

WELCOME TO:

St. James' Worship Service - 9:30am
Clap Your Hands as We Sing to the Lord!
Worship Service will be held in the Sanctuary this morning.

We will be honoring the 3 W's.....

“WATCH” our physical distancing –

We have designated pews for us to sit in to make sure we are distanced properly.

“WEAR” masks for the “Love of One Another”.....

We want you to wear your mask during the entire worship service. Thanks.



Stillwater County News

As of Friday, September 9th FB Page

From the Stillwater Billings Clinic are up 46 cases with **12 active.**

Due to the directive of Governor Bullock, we are required to wear masks, when our county has 4 or more ACTIVE cases.

“WASH” and/or sanitize our hands

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



**PRINT THIS BULLETIN..... to follow along with Sunday's
Worship Service - Streaming live or watch later!**

FB Search: Saint James Lutheran Church of Columbus, Montana

**ALSO, we would LOVE for you to leave us a greeting so we know
who's watching and enjoying St. James' Worship Service.**



St. James Lutheran Church

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

September 13th, 2020 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Welcome to Worship! We are glad you have joined us here at St. James Lutheran Church.

Prelude

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

Welcome

Blessings to all of you, whether you are joining us in the house of God, joining us by watching the FB Live service or in spirit and prayer.

Announcements & Opportunities for Serving

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

GATHERING

Confession & Forgiveness

Faithful God, have mercy on us. We confess we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Assurance of God's Love

Gathering Hymn: "My Lord, What a Morning"

Refrain: My Lord, what a morning; My Lord, what a morning;
oh, My Lord, what a morning; when the stars begin to fall.

Vs 1 You'll hear the trumpet sound, to wake the nations underground
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. **Back to refrain:**

Vs 2 You'll hear the sinner cry, to wake the nations underground
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. **Back to refrain:**

Vs 3 You'll hear the Christian shout, to wake the nations underground
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. **Back to refrain:**

Prayer of the Day:

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, **breathe new life into us, new hope for tomorrow. We are your foolish forgiven children. Give us the strength to bear witness to your will and your way. Lead us forth in joy and hope not counting the cost, but rejoicing in your righteousness. In Jesus' Name. Amen.**

WORD

Hear the 1st Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as He is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

Hear the Reading of Psalm 103:8-13

⁸LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love; ⁹you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever. ¹⁰You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities. ¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you. ¹²As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed

our transgressions from us. ¹³As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

Hear the 2nd Reading: Romans 14:5-12

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also, those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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

Please stand, as you are able, for the Gospel.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Hear the reading of the Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

Sermon: "Blessed Assurance"

Hymn for Reflection: "Blessed Assurance"

Vs 1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Chorus: This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.

Vs 2 Perfect submission, perfect delight, Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above, Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Back to Chorus:

Vs 3 Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above, Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Back to Chorus:

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

MEAL

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: "Amazing Grace"

- Vs 1 Amazing grace! How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; Was blind, but now I see.
- Vs 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.
- Vs 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
- Vs 4 The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my Shield and Portion be, as long as life endures.
- Vs 5 When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.

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

Mystery of our Faith. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

*Communion will look a little different during our season of Covid-19.
It will still be the Lord's supper.*

We **WILL OPEN** our pre-packaged wafer & partake the body of Christ **with Pastor.**

We **WILL OPEN** our pre-packaged juice & partake the blood of Christ **with Pastor.**

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

SENDING

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

Dismissal:

Remember the poor as you are sent to **reflect the love of God.**

Go in peace.

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



*Donna Zeigler for leading our Worship
service last Sunday & Tuesdays Bible Study, while
Pastor Tonia was on vacation.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. JAMES THIS WEEK & BEYOND.....

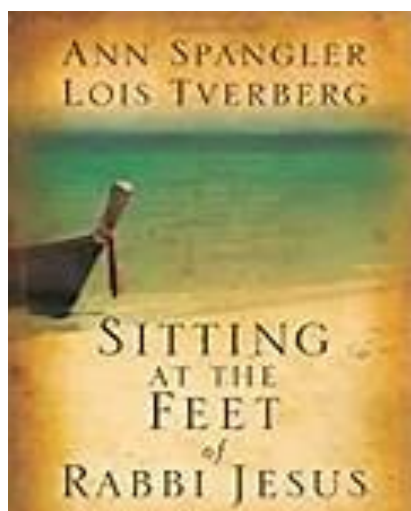
Tuesday September 8th: *Bible Study @ 2:00pm

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

We gather each Tuesday at 2pm to delve into God's Word.

***We have been studying the Sunday readings to help us listen and learn
from each week's lessons.***

We have found this study helps us prepare for worship.



To deepen our understanding of scripture we are adding a new layer to our study. **Beginning in October**, we will read and discuss the book, [Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus](#) by Ann Spangler and Lois Tverberg.

For those of you who are not familiar with this book here is a review:

- ~ A rare chance to know Jesus as his first disciples knew him.
- ~ What would it be like to journey back to the first century and sit at the feet of Rabbi Jesus as one of his Jewish disciples? How would your understanding of the gospel have been shaped by the customs, beliefs, and traditions of the Jewish culture in which you lived?

- ~ *Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus* will change the way you read Scripture and deepen your understanding of the life of Jesus. It will also help you to adapt the rich prayers and customs you learn about to your own life, in ways that both respect and enrich your Christian faith.
- ~ *Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus* takes you on a fascinating tour of the Jewish world of Jesus, offering inspirational insights that can transform your faith. Ann Spangler and Lois Tverberg paint powerful scenes from Jesus' ministry, immersing you in the prayers, feasts, history, culture, and customs that shaped Jesus and those who followed him.

In these pages, you will:

- Hear the parables as they must have sounded to first-century Jews, powerful and surprising.
- Join conversations among the rabbis of Jesus' day.
- Watch with new understanding as the events of Jesus' life unfold.
- Experience new excitement about the roots of your Christian faith.

If this sounds intriguing to you, let Pastor know. She will order a book for you.

The books are \$14.89.

Tuesday Bible Study is open to everybody.

We would love to have you join us as we sit at Rabbi Jesus' feet.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING US

September 2020 Altar Guild: Chris Hollingsworth

September 2020 Cleaner(s): Chris & Brett Hollingsworth

September Gate Keepers: Donna Zeigler, Brian & Sheri Luepke, Larry & Joy Goehner

(Any member attending church at this time is encouraged to help w/ this opportunity to serve. Thanks)

Musician(s): Marge Sunvold and Betty Ames

REMINDER.....

Are you starting to put change into YOUR "PIGGY" Bank or "BARNYARD" Bank?



ELCA Good Gifts is your opportunity to provide critical support to the ministries and programs that mean the most to you and the people you love.



***There are extra banks in case you haven't picked yours up yet!
OR bring your coin in a baggie with your name on it
OR write us a check and designate in the memo "for Piggy Bank" fund!***

Just \$30 can provide a piglet to a family in need. When this little piggy grows up, she will give birth to as many as 16 piglets each year. Pigs help fertilize fields, provide food to eat and can be sold at market for much-needed income. What a BIG difference a pig can make! We are distributing these coin boxes for our entire congregation to collect offerings.

Just bring your bank full of coin (the banks are EXTREMELY HAPPY we are sharing our coins with them) or cash to the church and Donna will deposit it for you.

***Thank you, Donna for starting this opportunity to help
ELCA – God’s work, Our hands,
who emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in
Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world.***

*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 continued prayers for:

God’s comfort and peace to the families of Jon Brown and Phil Nieman.

God’s healing for Roger Mullin, Gary Lofing and Jenny Steffenson.

We lift up those living with cancer: Dennis Gauthier; Arvid Barnam 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.

FOR YOUR REVIEW AND PRAYER **Our 2020 monthly budget to meet is \$8,008.33
FYI.....YTD (Jan – August 2020) (\$7,139.69) under budget

September 6th Offering Gratefully Received \$1,130 under monthly budget (\$6,878.33)

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

“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 your 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).



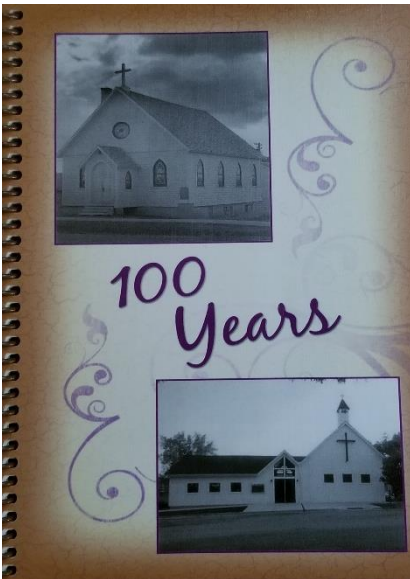
Happy September Anniversary

Nathan & Stacy Lofing 9/2; Joe & Mina Morse 9/4;
Greg & Kristi Lofing 9/27



Happy September Birthday

Bob Maurer 9/4; Steve Cowan 9/6; Barbara Salte 9/15;
Kyla Rouane 9/17; Thea Morse 9/18; Bob Kem 9/20;
Crystal Gauthier 9/24; Pete Lofing 9/30



Cookbooks have arrived!!
How exciting!

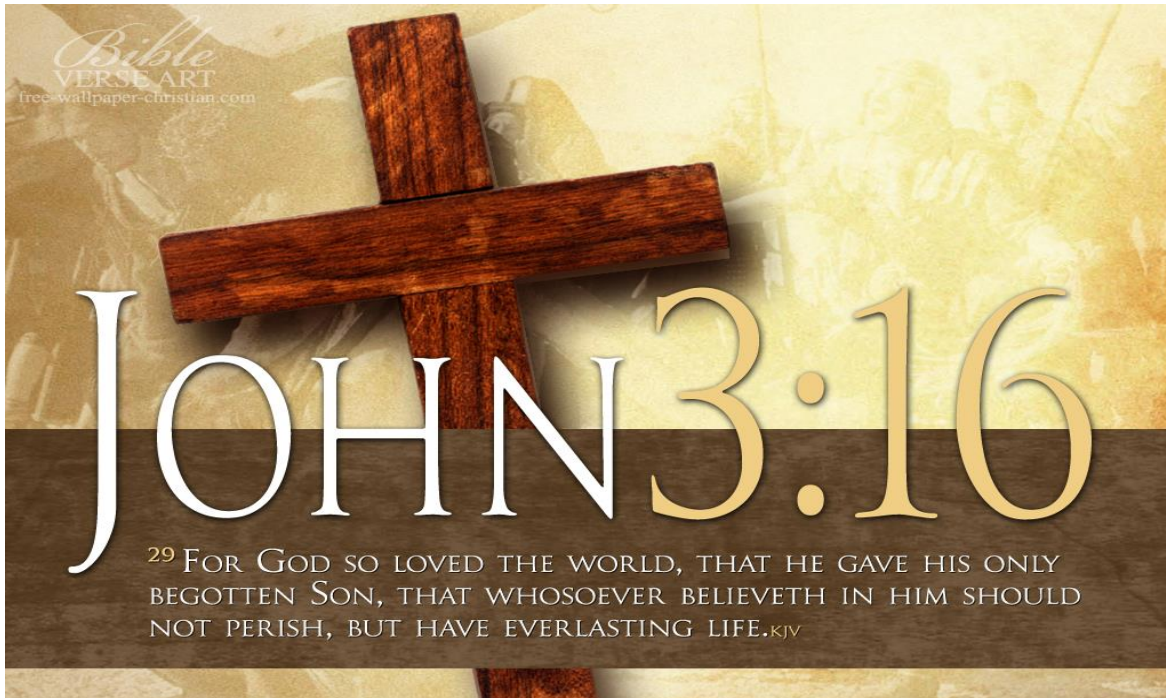
They are for sale NOW!
\$10 each

**A Collection of Recipes, History and Pictures
of St. James Lutheran Church!**

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

Mission Offering for September benefits...

Pastor's Discretionary Fund



A FAVORITE FOR
ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH,
IS THIS BEAUTIFUL **vERsE** – JOHN **3:16**.

This is so fitting to use as our church Wi-Fi password.

TO CONNECT YOUR DEVICE,
PHONE or IPad/TABLET,

CLICK ON - ***St. James***

Then, USE THIS PASSWORD:

SJLvs3:16

Simple Reminders...

