

WELCOME to St. James Lutheran Church

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

**On the website, scroll down to "Click here for the St. James FB link"

To our faithful followers at home or wherever you are, PLEASE let us know you are watching by writing a post or give your name. We'd love to hear from you!

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 September 17th, 2023 –
16th Sunday after Pentecost**



Prelude, 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 all
.....and also with you.*

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

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

Steadfast and faithful God, you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Assurance of God's Love

Gathering Hymn: ELW #779 "Amazing Grace"



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Prayer of the Day:

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

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

¹⁵Realizing that 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 that 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.**

Read Psalm 103:8-13 responsively by whole verse:

⁸LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love; ⁹**you 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. ¹¹**For 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. ¹³**As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.**

Hear the 2nd Reading: Romans 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. 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 that 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.**

The Gospel Acclamation:

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

We sing: **Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

The Gospel according to Matthew:

We sing the response after the announcement: **"Glory to you, O Lord"**

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. ²³"For 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:

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

Sermon: "Rule of Law"

Reflection Hymn: ELW #638 "Blessed Assurance"

At this time, you are invited to go forward and light a candle of remembrance,
as we take time to reflect on God's word



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

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

After each petition: *P: Lord, in Your mercy, C: hear our prayer*

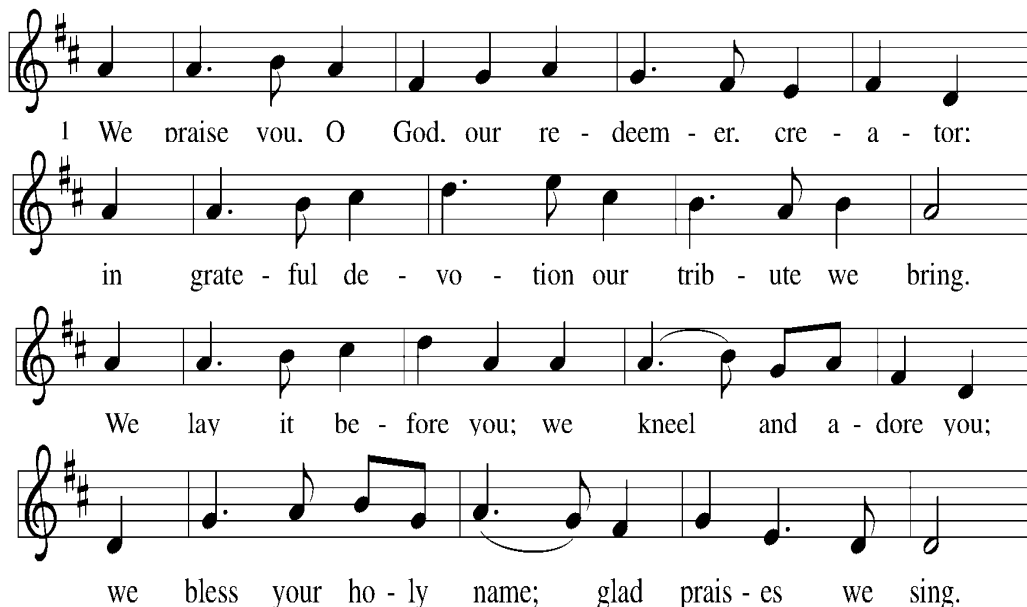
After last petition: **All: AMEN.**

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 #870 "We Praise You O God"



I We praise you. O God. our re - deem - er. cre - a - tor:
in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.

Offering Prayer

God of power, God of plenty, **all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table so all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Table Setting Hymn: ELW #472 "Eat This Bread"



Refrain
"Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst."

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

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 #785 "When Peace Like a River"



ELW #789 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"



1 Sav-ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.
2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.
keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

ELW #388 "Be Not Afraid"



Be not a - fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!



Be not a - fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

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

SENDING

Benediction..... and we say: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: ELW #543 "Go My Children, with My Blessing"



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap-tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for-ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com-fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."

Dismissal: Go in peace. God is at work in you.. **Thanks be to God.**

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

Readings for 9/24/23 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service:

Jonah 3:10 -- 4:11; Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

**FYI..... Bill & Rae Ellen signed up for the taxi
service this Sunday 9/17 for Sandy!**

Thanks!

Thank
YOU

...Bill & Rae Ellen Strickland for the wonderful coffee hour Sunday September 3rd! Bless you!

...on GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS SUNDAY to Dannetta Haywood for her wonderful message about the ministry at the Stillwater Youth Center, to everyone who brought cookies/bars, to those who helped plate to prepare for delivery, to all who provided food & joined us after worship for the yummy "picnic" and to those who helped deliver our treats to those business employees who work on Sunday's! ST. JAMES IS BLESSED!!!!

A big **THANK YOU** to Betty Ames, Kim Behrent, Steve & Denise Cowan, Bill & Rae Ellen Strickland & Leslie Mullin who have already volunteered to offer a ride for Sandy to Church on Sunday's.



Reminder... sign-up sheet continues to **need volunteers thru Sept. & the first two weeks in Oct.**
Thank you in advance for your kindness!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING

September 2023 Altar Guild: Maureen Hemphill, Sheri Luepke & Kim Behrent

September 2023 Cleaner(s): Brian & Sheri Luepke and Mina Morse & Jean Voldseth

September 2023 Reader: Will someone offer to help this month?

September 17th, 2023 Communion Helper(s): Will someone offer to help today?

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

September 17th, 2023 Usher(s): Will someone offer to help today?

Thank you, Bob Hemphill for ushering last Sunday.

September 17th, 2023 Gate Keeper(s): Bill Strickland & Carrie Williams

Musician(s): Marge Sunvold & Betty Ames

September Mission Offering benefits...

\$\$ for Columbus



Lunch & Milk Program



We are also gathering ground coffee along with Russ Dewell's Church in Park City. He will ship to the troops in Afghanistan. This is the one thing they really miss! This is an on-going mission and Russ was overjoyed when he heard we could also help!!

or a brand of your choice!! THANK YOU!

We certainly hope you are

Having Fun with Faith...

We hope you are enjoying the series of "Children's Worship Bulletins", which are *attached to this email & 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,

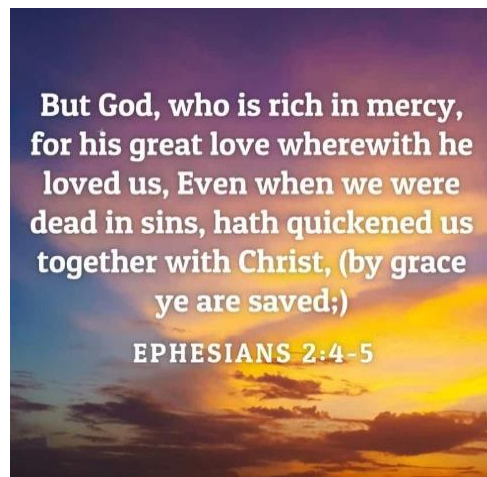
Bible Study is held at St. James 2:00pm.
We study the upcoming Sunday lessons.

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. Print the Bible WORDsearch Puzzles. Enjoy!



This week's Answers:



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.....

September 3 rd Offering gratefully received	\$1,242.00
September 10 th Offering gratefully received	<u>\$1,620.00</u>
Total received so far this month	\$2,862.00

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)

KEEP IN PRAYER...

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

We offer continued prayers for:

Joy and Larry Goehner. God of Love & life, we lift up Joy & Larry as they move to Missoula into The Village Senior Living Facility. Bring peace to them as they start this new journey.
Your healing and wisdom Lord for KayDel Shelton; Jim Dickey; Joan Elser; Pastor Tonia; Merridy Gauthier; LaNita Maurer; Steve Cowan; Bonny Rouse; Pete Hegg; Gary Lofing; Kyme Noble.
Those living with cancer: Father Fenton; Kaci Thomason; Brian Wanner; Bob Rouane; Araceli Enano; Ashley Foster; Jenny Hansen Cheff; Shane Fouhy; Jim Wilson & 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.***



Happy September Birthday

Bob Maurer 9/4; Steve Cowan 9/6; Marge Sunvold 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



Happy September Anniversary

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



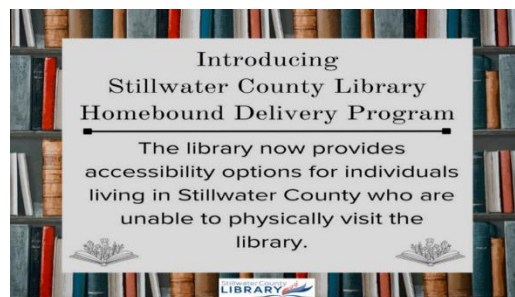
****If we have your email,**

**Check your inbox for yours &/or your children's ecard!
Other members, check your mailbox!**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES to REFLECT GOD'S LOVE to OURSELVES, to EACH OTHER and to OUR NEIGHBORS

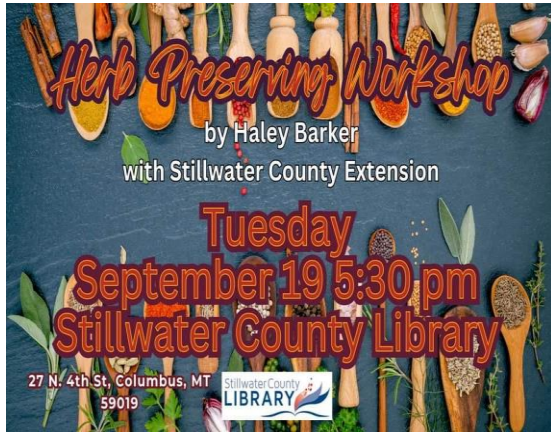
MORE Community Events for St. James:

- Every Monday we are invited to join:
~The Stillwater Youth Center for coffee and visiting from 8-10am.
- 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
~ Absarokee Quilting Group – 10am in the basement of the Cobblestone building.
Knitters, crocheters and embroiderettes are welcome.
- 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



**For more information,
see the "Table Posters"
at St. James.**

These sound like fun!!



Future 2023 Dates:



Wednesday September 20th

CHOIR PRACTICE RESUMES

Congregational Church – 4:00pm

**SEPTEMBER
23RD, 2023**



September 24th – Church Council Meeting immediately after worship.



Sunday October 1st, 2023 –

Pastor Appreciation Sunday

Marge Sunvold INVITES your family and/or your "pew neighbor" to STAY after worship October 1st to thank Pastor Tonia and enjoy fellowship & laughter!

Save this date: Wednesday October 18th –

Bingo!

Bingo!

Bingo!

...and Pizza!

**What could be better on
a cool fall evening?**

**Join us at St. James Lutheran Church
on October 18th at 5:30 for pizza followed by some
rousing games of Bingo starting about 6. Bring a
gift to share in a paper bag. (\$10 limit)**

Hope to see you there!!