

# WELCOME TO:

**St. James' Worship Service - 9:30am**  
**Clap Your Hands as We Sing to the Lord!**  
**Worship Service is now held in the Sanctuary.**

*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 25<sup>th</sup> FB Page

From the Stillwater Billings Clinic, the county's total case count is now 61 cases with **21 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

**We appreciate hearing from all of you joining us online.**

**We would LOVE for you to share your insights or leave us a greeting.**

**We are blessed to count you among those who worship  
at St. James Lutheran Church each Sunday morning!**



*St. James Lutheran Church*

205 E 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. N Columbus, MT 59019  
Leader: Pastor Tonia Fisher (406) 656-9557  
Email: [toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com](mailto:toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com)

**September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – 17<sup>th</sup> 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 Faith Looks Up To Thee"**

Vs1 My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!  
Now hear me while I pray, Take all my guilt away,  
O let me from this day Be wholly Thine!

Vs 2 May Thy rich grace impart, strength to my fainting heart. My zeal inspire;  
As Thou hast died for me, O may my love to Thee,  
Pure, warm and changeless be, A living fire!

### **Prayer of the Day:**

God of love, giver of life, **you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **Hear the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die. <sup>25</sup>Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways which are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity they have committed they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

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

## **Hear the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Philippians 2:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. <sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

*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 21:23-32**

<sup>23</sup>When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' <sup>26</sup>But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. <sup>28</sup>What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup>He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

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

## **Sermon: "Me? Really?"**

### **Hymn for Reflection: "Here I Am, Lord"**

Vs 1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"

**Refrain:** Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

Vs 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"

**Back to Refrain:**

Vs 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide, till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

**Back to Refrain:**

## ***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: "Unto Thee O Lord"*** from Psalm 25

Unto thee o Lord do I lift up my soul?      Unto thee o Lord do I lift up my soul?

O my God, I trust in thee.

Let me not be ashamed, Let not my enemies, triumph over me.      **Repeat:**

## ***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*

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

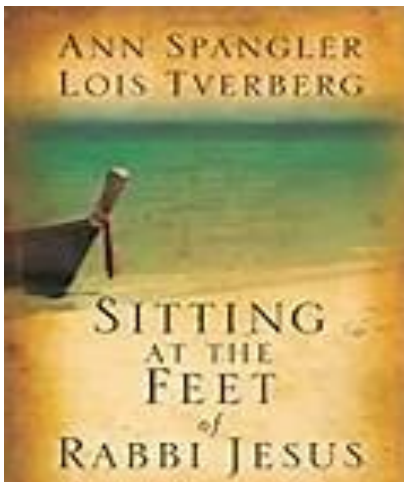
**Tuesday September 29<sup>th</sup>:** \*Bible Study @ 2:00pm

**\*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.**

Wednesday September 30th: Watch on St. James' FB Page –  
A "Word on Wednesday" – Pastoral Letter from Pastor Tonia

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

September 2020 Altar Guild: Chris Hollingsworth

October 2020 Altar Guild: Denise Cowan

September 2020 Cleaner(s): Chris & Brett Hollingsworth

October 2020 Cleaner(s): Lance & Patty Sundberg and Bob & Maureen Hemphill

September 2020 Gate Keepers: Donna Zeigler, Brian & Sheri Luepke, Larry & Joy Goehner

October 2020 Gate Keepers: Donna Zeigler, Brian & Sheri Luepke, Larry & Joy Goehner

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.**

**WATCH FOR UPCOMING INFORMATION ON  
St. James' Opportunity to help our community  
thru the God's Work, Our Hands Program!**

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

Barbara Salte, as she recently fell and had a successful hip replacement surgery. Barbara's daughter, Teri Grebe Everett sent St. James this message: "My mom's surgery went well. Thank you very much for the prayers." We ask for God's comfort, peace, and complete healing and also prayers for her husband, Jim. God's healing for Roger Mullin, Gary Lofing and Jenny Steffenson. We lift up those living with cancer: 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.**

**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 6 <sup>th</sup> Offering Gratefully Received	<u>\$1,130</u>	<i>under monthly budget (\$6,878.33)</i>
September 13 <sup>th</sup> Offering Gratefully Received	<u>\$1,080</u>	<i>under monthly budget (\$5,798.33)</i>
September 20 <sup>th</sup> Offering Gratefully Received	<u>\$4,570</u>	<b>OVER monthly budget \$21.67</b>

**"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).**



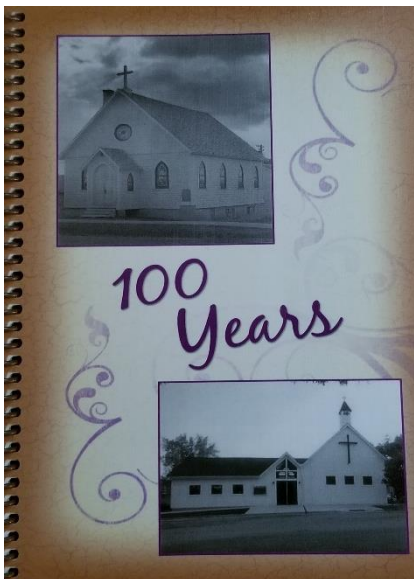
## ***Happy September Anniversary***

*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. 😊*

**ALSO.....**

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary etched mugs  
and wine glasses have arrived!!**

**How exciting!**

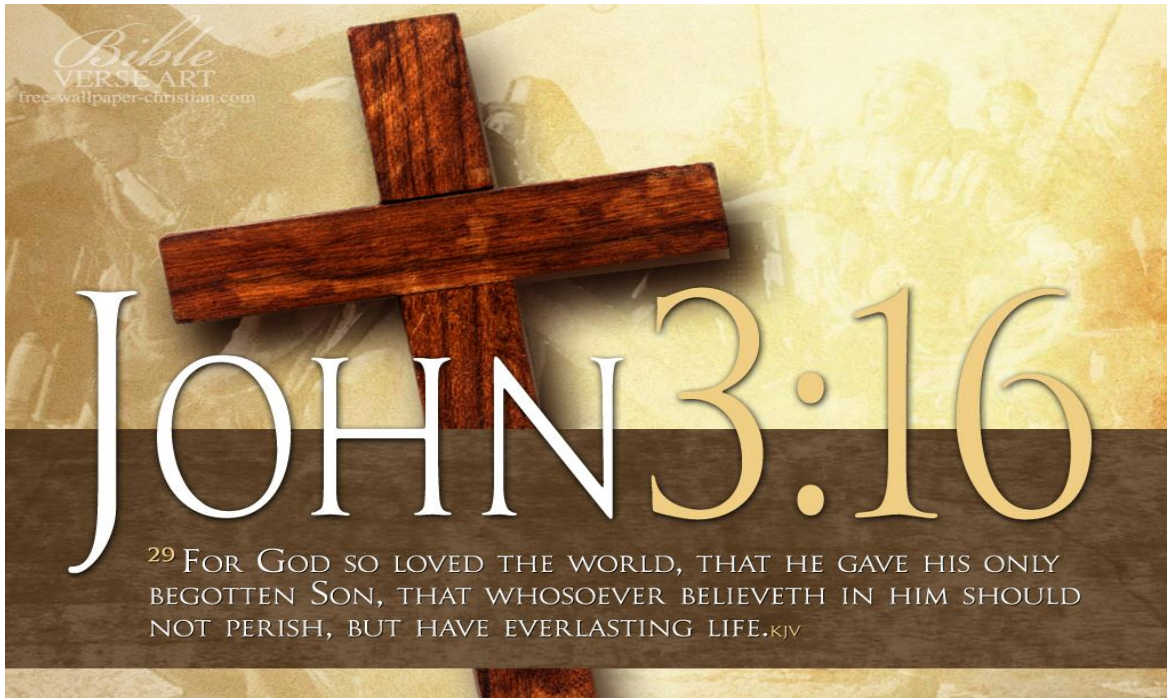
**They are on display at the church!**

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

*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...*

**Love is rare. Grab it.  
Anger is bad. Dump it.  
Fear is awful. Face it.  
Memories are sweet.  
Cherish them.  
Life is short. Live it.**