

The EAGLE CONNECTION

ALL-SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

A NEW CHAPTER IN READING AT STJ!

Dear families,

We are excited to announce that St. John's Lutheran School is transitioning from Beanstack to Book Taco – a fun and engaging reading platform designed to help students grow as readers while making reading even more exciting!

Book Taco allows students to easily log their reading, participate in challenges, earn rewards, and celebrate their accomplishments along the way. Families will find the platform simple to use, and students will love the interactive experience.

To kick things off, we are launching our **STJ Summer Reading Challenge** for all incoming Kindergarten–8th grade students! 🌞📖

The Challenge:

Each student is encouraged to read at least 1,000 minutes over the course of the summer and log their reading through Book Taco. And yes – audiobooks count!

The Rewards:

Students who successfully complete the challenge will be invited to participate in a special celebration during the first week of school: A Taco Piñata Party!

But that's not all...

- The top reader from each class will get to choose an awesome new t-shirt!
- And the top reader in the entire school will win a fun and fabulous GIANT taco stuffy!

We hope this challenge encourages our current and incoming students to keep their minds active, discover new books, and build a lifelong love of reading all summer long. More information about student logins and how to access Book Taco will be shared soon.





CLOSING SERVICE & GRADUATION INFO

K-8th grade are participating in the closing service/graduation

- 8th graders should arrive at 6pm.
 - 8th grade handbell choir members report to sanctuary.
 - All other 8th graders report to Ms. Preus's room.
- K-7th graders arrive at 6:15pm and head to music room.
- Service begins at 6:30pm.
- Students should wear church clothes and look nice.

FAREWELL & GODSPEED!

As we wrap up another wonderful school year, we also prepare to say goodbye to several cherished members of our St. John's family. While we will miss them dearly, we thank God for the many ways they have blessed our students, families, and staff.

This year we say farewell to:

- **Mrs. Meyer**, on her retirement
- **Mrs. Carbone**, as she prepares for a move
- **Miss Preus**, as she begins new adventures
- **Mrs. Hoffarth**, as she concludes her time with ESP
- **Mr. Nauth**, for his service as an aide
- **Miss Gretchen**, as she heads off to college

Thank you all for the love, support, and joy you brought to St. John's. We pray God's blessings upon each of you in the journey ahead. You will always be part of the St. John's family.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL & PICNIC INFO

- Students DO NOT need to bring backpacks.
- School ends at 11:30am.
- There is no ESP.
- Afterschool picnic is 11:30am-12:30pm.
- **Children MUST have a parent or guardian present at the picnic to participate.**
- **Parents are responsible for children during the picnic.**

IF YOU **ARE ATTENDING** THE PICNIC

- Pick up your **K-8th grade** child in the gym and proceed to picnic outside.
- Pick up your **preschooler** in his/her classroom and proceed to picnic outside.

IF YOU **ARE NOT ATTENDING** THE PICNIC

- If you are NOT attending the picnic after school, you will need to either pick up your child in regular car line or have him/her ride the bus home (regular bus students only).
 - Parents, notify the front office if your child will be riding the bus.

SUMMER ESP REGISTRATION!

Summer ESP registration is OPEN! Go ahead and register your child now! Spots are limited, so don't wait!

FINAL CHANCE FOR LOST & FOUND

FINAL CHANCE - Grab your lost items from the cafeteria. Anything not claimed is headed to Goodwill.



JOIN US IN THE PARADES!

St. John's is participating in the Maple Grove Days and Osseo Lions Roar parades this summer, and we want YOU to join us!

Grab your St. John's gear, put on some comfortable walking shoes, and enjoy a fun evening together as we connect with the community and share a little St. John's spirit. Light snacks and water will be available.

Who: Parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, current, future, and former students are all welcome!! Feel free to participate in one or both of the parades!

What: We'll have a decorated trailer pulled by a truck.

When:

- Maple Grove parade: Thurs., July 16 at 6:00pm
- Osseo parade: Sat., Sep. 12 at 12:00pm

Sign up to participate here.

- [Maple Grove parade](#)
- [Osseo parade](#)

LIBRARY REMINDER

ALL library books are due. Any books not returned by May 22 will be considered lost, and a replacement fee will be charged through FACTS on the June 1 invoice.

Questions? Please contact the library by May 22 at library@stjlutheran.org.

STUDENT MEDICATION

Any student medications kept at school will be sent home on the last day of school.

JOIN US FOR VBS!!

Join us June 22–26 from 9:00am–12:00pm for a joyful week of “Wake, Awake: Watching for Jesus” VBS! Children ages 3 years old through 4th grade are invited to participate, while students who have completed 5th grade through adults are welcome to volunteer.

Register now: vbsmate.com/stjvbs2026

BIG NEWS FOR ESP MUSIC!

Music lessons during ESP hours have been a great benefit for St. John's students over the years and now we have big news! Starting with the 2026–2027 school year, ESP music is adding another piano teacher for lessons after school. Lessons are given during ESP hours Monday through Thursday.

Interested in getting your family's name on the waiting list? Want more information? Contact either Tiffin Fuhrman (763-228-4210 or fpopmusicstudios@gmail.com) or Sarah Carter (sarah.carter@stjlutheranschool.org).

REPORT CARDS

Final report cards for the 2025/26 school year will be mailed on Friday, May 29th.

School supply list will NOT be included with report cards but will be available online soon.

YOU CAN STILL ORDER A YEARBOOK!

If you missed your chance to order a yearbook, orders may be placed online at [our Tree Ring page](#) and shipped directly to your home.



WE ARE HIRING FOR 2026/27

We are hiring for several key positions, and we'd love your help spreading the word: preschool ESP aides; K-8 ESP aides, and substitute teachers.

Substitute Teachers

- This position begins mid-August 2026.
- Substitute teachers are needed for grades preschool-8th grade.
- College degrees are preferred but not required.
- Contact our principal, Kristen.Skura@stjlutheran.org for more information or to apply.

ESP Preschool Aides

- This position begins in August 2026.
- 2:45-5:30pm Monday-Friday
- Follows the school year calendar
- Supervise and engage with children ages 3-5 years old
- Must be fingerprinted and pass background check
- Must be/become CPR/1st aid certified (all applicable training will be provided)
- Previous childcare experience preferred but not required
- Contact our preschool director, Tori.Kuehne@stjlutheran.org for more information or to apply.

ESP K-8 Aides

- This position begins in August 2026.
- 2:45-5:30pm Monday-Friday
- Follows the school year calendar
- Supervise and engage with K-8th grade students
- Contact our ESP director at Kayla.Harken@stjlutheran.org for more information or to apply.

MORE SUMMER READING PROGRAMS

Did you know that reading over the summer is one of the best ways to help children retain the knowledge and skills they learned during the school year and prevent the “summer slide”? Summer reading can strengthen vocabulary, comprehension, and confidence while also helping kids discover a lifelong love of books.

There are many fantastic summer reading programs available for children, and many even offer free books, prizes, and other fun rewards for participating! **Be sure to check out the flyer at the end of the newsletter for links to several programs** (for FYCC – open the link, click “FYCC Programs,” and scroll to “Reading in the Park.” Children through 8th grade receive a free Scholastic book each time they attend one of the “Reading in the Park” events; for Nothing Bundt Cakes, simply stop by the Maple Grove location and ask for the summer reading tracker to earn free treats for reading). Additionally, many local public libraries offer excellent summer reading opportunities and giveaways, so don't forget to see what your library has planned.

Local bookstores such as [The Thinking Spot](#), [The Red Balloon Bookshop](#), and [Wild Rumpus Books](#) also typically host summer reading programs, though their information is usually released later in the summer.

MISS E. TO MRS. B.!

Families and students, don't forget that when you return to school this fall, Miss E. will be Mrs. Berg! Congrats, Miss E.!!



THIS WEEK'S EAGLE BOOST

**Lifelong Learning:
Finishing Strong &
Looking Ahead**

As the school year wraps up, it's a time to celebrate growth and look forward with excitement. Carrying healthy habits into summer sets the tone for a strong, active season.

Ways to finish strong this week:

- Take a celebratory walk or bike ride at Fish Lake Regional Park.
- Revisit a favorite spot like Elm Creek Park Reserve or your neighborhood park.
- Set simple summer activity goals as a family.
- Thank teachers, friends, and family during an outing.
- Reflect on how your family has grown this year.

"I can do all this through him who gives me strength." – Philippians 4:13

May your family finish strong and step into summer with energy and joy.

– The Wellness Committee

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT 2026

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend our annual Back-to-School Night 2026! Families are welcome to stop by anytime from 4:00-7:00pm on Wednesday, August 26th to drop off school supplies, meet teachers, learn all about STJ including volunteer opportunities, clubs and athletics, etc. School pictures will also be taken (if you're not able to make it to Back-to-School Night, picture retake day will be Wednesday, October 28).

More information will be shared closer to the event.

TELL THE TEACHER MORE DAYS 2026

tell the Teacher More will take place from August 24-28, 2026. This private, scheduled event is an opportunity for parents to meet with their child's teacher to share with him/her all about their child. Teachers will reach out closer to the event to share signup information and more details.

NO SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 4 & 7

Parents, keep in mind that the first two weeks of the 2026/27 school year are short - only four days long. There will be no school on Friday, September 4th and Monday, September 7th in observance of Labor Day.



NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

Friday, May 22

- 8:15am Chapel
- 10:15am Volunteers helping with watermelon arrive
- 10:45am Picnic servers arrive
- 11:30am Dismissal - No ESP available
- 11:30am Picnic
- 12:30pm End of picnic

Monday, May 25

Tuesday, May 26

Wednesday, May 27

- 7:30am Summer ESP opens

Thursday, May 28

Friday, May 29

- Report cards mailed

COMING SOON

Mark your calendars now with these important dates



- **August 24-28:** Tell the Teacher More days
- **August 25:** Last day of Summer ESP
- **August 26:** Back-to-School Night
- **August 31:** 1st day of school for K-8
- **September 4:** No school
- **September 7:** Labor Day - No school
- **September 8:** 1st day of school for 5-day preschoolers
- **September 9:** 1st day of school for 2- and 3-day preschoolers

Mrs. Anderson says...

Congratulations,
8th graders!





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)



SUMMER

BUCKET LIST

"COMMIT TO THE LORD WHATEVER YOU DO,
AND HE WILL ESTABLISH YOUR PLANS." -
PROVERBS 16:3



CHOOSE YOUR ADVENTURES (CHECK THEM OFF!)

GET OUTSIDE

- Go hiking at a state park
- Visit a new park or trail
- Have a picnic outdoors
- Go on a family bike ride
- Watch a sunset together

WATER FUN

- Go swimming at a lake or pool
- Run through a splash pad
- Have a backyard water day
- Skip rocks or explore a shoreline

MOVE TOGETHER

- Take a family walk after dinner
- Play a sport or game outside
- Have a dance party
- Try a new activity or sport

EXPLORE & DISCOVER

- Visit Eastman Nature Center
- Try a park you've never been
- Attend a local event or activity
- Go on a no destination adventure day
- Have 1 stargazing session
- Visit 1 farmers' market

SERVE & CONNECT

- Help a neighbor or friend
- Learn 1 new outdoor skill
- Pray together outdoors
- Write thank-you notes together

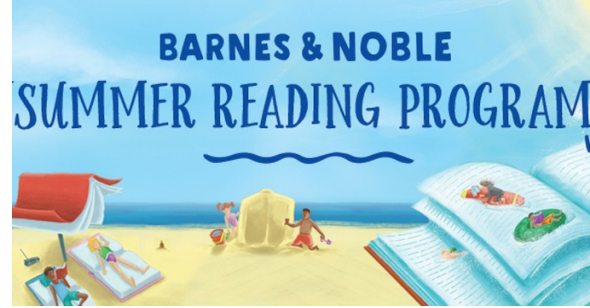
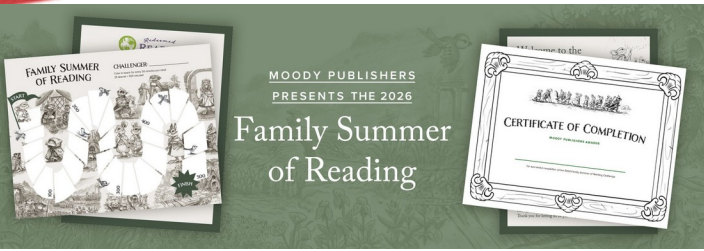
OTHER FUN ACTIVITIES

- Enjoy 1 bonfire
- Take 1 golden hour photo walk
- Try 2 new outdoor games
- Complete 1 DIY project
- Send 1 postcard to a friend
- Take a lake vacation

★ OUR TOP 5 MUST-DO ACTIVITIES

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Summer Reading Programs



Reading
Is Fundamental



reading makes
life sweeter

BOOKS & BUNDTS

Let our Books & Bundts Youth Reading Program encourage your pre-K and elementary-aged children to read! Research shows that childhood reading is an important indicator for success, and we've made it easy.

Partner with your school, log minutes reading with our easy-to-use tracker, and receive a **Free Bundtlet** in our bakery to celebrate reaching the goal!

Whether you're planning for the summer or getting ahead of the fall season, let us help with delicious Bundt Cakes!

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BAKERY



Participation may vary by bakery.





Wake, Awake

WATCHING FOR JESUS

◆ **HYMN VBS** ◆

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

June 22 - 26 from 9:00am-12:00pm

PARTICIPATE: 3 YEARS OLD - 4TH GRADE

VOLUNTEER: 5TH GRADE - ADULT

REGISTER NOW!

VBSMATE.COM/STJVBS2026

Day 1: "Awake, jerusalem, Arise!"

- The Triumphal Entry - Matthew 21:1-11 (27:32-56; 28:1-10)

Day 2: "The Bridegroom Comes, Awake!"

- Peter Realizes His Sinfulness - Luke 5:1-11

Day 3: "Your Lamps with Gladness Take!"

- The parable of the Ten Virgins - Matthew 25:1-13

Day 4: "She Wakes, She Rises from Her Gloom"

- Jesus Raises Jairus' Daughter - Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

Day 5: "Sing Hymns of Praise and Joy to Thee!"

- A Great Multitude Praises God - Revelation 7:9-17