Mrs. Tia Esser
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. James Stubkjaer
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

Dr. Kristen Newell
ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL
ELEMENTARY STEM DIRECTOR

Mrs. Brenda Bernard
PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR



Mar 28, 2025

STRENGTHENING OUR SFLS FAMILY: SHARE THE GIFT OF CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL WITH A FRIEND

Dear Sioux Falls Lutheran School Family,

God's blessings to you as we journey through the Lenten season, preparing our hearts and minds for the death and resurrection of our Lord. This sacred time reminds us that all things rest in His hands, and His plans are always for our good—to prosper us, not to harm us, and to give us hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11).

I'm reaching out to share an unexpected enrollment trend and to ask for your help. Our spring enrollment season is nearly complete, and we are grateful for another year of wonderful growth in our Kindergarten through 12th grade classrooms—so far, **a 7% increase**, with four months still remaining before the 2025-26 school year. Historically, we welcome an additional 20-25 K-12 students during these months and pray that trend continues—all thanks to God and His powerful work through you!

I want to pause and say **thank you**, because the vast majority of these new enrollments come from you—our SFLS families—who share your positive experiences with family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues. Your "volunteer" recruitment assistance, which comes as the result of your

QUICK LINKS

Career Corner

<u>Chapel</u>

Counseling Services

PTF

RaiseRight (aka SCRIP)

Eagle Care

Preschool

Elementary

Middle School

High School

Athletics

Drama

Music

Association Churches

Upcoming Events

enthusiasm and advocacy, makes an incredible impact, and we are deeply grateful. Thank you, thank you,

THANK YOU!

At the same time, we are seeing an anomaly in our 4 and 5-year-old preschool enrollment. By this time of year, these classrooms are typically near capacity, however at this writing, we have roughly 20 full-time spots still available.

We believe uncertain times are playing a role—a local journalist recently described this moment in history as "March Sadness." We know in times of uncertainty, families long for stability—a place where children can grow, learn, and be nurtured in faith. At the same time, as our nation faces economic challenges,

parents are carefully weighing decisions about education, seeking both **affordability and excellence.** At Sioux Falls Lutheran School, we recognize these concerns and remain committed to **keeping tuition as accessible as possible** while maintaining an **exceptional Christ-centered education.** We strive to partner with families so more children can experience the SFLS difference—security, community, and our



steadfast commitment to providing excellent academics and spiritual growth.

Why does preschool enrollment matter so much?

As you know, Sioux Falls Lutheran School is more than just a school; it is a beacon of faith and learning where children are deeply known, loved, and nurtured. A thriving preschool program strengthens our entire school community, ensuring we can continue offering enriching programs, a robust multi-age community, and an affordable Christian education for the entire school. Most importantly, it allows us to carry out our Gospel-spreading mission: to prepare students to be World Ready, Faith Secure.

Here's where we need and appreciate your help:

If you know a family with a 4-year-old seeking a strong educational start, please share <u>your</u> story. Time and again, we hear the wonderful SFLS experiences you're telling others—so please **keep up** the great work with a focus on 4-year-olds! We would love for them to consider SFLS, because as you well know, we provide more than an education—we offer a place where God's love is known, where children are cherished, and where they are prepared for a future of purpose and promise.

We know these are challenging times, but we also know that God is faithful. Philippians 4:19 reminds us, "And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." We trust in His provision and in the power of our strong and faithful community. If someone you know is looking for a Christ-centered preschool experience, we invite you to reach out. We have a place ready, and we'd be honored to welcome more children into our school family.

Thank you for your prayers, your encouragement, your support, and your help. We couldn't do what we do without you; and together, we can continue to build a thriving school where children experience the love of Christ and the joy of learning at every turn.

With Gratefulness to God for You ALL!

Mrs. Tia Esser, Executive Director Romans 12:2

CHRIS'S CAKES ATHLETIC FUNDRAISER

Sunday, March 30 - 9:30 AM to 1 PM - SFLS Commons *Free Will Offering*

We are **STILL LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS**. Please click **THIS LINK** to fill the remaining 1 hour open slots. We appreciate your help!!



BASKET BINGO



Bring your friends and family - all ages welcome - for a night of fun and laughter. Winners will receive unique basket prizes!

BLOOD MOBILE

Please click this link or use the QR code to sign up for a time to donate.

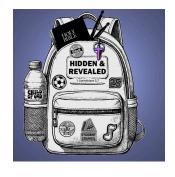


CAMP MINNEBOJI - EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION UNTIL MARCH 31!

June 15 - 21, 2025: For students who have finished 4th grade through students who have finished 9th grade. (9th graders find information on Honors Camp on page 2.)

Learn more about camp here: Camp Booklet

Registrations continue, sign up today! Register Here



NEEDS-BASED VARIABLE TUITION APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

The K-12 needs-based variable tuition application window for the 2025-26 school year is now open through TADS. Thanks to our expanding list of generous donors who continue to graciously invest in our mission through donations to our needs-based variable tuition fund, we are preparing to award up to \$400,000 in needs-based variable tuition to qualifying families during the 2025-26 school year.

<u>Families that have received variable tuition funds in years past must reapply annually.</u> Applications for the 2025-26 school year are due by May 15, 2025.

To apply, please log into or create a TADS account for your family at www.mytads.com by clicking on "Financial Aid Assessment." TADS will provide a complete list of required documentation before you begin your application, but please know that items like your previous year's tax return are required.

If your family has received funds through the <u>South Dakota Partners in Education (SDPE) tax-credit</u> <u>scholarship program</u> for the past three years, you must reapply for those funds this year as well by sending your application to both SFLS and SDPE.

If you have any technical questions while submitting your variable tuition application, please feel free to contact TDS support directly at 800-477-8237 or support@tads.com (M-F 7 AM - 8 PM CST).

VOLLEYBALL FUNDRAISER



2024 TAX INFORMATION

Families enrolled at SFLS who used the TADS billing system in 2024 will click **HERE** for instructions on accessing your tax information. For steps through the FACTS Management system, click **HERE**. Keep in mind, if you have been billed through TADS and FACTS in 2024, you will need to access both systems. Please consult your tax advisor for questions regarding tax credits and deductions.

CAREER CORNER

Would you or someone you know make a great addition to our team? We're seeking:

Preschool:

 Substitute assistants: Are you interested in being on our call list to assist in one of our classrooms? This could be in infants, toddlers and 3-year-olds to 5-year-olds. With subbing, you have complete flexibility to choose specific days and say yes or no when getting a call. Come have fun with us!

Eagle Care:

- Part-time afternoon assistants: Adults and/or high school age students:
 - Flexible schedule: between 3:15 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday

Office:

• Full-Time Administrative Assistant: The ideal candidate will be a loving, Christian role model who, under the direction of the Preschool & Elementary Principals, or their designees, performs a variety of clerical and support work involving both specific routines and broadly defined policies and procedures. The individual will greet and interact with the public with friendly, outgoing service; work cooperatively with staff, students, and parents; and perform other related duties as assigned.

Please prayerfully consider joining our team and/or sharing these opportunities with someone you believe would be a good fit! Contact Debbie Pankow at dpankow@sflutheranschool.com for more information.

View jobs and application instructions here: www.siouxfallslutheran.com/careers.

CHAPEL

Chapel times for Wednesday, April 2nd, led by Pastor Ascher from Resurrection Lutheran Church:

6-12 chapel: 8:10 AMK-5 chapel: 8:50 AM

This year's theme is ONE - The Gospel Story is Our Story. This week's topic: Armor of God; Belt of Truth.

Preschool chapel will be held on Tuesday, April 1st, led by DCE Liz Peters from Memorial Lutheran Church, in the Early Childhood wing beginning at 8:40 and 9:00 AM. This week's theme: *Armor of God*.

Campus Chaplain the week of March 31st, is Pastor Ascher from Resurrection Lutheran Church.

Chapel Offerings for 2nd semester will go to support Lutheran Family Service (LFS). So far we have collected **\$780.35**.

LFS offers the following services:







Adoption Services



Marriage Counseling

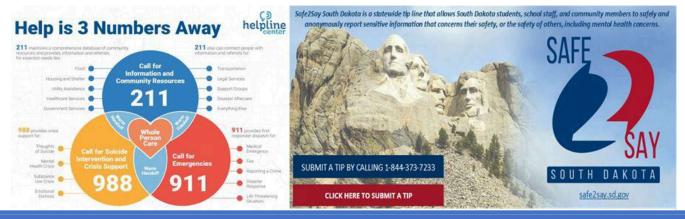


Mental Health Counseling



Outreach

COUNSELING SERVICES



PARENT-TEACHER-FELLOWSHIP

CONNECT WITH THE PTF ON FACEBOOK



RAISERIGHT (AKA SCRIP)

Order Dates by 10 AM	Pick-Up Dates after 11 AM	
Monday, March 31	Thursday, April 3	
Monday, April 7	Thursday, April 10	
No RaiseRight Orders Week of April 14	No RaiseRight Orders Week of April 14	

EAGLE CARE

Please plan ahead. Our last day of school is Tuesday, May 20, 2025, preschool will be dismissed at 11 and K-12 at 11:30 AM. We will only have morning Eagle Care that day. Summer Eagle Care will begin on Tuesday, May 27, 2025.



ELEMENTARY

Shorts! April 1st officially marks the end of the "shorts" hiatus. Students are welcome to wear shorts again in April and May. We hope this means spring has really sprung! Please make sure your child's body is appropriately covered when sitting, bending, and climbing. We want to honor all bodies as God has made them and give special honor to special parts by keeping them covered.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

EAGLE EXCELLENCE

Congratulations to the Middle School Students chosen for 3rd Quarter Eagle Excellence!



Back row: Kennedy Parrish, Eden Hitchcock, Isaac Jesch, Ethan Olander, Avery Alderman, Liam Butler-Mulloy, Will Thorn, Joe List, Chassidy Baldwin, Caydence Baldwin, Emily Steensma, Clara Pederson, Ainslee Pluim, CJ Jasmer

Middle Row: Lydia Melius, Lydia Warden, JP Moss, Draven Sonnenfeld, Josiah Newell, Crosby Alderman, Titus Weeman, Noah Baumbach, Olivia Eide, Kenzie Iverson

Front Row: Tradyn Sand, Jacob Richards, Henry Slavens

SMARTWATCH REMINDER

Students are not allowed to wear **smartwatches** during the school day. This is a distraction that we can minimize to provide a productive learning environment. If you need to message your student, please go through the office (605) 335-1923 or email your student's homeroom teacher.

HIGH SCHOOL

SFLS SCHOLARSHIP HUB

Upcoming 2025 graduates, be sure to check the <u>scholarship hub</u> often, as it gets updated with new scholarship opportunities.

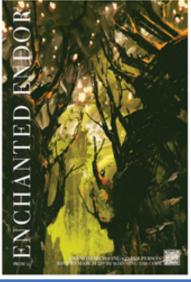
OUR CUP RUNNETH OVER CAFE

Follow sfls.our_cup_runneth_over on Instagram to see updates as we go!

Cafe hours:

- Tuesdays and Thursdays after school until 4:00 PM
- Wednesdays and Fridays before school from 7:00 7:50 AM





Prom '25: Enchanted Endor Saturday, April 5

6:00 PM Grand March 6:30 PM Dinner & Murder Mystery 9:30 PM Dance 11:30-1:30 AM Games & Movies

ATHLETICS

GOLF

First practice Monday, March 31 at Brandon Golf Course
Practices will be held M/T/TH/F at Brandon Golf Course; Wednesday Varsity only at SFLS

TRACK & FIELD

Tuesday, April 1: HS indoor meet @ DWU Mitchell

FAITH & HOOPS SHOWDOWN

Join students, family, and friends NEXT FRIDAY as they cheer for their favorite team when our high school basketball teams face their pastors, church workers, teachers, and coaches!

- Friday, April 4
- Doors open at 6:30 PM
- Admission \$: Free-Will Donations
- Schedule:

Women's Game @ 7 PM Intermission Men's Game

- Women's & Men's games will have 5-minute quarters and a 10-minute half-time
- Limited concessions will be available

All proceeds will go towards purchasing a shooting machine for the high school basketball programs.









CONCESSION: FREE WILL DONATION



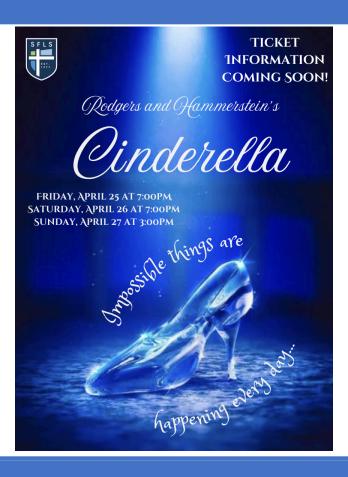
2025 SFLS Summer Camps

Activity	Date	Grades	Times	Location	Cost
Volleyball	June 2-5	8-12	1:00-3:00 p.m.	SFLS Gym	\$60 (includes t-shirt)
		5-7	3:00-4:30 p.m.	SFLS Gym	\$60 (includes t-shirt)
		2-4	4:30-5:30p.m.	SFLS Gym	\$40 (includes t-shirt)
Drama	June 2-6	5-12	9-11 a.m.; Performance Friday at 7 p.m.	SFLS CPAC	\$100 (includes t-shirt)
Football	June 16-19	9-12	Sign up with Mr. Strande	Hamlin HS, Bryant, SD	\$50
	June 27	9-12	DRSM/Garretson HS Team Camp	Garretson	Free
	July 8-10	3-6	8-9:30 a.m.	Eagle Field	\$60 (includes t-shirt)
	July 8-10	7-12	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Eagle Field	\$60 (includes t-shirt)
Strength & Agility	June2- July 31	7-12	7 - 8:20		
	(T/W/Th.)	7-12	8:40 - 10:00	SFLS Fitness Room	\$175 (includes t-shirt)
Boys & Girls Basketball	June 9-11	K-2	9-10:30 a.m.	SFLS Gym	\$60
		3-5	10:45 a.m12:15 p.m.	SFLS Gym	\$60
		6-8	1:15-2:45pm	SFLS Gym	\$60
Marching Band	July 28- Aug. 1	6-8	For SFLS band students. More information	SFLS School	TBD
	Aug.4-8	9-12	to come from Mrs. Birnstiehl at a later date.	SFLS School	TBD
Cheer	June 11-13	4-6	9-11 a.m.	SFLS Gym	\$60 (includes t-shirt)
	June 27	7-12	9 a.m 3 p.m.	SFLS Gym	\$60 (includes t-shirt)
Dance	July 14-17	5-12	9-11:30 a.m.	SFLS Gym	\$60 (includes t-shirt)

Sign up for these summer camps by April 23: <u>Volleyball</u>; <u>Drama</u>; <u>Football</u>; <u>Strength & Agility</u>; <u>Basketball</u>; <u>Cheer</u>; <u>Dance</u>. After April 23, there is no guarantee you will receive a t-shirt.

Marching Band registration will come directly from Mrs. Birnstiehl when competition schedules are set.

DRAMA



Music

Thank you to High School Choir students who shared their singing talents and served at Trail Ridge on Wednesday, March 19th. Bella, Kelsie, Kaitlyn, Luke, Dante, Charlie and Caius provided music for a banquet for retired teachers and school personnel. Your music was enjoyed by all who attended the banquet.





APRIL Middle School Ensemble Calendar

Click or scan to take a look at the SFLS Strings Site!





Calling All Kindergarten Parents!

We want YOU to join the Kindergarten spring program on May 1! If you play an instrument and are interested in accompanying your child's violin performance for the spring program, please reach out to Ms. Temple!

Elementary and Middle School Concerts:

May 1 - Kindergarten and 3rd Spring Programs

Kindergarten - 12:30 PM

3rd Grade - 2:00 PM

May 12 - 4th-8th Spring Concerts

4th/5th - 6:00 PM

6th-8th - 7:15 PM

High School Music Upcoming Events:

- Tuesday, April 8: HS Spring Concert 6:30 PM (all HS music students)
- Monday, May 5: Dallas Brass will be here at SFLS to give a concert in the evening and to work with our music students
- Friday, May 16: SFLS Graduation Ceremony HS music students will perform

DALLAS BRASS AT SFLS

On Monday, May 5th, our band, choir, and orchestra students will get the once-in-a-lifetime chance to perform with this world-renowned ensemble — right here in the SFLS Gymnasium!

Thanks to generous donors, tickets are discounted and on sale now!

In Concert at SFLS
Monday, May 5
7:00pm

Saye the date for an unforgettable performance

Save the date for an unforgettable performance by Dallas Brass and SFLS students.

Don't miss this incredible night

of music that celebrates our students using their God-given gifts.

Seating is tiered with floor and bleacher options (stadium chairs welcome!).

Association Churches

Faith - Rev. Corey Aker and Rev. Jason Rensner



Fresh Hope for Mental Health Support Group - Click **HERE** for meeting dates.

Lord of Life - Rev. Billy Newell

Memorial - Rev. Aaron Asmus, Rev. Doug Slavens, DCE Hailey Jo Miller and DCE Liz Peters



Our Redeemer - Rev. Brett Simek

Resurrection - Rev. Chris Ascher

Click HERE for all church's worship times

HIGH SCHOOL SUPPORTING MEMBER

ZION - Rev. Greg Lehr

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please visit your FACTS family portal calendar or click this link to our website for upcoming events.

Please contact schooloffice@sflutheranschool.com with any questions or concerns.



6715 South Boe Lane, Sioux Falls, SD 57108 siouxfallslutheran.com | (605) 335-1923