

St John Child Development Center



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NOTES FROM MR. TOM

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” - Isaiah 41:10

A season of change can often bring a fear of the unknown. A change in a classroom. A change in schools. A change in director. The excitement that the idea of change may bring some may strike fear in others or some very likely have a layer of fear under that outer shell of excitement. I'd be lying if I said I had no fear as I stepped in this role previously held by Lisa. A parent may tell a child “Be brave!” as they sit in a doctor's office fearfully awaiting the moment a needle touches the arm as they receive an immunization. But perhaps instead we should acknowledge their feeling of fear, help them understand it, and then work through it with them.

As I stepped in the Director of CDC position last month there may have been times of fear of the unknown. This is where having a strong team around me has made this transition easier than I could have imagined. I am grateful for the staff in

the CDC, the church, and the school as I learn this role more every day. We can lean on this example as we think about how to help children during those fearful times. Who is their support team and how do we support them?

We think of parents. A child's safe place is with their parents or other family that cares for them. We think of teachers and staff here at the CDC set out to make sure every day your child is safe and cared for. We think of police officers and firefighters who have pledged to do their duty to ensure our safety. But most importantly we need to teach our children to look to God as our comfort in those times of fear because He will be their constant in their entire lives and beyond.

So how can we teach young children about looking to Jesus as a leader? We teach them to pray. If we are unsure of how to teach to pray we look to the best example which is “The Lord's Prayer” given to us directly from Jesus' words. We can also teach children about stories in the Bible where those involved encountered change such as Jacob in the book of Genesis as his life evolved frequently but he knew God was his constant in all the fearful moments of what may happen next. We can also



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look at the story of Pentecost where the Holy Spirit in the form of wind and fire changed the disciples in a way that blessed many!

The season of change is making its way this month as we say God's Blessings to a group of children ready for kindergarten as well as we say welcome to many new families. During all these moments and the moments not listed be sure to remind your child and yourself that in all things "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever"(Hebrews 13:8).

God's Blessings,
Tom Koffarnus
Director



2026-2027 St. John CDC Calendar

AUGUST

- 6 Chapel with Mr. Tom
- 7-11 CDC CLOSED for Deep Cleaning and Professional Development**
- 11 Open House 4-6PM
- 12 First Day of Fall Session!
- 12 1:20/30 Dismissal STJ/Seward/STV
- 13 Chapel with Mr. Tom
- 17 Education Board Meeting 7PM

- 20 Chapel with Pastor Scheck
- 27 Chapel with Deaconess Jeri
- 28 Dinner & a Movie - CUNE Weller Circle

SEPTEMBER

- 7 CDC CLOSED for Labor Day**
- 18 No School Day St John
- 21 No School Day Seward/STV
- 21 Education Board Meeting 7PM

CDC CLOSED

The CDC will be CLOSED August 7-11 for Professional Development and deep cleaning. Also, September 7th for Labor Day.

OPEN HOUSE

Open House, Tuesday August 11th from 4-6.

SCHOOL AGE

St John, Seward, and St Vincent schools will have a 1:20/30 dismissal on Wednesday, August 12th. There will be no max for this half day.

UPDATE PROCARE PICTURE

New year, new picture! It's time to update your child's picture in ProCare. Check with your teacher if you need assistance. [ProCare Instructions](#)

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.



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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!**

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.

DINNER AND A MOVIE

Rio

DINNER AND A MOVIE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 5 P.M.

FREE MOVIE

Rio

STARTS AT SUNSET ON WELLER LAWN

FOOD TRUCKS: CHARTWELLS, CHI STYLE KITCHEN, HOG WILD PIT BBQ, KAJANI ROOTS, LA CARETTA, WAGON WHEEL, WHAT'S THE SCOOP?, 10:31 COFFEE

GUESTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO STOP BY THE CONCORDIA NEBRASKA FAN SHOP, WHERE THEY CAN BROWSE THE LATEST CONCORDIA NEBRASKA APPAREL, BULLDOG GEAR, GIFTS AND SPIRIT ITEMS

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY NEBRASKA

GET KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

The goal is learning, not perfection. Once you get into this headspace, it becomes easier—and more



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fun—to involve children in the food preparation process. That being said, the best time to do this would be when an imperfect final product, extra time and extra mess will not undo your day. Because if learning is the goal, then it had better be fun, right? According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, here are five ways to enjoy cooking with your children.

[Get kids in the kitchen](#)

PARENT HANDBOOK

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

EDUCATION BOARD

The next meeting of the 26-27 school year will be August 17th at 7 pm in the Heritage Room . Please feel welcome to review the Education Board Visitor Policy by clicking the link in [this form](#).

ST JOHN SUNDAY SCHOOL

It's time to register for Sunday School for ages 2 years through high school! Please use [this form](#) to register. The official kick off date is TBD.

*2 year old Sunday School is a parent/child class.

**3 year olds must be potty trained or attend with a parent.

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, Mrs. Aring, 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 Nathan Scheck
nathan.scheck@stjohnseward.org
(402)643-2983 ext 120

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

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

