

St. John's Lutheran Church, Union, IL Christian Education Tuition Assistance Policy

We will pray and work in unity for the purpose to discover new ways to reach out and support parents and families by implementing vibrant, growing ministries for our youth through the Christian education of children.

Purpose: This Program is designed to assist families of St. John's Church who need help offering their children a Christian education by providing assistance with tuition. Assistance will be available for students attending Little Blessings Preschool, Zion Lutheran School in Marengo grades K-8, Faith Lutheran High School, and any Lutheran College (Degree must be leading to a church worker).

Support: In Proverbs 22:6 God promises through Solomon, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." The primary responsibility for this training lies with the parents. St. John's tuition assistance program was established to assist parents with this training by allocating funds to assist in the funding of Christian education. A yearly budget allocation has been determined by the appointed tuition committee and shall be re-evaluated yearly to determine funding needs to assist with this training.

Eligibility: Any family with at least one parent/guardian member in good standing at St. John's Lutheran Church shall be eligible to apply for tuition assistance. To maintain eligibility the member shall assume full responsibility for the Christian education of their child, as defined in this policy.

Application Procedures:

1. The following Schools qualify for tuition assistance:

- Little Blessings Learning Center Preschool
- Zion Lutheran School of Marengo grades K through 8th
- Faith Lutheran High School grades 9th through 12th
- Any Lutheran College with a supporting degree leading to a church worker
- Other Lutheran Schools will be to the discretion of the Tuition Committee

2. Members may enroll their child/children at St. John's Little Blessings for preschool and apply for tuition assistance. Because St. John's operates an early childhood center, tuition assistance will not be available for preschool at any other Lutheran school.

3. Application forms are available from the church office or on the church website. All applications shall be completed and returned to the church office by April 1st for the following school year. Any late applications will not be considered.

4. A Tuition Committee appointed by the Governing Body of the Congregation will determine approval of applications. Families will be notified of the committee's decision by April 15th. The tuition committee will contact the Lutheran Day School by May 1st to confirm families who have been awarded tuition assistance.

5. Parents will pay the first tuition installment directly to the school. St. John's will pay the second installment for families who are in good standing. Any balance due to the school after St. John's has paid their portion will be the responsibility of the parents.

Program Requirements: St. John's tuition assistance fund is a substantial part of the annual budget of the congregation. Therefore, receiving families will be expected to have an "ownership attitude" with regards to the program. **The following will be expected:**

1. Parents must attend the **MANDATORY** informational meeting to discuss the tuition policy and fundraisers. **The meeting will be held on the last Tuesday of April each year in the Church's Sanctuary.**

2. Students enrolled in the tuition assistance program along with at least one parent/guardian must regularly attend St. John's Church services. A minimum of at least 26 services must be attended during the TUITION calendar year (April 1st - March 31st) to maintain enrollment in the tuition program.

Participants are required to have met 20 church services by $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through the program (December 31st). If 20+ services are attended by 12/31, St. John's will send the tuition payment to the Lutheran school on your behalf. If 20 services have not been met, the participant will be responsible for the second semester tuition payment directly to the school. When 26 services are completed by 3/31, St. John's will send the payment to the school, and it will be your responsibility to contact the school for a refund.

26 services will be required by March 31st in order to be considered for the tuition program the following year.

Sign-in cards will be available in each pew and shall be filled out, signed by the parent/guardian, and dropped in the offering plate each week. Quarterly

attendance will be emailed to all families enrolled in the tuition assistance program.

3. All families shall actively volunteer for each fundraising event if the current calendar year program includes fundraising. These funds help offset the financial obligations created by the program. The information for the fundraisers will be handed out at the mandatory meeting in April and/or given to each family by the fundraising coordinator.

4. All students receiving tuition assistance will participate in and complete confirmation at St. John's Church. This is in addition to confirmation studies received at Zion Lutheran Day School.

5. Families that fail to attend the required 26 services and/or actively participate with fundraising will not be eligible to apply for assistance for the next school year.

6. Tuition assistance is awarded on an annual basis. Families will need to submit an application every year for the following school year.

7. Each application will be reviewed for consideration by the tuition committee. All final decisions will be made by the tuition committee.

Payment Policy

1. Little Blessings Preschool: St. John's will pay 50% of the tuition.

2. Grades kindergarten through twelve: St. John's will pay 50% of the tuition.

3. College and Seminary: St. John's will pay \$1,000 per semester.

4. Other Lutheran Schools: Not to exceed the funding of the above listed schools.

5. All additional charges and fees, other than tuition, will be paid by the member directly to the school involved. St. John's assumes no responsibility for any of these charges.

updated: 1/17