurer; Steve & Denise Cowan; Ken & Pete Hegg; Gary Lofing; & Bonny Rouse

Those living with cancer: Kaci Thomason; Brian Wanner; Bob Rouane; Aracelii Enano; Ashley Foster;

Jenny Hansen Cheff; Shane Fouhy & 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.**

## **A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING**

April 2024 Altar Guild: Sheri Luepke

April 2024 Cleaner(s): Greg & Kristi Lofing and Bill & Rae Ellen Strickland

April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 Reader(s): Maureen Hemphill

*Thank you, Maureen Hemphill for reading last Sunday.*

April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 Communion Helper(s):

*Thank you, Maureen Hemphill & Bill Strickland for serving communion last Sunday.*

April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 Usher(s): Bob Hemphill

*Thank you, Bob Hemphill for helping to usher last Sunday*

April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 Gate Keepers: Leslie Mullin & 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](http://www.lutheranchurchcolumbusmt.org) Click on the "Serve With Us" tab. Thanks!



*Happy APRIL Birthday*

Rae Ellen Strickland 4/1; Patty Sundberg 4/7; Joe Morse 4/15; Don Herzog 4/16;



*Happy APRIL Anniversary*

Morgan and Lian Radford 4/27

### **FOR YOUR REVIEW AND PRAYER.....**

April 7th Offering gratefully received: \$2,820.00

April 14<sup>th</sup> Offering gratefully received: \$ 767.00

**Total received so far this month \$3,587.00**

**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**

**April Calendar of Events Kids April Coloring Calendar**

**Review information from March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Council Meeting:**

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

**Note:** You should have received your first Calendar & Council Chatter email on **Thurs. 4/11/24.**

# 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](http://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 7<sup>th</sup>.

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



#### **UPCOMING 2024 DATES:**

- Chorale Practice - Always from 6 – 7:00pm @ Congregational Churches  
April 23<sup>rd</sup> - Col    April 30<sup>th</sup> - Abs    May 7<sup>th</sup> - Col    May 14<sup>th</sup> - Abs
- April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 - Council Meeting immediately after worship

Support your favorite local  
nonprofits!

**ColumbusMT Gives.ORG**

**Starts April 29<sup>th</sup> – May 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Join the Columbus Community Foundation  
and Columbus Nonprofits for our **BIGGEST** giving  
week of the year!

**\*\* Watch for more information....**

# Future “save” the dates....

- May 2 - National Day of Prayer on the Court House Steps @ Noon
- May 3<sup>rd</sup> thru May 5<sup>th</sup> – Stillwater Balloon Rally



- May 4<sup>th</sup> – A special Worship Service and Coffee Hour for St. James’ Columbus High School Graduates & their families.



Congratulations to:

**Mason Adams; Anders Bjorkman; Seth Kornick;  
Madison Lind and Ethan Short.**

- May 12<sup>th</sup> –



- May 26<sup>th</sup> – Council Meeting immediately after worship
- May 27<sup>th</sup> –



- June 15<sup>th</sup> - Special K Ranch Open House – noon

**\*\* Watch for more information**