

**St. John's Lutheran Church, Union, IL**  
**(A Policy on Christian Preschool, Day School, and Continuing Education)**

*This is our best understanding of God's Plan for our congregation*

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

Purpose: To stimulate interest in parochial school education and provide interested members of St. John's the opportunity to receive tuition education funds, where necessary, for their children attending a Lutheran Day School in grades Preschool-Twelve, Lutheran college and seminary.

Support: While St. John's Lutheran Church does not operate a Christian Day School, it does recognize the importance of Christian education. For this reason, St. John's Lutheran Church pledges to support those schools where member children are involved. We do, however, operate our own Christian Preschool and Kindergarten Programs, which are covered under this policy.

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

Application Procedures:

- Members may enroll their child/children in the Lutheran School of their choice and apply for tuition education funds. However, if a program is offered at St. John's, funds will only be available for that program.
- Application forms are available from the church office and should be completed and returned to the church office by April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **A Tuition Committee appointed by the Chairman of the Congregation will determine approval of applications. Families will be notified of the committee's decision by April 15<sup>th</sup>. The tuition committee will contact the Lutheran Day School by May 1<sup>st</sup> to confirm families awarded Tuition Education Funds.**
- When registering at the Lutheran Day School inform the Day School of the St. John's tuition program.
- Tuition payments will be paid by St. John's Lutheran Church directly to the Lutheran Day School where the child is enrolled.

Expectations of receiving families: The tuition education 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:

- Attendance at a group meeting, arranged by the senior Pastor or his delegate, in order to ensure communication of the families using the program. The meeting will be held on the second Tuesday of May of each year.

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- Families who utilize the program will be expected to regularly attend worship services and to participate in activities held at St. John's Lutheran Church. Regular attendance is defined as a minimum of one-half of regularly held services, counted April through March of the following year.
- All children of St. John's family members are to be confirmed at St. John's and to participate in the confirmation program at St. John's. This is in addition to confirmation studies received in a Lutheran Day School.
- All terms of this policy are applicable to the current school year. Families that do not meet the requirements throughout the year may not receive full tuition assistance.
- Families will be expected to be involved in fundraising events. By May 31, 2011 a fundraising committee of families utilizing the program will be formed. 100% participation in fundraising efforts in some manner is expected.
- Renewal of the tuition education fund is not automatic from year to year, but requires an annual submission of the application for consideration.
- 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.
- **The appointed tuition committee has determined a yearly cap for tuition funds. Any amounts exceeding the amount budgeted must be offset by fundraising efforts, otherwise funds will be awarded on a proportionate basis.**

Payment Procedures:

- Regarding grades one through twelve, St. John's congregation will pay up to one -half of the annual tuition.
- Regarding Little Blessing Preschool and Kindergarten, St. John's will pay up to 25% of the annual tuition.
- Regarding College and Seminary, a scholarship of \$1000.00 per semester will be paid for those enrolled in Lutheran Church Missouri Synod professional church worker training programs. The scholarship will be disbursed by semester.