

The EAGLE CONNECTION

ALL-SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

MAPping Our Progress

At St. John's, we believe deeply in nurturing each child's growth — spiritually, socially, and academically. One tool that helps us understand how that growth is going is standardized testing. I want to share with you why these tests are important, what the latest national and state data show, and how you can help your child do their very best when our MAP testing begins next week.

Standardized tests are sometimes misunderstood. They are not the only measure of a student's abilities, but they serve several important purposes. These tests give us insights into what your child has learned and where there might be gaps. We can see their strengths and areas needing more support, even in specific skills (like reading comprehension, math reasoning, vocabulary, etc.). That helps us tailor instruction, interventions, and support to meet your child where he/she is. In addition, by comparing how students generally are doing in the same grade across subjects, we can ensure our classroom pacing, curriculum, and teaching practices are effective. If most students are struggling with a concept, we can adjust instruction. Standardized testing also helps us to see how our students are performing compared to peers across the state or nation. This gives us perspective on whether what we're doing is working well or if there are broader educational trends we need to address.

Recently, results from the 2024 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as The Nation's Report Card, have been making the news. Both the NAEP scores and Minnesota's state assessments (MCA) show that between 31-55% of students are meeting or exceeding proficiency in math and reading. I am happy to report that St. John's well exceeds these numbers. Each year, we assess our K-8 students in the fall and spring with MAP (Measures of Academic Progress), a nationally-normed assessment. **Over the past three years, over 80% of our students have scored at proficient or above**





MAPping cont.

in math, 82% have scored proficient or above in reading, and over 88% have scored proficient or above in language usage. Our numbers have also been on an upward trend with our highest scores last year.

Next week, all students in kindergarten through 8th grade will take the MAP assessments. This is a time for each child to show what they know and what they still need to work on. You can help make it a positive, productive experience in several ways:

- Ensure your child gets a good night's sleep
- Provide a healthy breakfast
- Talk about the test positively - this is about growth and learning
- Make sure students arrive on time
- Encourage your child's effort - the test adapts to each student, so it's okay for them to find parts challenging

Standardized testing isn't everything — and we never let a test define a child. But when used well, it gives us a clearer picture: how each child is doing, how our classrooms are performing, and how our school stands in relation to broader trends. Together, with your support, we can use these data points to grow stronger, close gaps, and ensure that every student is flourishing.

Thank you for partnering with us. We are grateful for your trust as we guide your child in both faith and knowledge.

In Christ,
Dr. Skura



THIS WEEK'S EAGLE BOOST...

Afterschool Transitions

The hours right after school can set the tone for the evening. A healthy after-school rhythm helps balance learning, rest, and play.

Consider these steps:

- Healthy snack first—fruit, veggies, or protein to refuel.
- Active playtime outdoors or indoors to release energy.
- Homework time in a consistent, distraction-free spot.
- Family check-in—ask about the best and hardest part of the day.

This balance helps kids transition smoothly from “school mode” to “home mode” while feeling supported and refreshed.

Here's to snacks, play, and peace at the end of the day!

The Wellness Committee

3RD - 5TH GRADE CHOIR SINGING IN CHAPEL NEXT FRIDAY

The 3rd-5th grade choir will be singing in chapel on Friday, September 26th.

Families are welcome to join us to hear their beautiful music!



THANK YOU GOLF TOURNAMENT PARTICIPANTS & SPONSORS

On behalf of the St. John's 12th annual charity golf tournament organizers, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who joined us on the course and made this event a true success. Your participation and enthusiasm brought energy and camaraderie to every swing, and we are deeply appreciative of the time and effort you dedicated to supporting our cause.

We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to all our sponsors. Your generosity and commitment made this tournament possible, helping us raise vital funds and awareness for the St. John's community. Your sponsorship not only made this event possible but also amplified its impact, allowing us to better serve our community and those who rely on St. John's charitable programs.

We look forward to seeing you again next year on Saturday, September 19th, 2026 and to continuing this tradition of giving, community, and good sportsmanship.

With sincere appreciation,

The PTL Golf Tournament Committee

K-2ND CHOIR SINGING IN DIVINE SERVICE

The Kindergarten-2nd grade choir will be singing in the 10:30am Divine Service on **Sunday, October 12th**. Students should meet in the music room at 10:10am for a quick warm-up.



UPCOMING STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING

Our new Student Council will meet for the first time next week on Wednesday, September 24th at 7:15am in Ms. Preus's room.

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS, PLEASE!

Parents, it would be a great help if you would share any photos you take of STJ activities and events...especially athletic events. These pictures will be used for the school yearbook and may also be used for social media. Pictures may be sent to pictures@stjlutheralschool.org.

SAVE THE DATE FOR TRUNK OR TREAT

PTL's annual Trunk or Treat is scheduled for Saturday, October 25th from 2-3:30pm. More info to come soon!

LAST DAY TO WEAR SHORTS

Students, wear your shorts while you still can. The final day to wear them is coming up. Per our handbook, **shorts are not allowed from October 15 - April 15.**



STUDENT SHOUT OUT!!



INTRODUCING OUR 2025/26 STUDENT COUNCIL

We are thrilled to announce the newly elected members of our Student Council! These students have demonstrated leadership, dedication, and a passion for making our school community an even better place.

Please join us in congratulating:

- Ella M., President
- Ellie K., Vice President
- Milo S., Treasurer
- Amos K., Hannah D., Braydon O., Mack P., Class Representatives

Our new council members are excited to serve their peers, organize meaningful events, and help bring fresh ideas to life. We look forward to seeing the positive impact they will make this year!

Way to go, St. John's Student Council! Your enthusiasm and commitment inspire us all.

WANT TO HIGHLIGHT YOUR CHILD?

Parents, feel free to send in photos of your child and his/her special accomplishments outside of school. Photos may be sent to Tori.Kuehne@stjlutheran.org, but be aware that we may not be able to feature them all.

LOVE IN ACTION

We want to give a big shout-out to the students who were caught showing love to their classmates and our staff this month! Your kindness, care, and thoughtfulness are shining examples of this **Fruit of the Spirit** in action. Keep spreading love wherever you go—it makes our school community brighter every day! ❤️

- Levi T.
- Jack H.
- Bryce H.
- Aria H.
- Andrew D.
- Paighton T.
- Isaac K.



WAY TO GO, BOYS!

Wondering where that enormous trophy in the lobby came from? It came

from these three gentlemen! Their travel basketball team took 1st place at the tournament this year! Awesome job, boys!!



NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

Friday, September 19

- 5th & 6th grade outdoor learning exp.
- 8:15am Chapel
- 4pm Corcoran Invitational cross country meet

Monday, September 22

- MAP testing (K-8)
- 3:30pm A & B soccer and volleyball practice
- 3:30pm C soccer practice

Tuesday, September 23

- MAP testing (K-8)
- Band
- 4pm-8pm PTL Chipotle fundraiser
- 4pm A soccer & A volleyball at King of Grace
- 5pm B soccer & A volleyball at King of Grace

Wednesday, September 24

- MAP testing (K-8)
- Library
- 7:15am Student Council meeting
- 3:30pm Cross country practice

Thursday, September 25

- MAP testing (K-8)
- 4pm A volleyball at Cross of Christ
- 4:15pm A soccer vs. Holy Trinity
- 5pm B volleyball at Cross of Christ
- 5:15pm B vs. TLO

Friday, September 26

- 8:15am Chapel
 - 3rd-5th singing in chapel
- MAP testing (K-8)
- 11:30am Camp Omega cross country meet
- 4pm B volleyball triangular at Redeemer

COMING SOON

Mark your calendars now with these important dates.



- **Oct. 1-3:** LEA - No school/No ESP
- **Oct. 6:** Term 1 mid-term
- **Oct. 12:** K-2 singing at 10:30am Divine Service (be in music room at 10:10am)
- **Oct. 15:** PS-8th Early dismissal day, final day to wear shorts, and picture re-take day
- **Oct. 15-16:** K-8 Parent/Teacher conferences
- **Oct. 16-17:** MEA - No school/No ESP
- **Oct. 25:** Trunk or Treat 2-3:30pm
- **Nov. 7:** Science Fair project ideas due to classroom teacher

Mrs. Anderson says...

School spirit
AND ice cream,
win-win!!





STJL BOARD OF EDUCATION

The St. John's Lutheran School Board of Education consists of the the following:

- Chairperson: Bonnie Radintz
- Deacon & Vice Chair: Grant Birznieks
- Deacon: Russ Reznecheck
- Deacon: Gary Volberding
- Secretary: Brenna Koehler
- Davey Kulberg
- Jim Peterson
- Jamie Radintz
- Ex officio: Kristen Skura
- Ex officio: Tori Kuehne

Board meetings are typically held the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm.

BOE agendas and approved minutes are available in FACTS.

WHERE DO I FIND...?

- [FACTS family portal](#) (Use code SJL-MN)
- [School calendars](#)
- [Hot lunch menu](#)
- [ESP sign up](#)
- [Continuous Connection survey](#)
- [St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church](#)

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Join us for worship each Sunday at St. John's Lutheran Church!

- Divine Service 8:00 & 10:30am
- Adult Bible study 9:30am
- Sunday school 9:30am

QUICK REFERENCE

- Report absences, early dismissals, and late arrivals to
attendance@stjluthेरanschool.org
- Share your STJ pictures for use in the yearbook and social media to
pictures@stjluthेरanschool.org
- Request library book holds, ask our librarians questions, or request a new book to **library@stjluthेरan.org**

BE SURE TO FOLLOW US!



OUR MISSION

The mission of St. John's Lutheran School & Preschool is to nurture young people through God's Word, sound Lutheran doctrine and worship, and a strong academic foundation. Our goal is to equip students to lead their lives as God's baptized children in this world and to carry out Christ's command to "make disciples of all nations."

(Matthew 28:19)

Chapel Project Updates

9/18/2025

What's New

We are wrapping up our school supplies donations for Trinity First Lutheran School in Minneapolis. **The LAST DAY to bring in donations is Thursday, September 25.**

We have an abundance of pencils, crayons, and rulers, so consider these other items!

- Single color packs of construction paper
- 4 oz bottles of liquid glue
- Scissors for lower elementary students
- Graph paper
- Wide Ruled Paper
- Pencil boxes
- 4 oz Dixie Cups

Looking ahead, our Term 1 offering will be going to those with food insecurities. Please consider sending in offering to support those in the community while also supporting our students in having a direct hand in helping those around us.

Questions?

Contact Anna Fuhrman or Kari Preus!

- anna.fuhrman@stjlutheranschool.org
- kari.preus@stjlutheranschool.org

DO GOOD WITH CHIPOTLE



CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR **ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

25% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD | 4-8PM
18800 70TH WAY NORTH, MAPLE GROVE, MN, 55311

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **2D47RK6**
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT



For online orders to count towards the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$150 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

LEARN. PRAY. GROW.

The Seventeenth Week after Trinity: Sep 21 - Sep 27, 2025

And the Eighteenth Week after Trinity: Sep 28 - Oct 3, 2025



LEARN-BY-HEART

MEMORIZE TOGETHER AS A FAMILY
SCHOOL STUDENTS EXPECTED TO RECITE ON FRIDAY

Classic Bible Memory for Primary Grades

K + **Galatians 5:13**- Through love serve one another.

1 Timothy 6:7- We brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.

Ninth Commandment

PreK+ You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

2nd gr+ *What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God
so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house,
or get it in a way which only appears right,
but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

Tenth Commandment

PreK+ You shall not covet your neighbor's wife,
or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey,
or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

2nd gr+ *What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God
so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife,
workers, or animals,
or turn them against him,
but urge them to stay and do their duty.

Catechism Bible Verse

3rd gr + **Matthew 6:25** - Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
And all these things will be added to you.
Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself.
Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.



PRAYERS

MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE TO PRAY BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW WHO OR WHAT TO
PRAY FOR. USE THIS GUIDE TO PRAY FOR DIFFERENT NEIGHBORS IN THEIR VARIOUS NEEDS.
LET US PRAY...

Sun ...for all who attend the Divine Service today, that they may be fed with His Word and Sacrament
...for all who do not know the joy of the Resurrection, that they hear and believe the Gospel

Mon ...for all who begin a new week of work, for the unemployed, for our government, and for our teachers and students who begin a new
week of school

Tues ...for rescue from temptation and sin, for repentance for those who have fallen away, for the guilty to be comforted with the Gospel

Wed ...for all husbands and wives, for all parents and children, that all families may live in peace according to God's Word

Thu ...for our Church, our pastors, our teachers, our missionaries, all who serve and volunteer at St. John's

Fri ...for all who preach Christ crucified this weekend, for Christians who are persecuted, for all who are sick and dying

Sat ... for the Holy Spirit to preserve our faith to the End, for our hearts to be ready to hear God's Word at the Divine Service tomorrow



SCRIPTURE LESSONS

STUDY TO HEAR NEXT SUNDAY

Sep. 28 -observing St. Michael and all Angels

Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3 - Michael the Chief Prince of Israel

Revelation 12:7-12 - Michael's War with Satan

Luke 10:17-20 - Satan Fell Like Lightning

Oct. 4 - Trinity XVI

1 Kings 17:17-24 -Elijah raises a widow's son

Eph. 3:13-21 - Prayer for Paul

Luke 7:11-17- Jesus raises a widow's son



HYMNS

Church Hymn of the Day for St. Michael & All Angels - "Lord God, to Thee We Give All Praise (*LSB* 522)

Church Hymn of the Day for Trinity XVI - "The Will of God Is Always Best" (*LSB* 758)

School Hymn of the Month (Oct): "A Mighty Fortress" (*LSB* 656)

School Year Theme Hymn: "With High Delight" (*LSB* 483)



FAMILY DEVOTION

Here is a short order you may follow for family devotions around the dinner table or in the living room.

Invocation - In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit - **Amen.**

Recite - the Apostles' Creed and the Learn-by-Heart Bible Verse & Catechism

Read and Discuss - one of the Scripture readings from this past Sunday, from school, or the coming Sunday

Pray - the Lord's Prayer, Luther's morning or evening prayers, and the topical prayers for the day of the week

Sing a hymn - use one of the hymns from the past Sunday, the coming Sunday, or the school year

Benediction

L: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L: The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C: Amen.