

# St John Child Development Center



## Director Tom Koffarnus

1053 N Columbia Ave

Seward, NE 68434

Phone (402) 643-3122

Fax (402)643-4536

[Tom.Koffarnus@stjohnseward.org](mailto:Tom.Koffarnus@stjohnseward.org)

[www.stjohnseward.org](http://www.stjohnseward.org)

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## LAST NOTE FROM MRS. ARING

Thankfulness!

As I write my last newsletter, I am thinking of thankfulness. I am thankful for every child and parent that I have been able to interact with throughout my career. My philosophy is that God creates us all in special ways and it is our job to find and enhance a child's strengths to help them be successful through the gifts God has given them.

Through many experiences over nearly 40 years, I have not only learned much but have had the opportunity to share my experiences and faith. I can honestly tell you that there is always something new! God has made each child and each family unique and that is why my career has been so fulfilling. As I complete my time in this position, it really doesn't feel as if I am done, because I will never learn it all!

When looking over the time I have spent with thousands of families (when I was teaching, I had 60 families per year), I have a few words of advice:

1. Continue to help your child develop as an independent individual—have them do what they can to take care of themselves. Communicate with your child's teachers to work as a team for your child.
2. Don't be afraid to tell your child no and to stick to that no. They must be prepared to hear that word "no" because life has limits and rules.
3. Help them to learn to follow directions—this will be the best skill for them to have in school.
4. Finally, and most important, help them continue to grow in their faith. As parents, this is an important job, and the results of this will last to eternity.

Blessings,

Lisa Aring

## NOTES FROM MR. TOM

My name is Tom Koffarnus (aka Mr. Tom) and I'm excited to be joining the St. John community! I was born and raised in Lutheran education as my dad was a Lutheran school principal and teacher for



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many years which greatly influenced my decision to be in church work as well. I've served at Christ Lincoln Child Care for 16 years as a lead teacher and briefly as assistant director. I've loved my time serving at Christ but am excited to have the chance to step into a leadership role at the CDC. I bring a strong passion for planting faith seeds through worshipping and praising God with the children as I love to lead them in song at chapels, in the classrooms, and at special events. I have built many connections with families over the years and I look forward to building new bonds at St. John. I hope to have a chance to visit with you soon and get to know your child as we partner in their growth and education!

God's Blessings,  
Tom Koffarnus  
Director



## 2026-2027 St. John CDC Calendar

### July

- 2 Chapel with Ms. Mertens
- 3 **CDC CLOSED for Fourth of July**
- 9 Chapel with Mr. Tom
- 16 Chapel with Pastor Scheck
- 23 Chapel with Dr. Gerdes
- 30 Chapel with Ms. Mertens

### 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!

### CDC CLOSED

The CDC will be CLOSED Friday July 3rd for the Fourth of July, and August 7-11 for Professional Development and deep cleaning.

### 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](mailto: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**



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**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.

## SUMMER BREAKFAST

Summer breakfast is from 7:30-7:50AM. If you are running behind and won't make it to the classroom before 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.

## CAMPING WITH KIDS

Camping with kids while engaging in enjoyable and healthy outdoor cooking is truly the best experience. Involving children in the cooking process—while prioritizing safety—can impart invaluable lessons and create lasting family memories.

[Camping Foods For Kids](#)

## PARENT HANDBOOK

[CDC Parent Handbook 2026](#)

## EDUCATION BOARD

The first meeting of the 26-27 school year will be July 20th at 7 pm in the Heritage Room . Please feel welcome to review the Education Board Visitor Policy by clicking the link in [this form](#).

## YOUTH FUNDRAISER



**June 28<sup>th</sup>  
through  
July 4<sup>th</sup>**

All Proceeds Support  
Youth Ministry  
at St. John and  
the Rock!

## 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



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Pastor                      Scheck                      directly.  
[nathan.scheck@stjohnseward.org](mailto: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](mailto:nathan.scheck@stjohnseward.org)  
(402)643-2983 ext 120

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

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

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Show and Tell the Love of Jesus

