

## Make The Day Special

- Kindergarten - Purchase a t-shirt in the size you imagine your child will wear when they are in 12th grade. Take a picture in that t-shirt every year at the start of the school year. Have the child hold a sign with the date and/or grade so you have it as a future reference.
- Participate in the Backpack Blessing at First Lutheran Church, which is usually held the middle of August. Check the First Lutheran website for details.
- Take a photo every year in the same place. That little tree you were standing in front of in elementary school will not be the same little tree come 12th grade.
- Start a tradition that you can maintain every year. It may be a trip to the DQ or a special evening meal or the tradition of always wearing blue the first day of school. Be creative and remember this is something you want to be able to maintain.
- Hide a “thinking of you” note in their lunch box or backpack every day for the first week of school.
- When buying school supplies, buy two of everything. Donate the extra set of supplies to a child in need. Just take to the teacher and let them know if a child is ever in need use them.
- Generate 3 simple questions that you will always use as talking points each day when you and your child meet up.

### A Blessing ...

A blessing is a thank you,  
a wish, a dream, a message  
of hope, an acknowledgement  
of joys and sorrows,  
a celebration,  
a passing of time, a gathering  
of people and thoughts,  
a reflection, a time to be still,  
a time to jump with joy,  
a time of quiet meditation,  
a gift of love and a prayer.

*God's grace and peace  
as you discern God's new  
call and discover new ways  
to serve*

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New School  
Year

A Blessing for A  
New School Year  
Preschool through  
High School

# A Blessing for the Start of the New School Year

*Those who are students this year gather together, and all family and friends of the students gather around them.*

Family and friends together pray:  
**As it says in Psalm 25, “Show me your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me.”**

**Dear Lord, we ask for your presence as we gather around these students to ask your blessing on the occasion of the first day of school. Grant these students your peace to conquer fears, your wisdom for their learning, and your love to share with all they meet.**

A blessing for students (parents/caregivers place your hand on your students head or shoulder and pray):

**God of all knowledge and wisdom, (name student(s)) and these school supplies remind us that a new school year is soon to begin. We pray your blessing on them and upon all students, young and old, as they begin**

**a new year. Help them discover and develop the gifts you have given them. And as they grow in knowledge, help them also grow in kindness and compassion.**

A blessing for parents and caregivers (all):  
**We ask your blessing on parents and all those who care for students. Strengthen us/them to surround our students with encouragement, support, and love.**

A blessing for teachers (all):  
**Dear God, thank you for all our dedicated teachers. For their inspiration in our lives. For their knowledge and skills. For their commitment to education. Please bless their work.**

A student’s prayer (students):  
**Dear God, in Proverbs 23:12 you tell us, “Apply your heart to instruction and your ear to words of knowledge.” Help us to open our hearts and minds this school year, to learn about your amazing creation, and to equip ourselves to be servants in this world.**



Closing (Leader/all)

**“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”  
Jeremiah 29:11.**

**Students, enter this new school year knowing that you are enough. You are loved. And, you are never alone. May you feel God holding you close in times of uncertainty and celebrating with you in every success. We ask all these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our savior and Lord. Amen**

## A Morning Ritual:

**Make the sign of the cross on the forehead of your child before he or she leaves for school, saying “(Child’s name), Jesus goes with you wherever you go.” Remind your child that you think about and pray for him or her during the day.**