



Sioux Falls Lutheran School

EAGLES NEWS



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

[Mr. James Stubkjaer](#)
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

[Dr. Kristen Newell](#)
ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL
ELEMENTARY STEM DIRECTOR

[Mrs. Brenda Bernard](#)
PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

May 16, 2025

Dear SFLS Families,

As we bring the 2024-25 school year to a close, we give thanks for the many ways God continues work through our Sioux Falls Lutheran School community in powerful, powerful ways. From the joyful moments of student growth to the quiet strength shown in challenges, we have witnessed the beauty of living as **one** body, guided by **one** Spirit, united in **one** hope. Our theme from Ephesians 4:4–6 has reminded us that no matter our differences in age, background, or role, we belong to **one** Lord, share **one** faith, and are called together by **one** God and Father of all. What a powerful truth to carry with us into summer!



Thank you for walking alongside us this year in faith and partnership—it's a deep honor and privilege to serve your families. And whether you're a long-standing part of our community or new to the Eagle family, ***your presence has been a vital thread in the fabric of who we are.***

As we look ahead with hope and confidence, may our unity in Christ continue to shape the way we teach, learn, serve, and grow—always with hearts grounded in the truth that we are World Ready, Faith Secure, and ever **ONE** in Him.

May God bless your summer break with wonderful memory-making adventures—we will miss you and can't wait to welcome you back on August 20th!

With Love and Gratefulness,

Mrs. Tia Esser

Romans 12:2

P.S. Be on the watch for exciting updates over the summer as we unveil new technology initiatives in the 2025–26 school year!

QUICK LINKS

[Career Corner](#)

[Chapel](#)

[Counseling Services](#)

[PTF](#)

[RaiseRight \(aka SCRIP\)](#)

[Eagle Care](#)

[Elementary](#)

[Middle School](#)

[High School](#)

[Athletics](#)

[Music](#)

[Association Churches](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

IMAGINE IMMEASURABLY MORE CAMPAIGN/UPPER SCHOOL EXPANSION UPDATE

NEW

We're excited to share that construction on the Upper School Expansion is progressing steadily and on schedule! Over the past few weeks, steel framing has gone up, and the shape of the new academic wing is starting to take form—even changing the school's skyline! It's inspiring to watch the vision for expanded high school classrooms, science and Smart labs, and collaborative learning spaces come to life—brick by brick.



As crews continue their work, interior planning and design details are also being finalized to ensure that our new spaces reflect both the excellence and mission of SFLS. We remain deeply grateful for the generous support of our donors, who have generously gifted over \$2,000,000 toward this \$6.2 million project; and God's continued provision through the *Imagine Immeasurably More* and *Upper Room* campaigns. Please continue to keep this project in your prayers. We look forward to opening this beautiful new space in January 2026!



[Make a Donation](#)

END OF SCHOOL YEAR INFORMATION

NEW

- **K-8 Field Day:** Monday, May 19th - Activities run from 12:30-2:45 PM. Parents are welcome.
- **Last Chapel:** Preschool is Monday, May 19th at 8:40 & 9:00 AM - K-11 is Tuesday, May 20th at 10:30 AM.
- **Last Day of School:** Preschool through 11th grade is Tuesday, May 20th. Dismissal times are:
 - Preschool at 11:00 AM
 - K-11th at 11:30 AM
 - NO AFTER-SCHOOL EAGLE CARE
- **Lost & Found:** We will be donating anything left after school on Tuesday, May 20th to St. Vincent de Paul (northeast corner of 41st St. & Tea-Ellis road). Jewelry and electronics are kept in the school office.
- **Medications:** Please remember to pick up medications that were kept at the school during the year. They will not be sent home with your student. If you have any questions, please contact schooloffice@sflutherschool.com.

DRIVEWAY PAINTING NEW

SFLS



Coming soon to a driveway near you, is an opportunity to show pride in your SFLS Eagle students and athletes.

The 2025-26 Junior class will be taking orders to paint the Eagle head logo onto a 3' x 3' area near the end of your driveway.

Cost: \$25

All proceeds go to support Prom 2026.

Use this QR Code or this [LINK](#) to order your Eagle Logo for your driveway.

Painting will begin early August using high quality/long lasting paint.



NOT ALL HEROES WEAR CAPES

**SOME WEAR
APRONS!**



Bhrett Baney
Christopher Baumbach
Bob Berg
Gary Bills
Tom Kenyon
Dennis Mantz
Jeff Nelson
Mike Pankow

Patty Peters
Andrea Pham
Lynette Sayler
Darlene Sopko
Mary Sturm
Sandy Tams
Kim Thuringer

Our heartfelt gratitude for our hot lunch volunteers; your unwavering dedication and tireless efforts in ensuring that our students receive nourishing meals every day. Your commitment to creating a positive and welcoming lunchtime experience is truly commendable.

Thank you for:

1. **Serving with a Smile:** Your warm smiles and friendly interactions make the cafeteria a welcoming place for our students.
2. **Nutritious Meals:** Your attention to providing balanced and wholesome meals ensures that our children have the energy they need to learn and grow.
3. **Cleanliness and Organization:** The way you maintain a clean and organized serving area reflects your professionalism and care.
4. **Patience and Kindness:** Dealing with hungry kids can be challenging, but your patience and kindness never waver.
5. **Going Above and Beyond:** Whether it's accommodating dietary restrictions or handling unexpected situations, you always go the extra mile.

Our school community is fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers like you. Your impact extends far beyond the lunchroom—it reaches the hearts of our students and their families.

Once again, **thank you** for being the unsung heroes who keep our school running smoothly. Your selflessness and generosity do not go unnoticed.

With our heartfelt appreciation for you!

PHOTOS NEEDED NEW

Do you have photos from class parties, field trips, music programs, etc? We would love them for the yearbooks. Please email them to Mrs. Iverson at miverson@sflutherschool.com

YEARBOOKS FOR K-8

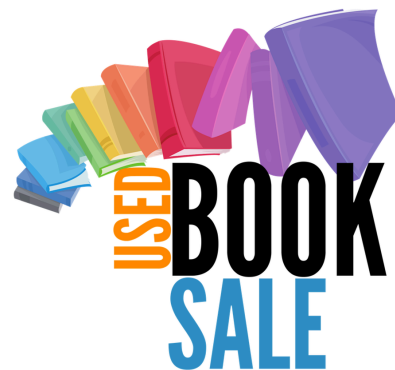
2024-2025 elementary and middle school yearbooks will be delivered to students at the August open houses, free of charge. If your student is not returning next year, please contact us at schooloffice@sflutheralschool.com to arrange pickup. For information about high school yearbooks, please refer to the High School section below.

BOOK SALE

Sioux Falls Lutheran School Annual Used Book Sale August 13-16

****Money raised goes to Tuition Assistance Fund****

- Donation boxes available at SFLS
- Donation boxes will start at Memorial Church on May 27
- Donation trailer for Kingswood Rummage leftovers will be at Resurrection Church on May 3
- Donations accepted include (but not limited to): Adult books, Fiction and Nonfiction, Children's Books, Board Books, Cook Books, Do It Yourself Books, Vintage Books, Comic Books, Music Books, Sheet Music, Coloring Books, Text Books, Religious Books, Bibles, Science Fiction, Westerns, How-To Books, History Books, Poetry Books, Informational Books, puzzles, board games, records, CDs, DVDs and so much more.



DALLAS BRASS

We give ALL honor and glory to God for the amazing Dallas Brass concert and all the interaction those guys devoted to our students this past Monday. The day was packed full of amazing events and opportunities for our student musicians. Further, this event could not have happened without so many different people pulling together!

Words cannot express the gratitude we feel for the people who donated money to make this night possible! Thank you to the SFLS Administration for believing in the power of music education and allowing us to bring in the Dallas Brass. Thank you teachers and staff for your help, support and flexibility that day! Many thanks to the SFLS Boosters and the Parent-Teacher Fellowship Group. Without your help, this night would not have been possible. Parents who volunteered...thank you for your extra time and work. It is very much appreciated! Music students....the Music Team is so proud of you and we are hoping this will be an unforgettable memory as you look back at your musical endeavors and accomplishments! Job well done, SFLS musicians!!



If anyone has photos or videos from the Dallas Brass concert, please scroll down to the Music portion of this newsletter and click on the link to add them to that space. Michael Levine would love for us to send him the things our audience recorded, so they can use it as new promotional material. The words of Michael Levine to Mrs. Birnstiehl after the concert were, "What an incredible day! One of my favorite concerts of all time!!"

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY - Join the Team Behind the Annual Used Book Sale!

We're looking for enthusiastic helpers to join the team behind the **Annual Used Book Sale at Memorial Lutheran Church** — and eventually take the reins! If you've ever wanted to be part of a meaningful, community-focused project that directly supports **tuition assistance**, this is your chance.

What We're Looking For: We're recruiting individuals who are interested in learning the ropes over the next few years. Think of it as a "pass the baton" opportunity — you'll shadow the current organizers to gain insight into how the sale works, so you're ready to help lead in the future.

Your Role Might Include:

- Assisting with **advertising and communications** (flyers, social media, etc.)
- Helping coordinate **donation drop-offs** (including the music trailer during Kingswood Rummage Sales)
- Sending **letters to businesses** (250–300) to request donations
- Organizing posts or blurbs in community outlets like **Eagle News**
- Promoting the sale in **Facebook groups**, especially classroom and school pages
- Using **Square payment software** (new this year!)
- Working with **high school volunteers** for setup and heavy lifting
- Helping sort books, board games, and puzzles in **alphabetical and organized order**

Important Dates:

- **Book collection begins June 1st**
- **Sale runs the second week of August**
- **Location:** Memorial Lutheran Church
- **Final day includes a \$5 Bag Sale**, with remaining items donated to agencies or Augustana's book sale

Why It Matters:

Last year, the sale raised **\$10,000** — all of which went directly to **tuition assistance**. Your involvement helps continue that legacy and grow the impact even further.

Interested or Know Someone Who Might Be?

Reach out to **Peggy Baney** at **bandpbaney@sio.midco.net** for more info or to get involved. Let's keep the tradition strong and make this year's sale the best yet.

SFLS GOLF TOURNAMENT

Save the date for the annual Dr. Vaughn & JoAnn Meyer Memorial Golf Tournament!

Monday, August 4th @ Bakker Crossing Golf Course!

Register to golf or become a sponsor here :

<https://bit.ly/2025SFLSGolfTourney>



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 age 18 and older
 - Flexible schedule: between 3:15 - 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday
 - Be available to work 2-3 days a week

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 for Tuesday May 20th:

- K-11 at 10:30 AM, in the Meyer Chapel & Performing Arts Center, led by Pastor Ascher from Resurrection Lutheran Church

Preschool chapel will be held on Monday, May 19th, led by DCE Liz Peters from Memorial Lutheran Church, in the Early Childhood wing beginning at 8:40 and 9:00 AM.

Chapel Offerings for 2nd semester will go to support Lutheran Family Service (LFS). So far we have collected **\$1293.62**.



LFS offers the following services:



Pregnancy Help



Adoption Services



Marriage
Counseling



Mental Health
Counseling



Outreach

We love because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19

COUNSELING SERVICES



PTF (PARENT-TEACHER-FELLOWSHIP)

CONNECT WITH THE PTF ON FACEBOOK



Scan the QR Code with your camera app to go to the SFLS PTF Facebook Page



RAISERIGHT (AKA SCRIP)

Order Dates by 10 AM	Pick-Up Dates after 11 AM
Monday, May 19	Thursday, May 22
No orders week of May 26	No orders week of May 26
No orders week of June 2	No orders week of June 2

****Summer RaiseRight schedule, click [HERE!](#)****

EAGLE CARE

May charges will be assessed from April 28-May 20, 2025. Let us know if you have any questions. Email eaglecare@sflutherschool.com.

The summer Eagle Care director will be Laurie Hamann.

NO after-school EAGLE CARE on Tuesday, May 20th with the early dismissal.

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2025-26 school year will be emailed early July. Thank you for letting us serve you before and after school. God bless your family this summer!

ELEMENTARY

Field Day is right around the corner. K-8 will participate in Field Day in the afternoon of May 19. **Parents are welcome to come as spectators to this fun event.** Students will be grouped by Family Group to rotate through the activities. These activities will run indoors, due to expected weather, from 12:30-2:45.

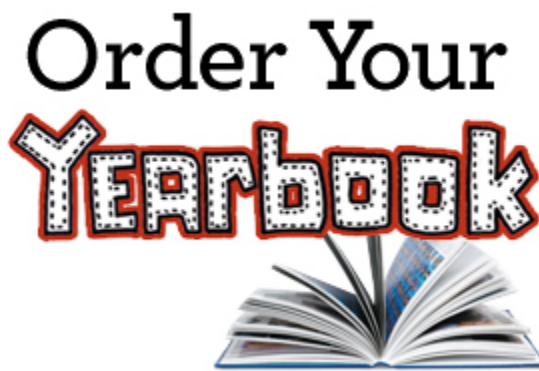
Last Day of School - Reminder that the last day of school is an early dismissal with K-11 students dismissed at 11:30. We will end our year with a grand K-11 chapel! Just the way to be sent out for the summer.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Field Day** - Students in Grades K-8 will celebrate the *penultimate* day of school with Field Day, May 19. Parents are welcome to come as spectators. The activities will run indoors, due to expected weather, from 12:30-2:45.

HIGH SCHOOL



2024-2025 High School Yearbooks

The 2024-25 high school yearbook will be available to order before students leave for the summer!! To purchase yearbooks, order forms are available in the school office. Please contact Heidi Albers at halbers@sflutheranschool.com if you have any questions. **High school yearbook orders are due by Friday, May 30th and can be returned to the school office.** Yearbooks will arrive at the start of the new school year. We will let you know when they arrive!



ATHLETICS

TRACK & FIELD

Thursday, May 22: HS Track @ Deubrook

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	June 2- July 31 (T/W/Th.)	7-12	7 - 8:20		
		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.m.-12:15 p.m.	SFLS Gym	\$60
		6-8	1:15-2:45pm	SFLS Gym	\$60
Marching Band	July 28- Aug. 1 Aug. 4-8	6-8	For SFLS band students. More information	SFLS School	TBD
		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)

Registrations are still open however there is no guarantee you will receive a t-shirt: [Volleyball](#); [Drama](#); [Football](#); [Strength & Agility](#); [Basketball](#); [Cheer](#); [Dance](#). Marching Band registration will come directly from Mrs. Birnstiehl when competition schedules are set.

MUSIC

[MAY](#) Middle School Ensemble Calendar

[Click or scan to take a look at the SFLS Strings Site!](#)



Next Year's 2nd-8th Grade Music Registration Event:

On Thursday, May 15th, members of the Music Team met in the Music

Room with families to help answer questions and present information about: 1) private lessons for students in grades 2-8, 2) Orchestra options for 4th Graders, 3) the opportunity to start Beginning Band for 5th Graders, and 4) Music Ensemble options for Middle Schoolers. This was not a required event, just a way to gather all of the information before making music decisions for next year.

Then...on **Sunday, May 18th, at 7:00 PM**, you will receive another email from me with a Google Form link to sign up. We hope this will give your family enough time at home to discuss all of the musical options for next year. Please complete the form for your child(ren), even if your child is not planning to do any extra music. This will help us in our planning and scheduling over the summer.

High School Music Event:

- Friday, May 16: SFLS Graduation Ceremony - HS music students will perform

The Dallas Brass:

Please refer to the top of this newsletter to see notes of thanks concerning the Dallas Brass concert that took place on Monday, May 5th!

Share your photos & videos from the Dallas Brass concert here!

ASSOCIATION CHURCHES

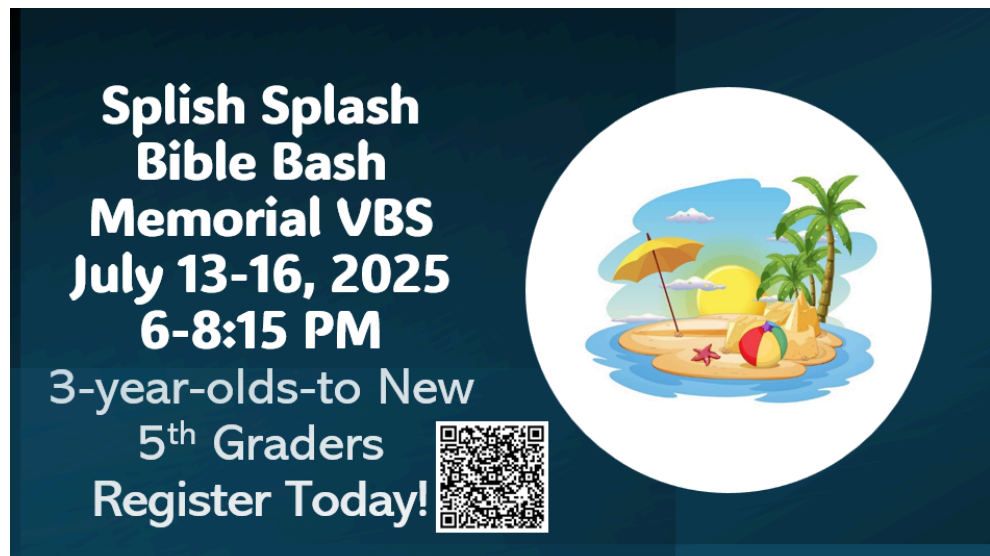
Faith - Rev. Corey Aker and
Rev. Jason Rensner



@ Faith Lutheran Church – 601 North Cliff Ave

Lord of Life - Rev. Billy
Newell

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



[Our Redeemer](#) - Rev. Brett Simek

[Resurrection](#) - Rev. Chris Ascher

Join us for VBS - ***Outback Rock: Where Kids Venture into Solid Faith*** - August 2nd, 2025

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.



**SIOUX FALLS
LUTHERAN SCHOOL**
World Ready. Faith Secure.

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