

St John Child Development Center



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MR. TOM'S TALK

After almost 18 years of working in child care the hardest part of the day is often the start of the day when it's time to say goodbye at drop off. In my rooms while teaching I would talk to the children and parents about creating the same routine for drop off every day. Some would do a hug and a wave at the window. Some would do a hug and a high five. Some even had their own secret handshake they would do and be on their way! Whatever it was, it built a routine and predictability. Most often than not a good day is built on routine.

My favorite tool for learning is books. Some books you can use to help your child with those morning goodbyes include "The Kissing Hand" by Audrey Penn, "Llama Llama Misses Mama" by Anna Dewdney, and "The Invisible String" by Patrice Kearst. These books focus on even when a parent is not right beside their child they are still in their

heart and their love is still as strong as when they're together.

Another good story to read to your children comes from the Bible. My personal favorite version to read with children is "The Jesus Storybook Bible" by Sally Lloyd-Jones. In there or any children's Bible you will find the Great Commission and Ascension often linked together but it is there where we read the story of Jesus giving the disciples the direction to tell others about Him and His reminder that "I am with you always" as it states in Matthew 28:20. Even when we don't see Him we are given the comfort in His words of knowing He walks with us always. So remember that next drop off. Remember to remind your child that Jesus is also with them too.

God's Blessings,
Tom Koffarnus
Director



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SCHOOL AGE

Please watch your email for a Google Form to sign-up for the No School Days on October 9th for Seward Elementary and the 19th for all schools. We are limited to 25 students, so please plan accordingly. There is a \$30 no school day fee for all that sign-up. Note the CDC will be CLOSED on the 16th for Professional Development.

2026-2027 St. John CDC Calendar

OCTOBER

- 1 Chapel with Mr. Oberdieck
- 8 Chapel with Pastor Bartels
- 9 No School Day Seward Elementary
- 15 Chapel with Mr. Tom
- 16 CDC CLOSED for Professional Development**
- 19 No School Day STJ/Seward/STV
- 22 Chapel with Tim Oberdieck
- 29 Chapel with Pastor Rempfer

NOVEMBER

- 23 Art Walk @ 6:15-7:15PM
- 24 Thanksgiving Breakfast 7-8AM
- 24 STJ Early Dismissal

25-27 CDC CLOSED for Thanksgiving

CDC CLOSED

The CDC will be CLOSED Friday, October 16th for Professional Development. Also, Wednesday, November 25th - Friday the 27th for Thanksgiving.

PICTURE RETAKES



Picture retakes are scheduled for Monday, November 2nd, starting at 8:15. Please let your teacher or the office know if you would like your child to have retakes. If you have already received your pictures, please send the package with your child on retake day.

SPECIAL EVENTS

November 23 - Art Walk @ 6:15 p.m.-7:15 p.m.

November 24 - Thanksgiving Breakfast @ 7:00a.m.-8:00a.m.

December 9 - Midweek Family Advent Worship Service @ 5:00 p.m.

February 11 - Love Concert @ 6:30 p.m.

TBD Wednesday in Lent - Lenten Meal

April 29 - Touch and Feel Truck Fair @ 6:15p.m.-7:15p.m.

UPDATED INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

13.0 Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather, St. John Child Development Center will make every effort to remain open as usual. If the weather impacts the



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safety of the children, families, and staff then the administration will make a decision on whether or not to adjust our operating hours. Our administration will monitor local road conditions, winter weather advisories, and the National Weather Service's forecast to determine whether or not to operate as normal. Families will be notified of closures via Facebook post, email, and Procure.

- **Should St. John Lutheran School be closed for a snow day then the Child Development Center will operate under a late start with opening at 8:30 a.m..** Parents should notify staff by 9:00 a.m. if their child will be attending to allow for proper staffing and meal count.
- However, if the weather is forecasted to bring hazardous road conditions and will not allow for roads to be cleared in time for a late start then a decision will be made by 6:00 a.m. as to whether or not to be open for the day.
- In the event of inclement weather forming during the day, the administration will provide a minimum of a 2 hours notice before implementing an early closure to allow for families and staff to travel home safely.
- If any unforeseen emergency, severe weather event, or utility disruption compromises our facility's safety or ability to operate as normal then a decision regarding closures or modified hours will be made immediately.

While closure of any sort may be an inconvenience for families who rely on our care, we must put the safety of the children, families, and staff at the forefront of everything we do.

Updated: September 21, 2026

ADULT HANDS ONLY

Please remember that all doors and key pads are for **Adult Hands Only**. This is for the safety of the children so they do not enter or exit the building without an adult.

WELLNESS POLICY

Children must be fever/vomit/diarrhea free for 24 hours without the aid of medication before returning to school.

BEFORE 7AM CARE

If your child needs care before 7AM please let the office know, CDC@stjohnseward.org or 402-643-3122, no later than 3PM the day before. This gives us enough time to make sure that only the classes that need care are staffed before 7AM. Thank you for helping us keep our staffing cost down!

HOT LUNCH

To ensure that your child gets a hot lunch ordered, please make sure you let us know **no later than 8:20AM** if your child will be coming in late. Students arriving after 8:20AM, who did not call or make arrangements with their teacher, will need to bring a cold lunch. Remember we are a nut free facility.

SCHOOL YEAR BREAKFAST

School Age breakfast is served from 7:00-7:20am. Toddler and preschool breakfast is from 7:30-7:50am. If you are running behind and won't make it to the classroom before 7:15/7:45, please consider bringing an alternative breakfast/snack for the car if they weren't able to eat at home. **No outside food inside the classroom please!**



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ABSENT

If you know your child is going to be absent, please let your teacher know in advance or through the ProCare App by 8:30am, so we don't order them lunch.

DROP OFF/PICK UP

If someone other than a parent will be doing drop off or pick up, please let your child's lead teacher know. This is the best way to get the information to our afternoon staff. **No drop offs or pick ups between noon and 2:30.** This is when children are napping and it's very disruptive to the rest of the class. Please check with your child's teacher for their room's specific nap schedule.

BOOST YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH

If you are looking to make changes to your family's eating and physical activity habits, remember that small changes can have a huge impact on health over time. Consider starting with one or more of these recommendations adapted from the Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics:

[Boost Your Child's Health](#)

PARENT HANDBOOK

[CDC Parent Handbook 26/27](#) Updated 7/20/26

EDUCATION BOARD

The next meeting of the 26-27 school year will be October 12th at 7 pm in the Heritage Room . Please feel welcome to review the Education Board Visitor Policy by clicking the link in [this form](#).

MEET PASTOR SCHECK

Meet Pastor Nathan Scheck, our associate pastor! You may be seeing him at drop-off and pick-up, or hear your kids talk about him visiting their classroom. Take a moment and introduce yourself! If you



or your family should need any pastoral care, please feel free to reach out to your teacher, Mr. Tom, or Pastor Scheck directly. nathan.scheck@stjohnseward.org or call 643-2983 ext. 120.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

St John Lutheran Church
919 N Columbia Ave
Seward, NE 68434
(402) 643-2985
[Newsletter](#)



Pastor Scott Bruick
Pastor Nathan Scheck

Sunday Worship	8:30AM & 11AM
Sunday School	10AM - 10:45AM
Saturday Worship	5:30PM

To reach our YouTube channel, please visit stjohnseward.org and click on the link, or click here: www.youtube.com/channel/StJohn

