

St. Mark Lutheran Church and School Unified Application for Tuition Assistance 2010 - 2011

Check here if application is for:

- Tuition assistance at St. Mark Lutheran School
- Tuition assistance at Lutheran High North (congregation members only)(Note 1)
- Tuition assistance at Concordia University (congregation members only)
- Tuition assistance at Concordia Seminary (congregation members only)
- Financial assistance for continuing education (congregation members in professional church work)

Important Information

Eligibility

We will award tuition assistance on a verifiable need basis. If you (the student) are in high school, college, or a post-graduate program, you must be an active member of St. Mark Lutheran Church. Otherwise, we award tuition assistance at St. Mark Lutheran School to families who enroll students in **kindergarten through eighth grade**.

In order to be considered for assistance, apply and pay the school application fee (for St. Mark Lutheran School) or provide evidence of enrollment at a Lutheran school of higher education. Your application for tuition assistance will not be considered if you have not applied to the School.

We award financial assistance on the basis of demonstrated financial need and we will not discriminate against any applicant on the basis of race, color or national origin.

NEW THIS YEAR:

We will grant assistance on a priority basis to families who graduate from, are currently participating in, or have enrolled in a future course through Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University (FPU) program. For information about the program and to enroll, go to www.daveramsey.com. If you are taking the class at a location other than St. Mark, please provide proof of registration, attendance, or graduation certificate with application. The attached letter explains our expectations and how to contact us to discuss or inquire further.

Due Date and Information Required

Applications should be filed no later than May 1. During May, the majority of the scholarship funds are granted to the pool of qualified applicants, so there is limited, if any, assistance available after May. Returning students who received assistance during the current year must reapply for the following school year.

Please provide all the information requested. You should complete all parts of the application and attached a copy of your 2010 IRS 1040 tax return and year-end W-2 forms. **We will not review or consider incomplete applications.** Please provide **all** income sources, noting any emergencies or special problems that make tuition assistance necessary.

Separated or divorced parents must have the custodial parent and the custodial parent's spouse complete this application. The non-custodial parent may also be required to complete a separate application. If someone other than a parent is financially responsible, that person should complete the application and explain the relationship.

Note 1: Applies to Bielefeldt Scholarships only. This application is not necessary for LHN Congregational Assistance.

I. Personal Information for Financially-Responsible Party(ies)

<u>Father, Stepfather or Male Adult Applicant</u> Name _____ Occupation _____ Employer _____ Yrs. _____ Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____ Email address: _____ Church Affiliation _____	<u>Mother, Stepmother, or Female Adult Applicant</u> Name _____ Occupation _____ Employer _____ Yrs. _____ Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____ Email address: _____ Church Affiliation _____
Mailing Address _____ <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> Street City State Zip </div>	

Check boxes for all persons whose financial data are entered on the form:

Father Mother Stepfather Stepmother Male Guardian Female Guardian Self (for adult applicants only)

Check any that apply :

Parents live together Father unable to work Mother unable to work
Parents separated or divorced Father deceased Mother deceased

Student applicant lives with (check any and all that apply):

Father Mother Stepfather Stepmother Male Guardian Female Guardian

II. Student Information

Student(s) for whom financial assistance is being requested _____

Name of School where student has enrolled for 2010-2011: _____

Enrolled student's church membership _____

Full Name of all Dependent Children	Current Age	Current Grade	Name of Current School

III. Financial Information

1. Do not leave anything blank. Enter a zero (0) if no other entry is appropriate
2. Enter all amounts in dollars, omit cents.

Estimated Annual Gross Income	
Salaries - Father, Stepfather, Guardian	\$
Salaries - Mother, Stepmother, Guardian	\$
Dividend and/or interest income	\$
Alimony received	\$
Child support received	\$
Net profits from business/farm	\$
Net losses from business/farm	\$ ()
Bonus, gift, other	\$
Social Security benefits	\$
Disability or unemployment benefits	\$
Food Stamps (value)	\$
Auto or other expense allowances	\$
Other (describe)	\$
Total	\$

Assets (estimated values):

Item	Year Purchased	Purchase Price	Present Market Value	Unpaid Mortgage Principal
Home				
Land				
Other Real Estate				

Cash - bank accounts - total savings and checking accounts \$ _____
 College and Retirement accounts, current value (i.e. 401k, IRAs) \$ _____
 Other investments - net value \$ _____

IV. Additional Information

Please note any circumstances or special problems not noted in this application that would limit your ability to make tuition payments, including explanation, if appropriate, of how your circumstances may have changed since the previous tax year.

V. Pledge

We declare that the information reported on this form, to the best of our knowledge and belief, is true, accurate and complete. We pledge that if our financial situation improves after an award is granted, we will notify St. Mark immediately to reduce or discontinue aid so that funds may be available to assist other families.

Signed (all financially-responsible parties: _____

VI. Conditions

In order to retain continuing financial assistance throughout the school year, the following conditions must be met during the course of the school year:

1. Tuition and fee payments must be kept current.
2. Student(s) must be in good standing in regards to academics and discipline.
3. If financial assistance is contingent on membership at St. Mark Lutheran Church, then regular attendance (at least 60%) at worship services or bible classes is required.

St. Mark reserves the right to revoke awards of financial assistance if such conditions are not met.



ST. MARK
Building for Life

TO: Possible Recipients of Financial Assistance for St. Mark Lutheran School

FROM: Scott E. Heitshusen, Senior Pastor

SUBJECT: Frequently Asked Questions regarding “Financial Peace University” Graduation

Q1: What are the requirements for receiving financial assistance for tuition at St. Mark?

Complete and submit the documents for application to enroll at St. Mark Lutheran School, together with the application fee. Also complete the St. Mark Lutheran Church and School Unified Application for Tuition Assistance and submit it with the required documents (tax return and W-2). Awards are determined and communicated in May and are granted on a priority basis to families with verifiable financial need.

Also, all award recipients will be required to have completed or enrolled in “Financial Peace University” [“FPU”]. This is a 13 week course, which has lessons focusing on Biblical stewardship principles. Specifically, that means that an adult guardian in your family (preferably both a husband and wife together) must attend 12 out of the 13 small group sessions involved in the course. Each class consists of approximately one hour video presentation followed by another one hour small group session.

Q2: What is “Financial Peace University” (i.e. “FPU”)?

FPU is a thirteen (13) week, Biblically-based course designed to transform people and their financial situation. It strives to get God’s people out of debt so they can give and live like never before.

The program has two components; ⁽¹⁾a video lesson led by Dave Ramsey and ⁽²⁾a small group discussion and accountability group.

Q3: What is meant by “graduating” from FPU?

In order to fulfill the “graduation” requirement, one parent/guardian must be present for at least 12 of the 13 small group discussion and accountability groups. It is strongly preferable and recommended that both parents/guardians be present so they can work together as a team.

Q4: Why is this a requirement now?

In looking at the reality of financial difficulty that most Americans face, it is inevitable that St. Mark families are facing difficulties as well. We recognize the value in helping people through these difficulties. We do not *just* want to help with a financial break through tuition assistance, but help by offering tools and information which can benefit you and your family much more through the rest of your lives!

All of us need help and can do things better. My wife and I are learning a great deal and are blest by this program ourselves. We want to share those blessings with you and your family as well.

In addition, we are called to be the best stewards we can be of the limited financial assistance funds that we have. By making sure assistance goes to those who have attended this class, we can help assure that they will have the greatest impact they can.

Q5: What if I can’t attend during the times/dates it is offered?

FPU is an extremely popular course and, consequently, it is offered countless times in a myriad of locations. If the times/dates that FPU is offered at St. Mark are not compatible with you and your family’s schedule, you can go to www.daveramsey.com/fpu and search for the classes during times/dates which will work for you. You do not have to attend St. Mark’s offering to fulfill this requirement. It may be done at any location where it is offered.

Q6: I can’t afford the materials; that’s why I *need* assistance! What does this mean for me?

We recognize that this seems incongruent. However, we strongly believe that if the program is taken – and *followed* – you will be in a *much* better financial position and will be happy to have paid.

Q7: I still can't afford them! What now?

We are aware that even the modest price of the materials can be very difficult for some. If that is the case, let us know and we will work out an agreement which will work for you and your family.

Q8: When is the next FPU class going to be offered at St. Mark?

We do not yet have all our future dates and times finalized, although we expect to offer courses again in the summer and fall. Contact the church office and we will let you know as soon as those dates and times have been set. Once set, they will be listed on the FPU website at www.daveramsey.com/fpu.

Q9: I have more questions. Where can I get them answered?

You can contact me (sheitshusen@stmarkhouston.org or on my cell at 713/965-6761) or Kelly Biar (kbiar@stmarkhouston.org or in her office at 713/255-3630).