



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ of St. James Lutheran School,

Our great God has given each of us another day of life and another day to serve in HIS ministry. The upcoming school year will be exciting and at the same time a bit challenging, depending upon the ever-changing state of the world. I know there are many questions which people need to have answered. The mitigation plan will answer as many questions as possible. The St. James Lutheran School Board of Education needs to be applauded for the long hours they spent reviewing, analyzing, and amending each portion. The BOE will continue to review the reopening plan as needed. I would like to remind parents/guardians of a few key principles for reopening OUR school:

Our great God is omniscient. He knows what is going on in the world right now. We cannot understand why our world is so chaotic and in such unrest. But He does. Living in a growing secular society, we need to lean on His promises more than ever. Speaking of promises, our school theme verse for the year comes from 2 Corinthians 1:20: “For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him, the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.” God never said being a Christian would be easy. The New Testament has several verses about being Christians being persecuted simply because of their faithfulness. But remember the promise Christ gave in the Great Commission, “...And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20b)

Our God cares for all His creation, especially children. Matthew 19:14 sees Jesus correcting the disciples, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” At St. James Lutheran School, our primary responsibility is to continue to strengthen and mold a child’s faith as we educate them, as we protect them, and as we care for them. That is what a parent should expect when they drop off their child at OUR school. We want your child to be in a classroom with other children experiencing the warming love of Jesus Christ. If conditions dictate that we close the school campus, distance learning will take place again until St. James is able to reopen.

Our God is relational. He created us in His own image. We are encouraged to maintain and strengthen our relationship with Him and with our other brothers and sisters in Christ. Relationships are important in our own lives. I cite as evidence the yearning of a child to talk with classmates last year when they were unable to meet face to face. Relationships result in a healthier mental state for children (and adults). St. James Lutheran feels the best way to build those relationships is in a classroom where learning takes place face to face. Matthew 18:20 states “For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” The Great Teacher will again be with your child daily at St. James Lutheran.

St. James is connecting people to the love of Jesus Christ in our families, our communities, our world. God has been leading us as we work with health officials at Shawano/Menominee Counties Health Department, the Department of Health Services (DHS), and with guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We will continue to seek counsel, heed advice, and monitor developments from these public officials. We do this because our second responsibility at St. James Lutheran School is to keep OUR children safe.

I am pleased to announce St. James Lutheran School will be reopening OUR educational campus for face to face instruction, five days a week, on Tuesday August 25, 2020.

In HIS Service,

David A. Kaiser, principal
St. James Lutheran School, Shawano