

Dear Parents (Members and Nonmembers),

Over the years we have made reference to the fact that maintaining our Lutheran School creates a financial challenge for our congregation. The budget of St. John Lutheran Church is over \$800,000; of that amount, between 60% and 70% will be used to operate our school. Our per pupil cost is currently over \$4,500.00. That is the amount needed to educate each child for one year. Clearly, operating a school is an expensive undertaking.

There is an expectation within the congregation that families that have children enrolled in our school pay a bigger share of the cost. The Day School Board understands the direction of the congregation and has looked for a way to increase the amount of money turned over to the congregation for budget purposes. The hope is to assist the congregation without creating undue financial strains on our families.

With the above in mind, the Day School Board has set the relief fee at \$150.00. The relief fee will be used for the sole purpose of budget relief for the congregation. This fee is in addition to the regular tuition fees from which we purchase books and supplies.

The Day School Board has proposed a way to lessen the impact of the \$150.00 relief fee through the use of St. John Dollars. Here is how it works:

1. Each family is assessed the \$150.00 relief fee at the beginning of each school year.
2. Through the use of St. John Dollars, a family can earn up to a \$150.00 credit towards the relief fee charge. **This credit will be applied to the relief fee charged the following school year.**
3. A family using St. John Dollars earns back 4% of their purchases up to a total of \$150.00 or for a portion of the \$150.00. Julie Gehrmann, St. John Dollar coordinator, keeps receipts of purchases. Since St. John Dollars may be used for purchasing groceries and gasoline, and they may be used at many “fast-food” restaurants, as well as at some department stores, earning the credit should be fairly easy for anyone using St. John Dollars on a regular basis. Use of about \$75.00 per week enables a family to earn the \$150.00 credit.
4. After the school year is over, records are used to ascertain whether a family earned the credit. If they did, the credit will be applied to the relief fee for the following school year. If a portion of the credit were earned, that portion of the fee will be credited. If a child graduates from St. John or is otherwise not going to be enrolled for the following year, the Day School Board will issue a check to the family for the amount of credit that was earned. A statement will be mailed to each family indicating how much credit was earned for those families who had students enrolled in St. John.
5. Grandparents, other members of the family or even friends, may also purchase St. John Dollars. It is simply necessary to make sure credit is given to the school family at the time of purchase.

St. John Dollars are available in the school office during the week, after the service on Saturday evening and between services on Sunday. We have included an order form on the back side for your convenience.