



The **EAGLE CONNECTION**

ALL-SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

A FRESH BEGINNING: NEW TERM, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

As we step into a brand new grading term here at St. John's, we are reminded once again of the incredible privilege we have to walk alongside our students as they learn, grow, and mature both academically and in faith. Every new term is a gift from God—an opportunity for a fresh start, a renewed sense of purpose, and a chance for our children to continue developing the gifts He has given them.

Grades, while just one piece of a student's education, provide an important reflection of what children are learning—both in their understanding of material and in the effort they put forth. They help us see where a child is thriving and where they may need more support or practice. More importantly, grades are not final judgments, but tools that guide students, parents, and teachers in working together to strengthen skills, build confidence, and celebrate growth.

The beginning of a new term invites us to pause and look back—What went well? Where were the struggles? What habits or behaviors could change to help learning flourish? When students receive grades that fall short of expectations, this moment becomes a precious life lesson. Rather than discouragement, we can help them see it as a stepping stone toward future success. Learning to face challenges with honesty and perseverance builds character. It shapes hearts to value integrity, responsibility, and resilience—qualities that will serve them far beyond the classroom.

As partners in education, parents and teachers share a joyful responsibility. Together, we guide children not only to improve grades, but more importantly to grow as learners and followers of Christ. May this new term be one filled with progress, positivity, and God's grace. Let us celebrate this fresh beginning—encouraging every child to try, to learn, to stretch their abilities, and to discover the joy of doing their best for the glory of God.

In Christ,

Dr. Skura





12TH ANNUAL GALA – GIVE THANKS, GIVE BACK

We're thrilled to share the incredible impact of our 12th Annual Gala: together, **we raised \$85,000!**

From the moment the doors opened, the energy and fellowship in the room were extraordinary. This unforgettable evening was made possible by our generous donors, bidders, supportive guests, and dedicated volunteers. Thank you! Your presence, enthusiasm, and generosity made this celebration a true success.

Because of **YOU**, we are one step closer to creating a safer, stronger place for our church and school to gather, while also supporting tuition assistance for families in need. As our theme reminds us: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." – 1 Peter 4:10

With heartfelt gratitude,
The Gala Committee

PARENTS NIGHT OUT!!

PTL is excited to host our December fundraiser — **Parents Night Out: Christmas Movie Night in the Gym THIS FRIDAY!**

The deadline to reserve your child's spot has now passed.

Please contact Britta Orr with any questions at BrittaBesanson@gmail.com or (612) 876-7696 or see the included flyer for more info.

6TH-8TH GRADE CHOIR & HANDBELLS PARTICIPATING THIS SUNDAY

The 6th-8th grade choir and handbell choir will be singing and playing in the 10:30am Divine Service on Sunday, December 7th. Students should arrive at 10am for a short warm up.

CHRISTMAS BREAK

Parents, Christmas break is from Monday, December 22nd – Friday, January 2nd. There will be no school or ESP on these days.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our beloved all-school Christmas concert will take place on Thursday, December 18th, with performances at 1:30pm and 6:00pm. This joyful celebration of the season is a highlight each year, and all are welcome to join us!

BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER FOLLOWING CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

Join us for a scrumptious bake sale filled with homemade treats! We'll be offering a wide selection of goodies following each of our upcoming Christmas Concerts on Thursday, December 18th (1:30pm and 6pm). There'll be no prices – just make a free will donation – whatever amount feels right to you. Every sweet bite and generous donation helps to support the 7th and 8th grade Washington D.C. class trip.



DON'T FORGET THAT THE LIBRARY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

We're still in need of volunteers to help out in the library. See the last page of this newsletter to [sign up to help!](#)

SCIENCE FAIR DEADLINES

Many students have portions of their Science fair projects due TOMORROW, including resources used and project summaries. Actual projects aren't due at school until February 17, 2026. Christmas break is a great time to begin working on them! See the included flyer for more information.

ADDITIONAL ADULT CATECHISM CLASS

St. John's has been blessed with a continuing flow of visitors and new families interested in learning our Lutheran doctrine and pursuing membership. Pastor Moss will be offering an additional Adult Catechism Class that will begin in February and run till May. If you or someone you know are interested in joining this class, please contact him at pastor.moss@stjlutheran.org with your interest and what days and times would work best.

THANK YOU!!

A huge thank you is extended to all who donated to the CROSS food drive. Your donations, along with church members, totaled 534 lbs. of food and will be a blessing to many! God bless you all!

HEGGIES PIZZA FUNDRAISER

The Heggies Pizza Fundraiser for the 8th grade class trip is happening now! Some students in 7th and 8th grade are selling pizzas, with a portion of each sale going directly to help fund their trip. Speak with any of the following students to place your order: Josh G., Katharina M., Henry or Raina P., Everett R., Simon S., or Milo S.

CALLING ALL BAKERS

Help us fill our bake sale tables with homemade goodness and show our students some extra love this season! Our 7th and 8th graders are raising funds for their Washington D.C. trip, and your delicious baked creations can make a big difference in helping them reach their goals. Please donate grouped, wrapped goodies by December 18th. No pricing needed - but you're welcome to include creation labels, if you like. Click [HERE](#) to sign up to donate goodies.

Thank you for sharing your gifts and supporting our students! Call or text Darcie Mathwig with any questions.

NEEDED: FROZEN JUICE LIDS

Do you purchase frozen juice? If so, please donate the metal lids to Mr. Koosman. Each year, the 2nd grade class uses these lids to create beautiful Christmas ornaments, and unfortunately, his supply is dwindling. Lids may be turned in at the front office. Thank you!





TAX INFORMATION FROM FACTS

January will be here before we know it, so get ready now by knowing how to **access your tax information**.

To find a summary of tuition and other fees paid in 2025, follow these steps.

1. Log into your FACTS Family portal.
2. Click "Financial" on the left-hand side.
3. Click "Financial Home".
4. Click "View Details".
5. Click "View Payment Summary" to view end of year payment summaries.

Summaries show the total paid for each account for each student.

TERM 2 CHAPEL OFFERINGS

We have an amazing project to support for term 2. See the included flyer for more information. And be sure to check your bookshelves to see if you have any gently used nature/animal books and guides (of all ages) to donate to the Eastman Nature Center here in Maple Grove!

ESP NEEDS A NEW (TO US) COUCH!

Parents, ESP is in need of a new (to us) sectional couch for the ESP room (our current one won't last much longer). If you have a gently used sectional that you'd like to donate, please contact Tori Kuehne at Tori.Kuehne@stjlutheran.org. Thank you!

INTENT TO WITHDRAW NOTIFICATION DEADLINE

Kindergarten-7th grade families, don't forget that we utilize continuous enrollment. This means that unless you **notify us of your intent to withdraw by January 31st, 2026**, your child(ren) will remain enrolled until he/she completes 8th grade.

CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT TIMELINE

- **December:** Kindergarten-7th grade families receive notification of the upcoming year's enrollment and tuition fees
- **January 31:** Deadline for K-7th grade families to notify St. John's of their intent to discontinue their student's enrollment (withdraw)
- **February:** Enrollment fees for upcoming school year due
- **July:** Tuition plans will be sent; first payment due in August
- **August:** Back-to-school packets available online for parents to review personal information

For more information on continuous enrollment, see page 12 of the [K-8 Parent/Student Handbook](#).

PRESCHOOL FAMILIES, continuous enrollment does not apply to you. Speak with Tori Kuehne for more information about preschool or Kindergarten enrollment for your current preschooler.



THIS WEEK'S EAGLE BOOST...

Hope

As Advent begins, we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amidst the excitement and busy days, let's pause and make room in our hearts for His peace.

Healthy habits can help us slow down and savor this season:

- Begin each morning with a few deep breaths and a short prayer of thanks.
- Take a family walk in the cool December air—notice the lights and thank God for sending Jesus, the Light of the World.
- Keep a “Gratitude Jar” on the kitchen counter. Each family member can add one note of thanks each day until Christmas.
- Try a “Hope Hike” — walk around your neighborhood or school grounds and pray for those in each home you pass.
- Stretch together before bedtime and thank God for His blessings from the day.

“Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him.” — *Psalm 37:7*

May this Advent bring your family rest, reflection, and renewed hope in Christ.

— *The Wellness Committee*

DEADLINE THIS SUNDAY! NOMINATE AN OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR!

It's time to nominate a Lutheran Educator, Parish Professional or School Shepherd to be recognized as an outstanding servant in their area.

There are six categories:

- **School Leader (Principal or Preschool Director)**
- **Early Childhood Teacher**
- **Elementary Teacher**
- **Parish Professional (Music Director)**
- **School Shepherd (Pastor)**

Any educator may be nominated who did not receive the award last year. (Don't nominate Mrs. Maria Koosman - she won last year!)

All nominations must be submitted on or before **Sunday, December 7, 2025**. Submit your nomination(s) [HERE](#).



NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

Friday, Dec. 5

- 8:15am Chapel
- 2pm A boys/girls tournament at Zion
- 5pm PTL Parents' Night Out

Saturday, Dec. 6

- 8am A boys/girls at Zion, Alexandria
- 10am PS-8th grade open house
- 10am 1st and 2nd grade basketball

Sunday, Dec. 7

- Deadline to nominate an outstanding educator, etc.
- 10am 6th-8th grade choir & handbell warm up
- 10:30am 6th-8th grade choir & handbells singing/playing in Divine Service

Monday, Dec. 8

- 3:30pm Girls A/B/C bball practice
- 6pm Boys C basketball practice

Tuesday, Dec. 9

- Band
- 2:25pm Band concert
- 3:30pm Boys A & B practice
- 6:30pm PTL meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 10

- Library
- 3:30pm Girls A /B/C bball practice

Thursday, Dec. 11

- 3:30pm Boys A & B bball practice
- 6pm Boys C basketball practice

Friday, Dec. 12

- 8:15am Chapel
- 5:30pm B girls at Living Hope
- 6:30pm B boys at Living Hope
- 7:30pm A girls at Living Hope
- 8:30pm A boys at Living Hope

COMING SOON

Mark your calendars now with these important dates.



- **Dec. 17:** Student Council meeting
- **Dec. 18:** Christmas Concert (afternoon and evening performances)
- **Dec. 19:** 5th-8th caroling; ESP piano recital
- **Dec. 22 - Jan. 2:** Christmas break
- **Jan. 6:** Epiphany worship service
- **Jan. 7:** Student Council meeting
- **Jan. 8:** Wellness Committee meeting
- **Jan. 9:** Term 2 midterm
- **Jan. 18:** Ski Club - Powder Ridge
- **Jan. 19:** No school - MLK Day
- **Jan. 21:** Student Council meeting
- **Jan. 24:** PTL preschool open gym
- **Jan. 25-30:** National Lutheran Schools Week
- **Jan. 31:** Intent to withdraw notification deadline

Mrs. Anderson says...

15 more days
to Christmas
break!





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 Birznicks
- Deacon: Gary Volberding
- Deacon: Stu Glock
- Secretary: Brenna Koehler
- Candace Fisher
- 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@stjlutheranschool.org
- Share your STJ pictures for use in the yearbook and social media to pictures@stjlutheranschool.org
- Request library book holds, ask our librarians questions, or request a new book to library@stjlutheran.org
- Volunteer to help in the library by clicking [HERE](#).

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

12/4/25

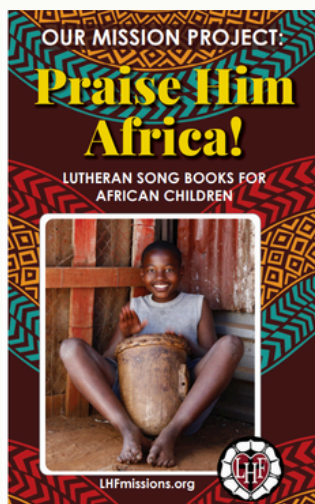
What's New

Term 2 Projects

The official Term 2 Chapel Project is "Praise Him, Africa", an effort to provide communities in Africa with songbooks to teach about Jesus. Each songbook is \$5 and our goal this term is be able to buy 100 books (or more!!).

With the offerings we have been collecting, there are more things outside of our chapel project that we can support. I have listed a few below if you're curious on how to help out!

The New Freedom Store helps the unhoused with food and supplies. You can check out the New Freedom Store amazon wish list [New Freedom Store Wishlist](#) or send in some books for the little library. Any donations off the wish list or books for the nature center can be given to the office RE: Miss Fuhrman or to Miss Fuhrman directly.



Eastman Nature Center · Follow

November 12 at 3:31 PM · 🌐

Calling all book enthusiasts!

Eastman Nature Center is looking for used books to be donated for our Little Free Library!


We are looking for:

- *nature field guides
- *animal books of any kind, non-fiction and fiction
- *adult, youth and younger books
- *picture books
- *anything nature themed

Look through your bookshelves, attics, home libraries and consider donating to us so that we can build up our back stock of books, we put 5-7 new books in each day for guests (especially meant for guests who want to take a book but don't have one to leave behind) and our supply is dwindling.



CALLING ALL BAKERS!



HELP US FILL OUR BAKE SALE TABLES WITH HOMEMADE GOODNESS AND SHOW OUR STUDENTS SOME EXTRA LOVE THIS SEASON! OUR 7TH & 8TH GRADERS ARE RAISING FUNDS FOR THEIR WASHINGTON, D.C. TRIP, AND YOUR DELICIOUS BAKED CREATIONS CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN HELPING THEM REACH THEIR GOAL.

PLEASE DONATE GROUPED, WRAPPED GOODIES
by December 18th



NO PRICING NEEDED—JUST YOUR SWEETEST CREATION
LABELS ARE WELCOME BUT OPTIONAL.



THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR GIFTS AND
SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS!



CLICK HERE OR SCAN
THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP

Text or Call Darcie @ 612-462-0093 with any questions

St. John's Lutheran School | 9141 County Road 101 Corcoran, MN 55340





Bake Sale FUNDRAISER

JOIN US FOR A SCRUMPTIOUS BAKE SALE FILLED WITH
HOMEMADE TREATS! WE'LL BE OFFERING A WIDE SELECTION OF
GOODIES, AND YOU'RE WELCOME TO GIVE A FREE WILL
DONATION—WHATEVER AMOUNT FEELS RIGHT TO YOU.
EVERY SWEET BITE AND GENEROUS DONATION HELP TO
SUPPORT THE 7TH AND 8TH GRADE CLASS WASHINGTON D.C TRIP.
JOIN US IN MAKING THIS TRIP POSSIBLE FOR OUR STUDENTS!

AFTER THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

THURSDAY 18TH 1:30PM &
DECEMBER 6:00PM

*Bakers
Needed!!*

Want to help even more?

We're looking for community bakers to donate baked goods. If you enjoy baking, we would be grateful for your contribution! If you're willing to donate a pan of bars, cookies, cupcakes, or your favorite specialty. Sign up [HERE](#) or use the QR code.



Text or Call Darcie @ 612-462-0093 with any questions

St. John's Lutheran School | 9141 County Road 101 Corcoran, MN 55340

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

LEARN. PRAY. GROW.

The Week of Populus Zion (Advent II): Dec 7 - Dec 13, 2025



LEARN-BY-HEART

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

Classic Bible Memory for Primary Grades

K.+ **1 Thessalonians 5:17** - Pray without ceasing.

John 17:17 - [Jesus said,] "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth."

Isaiah 9:6 - For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.

The Small Catechism: The Lord's Prayer

PreK+ Our Father who art in heaven.

What does this mean?

1st gr+ With these words God tenderly invites us to believe
that He is our true Father
and that we are His true children,
so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him
as dear children ask their dear father.

PreK+ 1. Hallowed be Thy name.

What does this mean?

2nd gr+ God's name is certainly holy in itself,
but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also

How is God's name kept holy?

3rd gr+ God's name is kept holy
when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity,
and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it.
Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven!
But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word
profanes the name of God among us.
Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

Catechism Bible Verse

3rd gr. + **1 John 3:2** - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared;
but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.



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, & for our teachers & 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 & wives, parents & 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 & 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

Sun. Dec. 14 - Gaudete (Advent III)

Isaiah 40:1-11 - Comfort for God's People

1 Corinthians 4:1-5 - The Apostolic Ministry

Matthew 11:2-10 - Messengers from Imprisoned John



HYMNS

Church Hymn of the Day for Advent III- "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" (*LSB* 347)

School Hymn of the Month (Dec.): "From Heaven Above" (*LSB* 358)

School Year Theme Hymn: "With High Delight Let Us Unite" (*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.

Luther's Morning & Evening Prayers

I thank you, my heavenly Father,
through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son,
that You have kept me this night
from all harm and danger;
and I pray that You would keep me
this day also from sin and every evil,
that all my doings and life may please You.
For into Your hands I commend myself,
my body and soul, and all things.
Let Your holy angel be with me,
That the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen

I thank you, my heavenly Father,
through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son,
that You have graciously kept me this day;
and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins
where I have done wrong,
and graciously keep me this night.
For into Your hands I commend myself,
my body and soul, and all things.
Let Your holy angel be with me,
that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen

