

WELCOME:

We are having in-church worship service this
Sunday November 29th @ 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 1st Ave. N. Columbus, MT 59019
Leader: Pastor Tonia Fisher (406) 656-9557
Email: toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com

November 29th, 2020 – 1st Sunday of Advent

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

At-Home Advent Candles

November 29 is the first Sunday of Advent, the season during which we journey to the manger. This is a time of waiting and preparing. (Not to mention decorating and Christmas shopping) For those of you who are unable to attend in-person worship, we have created a set of Advent Candles for your use at home. [These can be picked up at the church or on the Parsonage Porch. They include instructions and an Advent Litany to be used at home.](#) Those who attend in-person worship are invited to take a set home also, if you wish.

May the lighting of the candles increase your awareness of the Love which came down to us at the birth of the Christ Child.

To prepare your candles, pour some blue sand in the tray and place a tea candle on top. As you are watching our worship service, join us in the season of preparation by lighting the candle(s). If you are unable to watch our service, set aside a sacred time to light the candle(s).

After the prayer extinguish the candle(s).

Thank You Pastor Tonia for creating this at-home way for all of us at St. James to be able to journey together.



May God bless you as you prepare your hearts for the arrival of God with us.

Welcome

Blessings to all of you, joining us by watching our remote service or in spirit and prayer.

Announcements & Opportunities for Serving

GATHERING

First Sunday of Advent Litany

P: O God, we light the first candle of Advent.

C: We kindle it with hope. We long for you to come to our world, to break through and reign with compassion, justice, and peace.

P: The prophet Isaiah also cried to God to tear open heaven and come down. He called God's people to do right. Isaiah called them to be refashioned like clay by God, the potter. This Advent, we call out to God.

C: Mighty God, creator of the world, break through all that keeps us from you. We ask for your mercy and reform us in your image. This Advent, visit us with your justice, love, and peace. Amen.

Advent Hymn: "He Came Down"

He came down that we may have hope; He came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we may have hope; Hallelujah forevermore.

Lighting of our 1st Advent Candle - **HOPE**

Advent Prayer:

Gracious God. Father of the Prince of Peace, help us to follow where your light shines. Hope is the destination of our faith and peace gives us the courage to start the journey. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Confession & Forgiveness

Loving and forgiving God, we confess we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

Assurance of God's Love

Gathering Hymn: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

- Vs 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to you, O Israel.
- Vs 2 O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to you, O Israel.
- Vs 3 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer O sun of justice, now draw near,
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to you, O Israel.
- Vs 4 O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one;
Refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to you, O Israel.

Prayer of the Day:

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. **By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

Hear the 1st Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself, we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

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

Hear the Reading of Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim. ²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us. ³Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. ⁴O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray? ⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink. ⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn. ⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. ¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself. ¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name. ¹⁹Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved

Hear the 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Word of Wisdom, Word of God. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

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

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

Hear the reading of the Gospel: Mark 13: 24-37

Jesus said: ²⁴"In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

Sermon: "Hopes and Fears"

Hymn for Reflection: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

- Vs 1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light,
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
- Vs 2 How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So, God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

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

Generous God, you have created all which is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all we offer and may, through these gifts, the world receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. 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

Blessing..... and we say: Amen

Sending Hymn: "Soon and Very Soon"

Vs 1	Soon and very soon	we are goin' to see the King.
	Soon and very soon	" " " " " " "
	Soon and very soon	" " " " " " "
	Hallelujah, hallelujah	we're goin' to see the King!
Vs 2	No more cryin' there	we are goin' to see the King.
	No more cryin' there	" " " " " " "
	No more cryin' there	" " " " " " "
	Hallelujah, hallelujah	we're goin' to see the King!
Vs 3	No more dyin' there	we are goin' to see the King.
	No more dyin' there	" " " " " " "
	No more dyin' there	" " " " " " "
	Hallelujah, hallelujah	we're goin' to see the King!
Vs 4	Soon and very soon	we are goin' to see the King.
	Soon and very soon	" " " " " " "
	Soon and very soon	" " " " " " "
	Hallelujah, hallelujah	we're goin' to see the King!

Dismissal:

The service is finished and now our service begins, as **we go out to reflect God’s love which has come down to us.**

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

Also, Today: Church Council Meeting immediately after worship

**Montana Synod Advent/Christmas Devotion is available now!
Equipping....For the Work of Ministry**



**Advent and
Christmas Devotions 2020**

These devotions have been written by leaders of congregations here in the Montana Synod to be a gift to all of us in the territory of northern Wyoming and Montana to help us reflect on God's love and presence and light that come to us even in dark times. Please look for the themes of comfort, abundance and grace that are ours through Christ Jesus. A word of thanks

to the Montana Synod Stewardship Task Force, and Synod staff for their leadership in this endeavor. And a sincere word of thanks to the rostered leaders who have written these devotions for us. A blessed Advent to you and a Merry Christmas. May you be equipped to experience God's hope and grace in these coming weeks.

[Download it here](#)

**Wednesday November 25th: Pastor Tonia recorded.....
A “Word on Wednesday” –
“Fear Not”**



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!

We also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. (Rms 5:3-5)

“Fear not!” I hear, I read, I write – and yet I find myself having that gut wrenching feeling of fear. The sky IS falling. But - God IS still here beside me. But I’m sure I see the corner of the sky pulling away and falling to earth.

Faith is a gift. God gives us faith. Faith to believe, to accept, to continue on. Some days it feels like our faith is not enough. One wonderful constant thing about being Church is - when our faith is not enough, someone else will come along beside and hold us up with their faith. We walk together, leaning on each other - so neither of us fall. God meets us in many ways – often through our brothers and sisters in faith, the Body of Christ.

Through woes brought upon us this season of Covid, we are learning to lean on each other, reaching out through - dare I say it - modern technology. We – through necessity – are learning to communicate through computers. We call, text, email, FaceTime, Zoom and other things I don’t understand at all. It has become how we stay in contact, how we learn, share, socialize. Even though we don’t gather together as much as we used to – or in the same ways - we still pray for each other, lift each other up, we listen to and encourage one another – we are still the Body of Christ, we are just doing things in a new way.

When I read about “boasting in our sufferings” I take a step back and question, “Really?” I’d rather boast in an “A” in geometry. Or in my new dream job. Or in my Big Catch, “It was THIS big.” Or in finally cleaning my storage room. These things I understand, but boasting in my sufferings, not so much. It doesn’t sound easy, or fun, or even possible. But it seems to be more than a suggestion here in Romans.

Let’s follow the line of reasoning – we *boast in our sufferings, knowing suffering produces endurance (really?), and endurance produces character (I have enough character, thank you very much) and character produces hope, (OK, I’d like that part) and hope does not disappoint us - why, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

In Jeremiah, God tells us, “I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jer 29:11) We can place our faith in the hope God plans for us.

God is with us. God accompanies us on this difficult journey, holding us up. God loves us and sends us out to love others. God sends to us God’s Spirit so we are never alone, so we will have hope, so our character will reflect God’s love, so we can endure whatever we face, so we can boast in our sufferings, because we have hope. Fear not.

Let us pray.

God of hope, thank You for coming to us in our sufferings and bringing us to a place of a Hope which will not disappoint. Thank you for accompanying us, for coming to meet us on the battlefields of our lives. Thank You for sending to us Your Spirit to strengthen and protect us. Now accompany us this Season of Advent as we journey to the manger. Amen.



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

December 2020 Altar Guild: All share this month and take a Sunday

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

December 2020 Cleaner(s): Dennis & Merridy Gauthier and Leanne Sekora & Pat Lofing

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

Steve & Denise Cowan and Larry & Joy Goehner

December 2020 Gate Keepers: SAME as NOVEMBER

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

December Song Leaders at Worship: SAME as NOVEMBER

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 jdjborkman@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:

Jeff Fisher, Pastor Tonia’s brother; James and Mana Steward, friends of Pastor Tonia and Dorcas Atzbach, Liz Cox’s mother, as they have recently experienced symptoms r/t Covid 19.

God’s loving presence to surround the residents & staff at Meadowlark Assisted Living and now at Beartooth Manor. Your continued healing God for Darlene Kelley, Denise Cowan’s sister; Bill Strickland, Janet Overhuls; Roger Mullin, Gary Lofing, Jenny Steffenson and Barb Salte.

We lift up those living with cancer: 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.

REMINDERS.....



The "PIGGY" Bank and "BARNYARD" Bank Program
will end **December 31st, 2020!**
Will everyone who has a bank,
please bring your change to the church
before the end of the month.



Note: Put your coin in a plastic sandwich bag with you name

If you cannot get them to the church, please call Donna (406) 322-4452
and she will be happy to pick them up from you!



Thank you, Donna for starting this opportunity to help
and Thank you all for taking this challenge!

Get your Cookbooks!!

Get your 100th Anniversary etched mugs and wine glasses!!

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

Pick yours up at the church or let Pastor Tonia, Karen, Denise or Betty know
how many you would like to purchase!

THANK YOU.....

Thank you to
Donna Zeigler,
LPA ;
Betty Ames and
Brian & Sheri
Luepke for the
beautiful
Light of Christ
Service last
Sunday.



**So sorry for the distorted picture of the Altar.....I took a screenshot from the FB video. Betty

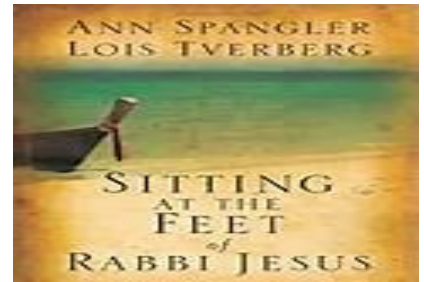
WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. JAMES THIS WEEK & BEYOND...

Tuesday December 1st:

***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 December 2nd: Pastor Tonia will record.....

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

Your worship team **STILL** wants to know...

Survey.....

Name: _____

Your worship team wants to know:

Will you attend in-church Christmas Eve Service @ St. James?

Please circle your answer(s):

Yes, we will **No, will not make it this year**
If yes, 5:00pm How many in attendance? _____
 7:00pm How many in attendance? _____

This information will be compiled and presented to the council for their discussion and decision at the November 29th regular council meeting.

Congregation will be notified of the final outcome.

We ask you to fill this postcard out immediately and drop it in the mail.

Thank you to those who have returned their postcard. We really appreciate your promptness!

Again, please fill out your reply and just drop it in the mail as soon as possible.

Save the Date:

Columbus Annual Parade of Lights

Friday, December 11th 7:00pm

Theme: Elf on the Shelf

*We can not sell lefse as in years past,
but stay tuned for other ideas.....*





Coming in January – Zoom Socials

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

There will be two zooms each week, each will last 40 minutes. Feel free to drop in when you can during that time and to leave when you must.

Fireside Chat – Wednesday's at 7 pm

Gather around, get comfy, sit back and discuss your day, the church, the weather.

It'll just be a time for free-flowing conversations.

Tea with Tonia – Friday's at 10 am

Pour a cuppa tea, coffee, or hot chocolate and come together for a comfy time to talk.

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

This is the
season

This is the
reason

*Simple
Reminders...*

