



Sioux Falls Lutheran School

EAGLES NEWS



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PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Nov. 14, 2025

Honoring Our Veterans - A Time-Honored Tradition at SFLS

This week, our school family gathered for one of SFLS's most meaningful traditions—our annual Veterans Day chapel. I often call this our “Power Hour of Learning,” because nothing on earth better reflects Christ’s sacrificial love than the selfless service of the men and women who wear our nation’s uniform. The Living History Book our veterans bring with them—written through courage, hardship, and deep devotion—sets the gold standard for life-application learning. Our students don’t just hear about honor and sacrifice; they see it, shake hands with it, and are shaped by it.



As our students, staff, and guests filled the Chapel, we took time to honor veterans from every era of service—from those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan to **a remarkable 96-year-old Korean War veteran** who stood to applause that grew into an emotional wave of gratitude across the chapel.

Pastor Greg Lehr from Zion Lutheran delivered a moving message rooted in Jesus’ words from **John 15:13: “Greater love has no one than this: to lay**

down one’s life for one’s friends.” He reminded us the courage and sacrifice of our veterans reflect the very heart of Christ—who willingly laid down His life for us. His message grounded the morning in reverence, gratitude, and hope.

Our middle school students offered their own gifts of gratitude through music—delivering outstanding performances in orchestra, band, and choir. Their excellence, offered in honor of our veterans, made the morning feel even more sacred.

As always, one of the most touching moments came after the service, when our veterans lined up in the Commons and students, faculty, and guests walked through to shake their hands—or offer a hug—and thank each one personally for their service.

QUICK LINKS

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[Elementary School](#)

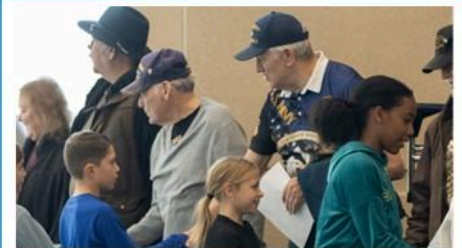
[High School](#)

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SCRIP\)](#)



Watching our students look these heroes in the eye and speak words of thanks is unforgettable. **It is the moment when history becomes personal, when faith becomes visible, and when our mission—World Ready, Faith Secure—comes to life in the most tangible way.**

We thank God for the freedoms we enjoy and for those who have defended them. And we continue to pray for the men and women who serve today, trusting that the Lord—our true source of peace—goes before them.

"The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace." – Psalm 29:11

With Gratefulness,

Tia Esser, Executive Director

Romans 12:2



Booster Club Fundraiser

NEW



The boosters apparel store is live!

The store will close Friday, November 21 @ 12 PM. Orders expected to be ready for pickup at school in early December.

https://stores.inksoft.com/sf_lutheran_school/shop/home

Eagles Spirit Wear Store

NEW



Get ready to show your Eagle pride! Our online store has apparel for basketball, music, drama, and general Eagle spirit — with tons of great options like sweatshirts, tees, sweatpants, stocking hats, and more!



Store closes Sunday, November 30



All orders are custom made and final

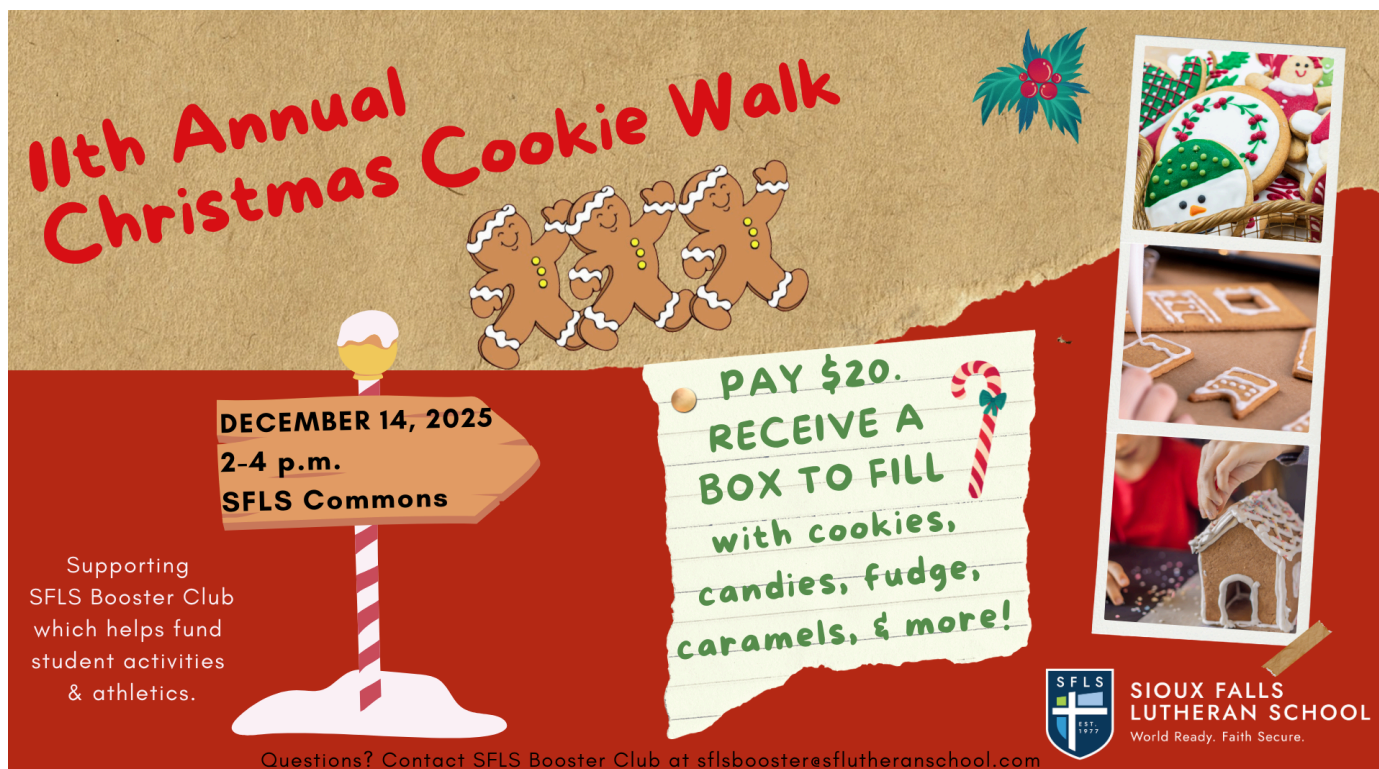
Shop now and gear up to support our Eagles in style! 🙌

<https://mrghauff.chipply.com/store.aspx?eid=444099&action=viewall>

Christmas Concert:



Christmas Cookie Walk—2:00-4:00 PM on Sun, Dec. 14: Pay \$20 for a box to fill with cookies, candy, fudge, caramels, and more. All proceeds support the SFLS Booster Club.



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.

ADMISSIONS

Invite a Friend to Attend First Look Friday

Upcoming dates:

Friday, December 5, 2025

Friday, March 6, 2026

Friday, June 5, 2026

Friday, February 6, 2026

Friday, May 1, 2026

During [First Look Fridays](#), prospective families receive the opportunity to meet our staff and students, tour the school building to observe learning in action, receive answers to their questions, and discover the value of investing in their child's future at Sioux Falls Lutheran School.

Informational presentations start at 9:00 AM with tours to follow. [Sign up here](#).

ART

The Art Room Needs Your Help!

We're gathering a few fun supplies for upcoming art projects and would love your donations! Please place items in the donation box outside the art room.

Magazines:

- Christmas toy catalogs
- *Highlights* or other K–5 magazines
- *Better Homes & Gardens*, *National Geographic*, or similar

Jar Lids:

- Clean lids from jars (perfect for mini Christmas scenes!)
- Spaghetti sauce lids or similar sizes work great

Thank you for supporting creativity in the art room!

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 November 17 is Pastor Rensner from Faith Lutheran Church.

Chapel on Wednesday, November 19, is led by Pastor Rensner, in the Meyer Chapel & Performing Arts Center. This year's theme is Walk by Faith. This week's topic: Faith in Everyday Life: Faith in Finances: Trusting God to Provide.

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

Preschool chapel will be held on Thursday, November 20, 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 "Thanksgiving - 10 Lepers".

Chapel Offerings: Our second quarter offering begins with \$639.97 and will go to FEEDING SOUTH DAKOTA.

K-12 will also do a food drive for Feeding South Dakota the first 2 weeks in December.

We honor God by serving others!



Welcome to Tools for Growth & Resilience:

A **Reset Space** or **Calm Corner** ([link](#)) is a place for children to go when they have big feelings. This can be a great strategy for older children as well. The goal is for your child to begin noticing how to self-regulate, use coping skills to help manage those feelings in a safe and healthy way, and then return to what they were doing before, but in a calmer state. This link will give you guidance on how to create a safe space for your child to re-set.

<https://copingskillsforkids.com/blog/2016/4/27/how-to-create-a-calm-down-spot?rq=Reset%20Space>

Find a spot. Consider what area in your home will work for the family. The area needs to be somewhere initially you can observe for safety. Your child could be a part of the development of the calm space. Children tend to like spaces that are enclosed, ex. feels like a cave or curtained area. Add some comfortable, cozy blankets or pillows.

Create a calm down toolbox. [One of the best coping techniques for anxiety - make a coping skills toolbox!](#) *"Get a box or a basket, and put in items that will calm (your child). Some common items that help are stress balls, play dough, a book they enjoy, or a toy that they enjoy playing with quietly."* Visual coping skills cards ([link](#)) can be helpful .

Explain and Practice. Take time to explain and to practice being in the calm down spot. Explain this is a safe place they can go when they need a break or need to calm down when upset or frustrated. **Parent goal: Allow the child to calm- then connect after the upset.**

Give calm reminders to use it. For example, "Jimmy, you seem frustrated. Why don't you take a break and go to your calm down spot?" Allow your child to calm, then take a peek to see if they have become calmer.

Re-assess with your child what worked and what did not work at a later time.



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

No December Meeting

See you in January!

**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, November 17	Thursday, November 20
No Orders Week of November 24	No Orders Week of November 24
Monday, December 1	Thursday, December 4
Monday, December 8	Thursday, December 11

EAGLE CARE

The elementary group may attend a few Middle School basketball games the next few weeks.

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](https://bit.ly/walk-by-faith-david-goliath)—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

We enjoyed our first snowy recess on Monday. We saw many bags of "snow gear" come in. That's fabulous. Our students love to run and play in the snow. When there is snow on the ground, students without boots will stay on the blacktop. Students with boots but no snow pants can play on the woodchips. Students with boots, snowpants, hats, and gloves can play in the snow! Woohoo!

NEW

GRANDPARENTS DAY Save the Date for Elementary Grandparents Day. We invite "grand friends" of our Kindergarten - 5th Grade students to join us on **November 25 from 1:00-3:00 PM**. We will start in the chapel to hear our students sing. Then Grandparents will join their students in an open house format, moving from classroom to classroom for different activities. If your child does not have a grandparent who can join them, parents/aunts/uncles/neighbors...are all welcome to attend in their place.

LAST CALL!! Junior Eagles Girls Basketball - FEW spots left!

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@sflutheralschool.com

👉 If you're interested, [sign up here](https://bit.ly/walk-by-faith-david-goliath) (There are 3 spots still available on January 10, 2026.)

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



HIGH SCHOOL



Our Oral Interp team qualified for Regional Competition. Lydia Warden, Addison Vis, Logan Baumbach, and Jude Elkins will compete at USF on Tuesday, November 18. Tessa VanGerpen is our alternate.

ATHLETICS

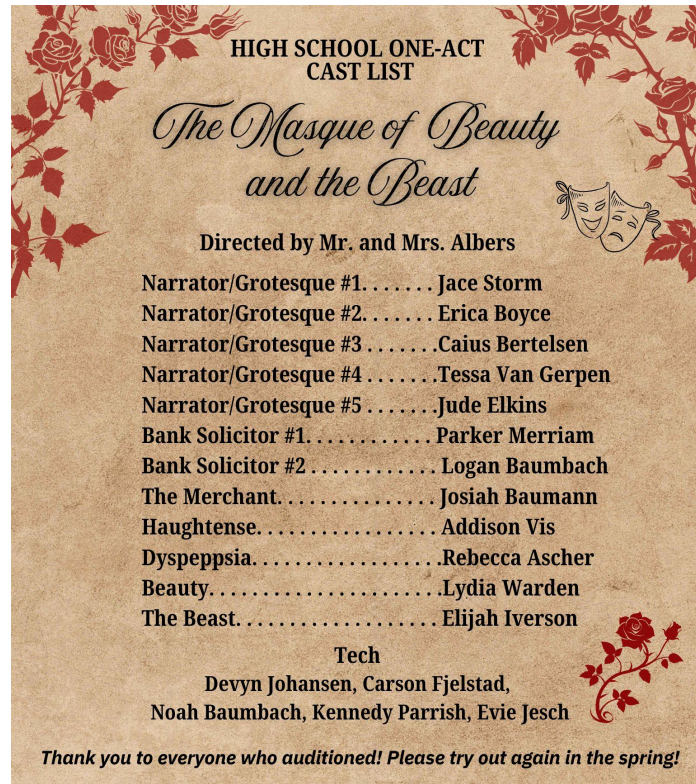
FOOTBALL: Awards night: **Friday, December 5** @ 6:30 - 8:30 PM in the chapel and commons

CROSS COUNTRY: End of Season Celebration & Awards, **Sunday, November 16**, 5-7 PM in the commons.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL Game Schedule:

Boys:				Location & Opponent	Girls:		
11/18/25	Tuesday	5:15 & 6pm	7/8	HOME vs Centerville	11/18/25	3:45/4:30	7/8
11/20/25	Thursday	TBD	7/8	@ Bridgewater	11/20/25	TBD	7&8 combined
11/24/25	Monday	5pm	8 only	HOME vs Mitchell Christian	11/24/25	4pm	8 only
12/1/25	Monday	5:15/6pm	7/8	HOME vs Elkton	12/1/25	3:45/4:30	7/8
	Saturday			@ Alcester/Hudson	12/6/25	TBD	8 only
12/9/25	Tuesday	4/5pm	7/8	Boys @ St Marys Girls HOME vs St. Marys	12/9/25	4/5pm	7/8
12/15/25	Monday	4pm	8 only	Boys @ Alcester/Hudson Girls HOME vs Alcester/Hudson	12/15/25	4pm	8 only

JUNIOR EAGLES BASKETBALL! See the Elementary School Section above.



NOVEMBER Middle School Ensemble Calendar



Our school has a fun opportunity coming up on Tuesday, November 18. It is SFLS Night at the Skyforce Game! The High School Pep Band will be playing, the High School Orchestra will play the National Anthem, and our Dance Team will perform at halftime.

They also asked if we would like to have some of our elementary students create a fan tunnel and hold the flag for the National Anthem. We are working on recruiting the max number of younger students for this, which is 120! Game time is 6:30 PM.

All students participating should have already received an email from one of the music teachers. Anyone can order tickets through our link for a discounted price of \$15, with \$5 of that coming back as a donation to the school! So, please plan to attend to help support our school!!

SPREAD THE WORD AND SHARE THE LINK!!

Our SFLS ticket link is: <https://www.gofevo.com/event/sflsschoolnight>.

Thanks for joining in the fun and for your support!

Upcoming Music Dates (Please put them on your calendar!):

December 2 - 4th-8th Christmas Concerts

4th/5th - 6:00 PM

6th/7th/8th - 7:15 PM

December 3 - Kindergarten Chat and Chapel (8-8:45 AM) Chapel at 8:50 AM (Music Class on the Stage performance after Chapel)

December 9 - 1st and 2nd Christmas Programs

1st Grade - 12:30 PM

2nd Grade - 2:00 PM

December 11 - High School Christmas Concert - 6:30 PM

December 16 - 3rd Graders Christmas Caroling to Trail Ridge



A BIG SHOUT OUT to three middle school band students from SFLS who were nominated and accepted into the Sioux Falls All-City Honor Band! Addison Newell (6th grade), Josiah Newell (8th grade), and Andrew White (6th grade) spent Monday evenings, for six weeks, honing their skills in rehearsals at George McGovern Middle School, and then performed a concert in the Washington Pavilion on Thursday, November 6. The concert was in conjunction with the Augustana University Band. It was an amazing concert, and these three young musicians represented SFLS with heart and celebrated their God-given musical gifts with many other talented middle school students on stage that night. Congratulations Addison, Josiah, and Andrew!



Congratulations to Leland Bertelsen, Jerrick Bertelsen, Logan Baumbach, Jude Elkins, and Caius Bertelsen for being accepted into the Concordia National Honor Choir. These singers traveled to Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska to sing with the University Choir and other high schoolers from around the country. After a day of rehearsing, the group put on an amazing performance in the St. John Lutheran Church in Seward on Friday, November 7.

The 8th grade General Music class went on a field trip on Wednesday, November 12 to Vermillion SD. There, they visited the National Music Museum and the W.H. Over Museum. At the W.H. Over Museum, students learned about South Dakota history. At the National Music Museum, students saw the oldest cello in the world, a guitar signed by Muddy Waters, instruments from all over the world and from every era (including lutes and lyres), and an old pipe organ from a Lutheran church in Pennsylvania. Students learned how the standard of A440 was established with musicians around the world, and had the opportunity to play Gamelan Orchestra instruments from Indonesia.





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



ASSOCIATION CHURCHES

[Memorial](#) - Rev. Doug Slavens, DCE Hailey Jo Miller and DCE Liz Peters

[Faith](#) - Rev. Corey Aker and Rev. Jason Rensner

[Lord of Life](#) - Rev. Billy Newell

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

[Resurrection](#) - Rev. Chris Ascher

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

SUPPORTING MEMBER

[Zion](#) - Rev. Greg Lehr

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

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

911 provides first responder dispatch for:

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

Call for Information and Community Resources
211

Call for Suicide Intervention and Crisis Support
988

Call for Emergencies
911

Whole Person Care
Warm Handoff

helpline center

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.



SUBMIT A TIP BY CALLING 1-844-373-7233

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT A TIP

safe2say.sd.gov

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



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

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