WELCOME to St. James Lutheran Church

205 E 1st Ave. N. Columbus, MT 59019 (406) 321-5100 Leader: Pastor Tonia Fisher Email: toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com Our Mission: "We worship together, grow in faith, share our faith and serve with the love of God"

Sunday April 14th, 2024 –

3rd Sunday of Easter

Special Reminder: A WONDERFUL PROJECT FOR LENT



Please: <u>Turn in your Piggy Bank or your zip-lock baggie</u> <u>full of coins, green or a check by April 28th!</u> The council will designate what to purchase for the "Good Gifts"' campaign. Your coin makes a difference. Jesus said, "Feed my sheep".

You are feeding God's people. Thank you for your generosity.

REPENTANCE

THE CHRIST WILL SUFFER AND RISE FROM THE DEAD ON THE THIRD DAY. AND REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS WILL BE PREACHED IN HIS NAME

LUKE 24:46-47

ENESS

- ORGIV

Announcements & Opportunities for Serving – Bill Strickland

Welcome- Susan Leaverton, LPA

P: Alleluia, Christ is risen. All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you alland also be with you.



Tell how Christ, the world's re -dee -mer, vanquished death the day he died.

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

GATHERING

THANKSGIVING for Baptism Confession

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life. Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.** Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

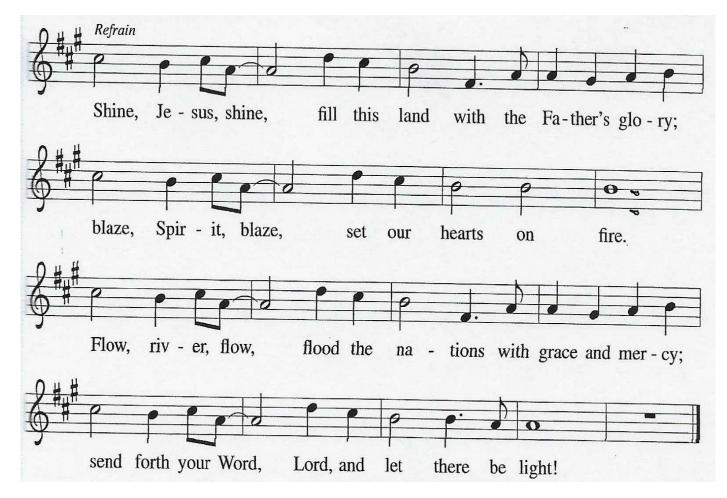
As we give thanks for our baptism let us stand and confess our sins:

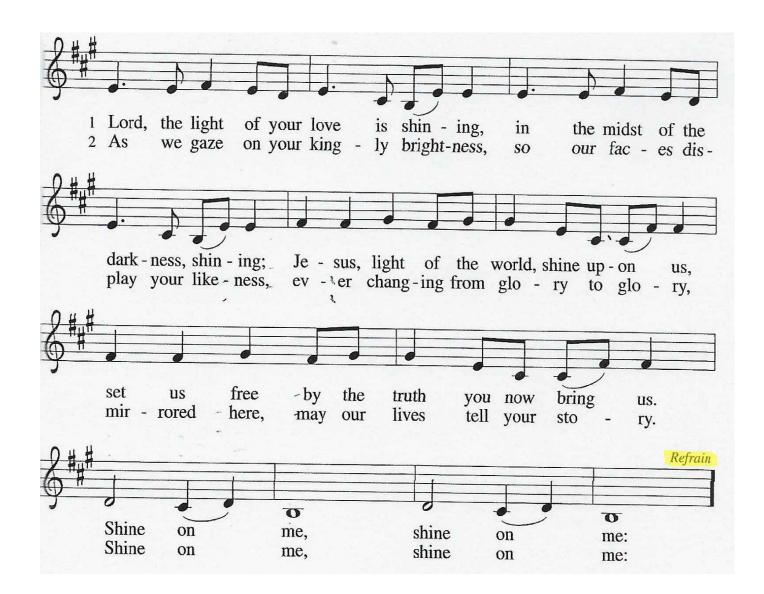
P: Risen Christ,

C: Wash away our sin and all which separates us from you.

Assurance of God's Love

Gathering Hymn: ELW #671 "Shine, Jesus, Shine"





Prayer of the Day

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, so we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, 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: Acts 3:12-19

¹²Peter addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. ¹⁷"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

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

Read Psalm 4 responsively by verse

¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer. ²"You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?" ³Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; the LORD will hear me when I call. ⁴Tremble, then, and do not sin; speak to your heart in silence upon your bed. ⁵Offer the appointed sacrifices and put your trust in the LORD. ⁶Many are saying, "Who will show us any good?" Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD. ⁷You have put gladness in my heart, more than when grain and wine abound. ⁸In peace, I will lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure.

Hear the 2nd Reading: 1 John 3:1-7

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

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

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



Luke 24:36b-48

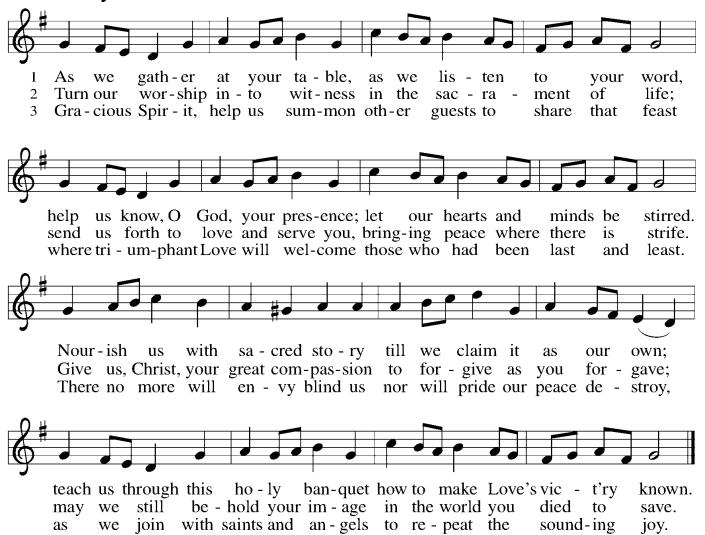
^{36b}Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence. ⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things."

The Gospel of the Lord:

We sing after the conclusion:



Sermon: "An Illusive Reality" Susan Leaverton, LPA Reflection Hymn: ELW #522 "As We Gather at Your Table"



Apostle's Creed ELW #105

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven. He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

God of grace, hear our prayer

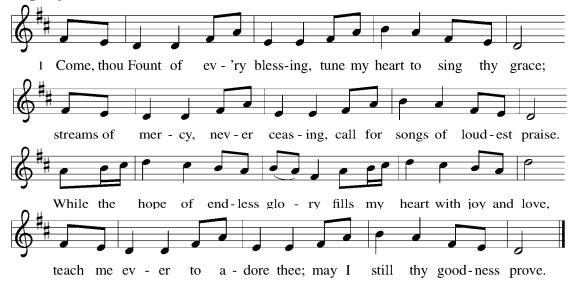
Passing of the Peaceand we say: and also with you.

MEAL

....we thank you for your faithfulness to St. James in sharing your tithes and offerings and allowing us to do God's work with our hands.

Bread & Wine and Our Gifts are brought forward...... while we sing

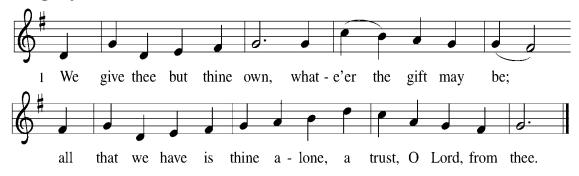
The Offering Hymn: ELW #807 "Come Thou Fount"



Offering Prayer

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

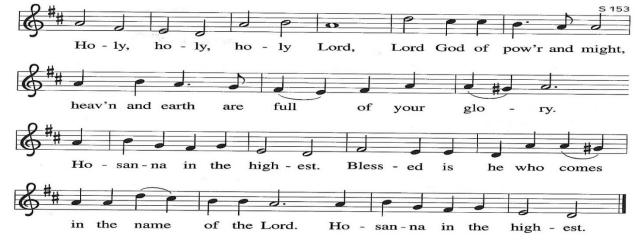
Table Setting Hymn: ELW #686 "We Give Thee but Thine Own"



Great Thanksgiving ELW #153

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:



Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name,

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.

AMEN.

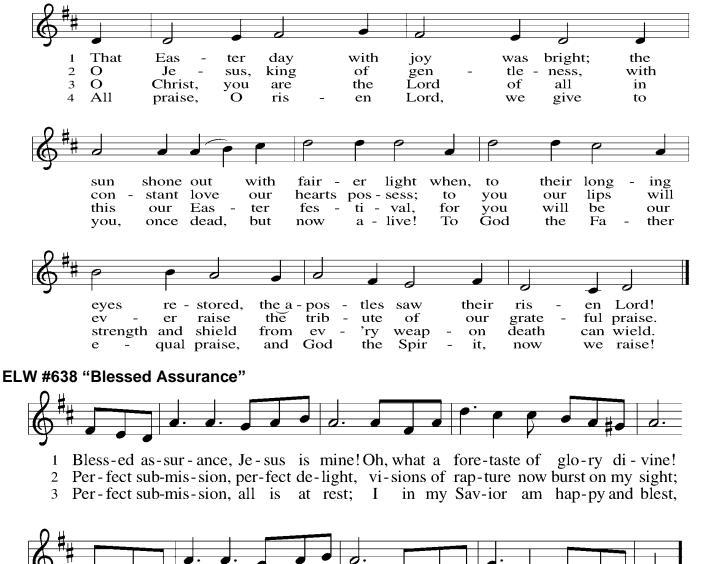
Mystery of our Faith. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Invitation to Communion

In this meal of bread and wine, we believe Christ is truly present forgiving sin, reconciling us to God and one another, and giving new life. Christ is host. Christ is the one who invites us to the table even while it is properly understood as the meal of the baptized. All are welcome at the Lord's Table.

As communion is distributed, you are invited to sing the following hymns:

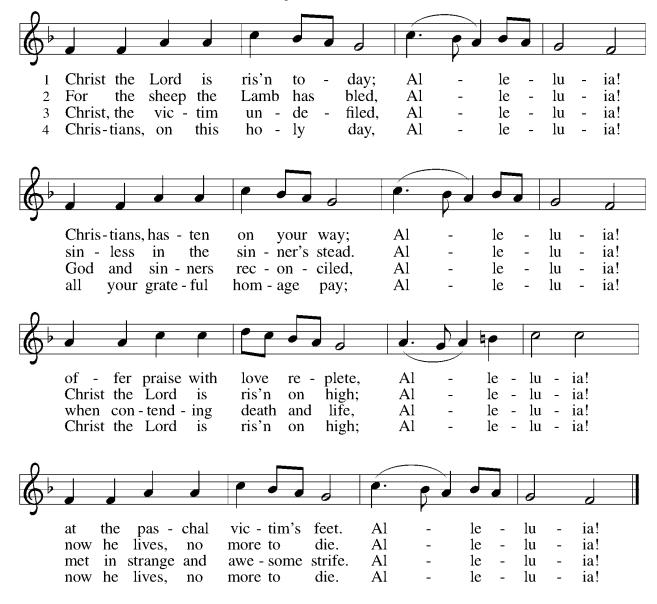
ELW #384 "That Easter Joy"



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



ELW #369 "Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia!"

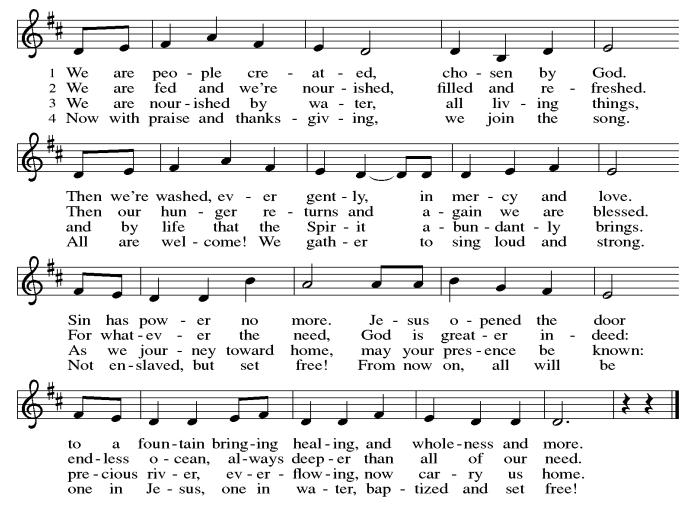


Prayer after Communion..... and we say: Amen.

SENDING

Benediction: and then we say: Amen.

Sending Hymn: ELW #453 "Baptized and Set Free"



Dismissal: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!** Music Published by Permission, CCLI #11445215 Worship Service recorded by Permission, CSPL #168651

TODAY April 14th, 2024



Susan Leaverton, LPA for officiating today, while Pastor Tonia is on vacation.

To Leanne Sekora and Sheri Luepke for the delicious coffee hour last Sunday!

For staying after worship TODAY for a special & <u>very quick</u> Congregational Meeting.

Reminder:

A WONDERFUL PROJECT FOR LENT



Turn in your coin, green or check before April 28th, when the council will designate what to purchase for the "Good Gifts" campaign. Thank you for your generosity.

April Mission Offering benefits..... The Stillwater Youth Center



The vision for the Stillwater Youth Center was birthed in the spring of 1994, out of a mother's prayer to the Lord for her three teenagers to be surrounded by fellow Christians, regardless of denomination, who would reinforce the importance of following biblical principles and strong moral values through positive peer pressure.

After meeting at homes around Columbus, in an old jewelry store & BG's (Bob Grumett) two-door garage, they were lucky enough to rent the health & recreation building (their current home) in Columbus with the option to buy. The spaciousness of this new building allows them to welcome & offer more to the area youth, so they can feel safe and love no matter what their background. This building houses a racquetball, volleyball, and basketball court with restrooms equipped with showers; a game room; a ministry-media room, where youth can get help with homework, study the Bible, Worship God and hang out with friends; a snack shop and a kitchen/café area called "Anchors Kaffee", with lounge hours Mondays and Wednesdays from 8-11am (days & hrs may vary based on volunteers) for the community to come for socialization. A huge thank you to Joanie Matovich, Founder and Director of Ministry for her vision.

Thank YOU for your support & generosity to this very important ministry for our area youth!

FYI - Pastor Tonia's busy personal schedule in April:

- Mon 4/8 Sun 4/14, Pastor will be on vacation. Susan Leaverton, LPA will officiate.
- Mon 4/15 Dr's appointment in Billings
- Tues 4/16 1st cataract eye surgery and then Wed 4/17 2nd cataract eye surgery. Her doctor has requested a 10-day recovery time.
- Sun 4/21 Susan Leaverton, LPA will officiate.

During these three weeks, please contact Donna Zeigler, LPA for any prayer requests, visits or concerns.

Donna's contact information is cell # (406) 321-4452 and email is <u>dlaburn640@gmail.com</u> Donna will then send out prayer requests for the bulletin,

or contact Pastor Kate Stulce from the Congregational Church for your Pastoral needs.



.....for Pastor Tonia, we pray for safe travels, a positive Dr. appointment and successful eye surgeries and recovery. Take time for yourself!! We will be glad to see you Sunday 4/28!!

While Pastor Tonia is on vacation this next week and then recovering from her double cataract eye surgery, for any new prayer requests, please contact Donna Zeigler, LPA

Call her cell at (406) 321- 4452 or email her at dlaburn640@gmail.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:

Your love & comfort Lord for the family & friends of Jim Dickey, who are mourning his death. Your healing and wisdom Lord for Leo Uhrich; Vi Ekle; Pat Lashley; Pastor Tonia; Joy & Larry Goehner;

Merridy Gauthier; LaNita Maurer; Steve & Denise Cowan; Ken & Pete Hegg; Gary Lofing; & Bonny Rouse

Those living with cancer: Kaci Thomason; Brian Wanner; Bob Rouane; Aracelii Enano; Ashley Foster;

Jenny Hansen Cheff; Shane Fouhy & Sandy Yoder's daughter in law, Lola.

Those with COVID and those dealing with its lasting effects.

The children of the world, this is a big request, but God is big. Children who are food & home insecure. Victims of violence and of natural disasters.

Please pray for all of those who serve in our military domestically & overseas, As well as their spouses and children.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING

April 2024 Altar Guild: Sheri Luepke
April 2024 Cleaner(s): Greg & Kristi Lofing and Bill & Rae Ellen Strickland
April 14th,2024 Reader(s): Pat Lashley
April 14th,2024 Communion Helper(s): Kim Behrent & Bill Strickland Thank you, Brian & Sheri Luepke for serving communion last Sunday.
April 14th,2024 Usher(s): Bob Hemphill Thank you, Leanne Sekora for helping to usher last Sunday
April 14th,2024 Gate Keepers: Pat Lashley & Bill Strickland
2024 Musician(s): Marge Sunvold & Betty Ames

OPPORTUNITIES to SERVE at ST. JAMES.....

Would you consider helping each Sunday with Ushering,

being the <u>Reader</u>, assisting during <u>Communion</u> w/Pastor Tonia,

being a member on the <u>Altar Guild</u>, OR

offering to <u>Clean</u> our church (with another family) one or two times per year?

If you are interested in helping, please let Pastor Tonia or Bill S. know!! More detailed information on our opportunities may be found on our website: www.lutheranchurchcolumbusmt.org Click on the "Serve With Us" tab. Thanks!

Happy APRIL Birthday

Rae Ellen Strickland 4/1; Patty Sundberg 4/7; Joe Morse 4/15; Don Herzog 4/16; Happy APRIL Anniversary Morgan and Lian Radford 4/27

Thank you for your prayers and generosity. May the Lord bless you and give you peace. "Your faith in God's mission for St. James is unshakeable."

FOR YOUR REVIEW AND PRAYER......

April 7th Offering gratefully received:

Total received so far this month \$.00

Continued reminder of how to give your monthly tithe or offering to your church...... Mail your offering to the church; Take your offering to the parsonage; Auto pay thru your bank and Tithe.ly. <u>Tithe.ly</u> (click on this "Tithe.ly" link – takes you directly to St. James' account to sign-up) Remember that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8)



Email with important monthly information *watch your inbox

April Calendar of Events Kids April Coloring Calendar Review information from March 24th, 2024, Council Meeting: Feb. Meeting Minutes; Feb. Monthly Donation Deposits; Feb. Profit & Loss; YTD Comparison View Review March Profit / Loss w/YTD Comparison View & Yellow House Financials *Note:* You should have received your Calendar & Council Chatter email on 4/11/24.

We certainly hope you are **Having Fun with Faith...**

We hope you are enjoying the series of "Children's Worship Bulletins", which are found on our website. www.lutheranchurchcolumbusmt.org

These games are geared toward all age levels, so, everyone can join in the fun! PLEASE FORWARD & SHARE these bulletins with your kids, grandkids, friends & friend's friends!!!



Bible Study is held at St. James 2:00pm. STUDY We study the upcoming Sunday lessons. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

Every Wednesday, continue to watch for the Word(s) on Wednesday email with a copy of Pastor Tonia's weekly message or watch recorded on our FB page. Enjoy!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES TO REFLECT GOD'S LOVE TO EACH OTHER AND TO OUR NEIGHBORS

MORE Community Events for St. James:

- Every Monday we are invited to join:
 - ~The Stillwater Youth Center for coffee and visiting from 8-10am.
 - ~ The Columbus Senior Center exercise class at 10:30am
- Every Tuesday we are invited to attend:
 - ~ The Women's Adult Group at the Stillwater Youth Center at 9:30am and/or 7:00pm for an inductive study on Revelation
- Every Wednesday we are invited to join:
 - ~ Social Hour at the Columbus Senior Center at 9:30am
 - ~ The Stillwater Youth Center for coffee and visiting from 8-10am
- Every Thursday we are invited to join:
 - ~ The Columbus Senior Center exercise class at 10:30am
 - ~ A Community Co-ed Yoga Class at 5:45pm @ the Little Stone Church starting March 7th.

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

Join the fun each week.....



STORYTIME - EVERY WEDNESDAY @ 10AM

B n N a O is EVERY WEDNESDAY @ 1pm!



Crochet and Knit club Every Saturday from 10 – 11:30am

UPCOMING 2024 DATES:

- Chorale Practice Always from 6 7:00pm @ Congregational Churches April 23rd - Col April 16th - Abs April 30th – Abs
- April 28th, 2024 Council Meeting immediately after worship

upport your favorite local nonprofits!

Starts April 29th – May 3rd.

Join the Columbus Community Foundation and Columbus Nonprofits for our BIGGEST giving week of the year!

Columbus MT Gives.ORG

**** Watch for more information....**

Future "save" the dates....

- > May 2nd National Day of Prayer Court House Steps @ Noon
- ➢ May 3rd thru May 5th − Stillwater Balloon Rally



May 4th - Worship Service and Coffee Hour to Honor and Celebrate our St. James' Columbus Graduates!



Congratulations to.....

Mason Adams; Anders Bjorkman; Seth Kornick; Madison Lind & Ethan Short!

≻ May 12th –



June 15th - Special K Ranch Open House – noon ** Watch for more information