

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS AT ST. PETER LUTHERAN SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

We are happy to offer healthy meals to our students every school day. Even though we are no longer in the National School Lunch Program, we still are able to offer meals at a reduced cost for families who are unable to afford the full cost of lunch. Our lunch costs **\$3.75**. **Your children may qualify for reduced price meals** which are **\$1.50** for lunch. (NOTE: We will use the guidelines of the government program to determine whether your family qualifies.) This packet includes an application for reduced price meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. **WHO CAN GET REDUCED PRICE MEALS?** Children may receive reduced price meals if your household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for reduced price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on the chart (attached).
2. **DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD?** No. *Use one Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application for all students in your household.* We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to: **St. Peter Lutheran School**.
3. **MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE?** Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year, through **September 27, 2024**. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not send in a new application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price for meals.
4. **WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED?** Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
5. **IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER?** Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
6. **WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION?** You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: **Pastor Morris at St. Peter Lutheran School**.
7. **WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME?** List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1,000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1,000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
8. **WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT?** Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application, or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.

If you have other questions or need help, call **St. Peter Lutheran School at 989-642-5659**.

Sincerely,

**Mr. Eric Hagenow, Principal**