



Lutheran Education Tuition Assistance Program 2026-2027 School Year

Purpose

In Proverbs 22:6, God promises Solomon, “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from it.” Although the primary responsibility for this training lies with the parents, a Lutheran education can play a large role. This program is designed to promote Lutheran education by providing financial assistance toward tuition expenses for church members whose children are attending a qualified Lutheran school.

Eligibility

Any family with at least one parent/guardian who has been a member in good standing for at least one year at St. John’s Lutheran Church of Union shall be eligible to apply for tuition assistance. Parents or guardians who have been members at St. John’s Union less than one year must have been active members in good standing for the prior year at another LCMS church. To maintain eligibility, the member shall meet all program requirements. The following schools qualify for tuition assistance:

- ◆ Zion Lutheran School, Marengo
- ◆ Any Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) College pursuing a degree leading to a career in church service (Pastor, Lutheran School Teacher, DCE, Deaconess, etc.)
- ◆ Other LCMS Schools will be considered based on circumstances.

Description of Assistance

- **Zion Kindergarten through eighth grade students:** The difference between the non-member and member tuition rate at Zion Lutheran School, Marengo, payable toward spring semester. The current amounts are: 1st child \$2,250, 2nd child \$1,250, 3rd child \$1,450, and 4th child \$850. Participants are fully responsible for remaining tuition costs.

- **Preschool students (3-5 years old) at approved LCMS schools:** \$500 per student, payable toward spring semester. Participants are fully responsible for remaining tuition costs.
 - **LCMS College and Seminary students:** \$1,000 per semester with a limit of 10 semesters for approved applicants enrolled as full time students.
 - **Kindergarten through high school students enrolled in other approved LCMS Schools:** The percentage difference between the non-member and member tuition rates at Zion Lutheran School, Marengo payable toward spring semester. The current percentages are: 34% for the 1st child, 26% for the 2nd child, 36% for the 3rd child, and 37% for the 4th child. Participants are fully responsible for remaining tuition costs.
- The assistance amounts and program requirements are subject to change each school year.
 - All non-tuition costs, such as registration, fees, books, meals, etc. shall be paid by the participant directly to the school. St. John's assumes no responsibility for any non-tuition charges.
 - Any approved payments will be made directly to the school when and if program requirements are met.
 - No payments will be made directly to a participant.
 - Applicants shall pursue any available school-specific financial aid for preschool through twelfth grade for which they are eligible. St. John's will calculate assistance after such awarded financial aid is applied. Please contact your school for information regarding potential aid available. Please notify Jenny Arévalo of any aid approved.

Application Process

- Applications shall be completed and submitted by April 1st each year for the following school year. Late applications will not be considered.
- Application forms are available on the church website www.stjohnsluth.org in the lower left corner of the home page, and printed forms are in the church office.
- Forms may be submitted online, emailed to jarevalo.sjlc@gmail.com or delivered to the church office.
- Applicants will be notified by April 17th of approval status.
- St. John's will confirm the students' enrollment and obtain tuition costs directly from the school.
- Applicant is responsible for notifying the church office immediately of any change in school enrollment status.

Program requirements for approved participants

1. New participants to the program shall schedule and attend an **orientation meeting** with the Business Manager, Jenny Arévalo, by May 15, 2026, to ensure program requirements are understood. Returning participants are encouraged to schedule and attend an orientation as well.
2. New and returning participants will sign an **agreement** in their application indicating their understanding of and intent to meet all program requirements.
3. **Attendance:** Student participants and at least one parent or guardian must regularly attend St. John's Lutheran Church of Union worship services. A minimum of 34 worship services must be attended between April 1, 2026, and March 31, 2027, to remain eligible for the program.
 - a. Participants must attend at least 24 of these 34 worship services by December 20, 2026, for St. John's to pay tuition assistance toward spring semester in December. If the participant has attended 24 worship services by December 20th, St. John's will make the tuition assistance payment to the school toward spring semester by December 31, 2026.
 - b. If less than 24 services have been attended by December 20th, St. John's will not make the payment to the school and the participant will be responsible for any payments due to the school.**
 - c. In the situation described in (b), if the participant does attend the required 34 worship services by March 31st, St. John's will then make the tuition assistance payment to the school in April.
 - d. A maximum of 5 services may be attended online. The other 29 shall be attended in person.
 - e. Worship attendance shall be self-reported by participants using an online attendance log form, which is found on the website and by a QR code posted in the church lobby. This should be logged on a weekly basis for accuracy.
 - f. Participants are encouraged to keep track of their own attendance throughout the year. The church will provide regular email updates of the logged attendance information on file.
 - g. Saturday evening, Sunday morning, and midweek Lent, and Advent worship services count toward this requirement.
4. **Volunteering:** Each family shall volunteer at St. John's for 4 hours per semester per student. This requirement is capped at 8 hours per family per semester, so that families with 2 or more students will volunteer 8 hours total per semester.

- a. These volunteer hours must be completed at St. John's events or ministries. There are many ways to volunteer at St. John's and ideas will be discussed at orientation. You may also contact a staff member to discuss volunteer opportunities that suit your family.
 - b. Volunteer hours shall be self-reported by participants on the attendance log.
 - c. Completion of volunteer hours is necessary to maintain eligibility for the following school year.
5. Participating students in 7th and 8th grade shall participate in and complete confirmation at St. John's. This is in addition to any confirmation instruction at the school.

Tuition assistance is a generous gift from the financial resources of St. John's Lutheran Church, offered to support families in providing a Lutheran education for their children. If your family is not in need of this financial support, choosing to forgo assistance allows these funds to strengthen other St. John's ministries.

May the Lord bless and keep you on this educational journey.

For any questions, please contact Jenny Arévalo at 815-923-2733 or jarevalo.sjlc@gmail.com.

Lutheran Education Tuition Assistance Program
Application for 2026-2027
Due April 1, 2026

Parent Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

We plan to enroll the following child(ren) in Lutheran school for the 2026-2027 school year as listed below. Please include how many days per week for preschool students.

Student Name	Grade	School
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

We have read, understand, and intend to meet all requirements in the St. John’s Lutheran Church Lutheran Education Tuition Assistance Program.

Parent(s) Signature	Date
_____	_____
_____	_____

Return completed application to St. John’s Lutheran Church office or email to jarevalo.sjlc@gmail.com by April 1, 2026.
Contact Jenny Arévalo 815-923-2733 with any questions.