# 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

Our Mission: "We worship together, grow in faith,

share our faith and serve with the love of God"

# Sunday April 28th, 2024 – 5th Sunday of Easter "Holy Humor Sunday"

During this special day, we will celebrate joy, laughter, & light-heartedness.



# Prelude, Welcome, Announcements & Opportunities for Serving

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

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.

Call to Worship: "Creature Praise"

sung by Kate Stulce & Betty Ames

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!

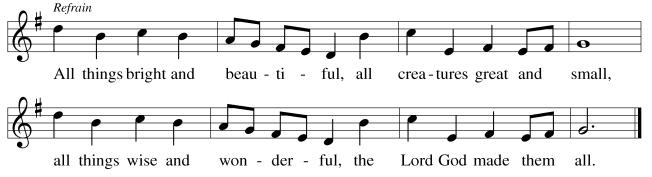
#### C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

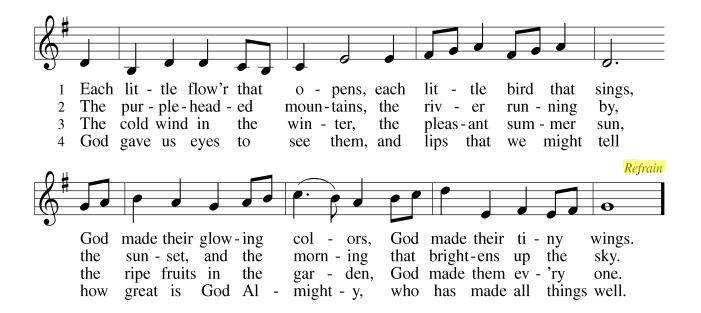
As we give thanks for our baptism let us stand and confess our sins:

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

#### Assurance of God's Love

# Gathering Hymn: "All Things Bright & Beautiful"





## Prayer of the Day

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, 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 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch. a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup> and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 32Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." <sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" 35Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus, <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. 40But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

# Read Psalm 22:25-31 responsively by verse

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD. <sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever! <sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God. <sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations. <sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD. <sup>30</sup>Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come. <sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

# Hear the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

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





# The Gospel according to John:



#### John 15:1-8

Jesus said: ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁶If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁶My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

# The Gospel of the Lord:



Sermon: "The Lord Has Acted"

## Reflection Hymn: ELW #677 "This Little Light of Mine"



# 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

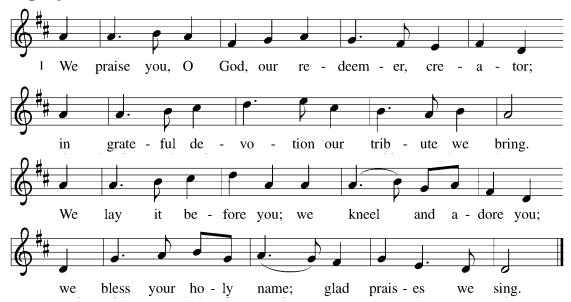
Passing of the Peace .....and we say: and also with you.

#### 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 #870 "We Praise You, O God" vs 1



## 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 #472 "Eat This Bread"

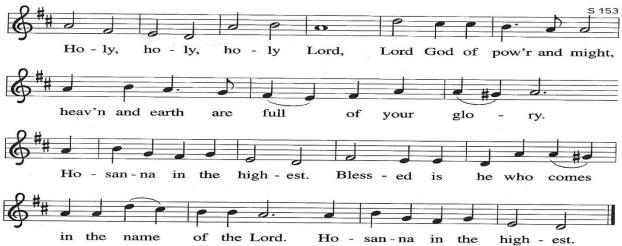


# Great Thanksgiving ELW #153

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:



#### 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

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

#### "Jesus Loves Me - Senior Version"

Vs 1 Jesus loves me, this I know, though my hair is white as snow.

Though my sight is growing dim, still he bids me trust in him.

Chorus: Yes, Jesus loves Me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes. Jesus loves me the bible tells me so!

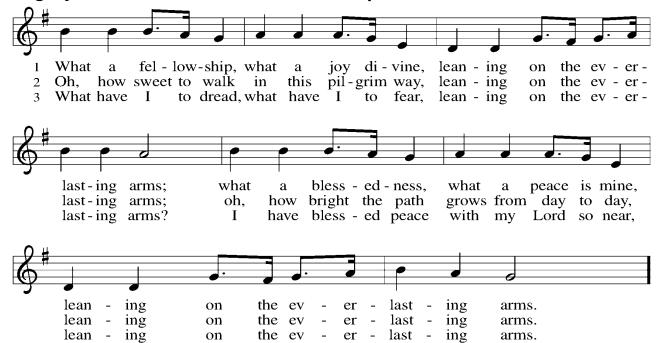
- Vs 2 Though my steps are oh, so slow, with my hand in His I'll go; On through life, let come what may, He'll be there to lead the way. **Chorus**:
- Vs 3 Though I am no longer young, I have much which He's begun. Let me serve Christ with a smile. Go with others-the extra mile. **Chorus:**
- Vs 4 When the nights are dark and long, in my heart He puts a song; Telling me in words so clear, "Have no fear, for I am near." **Chorus:**
- Vs 5 When my work on earth is done, and life's vic'tries have been won. He will take me home above, then I'll understand his love. **Chorus:**
- Vs 6 I love Jesus, does He know? Have I ever told Him so? Jesus loves to hear me say, that I love Him every day. **Chorus:**

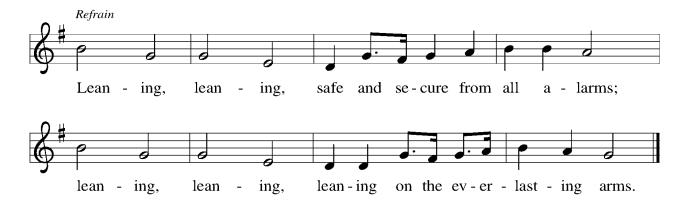
Prayer after Communion.... and we say: Amen.

## **SENDING**

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

Sending Hymn: ELW #774 "What a Fellowship"





**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 28th, 2024



We have enjoyed celebrating "Holy Humor Sunday" with you and we hope that you have joy in your heart for the rest of the week!

Council meeting, immediately after worship

#### Reminder: This is the LAST SUNDAY to donate:



Please: <u>Turn in your Piggy Bank or your zip-lock baggie</u> full of coins, green or a check!

Bless you for giving to the "Good Gifts" cause. During the April council meeting TODAY, we will be designating who or what will benefit from your generous gifts. Your coin DOES make a difference. Jesus said,

"Feed my sheep". You are feeding God's people. Thank you for your generosity.

Happy MAY Birthday

Jean Voldseth 5/5; Lance Sundberg 5/10; Kim Behrent 5/12; Lian Radford 5/21; Jennifer France 5/21; Bev Kem 5/23; Ingrid Short 5/24; Mike Koski 5/29; Chip Kem 5/30



Happy MAY Anniversary

Lance & Patti Sundberg 5/17; Ken & Pam Carlson 5/27

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......

April 7th Offering gratefully received: \$2,820.00
April 14<sup>th</sup> Offering gratefully received: \$767.00
April 21<sup>st</sup> Offering gratefully received: \$1,290.00

Total received so far this month \$4,877.00

Continued reminder of how to give your monthly tithe or offering to your church.....

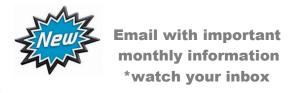
Mail your offering to the church; Take your offering to the parsonage; Auto pay thru your bank and **Tithe.ly**.

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)







# 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.

# 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!

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 & continued prayers & peace for:

Arlene Mitchell who was recently diagnosed with cancer and is now on hospice. God of healing, comfort and strengthen Arlene, give her Your healing and peace. We thank you for family and lift up her family as they gather together and care for her. May her love for You cast out fear. Amen

Alex Alton, his mom, Linda and the rest of his family. Alex was released from the Billings Clinic hospital on Monday 4/22. He returned to Columbus and is staying with his family, James & Kathy Alton. All of his symptoms were COVID related, and he will be able to return to work in a couple of weeks. Praise God. Amen.

#### We offer continued prayers for:

Your healing and wisdom Lord for Vi Ekle; Pat Lashley; Pastor Tonia; Joy & Larry Goehner; Merridy Gauthier; LaNita Maurer; Steve & Denise 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.

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.

Pray for all of those who serve in our military, domestically & overseas, their spouses and children.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING

April 2024 Altar Guild: Sheri Luepke May 2024 Altar Guild: Kim Behrent

April 2024 Cleaner(s): Greg & Kristi Lofing and Bill & Rae Ellen Strickland May 2024 Cleaner(s): Brian & Sheri Luepke and Bob & Maureen Hemphill

April 28th, 2024 Reader(s): Leanne Sekora

Thank you, Maureen Hemphill for reading last Sunday.

May 5th, 2024 Reader(s): Pat Lashley April 28th, 2024 Communion Helpers):

Thank you, Brian & Sheri Luepke for serving communion last Sunday.

April 28th, 2024 Usher(s): Betty Ames

Thank you, Bob Hemphill for helping to usher last Sunday April 28th, 2024 Gate Keepers: Leanne Sekora & Betty Ames May 5th, 2024 Gate Keepers: Pat Lashley & Brian Luepke

2024 Musician(s): Marge Sunvold & Betty Ames

# **OPPORTUNITIES to SERVE at ST. JAMES......**

Would you consider helping each Sunday with Ushering,

assisting during Communion w/Pastor Tonia, being the **Reader**, being a member on the Altar Guild,

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!

# 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!!!



Bible Study is held at St. James 2:00pm. STUDY 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.



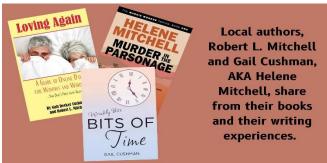
# Join the fun each week.....

STORYTIME - EVERY WEDNESDAY @ 10AM



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





Saturday, May 4th 1:00pm

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

Chorale Practice - Always from 6 – 7:00pm @ Congregational Churches April 30<sup>th</sup> – Abs May 7th - Col May 14th – Abs Ma7 21st - Col

Support your favorite local nonprofits! Columbus MT 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 5<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.

ALSO today, Celebrate with the Congregational Church -

Soon after 11:30ish!!

# Cinco de Mayo Taco Bar!

\*\*Donations go to support their mission outreach



➤ May 12<sup>th</sup> -



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

➤ May 27<sup>th</sup> –



St. John's United "Summer Concert" series starts .....

Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup> - Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup>
\*\*See poster on bulletin board and watch here for information.