



New gift game at Carrollton's Christmas Party

THE VOICE OF OUR REDEEMER & ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCHES

Pastor Steve Jacobsen

Church Office: 942-3168 / Pastor's Cell: 217-204-6576

E-mail: RevJacobsen@Outlook.com

Services: Saturday 4 PM in Kampsville
& Sunday 9A.M. with Sunday School: 10:15 A.M.

January/ February 2026

Mark 1:1-3 "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

This is how it is written in the prophet Isaiah:

**Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare the way for you.**

**A voice of one calling out in the wilderness,
"Prepare the way of the Lord.**

Make his paths straight."."

Rev Kaul, in the February Portals of Prayer, will take us through Mark's gospel, starting with 1:9, please use this resource and maybe share it with others as you think about the life Jesus lived for us.

Like John, we can be a voice for others, to introduce Jesus to them, the one who is "More powerful." We cannot do the work of the Spirit, who must create faith in all of us, but we can be used by that Spirit as we share the Good News of Jesus, which He uses to create that faith.

We need to be strong and firm in our faith, not just for our own sake, but also for the sake of our neighbors. As we head into 2026 with likely many resolutions of how we will live better this year, please try to add this to your resolutions as well – to be strong in the faith for the sake of your neighbor.

As we join together in worship and are fed by our Lord, we can bear witness in a world that is full of fear and anger, selfishness and gluttony. We can be different with the help of Jesus.

Please keep praying that God will bless our Christian living to be more like Christ as we seek to care for one another and all of our neighbors.

- In Christ, Pastor Steve

Worship Assistant Schedule for Jan & Feb

We are continuing to limit our contacts by not having official greeters and ushers assigned for services, but can use more help during the offering and other points of service.

Notes for Kampsville members:

There are a lot of plans that need worked out at a voters meeting this January 17th including electing officers. Please come to the meeting in person or call Pastor on His cell (217-204-6576) so he can send you a text to invite you to join using your cell phone.

Bible Study Options for everyone:

- ❑ The Sunday morning Adult Bible study will resume our look at Christ in the Old Testament on January 4.
- ❑ The Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study will continue meeting from 9:30 to 10:30 starting January 7.

Sunday School

Please bring your children for study, and join Bible study as an example for them of life-long learning of Scripture. Pastor can give you some useful links for online videos for Family-led Bible lessons and share with you books and supplies from our library if you need.

Ladies Aid – (Joyce Grizzle, president) January 19 will be our first meeting for 2026. We will pay dues, turn in stockings and entertain ideas on mission donations. Joyce will be hostess. Please call 217-589-4532 if you want a ride.

Thank you to everyone for helping with funeral dinners, Easter and LWML Sunday brunch. We appreciate all of you!

Notes of Thanks:

- ❖ Thanks to the men and women who helped decorate the churches for Christmas.
- ❖ Thanks to our organists who work their family schedules together so that God may be praised in music.
- ❖ Thanks to all of our new church officers who will be installed into their offices on January 4th in Carrollton and on January 24th in Kampsville.

Our Address on the World Wide Web is:

www.our-redeemer-lutheran-church.org

We are also on *Facebook*.

Confirmation

We having the confirmation class every other weekend. Anyone desiring an adult instruction class or to start any other Bible Study time, please talk to Pastor.

The Carrollton Community Nativity

will be taken down on Sunday, January 4th, at 11:30 AM. We will meet at the Library. Check for updates at church.

New offering envelopes are out now. Any who want to be added or subtracted from those who use offering envelopes tell Jim Lero or Pastor.

JANUARY WORSHIP PLANS:

3rd & 4th – 2nd Sunday after Christmas
Luke 2:40–52 “Taking Care of Business”
10th & 11th – The Baptism of Our Lord
Matthew 3:13-17 Well Pleased
17th & 18th - Second Sunday after Epiphany
John 1:29-42a Cephas and the Messiah
24th & 25th -Third Sunday after Epiphany
1 Corinthians 1:10-18 The Power of the Cross

FEBRUARY WORSHIP PLANS:

Jan 31st & Feb 1st – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
1 Corinthians 1:18-31 The Foolishness of the Cross
8th – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany **4 PM Sat. Service**
Pastor Randy Fisher (*change from first print*)
15th – Transfiguration Sunday **No Saturday Service**
Guest Preacher: Dane Arbuckle (Seminarian)
(Kampsville at 10:30 AM- no communion)
18th - Ash Wednesday (6:30 PM- with communion)
Psalm 51:1-13 My sin is always in front of me.
21st & 22nd First Sunday in Lent
Matthew 4:1-11 Breaking a Pattern
25th – Second Wednesday in Lent (6:30 PM)
Matthew 5:20-30 What I Can't Do

If you are seeking communion in a smaller setting, then please call Pastor (cell number from the front page of this newsletter often works best) and make arrangements for a private communion. Pastor is happy to meet with people other some convenient times by appointment. Do not seek to struggle through 2023 without the gifts our Lord encourages us to use for our struggle.

LYF (Grades 7-12)

We will hope to meet soon and make more plans for this coming school year and to elect a new officer.

Meeting times for Church Council, Elders, Evangelism, ... are on the calendar. Transfer these to your calendars and watch the Sunday Bulletins for any specifics.

Our attendance for the past two months:

	11/1-2	11/8-9	11/15-16	11/22-23	11/30 10:30 service	12/6-7	12/13-14	12/20-21
Kampsville (usually 5 PM)	13	7	14	10	8	9	12	12
Carrollton 9 AM	36	42	36	36	27	55	30	40

Small Church Summit

The next Small Church Summit will feature our New SID President Heath Curtis, author of a recent book on the small town Lutheran pastor. Short sectional presentations are set to be offered in the afternoon. Discussions will include:

- Additional discussion with President Curtis
- Introducing the re:Vitality module “Shepherding our Strays” with Pastor Mike Burdick of St. John Lutheran Church, Effingham, CID First Vice President
- Utilizing Technology in Small Churches with Pastor David Benning of Trinity Lutheran Church, Nashville
- Safety Standards for the Small Church with Mr. Trip Rodgers of CID staff

You're encouraged to come to Hope Lutheran Church, Highland on January 10, 2026 (9:30-2:30) register for winter SCS by January 3, 2026 at <https://forms.gle/eujwE5hmRC48wF7MA>

District Lay Leadership Training Workshop

Saturday, January 17th, 2026
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
1300 Beltline Rd. Collinsville, IL 62234
Registration is \$20 per person and includes lunch.

Schedule

8:30-9:00 Registration
9:00-9:45 Matins
10:00-10:50 Keynote: The Whole Body of Christ: Laity & Clergy Working Together
11:00-12:00 Breakout Session 1
12:00 Lunch (Included in registration funds)
12:45-1:45 Breakout Session 2
1:45 Closing Devotion/Prayer

Breakout Sessions- Using Meetings to Wisely Navigate Disagreement, Models for Gospel-centered Children's Ministries, Seven Practices of Healthy Youth Ministry, Insurance and Assets Control, Treasurer's "Must Do" List & The Mercy of Biblical Hospitality.

Happy Birthday!

January

1 Jim Lero
3 Ryan Reno
Kathleen Travis
4 Kilby Tepen
13 Rosemary Sexton
20 Madison Strubble
Jennifer Bryson
25 Jessica Reno
26 Jade Bryson
27 Gordon Rahe
29 David Reno
Stacy Snyder

February

3 Linda Sullivan
4 Michelle Ruyle
9 Brittney Lehr
10 Carrie Epps
12 Doris Camerer
Oakley Kaufman
14 Simon Purcell
Anthony Dale
Donna Childress
15 Kelsey Howland
19 Sarah Baumgartner
Makenzie Jones
25 Taylor Sullivan
26 Alex Rahe
27 Dalton Varble

If someone would like to volunteer to help shovel and salt our walks, please talk to pastor or a trustee.

Happy Baptismal Birthday!

January

4 Dexter Jones
Dallas Jones
6 Brett Lehr
7 Elena Sasieta
16 Kendra Kunzemann
19 Evelyn Thompson
23 Bob Scott
25 Hannah Rusten
Kilby Tepen
28 Phyllis Darr
30 Tammy Lehr

February

7 Sandy Purcell
13 Kevin Jones
15 Patsy Hardwick
16 Kayla Davis
20 Michelle Ruyle
21 Catherine Custer
26 Stacy Snyder
Karen Droste

Carrollton Church Officers for 2025

President: John Quandt (2nd of two one year terms)

Treasurer: Jim Lero (2nd year of 2nd term,
two 2- year terms)

Secretary: Emily Carroll (2nd term of two 1-yr terms)

Elders: (two 3- year terms)

Allen Darr (2nd year of 1st term)

Phil Darr (1st year of 1st term)

Tony Purcell (3rd year of 2nd term)

Trustees: Matt Knight (2nd year –3 year term)

Gordon Rahe (3rd year – 3 year term)

[Call Gordon: 217-248-7243 to reserve fellowship hall]

Stewardship: (two year terms)

Jodi Nuss (2nd year of 1st term)

Diana Varble (1st year of 1st term)

Karla Lero (2nd year of 2nd term)

Adriane Baker (1st year of 2nd term)

Sunday School Supervisor: (three year terms)

Rebecca Daak (2nd year of 1st term)

Education: (3 year terms)

Elena Sasieta (3rd year of 2nd term)

Brandy Purcell (1st year of 1st term)

Evangelism: (2 year terms)

Kelli Rahe (2nd year of 1st term)

Sandy Purcell (2nd year of 2nd term)

Alfonso Sasieta (1st year of 2nd term)

Hymn festival: Everyone is invited to a hymn festival commemorating the liturgical Festival of the Conversion of St. Paul on January 25. Four SID churches named 'St. Paul' will join together for this hymn festival that afternoon: St. Paul's Columbia, St. Paul Hamel, St. Paul's Troy, and St. Paul Wood River. The Hymn Festival will be Jan. 25, 2026 at 3:00 PM at St. Paul's Troy, 112 N. Border St., Troy, IL. Hymn commentaries will be provided by pastors of the participating churches. The organist will be Joseph Meador from St. Paul, Wood River and MELHS. The choir conductor will be Karen Shimkus from St. Paul, Troy and St. Paul, Columbia. The accompanist will be Kantor Janet Muth from St. Paul, Hamel. Singers and instrumentalists from all 4 churches and MELHS will participate.

In the spirit of St. Paul, a mission offering will be collected for the Seminario Concordia El Reformador in the Dominican Republic (a mission partner of the SID).

<A good time was had by all who could attend this year's Christmas party!



Restore Network:



The Restore Network Banquet

Starts on Saturday, February 28, 2026 · 6 pm CST

Location: Lewis and Clark Community College

Benjamin Godfrey Campus

5800 Godfrey Road Godfrey, IL 62035

Event lasts 2 hours 30 minutes.

Please join us for our annual Restore Network Banquet 2026. Dinner will be served as we will celebrate how God is moving to care for children in foster care, share stories from The Restore Network ministry, and invite you to partner financially to further the work.

Doors open at 5:00. Event begins promptly at 6:00.

I have reserved Our Redeemer Lutheran Church a table for this event, and would like to invite the congregation to contact me to join at the event. – Diana Varble 217-248-0984

Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ

January 24
Trinity, Centralia



Come and find out how Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ (O AFC) can help your church in both Outreach and Youth Ministry. In one hour, Pastor Tim Mueller and Pastor Nehrt will show you the many ways O AFC can be a part of supporting your Youth and Outreach Ministry.

Operation Christmas:

Thanks to everyone that donated gifts or money and helped in any way for our churches responsibility for Operation Christmas. Leona Freand and Marty Knight



Decorating & Cleaning up for Christmas at Kampsville.

Kampsville regular service time will be 4 PM until time change on March 8th. (Note: Service will also be switched to Sunday at 10:30 AM on February 15)

January 2026

Services with Holy Communion every Saturday at 4 PM in Kampsville & at 9 A.M. every Sunday in Carrollton Bible Study every Sunday at 10:15 A.M.				1	2	3
4 Installation of Carrollton Officers 11:30 AM Take Down Community Nativity??	5	6 Epiphany	7 9:30 AM Ladies Study 6 PM Church Council meeting	8	9	10
11 Baptism of Our Lord 12:30 PM Confirmation class	12	13	14 9:30 AM Ladies Study	15	16	17 Kampsville Voters Meeting
18	19 1 PM Ladies Aid Meeting	20	21 9:30 AM Ladies Study	22	23	24 Installation of Kampsville Officers
25 12:30 PM Confirmation class	26	27	28 9:30 AM Ladies Study 6 PM Elders Meeting	29	30	31

February 2026

1	2	3	4 9:30 AM Ladies Study 6 PM Church Council Meeting	5	6	7 Kampsville Service: 4 PM <i>(Note change from original newsletter)</i>
8 Guest Pastor: Randy Fisher	9	10	11 9:30 AM Ladies Study	12	13	14
15 Guest Preacher: Dane Arbuckle Kampsville Service: 10:30 AM (No Communion)	16 1 PM Ladies Aid Meeting	17	18 9:30 AM Ladies Study 6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service with communion	19	20	21
22 Newsletter items are due for March & April 12:30 PM Confirmation class	23	24	25 9:30 AM Ladies Study 1-3 PM We host the Food Pantry 6:30 PM Lent Service 7:15 PM Elders Meeting	26	27	28
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