

St. James Lutheran School Newsletter

September 11, 2026

Christ at the Center Truth in all things

The theme verse for this year is Colossians 2:6-7.

As you learned at Back to School Night, we have a new communications system. Fast Direct is ending on September 30. The new system, called Sycamore will be our main communication site, and where you will find your student's grades, calendar info, menus, newsletters etc.

Each family should have received an email from the school inviting them to login to Sycamore. Please check your spam folder if you haven't seen that invitation. If you do not locate the invitation, or are having any trouble getting logged in, please contact the school office at school@stjameshl.org and we will help you.

This will be the last week that you will receive the newsletter through Fast Direct mail. Going forward it will be posted on the Sycamore site. Paper copies will be available at the front desk and at church.

On the home page, by clicking the *Documents* tab, you will find each week's newsletter as well as other items such as the family handbook. Click on Calendar and you will see a list of upcoming activities and events. On the left hand list you can find the month's menu by clicking *Info Center*, then *cafeteria*.

Volunteering opportunities

We at St. James are blessed with many caring parents, grandparents, and friends who help with a multitude of tasks and requests, and we are SO grateful for all that you do.

This year we are encouraging each of our St. James families to volunteer 8 hours if possible in any area that they appeals to them and works into their schedule. Please check the **Volunteer Opportunities** box (on the right side of the Sycamore home page) for information from Pastor Loder to see the many opportunities available for volunteering. You will also receive some separate emails from Pastor Loder on specific volunteer opportunities.

PTL NEWS

The first meeting of the PTL for this school year was held on Wednesday, September 9. The next meeting will be on October 7 starting at 6:00 p.m. All parents are welcome to attend these meetings to share ideas and talents, or just learn more about what the PTL does.

Sunday, September 13

8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Worship Services

Wednesday, September 16

Chapel Service:

8:20 a.m.

Pastor Loder

In Our Prayers: This upcoming week please add these prayer requests to your daily prayer time:

- † Thanks for the blessings of a new school year.
- † Thanks for the volunteers who graciously give of their time and talent to help our staff and students.
- † For all students and staff, to grow in faith and knowledge day by day throughout this year.
- † For all who are impacted by recent earthquakes, landslides, floods, storms, and wildfires.
- † Thanks for all who serve our communities such as firefighters, EMT, and police. May they be safe in their duties.
- † For those who are homeless or unemployed.
- † For God's care for St. James church and school families and staff.



We welcome new students

Elliot Drew and Easton Erickson in 6th grade, Eloise Erickson in 4th grade, Jacob Alaniz and Atlas Drew in 3rd grade, Eddie Erickson in 2nd grade, Oliver

Alaniz, Jessica Brown, Karlee Drew, Archer Radde, and Victor Radde in Kindergarten and Olivia Johnson and Noah Zander in preschool. We are glad to have all of you joining our family here at St. James and pray for a great school year for all. We also welcome new staff members, Mrs. Cheryl Jacobson teaching grades 1-2, Shayna Krause, cook, and Jordan Holmquist, facilities manager.



THANK YOU to Jack George, the dedicated lawn mower who kept the church and school grounds clean and neat all summer.

Yearbook order forms for the current school year may be turned in to the school office. Cost is still \$15.00 per book.



Next Week at St. James School:

Sun. Sept. 13

8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Worship Services
Potluck in the Fellowship Hall (gym)

Mon., Sept. 14

3:15-4:45 p.m. VB practice

Tues., Sept. 15

3:15-4:45 p.m. VB practice

Wed., Sept. 16

8:20 a.m. Chapel
3:15-4:45 p.m. VB practice

Thurs., Sept. 17

Library
3:45 p.m. Home VB vs. Trinity Waconia

Sun., Sept. 20

8:00 a.m. Grades 5-8 Choir

Mon., Sept. 21

Outdoor Ed Day for grades 1-8

Available at the front desk:

- school calendars
- lunch menus
- yearbook order forms
- school newsletters

ATTENTION 4TH GRADE PARENTS: All 4th graders got to try each band instrument during their first week of school; now they tackle the tough decision of choosing just ONE to play, with your guidance and permission, of course. Information regarding Eckroth Music's instrument leasing program has gone home; as you ponder and pray about this exciting opportunity for your child, reach out to Mrs. Loder with any questions or concerns. Beginner Band will start September 16. Please notify Mrs. Loder by September 22 whether or not your 4th grader plans to participate. Students are not required to have an instrument in order to come to the first rehearsal, but should have a plan to secure one by the end of the month.



Cafeteria: Each morning the students will be asked if they are having hot lunch, or brought their own, so that our cook will have the right amount of food prepared. The only charges made to your account will be: \$.50 for a carton of milk to go with a lunch brought from home, or if the student wants a second milk to go with their school lunch. Grades 5-8 are able to purchase a second entrée at a cost of \$2.00.

By going to the school website and using the Lunch payment tab, families can do online payments directly to HLWW. If you prefer to use checks for lunch payments, please make them out to ISD #2687, and drop them off in the school office. We will then deliver the check to HLWW.

As always if you would like to join your son or daughter at lunch, let the office know **by 9:00 a.m.** Cost for an adult meal is \$5.50 and may be deducted from the family account as long as there is money in the account.

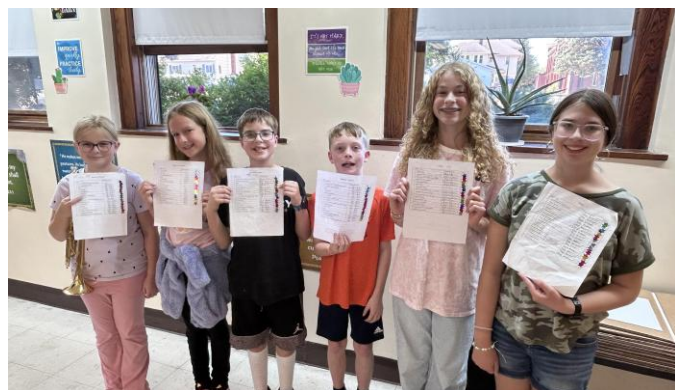
First Day back as 7th and 8th graders!



Grade 4, ready for the year ahead.



Kindergarten on day one.



Six band students completed their Summer Stars practice incentive goals! Congratulations to Mya Morrisette, Hadley Diers, Emerson Koosman, Asher Trobiani, Lila Hennen, and Eden Koosman for keeping their instruments tuned up and playing all summer long. Here's hoping their music brought their families lots of joy!

