

WELCOME to St. James Lutheran Church



Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!



Into these days in the Easter season, please receive the gift of these reflections, provided for you by pastors of our congregations, LPAs and lay leaders, Bishop Jungling, and the staff of the Synod. As the Montana Synod is focused on equipping God's people for the work of ministry, (based on Eph. 4:11-12), it is helpful to focus together on a text and devotional reflection that encourages us to walk together as the Montana Synod being equipped to be the people of God, followers of Jesus, and bearers of the good news of God's love and grace.

Easter Season Devotions.....

starting on Resurrection Sunday, April 4th, 2021 and continuing for the fifty days of the Easter season until the day of Pentecost, Sunday, May 23rd, 2021.

****Download the attached PDF to this email.**

Mission Offering for May 2021 benefits...

Project Hope Food Bank



...for your continued support of our monthly missions.

Your generosity is welcomed and so appreciated!

Your council, at their April meeting, discussed at length our continued "Love of One Another" at St. James.

Please read Pastor Tonia's letter below for the suggested recommendations in the process of slowly returning to our "New-Normal" Worship each Sunday.

People of God,

With caution and love, your council discussed at their last meeting, our Covid mandates we currently have in place at St. James. After much discussion and following the latest CDC guidelines they decided we will continue to wear our masks for indoor worship. The CDC says for the vaccinated in small group outdoor events it is ok to go without masks, but for now they recommend even the vaccinated continue to wear masks indoors. They continue to stress masks for singing in confined spaces.

Although the tape will be removed from the pews, they strongly recommend we sit by family units in each pew and that we skip every other pew to maintain some physical distance, which is still recommended by the CDC. You will also notice the hymnals have been returned to your pews. The hymn numbers are listed in the bulletin if you prefer to use a hymnal or you may continue using the music printed in your bulletin.

We will resume going forward to receive communion in May. Ushers will dismiss us by pew, please wait for them to let you know when it is your turn to go forward. You, of course, can pull down or remove your masks when you receive the bread and the wine. How special it will be to have the bread placed in our hands and taste the sweet wine of God's love and forgiveness.

Passing the peace will continue to give us an opportunity to look our brothers and sisters in the eye as we bid them peace with a wave or a bow. We recognize the smile and love in their eyes, and know the Peace of the Lord is with us all – even during difficult times.

We all look forward to a return to normal, although we know it may never really be as it once was. Slowly, however, things are settling into a safe, new-normal. We realize things change, and we trust God and put our faith in Him to give us peace for the situation and love for one another.

The CDC is expected to lift the mask mandate in early summer. Your council will continue to be in prayer and discussion on this uncomfortable issue which causes so much division within families, communities, legislatures, political parties, and churches.

I bid you peace
Pastor Tonia

***Please, if you still do not feel comfortable to attend in person,
you have the opportunity to watch
FB Live on our FB page or YouTube Live on our webpage.
Also, recorded versions later in the day are available.
See below for specific details*

We ask you to, if you wish.....

PRINT THE ATTACHED BULLETIN.....

to follow along with Sunday's Service.

***As you are worshipping from home,
you are invited to set aside a sacred space for worship.
Light a candle and set out your bread and wine.***

Worship Service - Streaming live @ 9:30am or watch later!



***Click on image OR
FB Search: Saint James Lutheran Church of Columbus, Montana***



***Click on image or the link below to be directed to our website:
www.lutheranchurchcolumbusmt.org***

*****Scroll down to "Click here for the St. James YouTube link"***

St. James Lutheran Church

205 E 1st Ave. N. Columbus, MT 59019
Leader: Pastor Tonia Fisher (406) 656-9557
Email: toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com



May 2nd, 2021 –
5th Sunday of Easter

Our Mission:

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

I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Ps 122:1

Welcome, Announcements & Opportunities for Serving

**Blessings to all of you, whether you are joining us in the house of God,
joining us by watching the live/recorded service or in spirit and prayer.**

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

GATHERING

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

.....Amen.

Gathering Hymn: "O Blessed Spring"



1 O bless - ed spring, where word and sign em -
2 Through sum - mer heat of youth - ful years, un -
3 When au - tumn cools and youth is cold, when
4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, we |
5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, be :



brace us in - to Christ the Vine: here Christ en - joins each
cer - tain faith, re - bel lious tears, sus - tained by Christ's in -
limbs their heav - y har vest hold, then through us, warm, the
breathe our last, re - turn to dust; still held in Christ, our
praised for this blest mys ter - y: that word and wa - ter



one to be a branch of this life - giv ing Tree.
fus - ing rain, the boughs will shout for joy a - gain.
Christ will move with gifts of beau - ty, wis dom, love.
souls take wing and trust the prom - ise of the spring.
thus re - vive and join us to your Tree of Life.

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, so 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 1st Reading: Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An 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.) ²⁷So 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 ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He 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. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴The 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. ³⁶As 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?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When 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 whole verse:

²⁵*From you, comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.*

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied. Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

²⁷*All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.*

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

²⁹*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.*

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹*They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"*

Hear the 2nd Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷Love 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. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those 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. ²¹The 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 Holy Gospel according to John: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Hear the Reading of the Gospel: John 15:1-8

Jesus said: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. 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. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: "Beloved, Be Loved, Be Love"

Hymn for Reflection: "Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery"

1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
death we are re - born; though you die in all of
his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
rise with ev - 'ry morn.

5th Sunday of Easter Verse

Light of life beyond conceiving, Mighty Spirit of our Lord;
Give new strength to our believing. Give us faith to live Your Word.
Give us faith to live Your Word

Apostle's Creed

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:

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Passing of the Peace

.....and also with you.

MEAL

....we thank you for your faithful generosity to St. James in sharing your tithes and offerings which allows us to do God's work with our hands.

Offering Prayer

God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Table is Set Hymn: "For the Fruit of All Creation" vs 3



3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Great Thanksgiving

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:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

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 hymn:

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!



- 1 All crea-tures, wor - ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
- 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
- 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth - ful, strong; drive far the shad - ows, join the
- 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor
grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in
grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

- 5 And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
fair is the night that leads us home.
Alleluia.
- 6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia.

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

SENDING

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

Sending Hymn: "Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing"



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Dismissal:

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Music Published by Permission, CCLI #11445215

Worship Service recorded by Permission, CSPL #168651

The council voted to accept Judy Bjorkman to fill out Eric's remaining term on our council.



SOMEONE IN NEED...

Pastor received a call from Gabriella DuBe who will be interning at Stillwater Mine this summer. Gabriella is from Colorado and is looking for an apartment where she can stay during her internship. If you know of an apartment which is or will be available by mid-May, please give Tonia a call.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING

May 2021 Altar Guild: Sheri Luepke

May 2021 Cleaner(s): Sheri & Brian Luepke and Bob & Maureen Hemphill

We are asking for volunteers to help with "Opportunities to Serve"

**If you'd like to assist, let Pastor Tonia know
or sign your name on the sheet posted on our bulletin board!**

May 2021 Reader(s):

May 2021 Usher(s):

May Gate Keepers: *Donna Zeigler, Carrie Williams, Steve & Denise Cowan,
Larry & Joy Goehner, Brian & Sheri Luepke and Chris Fluery*

Musician(s): Marge Sunvold and Betty Ames

*For new prayer requests, please contact **Judy Bjorkman** at 321-2988, text or call or by email at jdbjorkman@hotmail.com*

PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER...

For those hospitalized, in nursing homes and homebound, and those battling cancer or other illnesses.

We offer praise for:

Denise Cowan receiving promising news about her eyes from her surgeons. Everything seems to be looking great and she may have full recovery in a few months! Praise the Lord!

We offer new prayers for:

Your healing Lord for Victoria Seymour, daughter of Pastor Julia of Big Timber Lutheran Church, Zayden, grandson of Lance & Patty Sundberg, Brenda Swanson and Bob Steinberg, Larry and Joy Goehner's brother-in-law all recovering from recent surgeries and treatments. Give strength to them and peace to all of their family and friends.

Joan, Patty Sundberg's mother for she has recently fallen twice. Keep her safe dear Lord and bless her with balance and strength.

We offer continued prayers for:

Your continued healing God for Vanessa Gneiting Cameron; Denise Cowan; Evelyn Williams; Clara Wagner; Roger Mullin and Gary Lofing.

We lift up those living with cancer: Jenny Hansen Cheff; Barb Potzman; Delbert Goehner; Dennis Gauthier; Arvid Barnam, Les Lane and Jim Wilson

All countries affected by the Coronavirus/Cofid-19 as they struggle to contain it and treat those who have contracted it. Please guide them; heal those who are afflicted with the virus; watch over their doctors, nurses and first responders; and halt its spread.

**Please pray for all of those who serve in our military domestically and overseas,
As well as their spouses and children at home.**

Every Tuesday in May 2021:

Bible Study @ 2:00pm

*B.Y.O.B.&B. - Bring your own Beverage, Bible and Book.

We are discussing the weekly lectionaries.

****Next Bible Study will be Tuesday May 4th**

Wednesdays in May 2021: Pastor Tonia records.....

A “Word on Wednesday”



WATCH on St. James' FB Page –

****Click on the picture to be directed to the church FB Page.**

Welcome to a word on Wednesday.

We take a few minutes each Wednesday to hear from God's Word.

Let God speak to you.

Bring up memories, bring out deep thoughts.

Reflect on how God speaks to our world today, to the situations we are facing as individuals, as a church, as a country, and as the world God so loves.

Or Read / Copy the letters attached to the weekly emails!

****Next FB Live “Word on Wednesday” will be Wednesday May 5th**

Zoom Social



Pastor Tonia invites you to join her for a time of social zooming. There'll be no specific topic, just a time to visit.

The zoom social will last about 40 minutes every Wednesday starting January. Feel free to drop in when you can during that time and to leave when you must.

Fireside Chat – Wednesday's at 7 pm

Tea with Tonia @10am, day-of-week to be determined.

An invitation will arrive in your email each week, along with step by step instructions for those who are new to Zoom.

****Next FB Live “Zoom Social” will be Wednesday May 5th @ 7pm**

If you do not receive an invitation and would like to join, email Pastor Tonia toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com and she will send you the invite!

“Your faith in God’s mission for St. James is unshakeable.”

Thank you for your prayers and generosity.

May the Lord bless you and give you peace.

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

1. Mail your offering to the church at St. James Lutheran Church, PO Box 356, Columbus, MT, 59019
2. Take your envelope offering to Pastor Tonia’s parsonage and put in the designated box on her front porch.
3. Stop in at your bank and arrange a monthly auto pay transaction.
4. Give online through **Tithe.ly**, a giving app endorsed by the ELCA. Each transaction carries a small fee. Your gift is safe / secure and goes directly to our church or ministry. Plus, you’ll be able to track all your gifts, setup recurring, and more!

[Tithe.ly](#) (click on this blue “Tithe.ly” link – takes you directly to St. James’ account to sign-up)

Remember that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

We hope you will take a few minutes to check out St. James’ Website.

Visitors searching for a Lutheran church will have the opportunity to learn all about us and we hope they will want to join us each Sunday!



Click on image or the link below to be directed to our website:

www.lutheranchurchcolumbusmt.org **

**Bookmark this page for your own future use



Happy May Birthday

*Jean Voldseth 5/5; Harold Riensche 5/8; Lance Sundberg 5/10;
AJ Makoff 5/20; Lian Radford 5/21; Bev Kem 5/23;
Ingrid Short 5/24; Mike Koski 5/29; Chip Kem 5/30*



Happy May Anniversary

*Lance & Patty Sundberg 5/17; Nick & Marian Lofing 5/22;
Ken & Pam Carlson 5/27*

Reminders.....



St. James has INTERNET!

TO CONNECT YOUR DEVICE, PHONE or IPad/TABLET,

CLICK ON - *St. James*

Then, USE THIS PASSWORD: *95theses1517*

SPRING has arrived, which leads to budding trees & plants, and green grass that starts to **GROW**, and **GROW** and **GROW**! All of this beautiful foliage leads to mowing in the **SUMMER!!**



If anyone would be willing to help during the summer months, please let a Council Member or Pastor Tonia know. We can come up with a schedule. **Thank you!**

FYI.....



Another way to give to Project Hope....

Columbus MT Gives is quickly approaching! From May 3-7, you can help support us and other nonprofits in our community. Donations to Project Hope will be used to keep our food bank shelves stocked, and for emergency rent and utility assistance for our neighbors.

Join us at the Stillwater Pavilion on the evening of the 7th for food and music! Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students, and can be purchased in our store.

.....or to any one of these organizations:

Columbus Community Foundation 4H Kid's Club Columbus Fire and Rescue Compassionate Friends
Domestic & Sexual Violence Services Columbus Mental Health Columbus Senior Center Kruzin 4 Seniors
Granite Peak Little League Museum of the Beartooths Special K Ranch Stillwater Billings Clinic Foundation
Stillwater Legacy Trails Stillwater Valley Watershed Council Stillwater Wrestling Stillwater Youth Center

Search: www.ColumbusMTGives.org to donate!

Volunteer for St. John's United

SPRING PLANTING

May 18th – 21st 10:30am – 3:00pm

Saturday, May 22nd 10:00am – 12:30pm

To ensure the safety of all, these events will be hosted by appointment

Volunteers ages 15+

Bring your own mask and maintain at least 6 feet of distance while on SJU campus



Contact Carissa Welsh at 655-7727 or email volunteer@stjohnsunitied.org

**** See Poster attached or Poster on bulletin board**

STILL AVAILABLE.....

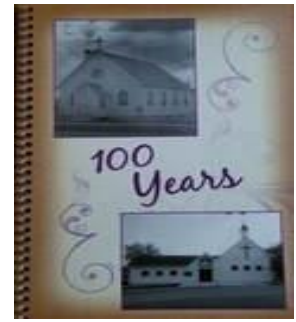
Get your cookbooks!!

Get your 100th Anniversary etched mugs

And/or wine glasses!!

They are all for sale **NOW!** \$10 each

Pick yours up at church on Sunday or get in touch with Pastor Tonia, Denise or Betty and we will make sure you get a copy or two or three. ☺



Simple Reminders.....



Thank you for letting me "borrow" your picture Joy Goehner!