



Sioux Falls Lutheran School

EAGLES NEWS



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

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ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL
ELEMENTARY STEM DIRECTOR

[Mrs. Brenda Bernard](#)
PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Oct. 24, 2025

Let's Hit 35%! Your Voice Helps SFLS Soar



Thank you to everyone who has already completed the **ParentPulse survey!** Your feedback helps us reflect on how well we're living out our **Christ-centered mission** to develop capable Christian servant-leaders—and where we can continue to grow in service to you.

So far, **we've reached a 25% response rate.** Research shows a **35% or higher response rate makes survey feedback more valid and representative** of our full school community—and we'd love to get there together! Every voice helps us stay faithful to the ministry God has entrusted to us.

If you haven't received your survey yet, don't worry—all **parents and guardians** will receive their invitation by **mid-December**.

Here's a glimpse of what we've heard so far—feedback helping us celebrate strengths and focus improvement efforts:

*"We're so **thankful for teachers who know our children by name and genuinely care** about their faith and learning."*

*"Our child is being **challenged academically and supported spiritually**—what a beautiful combination."*

*"Our kids love coming to school every day—that says so much about **the caring culture** you've built."*

*"The mission and atmosphere are wonderful. We'd just appreciate **a bit more consistency in how behavioral expectations are enforced**."*

*"We would greatly appreciate it if **the gravel road and pathways were paved**—it would make drop-off, pick-up, and traffic flow much **safer and easier** for families."*

Every comment—encouraging or constructive—helps us strengthen SFLS as we continue developing **capable Christian servant-leaders who are World Ready, Faith Secure.**

So we can be better, together, let's soar past 35%!

With Gratefulness,

Tia Esser, Executive Director, Romans 12:2

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PICTURE RETAKES

WHEN: Thursday, November 6 beginning at 8AM in the Elementary wing

ORDERING INFORMATION: Your student will need to bring their original photo packet with them to school that day. After retakes, a new packet will be sent home that will have the instructions to order inside. If you prefer not to order online or missed the open house photo day, paper forms will be available.

Please call (605) 362-9221 or email office@schooltimephotos.com with any questions.

YEARBOOKS

If your student is in 1st - 9th grade and did not receive their 2024-2025 yearbook during Back-to-School Night in August, please have them see Mrs. Iverson to pick one up.

ROBOTICS

Interested in supporting the SFLS Robotics Teams? Please consider ordering a jersey. We are anticipating orders being completed mid-November. Thank you for your support.

<https://mrghauff.chipply.com/sflrobotics>

ADMISSIONS

Admissions Applications for 2026-27 School Year Now Open: If you have a child who is *not currently enrolled* at SFLS or *is in this year's wait pool*, please submit a new application by early January. Several classes are already at or near capacity, so applying early is strongly encouraged. Applications will be processed starting in late January, 2026. Apply here: <https://bit.ly/2026-27-admissions-apps>.

Please **do not** submit a new application for children who are currently enrolled at SFLS; re-enrollment information for current students will be emailed in January.

FALL FESTIVAL



 **Fall Festival Volunteers Needed – We Can't Do It Without You!** 

Our biggest family event of the year is coming up fast, and we still need helping hands to make it happen! From games and crafts to setup and cleanup, there's a spot for everyone — just 30 minutes of your time makes a huge difference. Let's make this year's Fall Festival unforgettable for our students and families!

 Click [HERE](#) to sign up and join the fun!

Happy Fall! We will be hosting a Treat Trail event at the Fall Festival on October 28. We are looking for donations of candy, fruit snacks, or fall-themed trinkets. If you would like to donate something, please bring it to the office or to Miss Miller's room in the early childhood wing. We hope you will join us as we celebrate the fabulous fall season and the bountiful harvest of blessings that God gives to us.

CAREER CORNER



Explore current openings and discover how your gifts can make a difference on our team:
siouxfallslutheran.com/careers.

CHAPEL

Chaplain for the week of October 27 is Pastor Rensner from Faith Lutheran Church.

Chapel on Wednesday, October 29, is led by Pastor Rensner from Faith Lutheran Church, in the Meyer Chapel & Performing Arts Center. This year's theme is Walk By Faith. This week's topic: Faith in Everyday Life: Walking by Faith in Suffering.

- 6-12 chapel at 8:05 AM
- K-5 chapel at 8:50 AM

5th Grade Chat & Chapel will also be on Wednesday, October 29. All 5th grade parents/guardians/family members are welcome to join for fellowship in the commons after drop-off, before the chapel service! More communication will come from your teacher.

Preschool chapel will be held on Wednesday, October 29, led by DCE Liz Peters from Memorial Lutheran Church, in the Early Childhood wing, beginning at 8:40 AM and 9:00 AM. The theme is "Moses' Birth: God Provides".

Chapel Offerings! With the first quarter at a close, our Chapel offerings that are going to Lunch Is Served, Inc., in Sioux Falls, SD are complete with a total of \$772.17.

To God be the glory, great things HE has done!

Our second quarter offering begins with \$60.10 and has yet to have a recipient named. Stay tuned for that information...



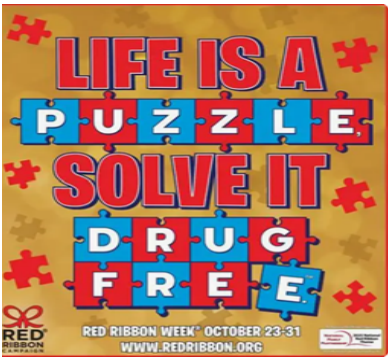


Mark your calendars: 4th-12th Grade Veteran's Day Chapel, Tuesday, November 11 at 8:50 AM. Please join us for a special chapel service honoring the men and women who have served or are serving in the United States Armed Forces. This meaningful service will include prayer, Scripture, music, and a time of recognition for our veterans. All are welcome as we give thanks to God for those who have served our nation.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Substance Use & Misuse Prevention Month

Wear **RED DAY** October 31



October is Substance Use & Misuse Prevention Month. [Substance Use & Misuse Prevention Month | SAMHSA](#) The nation's largest prevention campaign is **Red Ribbon Week, October 23-31**. The 2025 theme, **Life is a Puzzle, Solve it Drug Free™** reminds us that life can be a puzzle but with wise & healthy decisions, life can be rewarding.

Red Ribbon Week is a time for students, families, businesses, communities and schools to renew and to make pledges to live life healthy, substance-free; to make healthy choices: and to increase general awareness. [RR - About Us](#)

Most parents assume their teens are not at risk of making high risk choices. Studies show that parents and caregivers tend to underestimate drug and alcohol use among their own children, while overestimating use among other kids. If parents and trusted adults don't give youth accurate information, their peers will—but may not accurately tell the risks. This is partly because the adolescent developing brain is wired to seek risk. The best prevention is a parent and/or trusted adult to have open, honest conversations and to communicate expectations along with the facts about substance use. The adolescent brain also develops addiction much quicker than the adult brain. Early Intervention is the key.

Here's how to start the conversation:1: **Introducing the topic.** "I saw some posters in your school about teen drug use. Why do you think people are concerned about that?"2. **Ask open-ended questions.** "Do you know much about vaping? Tell me more about it."3. **Summarize their answers and reflect their feelings to show you're listening.** "You're saying that vaping is becoming a pressure for kids your age. Is that right?"4. **Demonstrate empathy.** "I'm sorry there are such pressures. I'd love to hear if you're willing to share."5. **Ask permission before offering advice.** "May I share some personal experience on that." [The Facts. Your Future. Parent Toolkit](#)



Barb DeVos, Contracted School Counselor, is available to support your child's well-being. Barb is at Sioux Falls Lutheran School Tuesday through Friday. bdevos@carrollinstitute.org or bdevos@sflutheranschool.com

National Box Tops Week – Let's Earn Big!

Sioux Falls Lutheran School is joining the biggest Box Tops event of the year! From **Oct 1–31**, earn bonus Box Tops with special offers on select products.

Highlights:

- **Refer a Friend** and earn even more!

Let's make this our best Box Tops month yet! Click [here](#) for additional information.

Details at BTFE.com/NBTW

RAISERIGHT (AKA SCRIP)

Order Dates by 10 AM	Pick-Up Dates after 11 AM
Monday, October 27	Thursday, October 30
Monday, November 3	Thursday, November 6
Monday, November 10	Thursday, November 13
Monday, November 17	Thursday, November 20

EAGLE CARE**WE WILL CLOSE at 4:30 PM on Tuesday, October 28, for the FALL FESTIVAL.**

Thank you in advance for picking up your child(ren) so PTF can get ready for the Fall Festival.

PRESCHOOL**Kindergarten Preview Night—6:00 PM on Monday, November 17**

During this special event designed specifically for soon-to-be kindergarteners and their parents, you'll receive the opportunity to meet our kindergarten teachers and elementary principal, receive answers to your questions about K-12 education, and connect with other families who are planning for kindergarten at SFLS. Above all, you'll discover the value of investing in your child's future at Sioux Falls Lutheran School. Information about our fantastic fives program will also be available.

This event is designed for current SFLS preschoolers and prospective students preparing to enter kindergarten. [Sign up here!](#)

Walk by Faith: David & Goliath—A Preschool Preview Event



Saturday, November 22



10:00 AM



Sioux Falls Lutheran School

You're invited to our Walk by Faith: David & Goliath event—an engaging, faith-filled morning designed for children entering 3, 4, and 5-year-old preschool during the 2026–27 school year! **Current 2, 3, and 4-year-old preschool families are welcome to join in the fun by bringing a friend or neighbor** who's exploring preschool options for next year. It's a wonderful way to introduce new families to our SFLS community!



Learn more & sign up here: <https://bit.ly/walk-by-faith-david-goliath>.

Please register each child who will attend so we can plan supplies and activities accordingly.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



No Shorts November!

The cool weather this week reminds us that the “shorts season” at SFLS will end on October 31. From November 1 - March 31, elementary students should wear pants to school. Thank you for working with us on this as we keep students safe and warm this winter.



Hearing Screening

The Sioux Falls Sertoma will come to SFLS on November 7 to complete hearing screenings for our students in 1st-5th Grade. We are very grateful for this service. We have identified hearing needs in the past that were unknown until these screenings. If you would like your child to opt out of this screening, please notify me at knewell@sflutheranschool.com.

Junior Eagles Girls Basketball!

We're excited to invite **3rd–5th grade girls** to be part of our **Junior Eagles Girls Basketball Program!** This is a fun opportunity for our younger Eagles to get involved with the **HS Girls Basketball Team**. Junior Eagles will:

- Join the team on the court for warm-ups 🏀
- Have their names announced during starting lineups 🎤
- Receive an official **Junior Eagles Girls Basketball t-shirt!** 🧥

We have **four home games** this season. Due to the limited number of games, please sign up for **one game only** at this time.

Any questions, please email Mikela Iverson at miverson@sflutheranschool.com



If you're interested, [sign up here](#)

Come cheer, play, and be part of the Eagles spirit! 🦅💙

HIGH SCHOOL

TESTING and SERVING

Our 9th-12th grade students will be taking their fall standardized tests next Tuesday, October 28. 9th grade students will take the PreACT 8/9; 10th-11th grade students will take either the PSAT or the ASVAB; and 12th grade students will take the ACT.

Following testing, students will be serving in a variety of ways in our community. Some will travel to Union Gospel Mission, some to Kids Against Hunger, and others will stay at SFLS to work on small projects and set up for the Fall Festival.

ORAL INTERP: Saturday, October 25 at Madison

SAVE THE DATES:

- **NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY** induction ceremony: Monday, October 27 at 6:30 PM.

ATHLETICS

FOOTBALL: Thursday, Oct. 30: Class 9B State Quarterfinal Game @ Avon Pirates Sports Complex 7 PM

VOLLEYBALL:

- Friday, October 24: at Howard: C 5 PM; JV 6:15; Varsity to Follow
- Saturday, October 25: JV Tournament in Parker
- Tuesday, November 4: Playoffs Round 1 TBD
- Thursday, November 6: Playoffs Round 1 TBD

CROSS COUNTRY:

- Saturday, October 25: State Meet at Broadland Creek Golf Course, Huron: Class B Boys @ 1 pm, Class B Girls @ 2:30pm

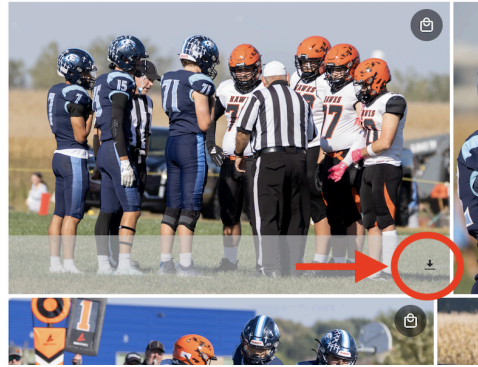
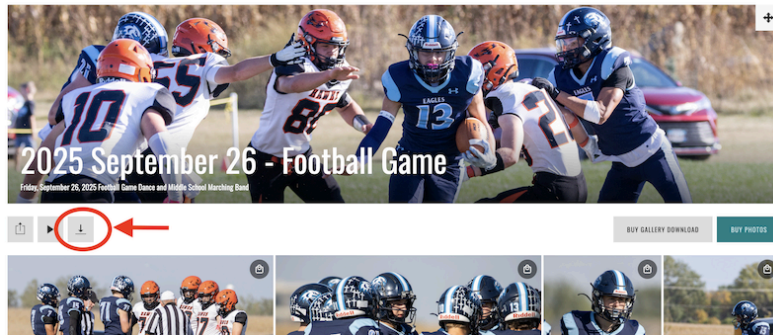
MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL: First Practice, Monday, October 27 3:30 PM

WINTER SPORTS INFORMATION MEETING: Monday, October 27, 7:30 PM

JUNIOR EAGLES BASKETBALL! See the Elementary School Section above.

PHOTO GALLERIES

We are pleased to share that we've partnered with Brian Hall, an SFLS parent and school supporter, to photograph a variety of special events and extracurricular activities throughout the year. Photo galleries of the events he captures will be included below. **Parents are invited to download photos from these galleries at no charge** (please disregard the "buy photos" button on the gallery site). Simply click the download icon at the top of the album to download all the images. Or hover over an image and click on the download icon at the bottom right corner of the image to download the individual photos.



- [September 26 Football Game, Dance Team & MS Marching Band](#)
- [September 30 Volleyball Game \(Senior Night\)](#)
- [October 3 Football Game, Dance Team & Cheer Leaders](#)

MUSIC

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



CONGRATULATIONS to the following high school band students for auditioning and being chosen to participate in the Concordia University Honor Band in Seward, NE:

Logan Baumbach (on alto saxophone), Noah Baumbach (on trombone),
Owen Gilster (on trombone), Gavin Hulscher (on alto saxophone)
Henry Slavens (on tuba), Brennan Vis (on percussion/mallets).

These students will spend a day in rehearsals on Friday, November 14 in the Borland Center for Music and Theatre, and then perform a concert in the beautiful St. John Lutheran Church (located near the campus) at 4:30 PM.

Congratulations to Brynlee Post, who auditioned for and was chosen for the South Dakota All State Orchestra as a violinist. She had a playing audition and a written test and was chosen to perform with the orchestra on November 1 at the Denny Premier Center. There will be approximately 130 Orchestra musicians as well as a 1,000 voice All State Chorus. We are so proud of you Brynlee and know you will represent SFLS with grace, style and the heart of Jesus.



[OCTOBER Middle School Ensemble Calendar](#)

ASSOCIATION CHURCHES



Memorial - Rev. Doug Slavens, DCE Hailey Jo Miller and DCE Liz Peters
Craft & Vendor Fair: TOMORROW: Saturday, October 25, 9-2PM

Faith - Rev. Corey Aker and Rev. Jason Rensner

Lord of Life - Rev. Billy Newell

Our Redeemer - Rev. Brett Simek

Resurrection - Rev. Chris Ascher

Please join us for our **Annual Soup & Pie Supper** on November 2, 4:30-6:30 PM.

Click this [link](#) for all church worship times!

SUPPORTING MEMBER

ZION - Rev. Greg Lehr

BIBLE STUDY

Iron Eagles Men's Group @ SFLS

Dates: Oct 29, Nov 5, 12

Time: 8 PM

Topic: Prayer, works cited: The Prayer Course (Pete Greig, 2023) – 8 wks, free videos (20–25 min) + worksheets. Covers unanswered prayer, listening to God, spiritual warfare, Lord's Prayer.

Easy flow: video → discussion → pray. <https://prayercourse.org/sessions/>

BOOSTER CLUB

Wine & Design: Join us from 7:00-9:30 PM on Sat, Nov. 8, to create your own campfire creation. Appetizers, wine, mocktails, and supplies provided. Admission is \$50 and may be paid at the door. All proceeds support the SFLS Booster Club. Sign up online to help us plan for supplies: <https://bit.ly/2025-sfls-wine-design>.

You're invited!
Wine & Design

11.08.25 / 7:00-9:30 p.m.
SFLS Commons
6715 S. Boe Lne
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Create your own campfire creation!
Appetizers, wine, mocktails, & all supplies provided.
Proceeds go to the SFLS Booster Club.
~ \$50/person (Unlimited participants!) ~
RSVP by November 3, 2025 using QR code or contact Booster Club
sflsbooster@sflutheranschool.com or (605) 335-1923

Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

988

CALL, TEXT OR CHAT



Help is 3 Numbers Away



211 maintains a comprehensive database of community resources and provides information and referrals for essential needs like:

- Food
- Housing and Shelter
- Utility Assistance
- Healthcare Services
- Government Services

Call for
Information and
Community Resources

211

211 also can connect people with information and referrals for:

- Transportation
- Legal Services
- Support Groups
- Disaster Aftercare
- Everything Else

988 provides crisis support for:

- Thoughts of Suicide
- Mental Health Crisis
- Substance Use Crisis
- Emotional Distress

Call for Suicide
Intervention and
Crisis Support

988

Whole
Person
Care

Warm
Handoff

Call for
Emergencies

911

911 provides first responder dispatch for:

- Medical Emergency
- Fire
- Reporting a Crime
- Disaster Response
- Life-Threatening Situation

Safe2Say South Dakota is a statewide tip line that allows South Dakota students, school staff, and community members to safely and anonymously report sensitive information that concerns their safety, or the safety of others, including mental health concerns.



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



**SIoux FALLS
LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

World Ready. Faith Secure.

6715 South Boe Lane, Sioux Falls, SD 57108

siouxfallslutheran.com | (605) 335-1923