



The EAGLE CONNECTION

ALL-SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

ALL ABOUT SUMMER ESP!!

Dear Families,

Summer at St. John's is something special—and our Extended School Program (ESP) is right at the heart of it!

Summer ESP is more than just childcare—it's a place where friendships grow, laughter fills the day, and kids truly get to enjoy being kids. Each day brings a thoughtful mix of fun, creativity, and adventure. From outdoor games under the sunshine to hands-on crafts, group activities, and imaginative play, there's always something to look forward to.

The rhythm of Summer ESP is what makes it so meaningful. There's time for active play, time to slow down, and plenty of space for kids to simply enjoy summer. Whether it's a group game that brings everyone together, a creative project they're proud to take home, or a spontaneous moment of laughter with friends, each day is filled with opportunities to make lasting memories.

We are especially excited for this summer as our **new ESP Director, Kayla Harken** (kayla.harken@stjlutherschool.org), is already planning an exciting season filled with engaging activities and special experiences. Throughout the summer, **children can look forward to fun “special days” like ice cream parties and pizza parties, along with themed weeks that bring a fresh sense of excitement and creativity.** Imagine an art-themed week with activities like tie-dye t-shirts, or STEM challenges that encourage teamwork and problem-solving—all designed to keep kids engaged while having fun.

There are also **plans in the works for on-site experiences and off-site field trips**, giving students something extra to look forward to throughout the summer. Add in **dress-up days, opportunities to bring a favorite game from home, and plenty of shared experiences**, and it's easy to see how each week will bring something new and exciting.

One of the most special parts of Summer ESP is the community. Students build friendships, learn from one another, and experience the joy of being part of something bigger. It's not uncommon to see kids encouraging one another, working together, and forming connections that last well beyond the summer months.

Our caring and dedicated staff play a big role in what makes Summer ESP so special. This summer, **we're excited for a wonderful team that includes Mrs. Harken, Mrs. Rather, Miss Gabby, Miss Gretchen, and three new aides—including STJ alum Zeke B.!** They'll create an environment where every child is known, included, and valued—a place where kids feel comfortable being themselves, trying new things, and growing in confidence.

Continued on next page



ALL ABOUT SUMMER ESP CONT.

There's a unique kind of joy that comes with summer at St. John's—one that's filled with sunshine, laughter, and meaningful moments shared together. Summer ESP captures all of that and more.

If you're still finalizing your summer plans, we would love to have your child join us for a summer full of fun, friendships, and unforgettable memories. Spots are limited, so register your child today!

SUMMER ESP REGISTRATION!

Summer ESP registration is OPEN! Go ahead and register your child now!

Like the upcoming academic year, families will choose the best of two scheduling options for Summer ESP (choice will be made at a later date):

- **Pay-As-You-Go**
 - \$50 per day, signing up only for the days needed.
- **Subscription/Auto-Bill**
 - \$40 per day for families who commit to a consistent weekly schedule.

TERM 3 MID-TERM TOMORROW

TOMORROW, April 10th is mid-term for term 3. Be sure to check your child's grades via FACTS. Reach out to his/her teacher if you have any questions.

K-2 SINGING IN CHAPEL

Kindergarten-2nd grade will be singing in chapel on Friday, April 17th at 8:15am. We'd love to have you join us!

CELEBRATING OUR SPELLING BEE PARTICIPANTS!

What an incredible accomplishment—congratulations to our Spelling Bee qualifiers!

3rd & 4th grade

- Connor M.
- Kenzie B.
- Isaiah B.
- Paighton T.
- Alternates: Madison M. & Braydon O.

5th & 6th grade

- Conrad M.
- Ben H.
- Oliver B.
- Layla B.
- Alternates: Leonie M. & Elormy O.

7th & 8th grade

- Ryan W.
- Miles R.
- Andrew J.
- Katharina M.
- Alternates: Molly J. & Isaac H.

Tomorrow evening, these students will take the stage to represent St. John's at the annual Spelling Bee at 5:30 PM, and we could not be more proud. Their hard work, dedication, and perseverance have earned them this opportunity, and it is truly something to celebrate!

We wish each of you the very best as you compete tomorrow—your St. John's family is cheering you on! **We invite everyone to come out and support these students as they represent our school with excellence.**



ALL-SCHOOL PAJAMA DAY TUESDAY, APRIL 14

Student Council has declared Tuesday, April 14 an all-school Pajama Day! Students are invited to come to school in their favorite (school-appropriate) pajamas for a fun and cozy day together.

WEDNESDAY = SHORTS!

Wednesday, April 15th isn't only Tax Day, it's also the first day that students may wear shorts to school again. Be sure to review the school dress code by checking out the [Parent/Student Handbook](#) and/or the attached flyer.

OUT WITH THE OLD...

Have you noticed that our old school sign has disappeared? That's because our NEW digital school sign will be installed soon!!

...AND IN WITH THE NEW!!

This week has been a frezy of activity as numerous interior and exterior security cameras have been installed! This project was funded by the money raised from our annual gala, which was held back in November 2025.

WANT A COPY OF OUR SPRING MUSICAL, "NEWSIES, JR"?

The 1pm performance of "Newsies, Jr." was recorded, and we are happy to provide copies of the recording. Because we are legally unable to share it in any kind of digital format, you must provide a 32 GB or 64 GB USB flash drive for us. Please label your flash drive and submit them to the front office.

END-OF-YEAR PICNIC HELP NEEDED

Join us as we celebrate the end of a wonderful school year at our End-of-Year Picnic, hosted by our Student Council! The picnic will take place immediately after our 11:30am dismissal on Friday, May 22 (the last day of school), and everyone is invited!

To help make this event a success, we're inviting families to contribute by donating food items or volunteering their time. Whether you're able to donate, serve, or help with setup or cleanup, every bit of support makes a difference—we truly couldn't do this without you!

Sign up here to [volunteer or donate](#). Donations must be received by Wednesday, May 20th and may be left at the front office.

Thank you for your support!

8TH GRADE TEACHER CANDIDATES

Our Call Committee has recently interviewed two excellent candidates for a middle school teaching position beginning in the 2026/27 school year. We are grateful for this progress and for the time and care being given to this important process.

We ask that you please keep these candidates—and our Call Committee—in your prayers as we continue to seek Christ's guidance. We will share more updates as the process continues.



PTL 2026/27 NOMINATIONS

The following individuals have been nominated for positions within PTL. Anyone who has reasonable concerns regarding any candidate on this list should contact the principal prior to April 9, 2026, to explain the reasons why a particular candidate's name should be withdrawn.

The 2026/27 Parent Teacher League (PTL)

President: Open, no nominees accepted

Vice President: Open, no nominees accepted

Secretary: Breanna Squire

Treasurer: Jamie Radintz

Fundraising Chair 1: Stephanie Haver

Fundraising Chair 2: Jamie Peterson

Volunteer Board: Tricia Hayes , Kayleigh Rather, Emily Moertl, Darcie Mathwig, Darcy Skjei, Sarah Schumacher, Jess Hartmann, Brianna Foulke, Kayla Harken, Maren Hall Nodland, Janna Holmgren, Robyn Voss

MAP TESTING

MAP testing will take place the week of April 27th for all Kindergarten-8th grade students. Please make sure your child gets a good night's rest and eats a healthy breakfast to help ensure he/she does their best work!

FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT RECOGNITION

We are proud to recognize the following students for demonstrating faithfulness. Thank you for showing your love for our Lord and Savior! We are so thankful for the example you set for others!

- Emery R.
- Penelope R.
- Raina P.
- Layla B.
- Katharina M.
- Everett R.

PUNCH PIZZA FUNDRAISER

Join us for a sweet (and easy!) way to support our school! On Thursday, April 23 from 4:00-8:30pm, head to Punch Pizza in Maple Grove for dine-in or takeout.

Use code EAGLES when placing your order, and 20% of the proceeds will go back to STJ!

NEW ESP SCHEDULING & FEE STRUCTURE

We know we shared A LOT of info about ESP recently, so we've shared it again this week, too. You'll find all the info included in a PDF along with this newsletter. Reach out to Tori.Kuehne@stjlutheran.org if you have any questions.





FUNDAY COIN WARS: LET THE GAMES BEGIN...SOON!

Get ready, St. John's! Coin War runs April 20–April 24! Each grade will collect coins, and every cent helps your class climb to the top.

Sabotage Alert! Feeling sneaky? Grades can drop dollar bills into other buckets to deduct points—but no checks allowed!

Grab those coins, show your school spirit, and cheer on your grade as we battle it out for bragging rights and a Class Party.

Start collecting now—and may the best grade win!

EAGLE CRUSADER GOALS

We're excited to kick off our Eagle Earnings Crusader fundraiser! Every student has the opportunity to participate, support our school, and work toward exciting prizes along the way. Each Eagle Crusader is encouraged to raise \$150 or more. For every \$100 raised, students receive one ticket entered into a prize drawing.

Drawing prizes include:

- \$100 Cash
- LEGO® Super Mario™ Set
- The student who raises the MOST money overall will win a SEGWAY ELECTRIC SCOOTER!

Drawing Details: Prize winners will be announced after the FUNDay Carnival at 12:15 PM. Participants must be present to win.

ALL THINGS FUNDAY!!

Join us on **Saturday, April 25** for the St. John's 19th Annual Eagle Family FUNDay! FUNDay is a beloved St. John's tradition where families come together for fun, fellowship, and fundraising. This exciting event is packed with carnival games, food, a fund-run, silent auction, and raffles—something for the entire family!

PTL is looking for support to help make this year's FUNDay the best one yet.

- Volunteer: Lend a hand by helping with a game or assisting at another FUNDay activity.
- Pre-Purchase Wristbands: Purchase FUNDay wristbands before April 20th to take advantage of a discounted price.
- Eagle Crusader Donation: Support our students and school by making an Eagle Crusader donation.
- Wishlist Donations: Donate one or more items.
 - Amazon Wish List
 - Target Wish List
- Silent Auction: Bid on one—or more—Silent Auction items!
 - Auction opens April 20th
- 50/50 Raffle: Purchase a few raffle tickets for a chance to win \$2500, while supplies last. The cost of each ticket is \$25. See flyer for more information.

Thank you for being part of what makes FUNDay such a special St. John's tradition!



THIS WEEK'S EAGLE BOOST

Making Moments Count: Presence Over Pace

Life can move quickly, especially as spring activities begin to fill our calendars. This month invites us to slow down, be present, and truly notice the moments God places in front of us. When we are fully present, even simple movement and time together become meaningful.

Ways to practice presence this week:

- Take a slow family walk and intentionally notice sights, sounds, and signs of spring.
- Put phones away during outdoor time and focus on conversation and connection.
- Create a gratitude journal with your kids and add to it through the week.
- Pause during activity to take a deep breath and thank God for the moment.
- End the day by sharing one moment that stood out.

“Be still, and know that I am God.” – Psalm 46:10

May your family find peace and connection in simply being present together.

– The Wellness Committee

SCHOOL CHOICE RALLY

A School Choice Rally will occur right before a 1:00 pm hearing in the House Education Finance Committee on school choice legislation. The details are as follows:

- When: Tuesday, April 14, 12:30 - 1:00 pm
- Where: Hallway outside Room 120 of the State Capitol building | [75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard, St. Paul, MN 55155](#)
- Sponsored by: Opportunity for All Kids and Center of the American Experiment

With the rally being indoors, please allow extra time for security measures at the entrance of the capitol building.

Parking is limited during session, so consider carpooling. Pay lots are nearby.

Let's make sure the legislature and Governor Walz know there is broad support to

- opt in to the new federal education tax credit and
- create Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) for students and families!

It's estimated there is half a billion dollars available from the Federal Scholarship Tax Credit program for Minnesota nonpublic schools and for the most disadvantaged students in public schools. Come to the rally and help Minnesota say, “Yes,” to this opportunity.



NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

Friday, April 10 - Term 3 Mid-Term

- 8:15am Chapel
- 5:30pm Spelling Bee

Monday, April 13

- 9am 2nd/3rd grade field trip
- 3pm bowling practice
- 3:30pm C volleyball practice

Tuesday, April 14 - Pajama Day!

- Band
- 3:30pm A/B volleyball practice
- 6:30pm PTL meeting

Wednesday, April 15 - Shorts allowed

- Library
- 3pm bowling practice

Thursday, April 16

- 3:30pm A/B volleyball practice

Friday, April 17

- 8:15am Chapel
 - K-2nd grade singing
- 3:30pm C volleyball practice
- 5:30pm Bowling matches

COMING SOON

Mark your calendars now with these important dates.



- **Apr. 22:** Student Council meeting
- **Apr. 25:** Eagle Family FUNDay!!
- **Apr. 27-May 1:** MAP testing
- **May 5:** 7th & 8th grade softball day
- **May 6:** Student Council meeting
- **May 7:** Wellness Comm. meeting
- **May 8:** 3rd & 4th track & field day & handbells playing in chapel
- Check out the [school calendar](#) for all the special dates in May, including Track & Field and Softball!

Mrs. Anderson says...

Don't forget to register for Summer ESP!





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: 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@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
- 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)



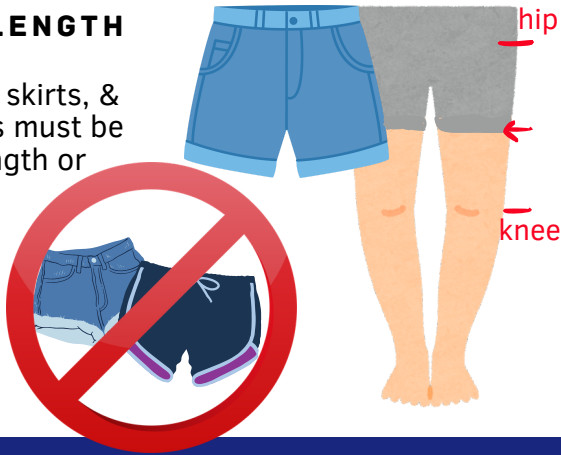
SPRING DRESS CODE REMINDERS



Shorts are allowed starting April 15th!

MID-LENGTH

Shorts, skirts, & dresses must be mid-length or longer



GOOD COVERAGE

Clothing must cover undergarments, midriff, and back. No spaghetti straps or low necklines.



GOOD CONDITION

Clothing should not have any holes or frayed edges (cut-off)



FOOTWEAR

Footwear must have a back (strap at minimum) and be worn with socks



PAJAMAS

Pajamas are not proper school attire (unless allowed for a special pajama day).



HAIR COLOR

No unnatural hair color is permitted





Starting Monday April 20th, EACH GRADE will compete to raise funds to upgrade our HVAC system. This event promises excitement and some friendly competition!

At the end of the week, the class with the most points WINS a class party!

Gather your change and let's make this Coin Wars the best one yet. Your support will keep our school comfortable all year round!

April 20th – April 24th

PARTICIPATION OPEN TO PRESCHOOL-8TH GRADE

The Rules:



Each grade has a container to drop coins into between 4/20-4/24. Each cent is worth 10 points and whichever grade has the most points per student wins a Class Party!

CURRENCY POINTS

EACH CENT = +10 POINTS

\$1 BILL = -100 POINTS

\$5 BILL = -500 POINTS

\$10 BILL = -1000 POINTS

\$20 BILL = -2000 POINTS

BUT Grades can sabotage each other and try to deduct points by dropping dollars into the bucket!

ONLY Cash OR Coins!

Sorry 😞, NO Checks allowed.

RAISE SOME DOUGH

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Thursday, April 23
4 - 8:30pm

Punch Maple Grove
12107 Elm Creek Blvd

Join us for dine-in or takeout and 20%
of the proceeds will go back to our organization

Use Code: EAGLES when placing your order

Invite Family and Friends!



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

LEARN. PRAY. GROW.

The Week of Quasimodo Geniti (Easter 2): Apr. 12 - Apr. 18, 2026



LEARN-BY-HEART

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

Classic Bible Memory for Primary Grades

K+ **Colossians 3:16-** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
Teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom,
Singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
With thankfulness in your hearts to God.

The Office of the Keys

1st gr+ *What is the Office of the Keys?*
The Office of the Keys is that special authority
which Christ has given to His church on earth
to forgive the sins of repentant sinners,
but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant
as long as they do not repent.

2nd gr+ *Where is it written?*
This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty:
**The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said,
“Receive the Holy Spirit.
If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven;
if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” (John 20:22-23)**

3rd gr+ *What do you believe according to these words?*
I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us
By His divine command,
in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners
from the Christian congregation
and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better,
this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven,
as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.



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 week, 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

April 19 - Misericordias Domini (Easter 3), also called "Good Shepherd Sunday"

Ezekiel 34:11-16- The Lord will be Israel's Shepherd
 1 Peter 2:21-25 - Jesus the Pastor and Bishop of Your Souls
 John 10:11-16 - The Good Shepherd



HYMNS

Church Hymn of the Day for Misericordias Domini (Easter 3): "O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe" (LSB 666)
 School Hymn of the Month (Easter): "Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands" (LSB 458)
 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

<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>
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