

# WELCOME:

We are having in-church worship service this  
Sunday November 15<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30am.

We continue to be honoring the 3 W's.....

**“WATCH”** our physical distancing –

We have designated every-other pew open in the sanctuary for us to sit in to make sure we are still distanced properly.

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

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

We ask that you only hum or listen during the service. Our song leaders are appropriately positioned in the church to sing safely.

**“WASH”** and/or sanitize our hands

*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.*

**Please**, if you don't feel comfortable to attend in person, you have the opportunity to watch FB Live or a recorded version later in the day.

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

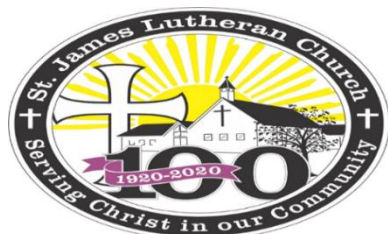
**PRINT THE ATTACHED BULLETIN.....** to follow along with Sunday's Service. As you are worshipping from home, you are invited to set aside a sacred space for worship. Light a candle and set out your bread and wine.



**Worship Service - Streaming live 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)

**November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – 24th Sunday after Pentecost**

*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**

Blessings to all of you, joining us by watching our remote 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**

*Holy One, we confess we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin which divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.*

### **Assurance of God's Love**

### **Gathering Hymn: "Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand"**

- Vs 1 Oh, happy day when we shall stand amid the heav'nly throng;  
And sing with hosts from ev'ry land the new celestial song,  
The new celestial song.
- Vs 2 Oh, blessed day when Christ shall come and show himself as Lord,  
And thousands meet in their new home which Jesus has prepared,  
Which Jesus has prepared.
- Vs 3 Oh, what a mighty rushing flood of joy and love and peace  
Will roll down over us with good and blessedness and grace,  
And blessedness and grace.
- Vs 4 O Lord, your grace is ev'rything; your love has made us free,  
To stand among the saints and sing the glory that we see,  
The glory that we see.

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

Righteous God, our merciful master, **you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **Hear the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**

<sup>7</sup>Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.<sup>12</sup>At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm."<sup>13</sup>Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.<sup>14</sup>The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there.<sup>15</sup>That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,<sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty

battlements. <sup>17</sup>I will bring such distress upon people so they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. <sup>18</sup>Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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

### ***Hear the Reading of Psalm 90:1-8, 12, 14***

<sup>1</sup>Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another. <sup>2</sup>Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God. <sup>3</sup>You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, O children of earth." <sup>4</sup>For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night; <sup>5</sup>you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass: <sup>6</sup>in the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered. <sup>7</sup>For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath. <sup>8</sup>Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance. <sup>12</sup>So teach us to number our days so we may apply our hearts to wisdom. <sup>14</sup>Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

*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 25:14-30***

Jesus said to the disciples:<sup>14</sup>"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

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

### ***Sermon: "Trust and Obey"***

### ***Hymn for Reflection: "Trust and Obey"***

**Vs 1** When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word what a glory He sheds on our way!  
While we do His goodwill, He abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey.

***Refrain:***

**Trust and obey, for there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.**

**Vs 2** Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies, But His smile quickly drives it away;  
Not a doubt or a fear, not a sigh nor a tear, can abide while we trust and obey.

***Back to Refrain:***

**Vs 3** Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share, but our toil He doth richly repay;  
Not a grief nor a loss, not a frown or a cross but is blest if we trust and obey.

***Back to Refrain:***

**Vs 4** But we never can prove the delights of His love, until all on the altar we lay;  
For the favor He shows, and the joy He bestows, are for them who will trust and obey.

***Back to Refrain:***

**Vs 5** Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet, or we'll walk by His side in the way;  
What He says we will do, where He sends, we will go, never fear, only trust and obey.

***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**

*...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.*

### ***Offering Prayer***

God of all goodness, **generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them so, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. Amen.**

## **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.*

*As you worship from home, you are invited to eat your bread and drink your wine when invited to the table.*

We **WILL** now partake the body of Christ **with Pastor.**

We **WILL** now partake the blood of Christ **with Pastor.**

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

## **SENDING**

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

### **Sending Hymn: "Thine the Amen"**

- Vs 1 Thine the amen thine the praise alleluias angels raise  
Thine the everlasting head thine the breaking of the bread  
Thine the glory thine the story thine the harvest then the cup  
Thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.
- Vs 2 Thine the life eternally thine the promise let there be  
Thine the vision thine the tree all the earth on bended knee  
Gone the nailing gone the railing gone the pleading gone the cry  
Gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.
- Vs 3 Thine the truly thine the yes thine the table we the guest  
Thine the mercy all from thee thine the glory yet to be  
Then the ringing and the singing then the end of all the war  
Thine the living thine the loving evermore, evermore.
- Vs 4 Thine the kingdom thine the prize thine the wonder full surprise  
Thine the banquet then the praise then the justice of thy ways  
Thine the glory thine the story then the welcome to the least  
Then the wonder all increasing at thy feast at thy feast.
- Vs 5 Thine the glory in the night no more dying only light  
Thine the river thine the tree then the Lamb eternally  
Then the holy holy holy celebration jubilee  
Thine the splendor thine the brightness only thee only thee.

**Dismissal:** Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord as we **reflect the love of God.**

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

Wednesday November 11<sup>th</sup>:

Pastor Tonia recorded.....

A "Word on Wednesday" –  
"God Prevails"



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 the full Pastoral Letter below!**

*Jeremiah said,*

*"You are stronger than I, and You have prevailed." (Jer 20:7)*

It has been some year. We started out with hopes, dreams, and resolutions. Almost before we could give up on our resolutions, Coronavirus hit. Plans for conferences, parties, vacations and even worship were wiped off the table. Speaking of tables – we could no longer go out to eat, let alone see a concert or go to a movie. By month 3 of the New Year – we were sheltered in place.

People began to act strangely, there was a lack of common sense, concern for others was tossed out the window. Injustice, a call to anger, violence, bad actions overtook the Pandemic. What the virus hadn't shut down, violence did. The lack of knowledge about Covid19 upset our apple cart. Some said masks would stop the spread, some said you can't make me wear one. That battle continues.

Where is God? Where is the kindness, the love, the hope? Lord, can we make it through all of this? Surely the world has never seen anything like this before. We don't have time for a history lesson, so I will just repeat Jeremiahs' words as he struggled with God's call on his life to speak God's Word to difficult people in a unsettling time. Facing failure to fulfill his call and delivering a message which would not be well received, Jeremiah said to God, "You are stronger than I, and You have prevailed."

The church now has to step up its game to be Church in an unsettled time. Recording services, virtual communion. Fellowship by Zoom. As churches begin to reopen fewer people are in the pews. Some fear for their health, some just can't wear a mask. Many wouldn't return until things are like they used to be. How people attend church is now different. For many churches, instead of people sitting in pews they watch from home. A surprising number of people are now attending church on line.

It's a new world. People continue to generously support churches and non-profits so the hungry are fed, those in need are cared for, and those who grieve are comforted.

God is stronger than we are. God will prevail. And so will we. God has sent His Holy Spirit to walk with us. Christ remains the non-anxious presence in our time of trial. Our trust is in God, especially now. We hold on to hope, knowing there will be joy – eventually.

Church does look different, we don't sing or shake hands, we don't gather for fellowship hour. But we do worship the living Lord. We praise God's name, we listen to God's word, we confess and receive forgiveness, we lift up the bread and the wine and receive the body and blood of Christ, the love and forgiveness of our Heavenly Father, and we are sent out to reflect the love of God to our neighbor.

### *Let us pray.*

*God who goes before us, we give You thanks and praise. We are fearfully and wonderfully made and we can and will walk through this year. Even though it is not what we expected, we know all things work together for good. We trust You, O Lord, to walk with us and to empower us. We give to You the honor due Your Holy Name, even in times of unrest, because we know You are stronger than we are and You will prevail. Amen.*

*I bid you peace.*



### *Happy November Anniversary*

*Chris & Brett Hollingsworth 11/1; Bob & Lanita Maurer 11/15*



### *Happy November Birthday*

*Linda Alton 11/4; Carli Lofing 11/4; Brenna Rouane 11/14;  
Stacy Lofing 11/22; Amber Lofing 11/24*

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

*November 2020 Altar Guild: Karen McDonald*

*November 2020 Cleaner(s): Bill & Karen McDonald & Randy & Nance Stennerson*

*November 2020 Gate Keepers: Donna Zeigler, Brian & Sheri Luepke,*

*Steve & Denise Cowan and Larry & Joy Goehner*

*November Song Leaders at Worship: Brian & Sheri Luepke and Larry & Joy Goehner*

*Musician(s): Marge Sunvold and Betty Ames*



**“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).**

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:**

Delbert Goehner, Larry Goehner’s cousin, as he has recently been diagnosed with cancer. Please pray for Delbert’s peace and comfort, and for complete healing from the cancer.

God’s peace, timing and comfort for the family and friends of Deloris Etchart.

God’s loving presence to surround the residents & staff at Meadowlark Assisted Living.

Your continued healing God for Bill Strickland, Janet Overhuls; Roger Mullin, Gary Lofing, Jenny Steffenson and Barb Salte.

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.**

**How exciting!**

**Cookbooks have arrived!!**

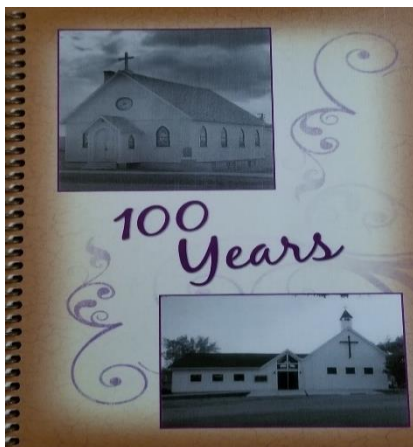
**They are for sale NOW! \$10 each**

**ALSO.....**

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

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

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



Pick yours up at church on Sunday, doors are open for Bible Study on Tuesday’s 2pm-3pm (church closed for two weeks) or get in touch with Pastor Tonia, Karen, Denise or Betty and we will make sure you get a copy/mug/glass or two or three of each! 😊

**\*\*Please designate on your check memo or envelope the purpose of your money.**



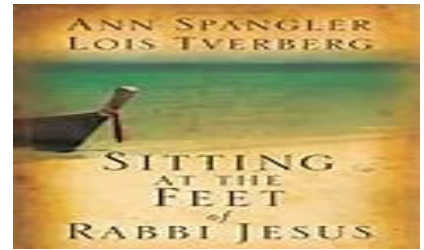
## **WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. JAMES THIS WEEK & BEYOND...**

Tuesday November 17<sup>th</sup>:

**\*Bible Study @ 2:00pm @ the Church**

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

We are reading and discussing the book, *Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus* by Ann Spangler and Lois Tverberg.



Wednesday November 18<sup>th</sup>: Pastor Tonia will record.....

**A "Word on Wednesday" – Watch on our FB page.**

*Mission Offering for November benefits...  
Project Hopes' "Thanksgiving Care Boxes"*



## REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

**EACH DAY - ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.**

**ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>, DONATE THE CONTENTS TO PROJECT HOPE!**

## **HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO OUR COMMUNITY**

October 26 –box of cereal

October 27 –peanut butter & jelly

October 28 –macaroni and cheese

October 29 –canned fruit

October 30 –canned tomatoes

October 31 –Halloween candy

November 1 –canned tuna

November 2 –jar of applesauce

November 3 –dessert mix

November 4 –can chili

November 5 –box of crackers

November 6 –package of rice

November 7 –package of oatmeal

November 8 –package pasta

November 9 –spaghetti sauce

November 10 –chicken noodle soup

November 11 –cans of vegetables

November 12 –stuffing mix

November 13 –boxed potatoes

November 14 –canned sweet potatoes

November 15 –can green beans

November 16 –cranberry sauce

November 17 –box of roll mix

November 18 –pie filling

November 19 –box pie dough mix

November 20 –Thanksgiving decorations

# Thankful

Deliver to Project Hope and know that you bless  
a family in Stillwater County.



## *Simple Reminders...*

# You Might Be a Lutheran If...

- . . . You're watching Star Wars and when they say, "May the force be with you," you reply, "and also with you."
- . . . you sing "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" while sitting down.
- . . . it takes you ten minutes to say good-bye.
- . . . your church library has three Jell-O cookbooks.
- . . . you have an uncontrollable urge to sit in the back of any room.
- . . . during communion you hum the hymns so you can see who's at church that Sunday.
- . . . a meeting isn't a meeting unless it takes three hours.
- . . . you feel guilty about not feeling guilty.
- . . . the church is on fire, and you rush in to save the coffee pot.
- . . . [www.oldlutheran.com](http://www.oldlutheran.com) is one of your bookmarks.