



***As we plan for Christmas Eve services,
we STILL want to know.....***

Do you plan on attending Christmas Eve Service?

If so, Do you prefer 5pm or 7pm?

and, How many will be attending with you?

***Note: If we do not hear from you, we will assume
you will not be attending.***

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

OR, call/text Betty @ 671-0090 or Tonia @ 656-9557

Thank you to those who have returned your postcard, we
have confirmed your reservation.

**The week of Christmas,
we will send out the reservation list showing your name and
which service you have chosen to attend.
We appreciate your promptness!**

WELCOME to St. James Lutheran Church

**We are having in-church worship service this
Sunday December 6th @ 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

December 6th, 2020 – 2nd 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

We continue with the second 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

Second Sunday of Advent Litany

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

C: We seek your comfort. Both mighty and tender, you come. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you.

P: Isaiah announced God's coming to a people exiled in a broken and parched wilderness. He declared that God's redemption would make a highway in the desert and change the rough places into plain. God would come as a shepherd—feeding, leading, and cradling the weary flock. This Advent, we seek such a God

C: Saving God, look upon your world and heal your land and your people. Prepare us to be changed. This Advent, teach us to be tender and just, as you are. Amen

Advent Hymn: "He Came Down"

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

Lighting of our 2nd Advent Candle - **PEACE**

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 Prince of Peace"

- Vs 1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
- Vs 2 Come now, O God of love, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
- Vs 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.
- Vs 4 Come, Hope of unity, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

Prayer of the Day:

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

Hear the 1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her who has served her term, so her penalty is paid, because she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry? All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

Hear the Reading of Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

¹You have been gracious to your land, O LORD you have restored the good fortune of Jacob. ²You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins. ⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you. ⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, so your glory may dwell in our land. ¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. ¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven. ¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase. ¹³Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.

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 1:1-8

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" ⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming

after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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

Sermon: “The Beginning”

Hymn for Reflection: ““It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

- Vs 1 It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold.
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav’n’s all gracious king,”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
- Vs 2 Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav’nly music floats o’er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov’ring wing,
And ever o’er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.
- Vs 3 And you, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow;
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
Oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!
- Vs 4 For lo! The days are hast’ning on, by prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

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 receives 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: "Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

- Vs 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.
- Vs 2 Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

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

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 December 2nd:

Pastor Tonia recorded.....

A "Word on Wednesday" –

"Be Not Afraid"

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!

Welcome to a Word on Wednesday. We have entered into the Season of Advent, the beginning of a new church year, when Church gathers in the present, to ponder the past, and to hope for the future

Trying to understand time travel, like magic tricks, scrambles my brain. I don't understand it – even when I think I'm following it. Advent, in a way, brings upon us a mental time travel situation. The word "Advent" means "to come." During this season we are waiting for what has come and for what is coming. In one fall swoop we see the past, the present, and the future – understanding just a fraction of each.

During this time as we journey toward the manger, we are faced with today's fears and wondering about tomorrow, such is life. We are in darkness, knowing a light has shown and will shine, showing forth light upon us, upon others, and upon the world God so loves. On the first Sunday of Advent the candle of hope was lit. Today we hear the Angel Gabriel say in the Gospel of Luke:

We do not be afraid Zechariah for your prayer has been heard. (Luke 1:13)

Advent is a season of expectation. Our hope comes from God who knows the plans He has for us, plans which will give us hope and a future.

Zechariah, a priest, is about his duties at Temple, when the angel Gabriel appears to tell him his prayers have been heard. He and his wife, Elizabeth, are to have a son. How often in the past had they asked God to bless them with a child? How many times had they been

disappointed? How often had they felt incomplete? Their past is forgotten in an instant. God has heard and has answered. Their present and their future have been changed by the announcement of this angel.

Do not be afraid. We tend to get lost in bouts of fear. As we face the beginning of the church year and the end of our calendar year, we may remember the hopes and dreams we had a year ago. Not many of them played out as planned. We were thrown into deep despair, confusion, and -fear. With compassion God tells us, as He told Zechariah, not to fear. We are to have hope – God hears our prayers. God is doing something we may not yet understand. God is - forming us into the people God created us to be, so we can accomplish the work which needs to be done in the world God so loves.

God has heard our prayers. Gabriel explains to Zechariah, this long-awaited son will bring them joy and gladness. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit and will be set apart for a special purpose—to prepare the way of the Lord.

May we be preparing the way for the return of the Lord. May God bring us hope as we endure these uncertain times. May God use these times to form us into strong and faithful people, renewing the church to be a blessing to the future of all people.

Advent marks the coming of a mighty light into our darkness, bringing hope. We know God has kept His promises in the past, keeps His promises today, and our hope is fulfilled, because we know God will keep His promises in the future.

Let us pray.

O Coming One, we anticipate Your return. Form us into the people You need us to be, so we can prepare the way for Your Son's return. Lord, bring hope into our weary world, as we wait. Amen.



Happy December Anniversary

*Steve & Cindy Smith 12/7; John & Arlene Mitchell 12/15;
Dan & Betty Ames 12/26; Don & Peggy Herzog 12/26;
Steve & Denise Cowan 12/28; Eric & Judy Bjorkman 12/30*



Happy December Birthday

*Pete Hegg 12/4; Dennis Gauthier 12/5; Sydne Wanner 12/6;
Maureen Hemphill 12/7; Nancy Stennerson 12/7;
Rusty Stennerson 12/8; Larry Goehner 12/14; Carrie Williams 12/14;
Peggy Herzog 12/23; Lisa Kem 12/29*

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING US

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

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

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

Steve & Denise Cowan and Larry & Joy Goehner

December 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

PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER...

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

We offer new prayers for:

Glenn Perry, Cindy Smith’s nephew, as he had a liver transplant on December 3rd and is struggling. Please pray that Glenn’s body accepts the new liver, for his peace, comfort, and complete healing.

We offer continued prayers for:

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; Roger Mullin, Gary Lofing, Jenny Steffenson.

We lift up those living with cancer: Delbert Goehner; Dennis Gauthier; Arvid Barnam, Les Lane and Jim Wilson.

All countries affected by the Coronavirus/Covid-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!**

**The MISSION OFFERING for DECEMBER
will benefit the ELCA Charities
i.e. World Hunger; World Relief; Freedom in Christ; Good Gifts**

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!

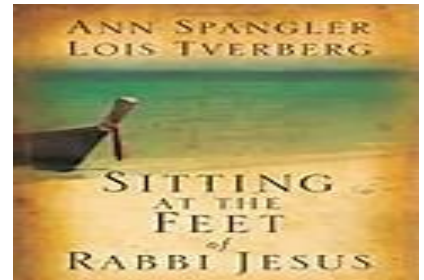
WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. JAMES THIS WEEK & BEYOND...

Tuesday December 8th:

***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 9th: Pastor Tonia will record.....

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

Save the Date:

Columbus Annual Parade of Lights

Friday, December 11th 7:00pm

Theme: Elf on the Shelf

Plan to attend this outdoor safe event!



**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.

Simple Reminders...

Just a different way to celebrate Christmas this year...



Before you buy a bunch of “stuff” for family and friends this holiday season, try asking them what they really NEED.

*Maybe they need help with a utility bill, or a car payment,
or the rent.*

Maybe they need a night off of cooking, and could use a homemade meal.

Maybe they need help with gas for their car.

Maybe they need a night out with friends and could use a free babysitter.

Maybe they need a cup of coffee, and someone to just listen.

Maybe they need help making the holidays bright for their children.

*Maybe they need help in some other way, but they either don't know
how to ask for it or are embarrassed to ask.*

**Maybe YOU could be the one to give them what they really need
this season, rather than just more “stuff”.**

Let's put “Christ” back into Christmas!