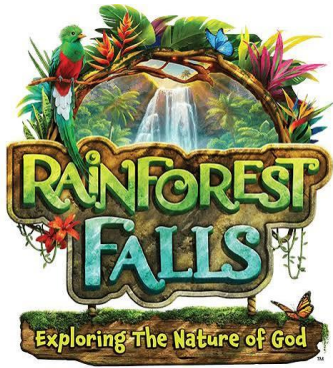




Welcome to St John's VBS 2026 Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God! August 24th to August 28th

You are receiving this email because you have a youth signed up for the 2026 VBS at St John's Anglican Church Strathroy running from August 24th to August 28th. If your schedule has changed and your youth will not be available to join us, please reply so I will be able to open your spot to those waiting to join. Some spots available for preschool and tween programs as well volunteer opportunities for those who would like to complete high school hours. vbspro.events/p/st-john-strathroy-vbs-2026

Drop off is between 8 and 9 am Monday to Friday. We ask that everyone try to arrive by 8:45 to get organized into groups do attendance and any group prep before the program starts at 9am. If you are running a bit late it is ok to still come on in. A volunteer will assist your youth in finding their group to join them for a fun day. Upon arrival, please sign your youth in at the registration table. At closing only approved person can sign youth out. If there are changes this can be noted with volunteers in the morning or by text to Kelly if last minute.

Our closing station will start approximately 3pm Monday – Thursday and parents and family are welcome to join us each or any of these days Where we will be recapping and celebrating our day. Closing will take about 30 minutes each day. During the closing stations we will gather together and recap what we did through the day through experiments, songs and a video recap. We asked that **pick up** occur between 3:30 and 4. If at any time you run into an issue and are running late for pick up, please feel free to call myself, Kelly, at 226-237-6723 or the church office at 519-245-2131 My email is StJohnsfamilyandYouth@gmail.com and you can send me text.

If there is any food allergies or concerns, we ask that you forward them as soon as possible. If anything comes up between now and during the camp feel free to contact us. Kids are to bring their own lunch. We will provide snacks throughout the day. If your camper is a picky eater sending extra snacks that you know they will eat is encouraged.

Reminder that with the increases in cost we are encouraging a **donation of \$25 per camper** to assist in the overall cost of the camp. If you are able to donate more it is greatly appreciated to assist us in continuing to provide this camp annually, If you are unable to make the donation please don't hesitate to reach out to Kelly so we don't make anyone feel uncomfortable accidentally (we understand that times are tough and some circumstances come up), donations can be dropped off at the registration table all week or made to the church at any time. Donation receipts for tax purposes will be issued.

On Friday we like to invite families to join us in a fun afternoon. We will have a BBQ lunch (forms included to order food so we know we will have enough) at 1pm (we will have snacks throughout the morning) followed by our closing slide shows and some fun then some games and activities to share. If you are not able to attend, your youth are still welcome to stay till 4pm if needed.

Service Project

Each year we hold a service project and this year the kids will be learning about a project to help kids in another country. We continue collecting for children in our community. We encourage families to bring in school items that will be donated to the WRRC to assist their needs. There will be a box for items to be placed. Items include: backpacks, pencil cases, crayons, pens, binders, lunch pails, snacks, and any items you know kids (of all ages) may need to start school. Sometimes these are needed in emergencies throughout the year.

What to bring Each Day?

Please send the following items with your youth each day **labeled**:

- Sunblock (weather permitting we will be outside for games every day and during the lunch break)
- Hat
- Reusable Water bottle
- Lunch, Extra snack (a program snack and a healthy afternoon snack are provided but if your child is picky or are not interested in the snack,)
- Towel and extra cloths (games may involve water each day)
- Running shoes or sandals that cover toes and are secured on feet (we will be playing games each day and don't want them falling off or tripping)
- Backpack to bring home pictures and crafts

Attachments

You will notice the following forms attached to fill out and return by email or print and bring to camp on the Monday. (Can also be dropped off to the church through mail slot in envelope attention Kelly)

1. Permission Form

- a. **Permission to leave premises:** for youth to go over to OLI school yard at lunch)
- b. **Photo permission:** please read carefully and check off what is best for your family. We will be taking photos for slide shows daily and to keep for posting within the church as well as on the website. We will be planning for a group picture to be taken early in the week for all to have as a keepsake at the end of the week.)
- c. **Permission to be signed out:** important if there is an older sibling at camp who you feel comfortable signing out and walking home.

2. Family BBQ: order for those who will be attending the lunch on Friday, include your camper in the order. Return one form back for each family. Lunch is provided = hotdogs, chips, veggies and fruit.

3. Future Events

- a. **Participation in Sunday Service:** We always follow up the VBS with a presentation of song at the Sunday service. We would love the youth to join us in a camp favourite song to thank the congregation in providing this week and making it possible. Families are welcome to join our services are open to all. Services during the summer are held in the hall where kids have been participating in the VBS Camp all week. If you are able to attend we ask that the youth gather in the Sunday School room for a practice at 10:30 Service starts at 11 and is usually about an hour. There will be a light coffee hour to follow you are welcome to stay for.
- b. **Interest in future events:** As many know I am also the Sunday School Coordinator and have run youth programs through the church. If you think your youth or family may be interested in knowing when events are taking place, please mark those that your family would be interested in. I have also set up online registration for some so if you would like to receive emails, please use QR codes provided.

Tweens

New for this year is our Tween Program. This is a transitional program for those who still like being a camper but also getting to the age for leadership. Our plan for this is that program is run during the morning and in the afternoon, we will work on leadership skills by assisting at stations and other tasks through out the camp. The tweens will have daily challenges and participation. We look forward to your feedback throughout the week to help build this to another great opportunity at our VBS. If you know other youth who may be interested in attending have them register through the link vbspro.events/p/st-john-strathroy-vbs-2026

Code of Conduct

This is not usually an issue but over my many years and camps I have had a few incidents. This is a safe space for all people. We will all work together with manners and respect. We will address any situations that make any campers or volunteers uncomfortable or unsafe. We will do our best to make camp a welcoming environment that each person wants to return to (all week and yearly). Sometimes campers have a hard time being separated or feel they don't need to be at camp. Some may feel overwhelmed and need a break (I often need a sensory break throughout the day too.) This will be based on each situation individually. Again I have not had many issues over the years but want to make families aware that we are trying to make it a safe space for all. Please if we have not noticed it and your camper expresses anything share with us so it can be addressed.

Volunteers

This camp is run by volunteers. Many of our youth volunteers have been attending this camp for years. We have several church members who come out to assist in supervision and support the youth as they learn how to be leaders. Volunteers will be getting together week of August 16th If you know anyone interested in volunteering, please reach out to Kelly and register as a volunteer on the VBS site. vbspro.events/p/st-john-strathroy-vbs-2026

Anyone 18 and over will need to have a valid police check. The receipt and copy can be brought in and we will reimburse for volunteer with vulnerable sector. These are done online and if you need assistance we can arrange a time together to have them completed. Students who have finished grade 8 or going into grade 12 can have their volunteer sheets signed.

If you are available a few hours, a day or 2 or all week.

There are many ways to volunteer

- Decorations and setup (August 16th till camp is ready)
- Run stations (there are several stations running that come with a script and all activities planned including games, science games. We also have a few stations that are improvised activities that Directory has planned)
- Assistant Director of Programs (Preschool Age, Elementary Age and Tween): Making sure these areas are running as planned
- Clean-up and organize: basic cleaning after activities are completed as well as preparing for the next day
- Dramatic & Music: skits and stories that need actors as well and leading songs at opening and closing. No music skills needed and scripts are ready to be provided.

I would like to assign stations by August 1 to those who have signed up and will send an email link with the program book or we can arrange to have a printed copy ready. This way everyone is ready for a run through of activities prior to camp.

At anytime there is a concern, questions, suggestions or comment, please see or contact Kelly
StJohnsFamilyAndYouth@gmail.com

Looking forward to another amazing year
Kelly