

Sunday to Sunday

A Journal of Our Daily Walk with Our Redeemer, Christ Jesus
For the week of January 3 - 10, 2021

Birthdays This Week

- 3 Judi Burner
- 3 Michele Urbon
- 5 Brady Essington
- 6 Phyllis Ashby
- 6 Addison Buss
- 6 Linda Knowles
- 7 Ruth Hall
- 7 David Showman

Baptismal Birthdays This Week

- 3 Jessica Hibbert
- 5 Ann Knoernschild
- 6 Myley Longcor
- 8 Tony Bowles
- 9 Mark Vahle

Anniversaries This Week

- 3 Gary and Kathy Hyer 46 years
- 3 Dustin and Ann Nickelson 17 years
- 3 Chet and Barb Vahle 45 years

Scrip Update

Week ending:	29 - Nov	13 - Dec	20 - Dec
Profit:	\$58.86	\$126.43	\$168.70
# orders:	5	14	24
Avg Profit/Order:	\$9.81	\$9.03	\$7.03
Overall Profit:	\$3,178.55	\$3,497.75	\$3,666.45

Looking for dinner options? We have **McAllister's Deli, Panda Express, IHOP**, and many more! There are a variety of \$5 and \$10 gift cards available. Check out the back side of the updated order form for retailers. We now also have **Shutterfly \$25** in stock. Planning ahead? Place your order with payment, and will have them ready the following week!

CONTACTLESS DELIVERY is now available! Just call the church office (217-223-1769) to place your order and then you can swing by to pay and pick up. A check for **\$3,700** will be gifted back to ORLC for **2020 profits!** Thank you for your continued support of ORLC Scrip and Lutheran education at St. James.

ACROSS OUR DISTRICT

YouthLead Training February 25-28, 2021 – St. Louis, MO YouthLead (formerly Lutheran Youth Fellowship) has equipped teens to develop and use their leadership skills as they serve Christ within their congregations and communities. The Synodical annual leadership training event in St. Louis is led by our teen Executive Team and gives teens the tools they need to mature in their faith, become leaders in their congregations, and reach out to their peers with the love of Christ. **Who is Invited** Any high school youth who is an active member of an LCMS congregation can join us. We encourage you to contact your district before you register as some districts have supports for those attending this training. (CID has budgeted limited scholarship funds). We prefer teens attend with an adult leader from their congregation. Arrangements can be made for them to come unaccompanied. **Registration** for youth and adults is \$375. This covers your food, housing, supplies and a shirt during the whole training. You will need to also cover your transportation to and from St. Louis. **REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW. GO TO [LCMS.ORG/YOUTHLEAD](https://www.lcms.org/youthlead) FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

Please continue to wear a mask and wash your hands regularly and thoroughly. Our church sanctuary is cleaned and sanitized after every service (four times a week). We will continue to be diligent with this practice to help keep God's house safe for all who gather together.

Please make sure you sign the sheet in the Narthex. It is recommended that you let us know when you attend in the event contact tracing is necessary **when someone contracts COVID-19.** You can also sign up online or call the church office.

ORLC St. James School Tuition Endowment Fund The current **\$5,000.00 match challenge has been met and surpassed by \$1,135.00.** This takes us up another level in our work to develop an endowment that will provide future tuition assistance to St. James School for members of our congregation

A committee started the research on creating this fund on 1-31-16 and had meetings throughout that year. We presented our recommendation to the Voters and it was approved with the adoption of the Endowment Fund By-Laws on 9-25-16. Late December 2016, we started collecting funds with a \$10,000.00 matching challenge. We also voted to have the LCMS Foundation invest and manage the fund for us.

As of 11-30-20 we have a balance of \$231,733.00 with the LCMS Foundation and \$5,094.00 on deposit at 1st Bankers Trust giving us a total of \$236,827.00 as of December of 2020.

As we look forward to fundraising in the future, there are two sources of monies that we ask you to keep in mind. One, we would ask each of you to consider including the St. James School Tuition Fund in your will. Secondly, consider the Endowment Fund when making a decision about memorials for a loved one.

Of course, we will always accept matching funds challenges! Since we started the Endowment Fund, we have had four major matching challenges: one for \$10,000, two for \$5,000 and one for \$20,000. All have been met. Checks should be made to **ORLC St. James School Tuition Endowment Fund.**

2021 Envelopes are now available on the table by the stairs. Please let the office know if you would like **Together in Mission** envelopes.

Help Needed: A few families are needing **Rides to church on Sunday.** If you can help, please contact Pastor Eden or the church office.

Did a new family move into your neighborhood? The Evangelism Committee has a **Welcome basket in the Pastor's Lounge** that you can give them while introducing yourself & inviting them to our church.

Lutherans For Life 2021 Illinois Essay

Contest Sponsored by the Council of Federation Presidents For students in Grades 6 through 12 Any Lutheran student in a Lutheran school or church is eligible. Lutheran students may also enter through a home school or congregation e.g. confirmation class, youth group when validated by a pastor or teacher. **Contest Guidelines** Students will write a life-affirming essay based on the theme: God Chose You with the bible verse: "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit". (John 15:16) *More details listed online on page 3 of the Sunday to Sunday.*

Week in Review - The anticipation and excitement of the Christmas Season was upon us last week. The students did a fabulous job with practicing and recording this year's Christmas program. If you get a chance and see Mrs. Strackeljahn, please thank her for coordinating the Program. Thank you also to the teaching staff preparing students and to families for costume preparation.

To all of our St. James families we want to wish you the Merriest of Christmas and Happy New Year.
 May you be blessed with JOY who is the Father,
 May you be Renewed with LOVE who is the Son,
 May you be filled with HOPE who is the Holy Spirit.

Supper Table Talk: Third Week in Advent: Sometimes joy gets lost even as we prepare for Christmas. Some may look for joy in presents, but they don't find it there. Some may look for joy in decorations, but they don't find it there. Some may look for joy in family celebrations, but they don't find it there. We don't have to look for joy. Joy has found us in Jesus! Find the word "joy" in Advent and Christmas hymns.

WINTER BREAK SCHEDULE No School from **12/21 – 1/5**, Classes resume on **Wednesday, January 6th**

EAGLE VISION EVERYONE deserves our respect, **ACT** with kindness, **GOD'S LOVE** is our greatest strength, **LOVE** one another, **EVERY DAY** live for Jesus, **SHOW OTHERS** we are Christian

This Week at Our Redeemer

- Sunday, January 3:**
 - Christmas 2*
 - 9:00 AM Communion Worship Service (RSVP) Streamed on Facebook**
 - 10:15 AM Bible Class (*in the Sanctuary, Bring Your Own Bible*)
 - Take Down Christmas Decorations
- Monday, January 4:**
- Tuesday, January 5:** *Pastor Vacation*
- Wednesday, January 6:**
 - Pastor Vacation*
 - No Bible Study*
 - No Communion*
 - No Confirmation*
- Thursday, January 7:** *Pastor Vacation*
- Friday, January 8:**
 - Pastor Vacation*
 - 6:30 PM LWML Meeting
- Saturday, January 9:** **5:00 PM Holy Communion (RSVP)**
- Sunday, January 10:**
 - Baptism of our Lord*
 - 9:00 AM Communion Worship Service (RSVP) Streamed on Facebook**
 - 10:15 AM Bible Class (*in the Sanctuary, Bring Your Own Bible*)

Upcoming Events

- February 21:** Horizons Meal Prep 3:30 – 7PM
- May 13:** Ascension Day Service
- July 11-13:** CID District Convention
- July:** LCoSJ Guatemala Mission
- September 11:** Women's Conference
- October:** Central IL Pastors Conference
- July 9-13, 2022:** National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX

Response Last Weekend to God's Grace

Offerings	December 27, 2020
Needed Each Month	\$25,626.85
Received Last Month	\$31,041.62
Received This Month	\$28,394.00
Needed This Year	\$307,521.00
Received This Year	\$322,818.03
Received This Week	\$6,095.00

Responding to Idols - Book Discussion (Zoom format)

Starting on Thursday, January 14, at 3:00 pm

The book *The Unholy Trinity: Martin Luther against the Idol of Me, Myself, and I* by Michael Lockwood (CPH, 2016) lays out Luther's multi-faceted case against idolatry and for the one saving God. This book applies the reformer's biblical insights to our times today.

CID Evangelism Executive Ken Schurb will conduct one-hour Zoom discussions of this book every other week, with a break in February.

These conversations are open to all members of CID churches. Pastors and other rostered church workers are especially encouraged to participate. Send an e-mail (kschurb@cidlcms.org) expressing interest. We will take that as your registration and reply with the appropriate Zoom link. The sessions will be recorded. If you cannot participate live, you can view the session later.

There is no cost for the sessions. In fact, CID will provide the first 25 registrants for these sessions a *gratis* copy of the book *The Unholy Trinity*. (Please reimburse the District \$3.00 for shipping costs.) If you register by January 3, 2021, we can mail a copy of the book. Be sure to include both your e-mail address and your postal address in your e-mail message to kschurb@cidlcms.org.

Pray For Our Central Illinois District Missions supported by your church's Mission Dollars to the District. "Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored."

- † We give thanks for the gift of our Savior's birth and pray for the adherents of various world religions who do not believe that in Jesus Christ the Word became flesh for the salvation of all people. We ask the Lord to shine His saving Gospel light through us to everyone!

This week on KFUE.org, we celebrate our Savior's birth during the 12 Days of Christmas with music, prayer, and scripture, with regular programming resuming January 7. We are excited to welcome Rev. Brady Finfern as the host for Thy Strong Word, airing weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT.

Lutherans For Life 2021 Illinois Essay Contest Guidelines

1. Not incorporating the theme and verse in the essay will disqualify the entry.
2. Examples of topics the essay could deal with are, but not limited to: abortion, the handicapped, adoption or foster care, infanticide, cloning, stem cell research, physician assisted suicide or euthanasia etc.
3. Essays should include student's name, grade (Identify school or church) and email address. All entries submitted by a teacher or pastor, should include their name and email address. This information should be submitted on the rubric page used in grading the essay. Teachers are encouraged to consult the rubric (see Gretchen) and submit qualified entries.
4. All sources for references, statistics and quotes should be incorporated within the essay and then included in a bibliography at the end. Grades 6 - 8 should submit essays up to 400 words Grades 9 - 12 should submit essays up to 750 words.
5. Entries should be submitted digitally using Microsoft Word or Google Docs to by April 1, 2021 to cathy.benning.os@gmail.com
6. There will be a \$100 first place award & a \$50 second place award for each of the two. The two first place category winners will advance to the national contest. Email the address above with questions.
7. Grand Prize for the national winning entry at each level: \$250 plus free conference registration to a 2021 Regional Conference and one night stay at the conference hotel.
8. All entries become the property of Lutherans For Life.

For questions or resources on the sanctity of life, see: lutheransforlife.org

CID News You Can Use:

We may have been hoping that the COVID-19 pandemic would be over by now. But many of us are still experiencing its affects. Even if we aren't sick, we may be feeling COVID FATIGUE, which may include weariness, loneliness, frustration, fear, anger, and grief.

Yet, in Christ we can still have hope, joy, and peace. Martha Washington was quoted as saying, "The greater part of our happiness or misery depends on our disposition and not on our circumstances." We do not always have the power to change our circumstances. But we do have the power to change our attitude or outlook. We can adjust our disposition by doing the following:

Remember that just as God has gotten us through difficulties in the past, He can do so again. He has provided and will continue to provide the resources and support we need.

Believe that eventually, according to his timing, God will change our circumstances. We are told that a number of COVID vaccines will soon be available. We can trust that eventually this pandemic will end.

Think positive. Norman Vincent Peale wrote "Change your thoughts and you change your world." St. Paul wrote in Philippians 4:8 "*Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about these things.*"

Trust that God works through all situations for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purposes (Romans 8:28). He gives us peace that passes understanding, hope that doesn't fail us, and strength in Christ. God may be working through our difficulties to help us grow, to rearrange our priorities, or to fashion us for better things.

Trust that God is with us always. David said to his son Solomon in 1 Chronicles 28:20, "*Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed, for the Lord God, even my God, is with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.*" Jesus said in John 10:10, "*I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.*" He gives us a full life of hope, joy, peace, strength, and contentment even when the world seems to be trying to take these blessings away. Jesus assures us in John 16:33, "*In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.*" Rev. Jeffrey Harter

"Through the Old Testament in a Church Year"- audio resource by Issues, etc. with Ken Schurb

You can find resources that survey the Old Testament in a year. Here, however, is one that does so in a *church year*. This audio resource will consist of a series of *Issues, etc.* interviews with CID staff member Ken Schurb during the 2020-2021 church year. The typical interview will run about 25 minutes, closer to 20 minutes if listeners fast-forward through various announcements. The interview recordings will be available on-demand at <https://issuesetc.org/archive>

The Fullness of Time: Sometimes an event bulks so large that it seems hard to take in. People ask themselves, "What just happened?" Not only can they mull over the event, but also the time when it came. Think of the class of 2020, saying "I was about to graduate, then COVID-19 struck!"

In a Bible passage to be read in our church service this Sunday, St. Paul wrote by inspiration that "when the fulness of time had come, God sent forth his Son." We just celebrated Christmas. When Jesus first came, Paul, noted, it was in the FULNESS OF TIME. How so? We do not know the answer to this question from the perspective of God Himself. Still, we can piece together a few points from what we do know.

Jesus was born during the "Pax Romana," the Roman peace. The Romans built great roads, some of which remain in use today. Missionaries like St. Paul could travel roads as well as any in the world for centuries, until modern times. Rome brought a unified jurisdiction to much of the world. St. Paul, who was a Roman citizen, did not meet with our red tape associated with getting visas, passports, and permits. People could understand him when he spoke and wrote. Common Greek was pretty much a world-language, used in literature, in commerce, also in everyday speech. This was when Jesus was born, and when Christianity broke forth in the world. Fulness of time, all right, and no accident!

What happened in that fulness of time? "God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:4-5).

Now, this is a fulness of time for you!