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**THIS IS NOT A PLEDGE FORM**

Choosing Christian education for our children is one way we as Christians can uphold the baptismal covenant to bring up our children in the Lord. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Prov. 22:6. Christian education is a partnership between home, school, and church; each taking an active role in the upbringing of our children, with the parents being primarily accountable. "Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." Deut. 11:18-19.

The Shalom Christian Education Assistance Ministry (CEAM) was established to provide tuition assistance for Sioux Falls Christian Day School education. This assistance will be available to all children of Shalom CRC members in kindergarten through high school if their parents request participation in the ministry. We, as a church, want to provide assistance to families that desire Christian day school education for their children but are unable to pay the full cost. **Return this form ONLY if you feel you will need assistance with tuition. If you are able to cover the cost of tuition, you do not need to return this form.**

As a new fiscal year approaches, we need to fulfill the requirements of the Christian Education Assistance Ministry. In the CEAM policy, the following are required:

- **Parents must annually make a request to the Diaconate to be added to the list of families who wish to participate in the Shalom CRC Christian Education Assistance Ministry.**
- **Parents must also apply for their tuition assistance through Sioux Falls Christian School (SFC), using their 3<sup>rd</sup> party assessment form to determine the amount they are able to pay. The deadline for this application to SFC is April 15, 2026.**
- **The Christian Education Assistance Ministry will pay the amount identified by SFC's 3<sup>rd</sup> party. The family will pay the remaining balance directly to the school.**
- **The Diaconate will provide SFC with a list of families who have requested to participate in the ministry to determine the related Christian education assistance cost at the school.**
- **If a Shalom family (that either has or has not enrolled in the ministry) experiences unexpected hardship, such as job loss, illness, etc., and is unable to pay their portion of Christian school tuition, they can request assistance from the CEAM. The level of assistance will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.**

It is our prayer that every Shalom CRC member would support the Christian Education Assistance Ministry.

Please complete this form if you wish to participate in the CEAM and place it in the offering bag or return it to the church office by **February 15, 2026**, so we can uphold our obligations to the school.

**\*Please note, in compliance with IRS guidelines**, offerings given toward Shalom's ministries by CEAM enrollees will not be tax-deductible, up to the amount of assistance paid by Shalom on their behalf.

For additional information, please contact a Deacon. Thanks again for your prayers and financial support.

In His Service,

The Deacons ~ Nate Spronk (Chair), Kristin Breen (Treasurer), Tracy Bleeker, Jason Bonnema, Angie Buys, Jolene Feenstra, Terri Harmelink, Tanner Overweg, Al Punt

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We (I), \_\_\_\_\_ would like to participate in the Shalom Christian Education Assistance Ministry for the 2026-27 school Year. The children we would like to enroll are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_