



Sioux Falls Lutheran School

EAGLES NEWS



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ELEMENTARY STEM DIRECTOR

[Mrs. Brenda Bernard](#)
PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Nov. 7, 2025

A Week Filled with Positive, Pleasant Surprises

Sometimes the simplest acts reveal the biggest hearts—like when our sixth graders stood, linked arms, and inspired the upperclassmen to join them in a spontaneous moment of solidarity for families in need.



By now, I hope you've noticed **smoother sailing due to the new and improved gravel road**. Infinite thanks to new SFLS parent and business owner, **Justin Zacharias (Zacharias Construction, Inc.)**. When I called to thank him, Justin shared, "That road has bothered me ever since we started at SFLS this fall. We're at the end of the road construction season and I wanted to give our guys a few more hours of work; plus, we enjoy giving back to the community—it only took a couple of hours—we were glad to do it." "You must have seen my article a couple of weeks

ago in response to concerns voiced in our parent survey," I said. "No, actually I didn't. I just knew it was an easy way for our team to help."

Last Saturday morning, I pulled up to the school and discovered SFLS parent and business owner, **Andrew Brack (Ashley Landscaping)** planting this **big, beautiful Autumn Blaze Pear tree** on our front lawn. "Did the old tree die?" I asked, "No," Andrew replied, "The old one never really got established and it bothered me, so we wanted to replace it with a new one." And I would add—a *much* bigger one.

After the 6–12 grade chapel this Wednesday, I talked to our students about the many ways they have collectively set new records this fall—from academics and athletics to music and servant events. These students are working *hard* and juggling so much. I commended them not only for their academic, athletic, and artistic achievements, but most importantly for the ways they continually "Walk in the Light of Christ." I shared that I frequently hear from donors, grandparents, and visiting school officials about the kindness they show to opponents and to each other.



Then came a moment I'll never forget...

QUICK LINKS

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

As I challenged the students to “link arms” in their efforts to *overflow* our food collection bins and chapel offering plates for **Feeding South Dakota**, something remarkable happened. Without prompting, the sixth graders—seated in the back rows—stood up and linked arms. The upperclassmen quickly followed. It was an incredible, unscripted moment—one that felt, without question, prescribed by the Holy Spirit.



This image of our students, faculty, and friends—arm in arm—captures exactly what we’re called to do at every turn: stand together in support of those in need. And the need is *urgent*. With the ongoing government shutdown, nearly **75,000 South Dakotans—including 29,000 children—have lost SNAP benefits**, and **another 12,000 government employees have been furloughed without pay**. Our food banks are stretched to the brink, and many families are unsure how they will put food on the table.

At SFLS, we want to support both the broader South Dakota community and our own SFLS families who may be affected by these disruptions. Here’s how our school community can help:

- **Donate non-perishable food items** to our annual Preschool November Food Drive.
- **Contribute to chapel offerings**, which support Feeding South Dakota, helping families across the state.
- **Reach out confidentially** to Debbie Pankow (dpankow@sflutheranschool.com) if your family is affected and in need of support.

Let’s ALL link arms—filling the preschool wing with donated food items and our chapel offering plates with generous gifts. Together, we’ll provide hope, support, and nourishment for those who need it most.

LOOK CLOSELY at the three photos in this week’s note—the new gravel road, the newly planted tree, and the students linking arms—you’ll see a story of what God is doing here. He’s smoothing paths, deepening roots, and drawing hearts together in service. And if I haven’t told you lately, thank you for sharing your children with us—they are incredible, inspirational, **Capable Christian Servant-Leaders!**

With Gratefulness,
Tia Esser, Executive Director
Romans 12:2

P.S. Join me in thanking Justin and Andrew, and their businesses, for their beautiful, Holy-Spirit-inspired gifts.

Christmas Concert



Spirit Wear Sale!

Webstore Sale!
Sioux Falls Lutheran

Take **20% OFF** Use Code: NovSale20Pct
Expires Sunday Nov 9th, 2025




yoursonthespot.com

Show your school spirit and save big!

Get 20% OFF your SFLS gear now through Sunday, November 9

 Shop online: <https://www.yoursonthespot.com/SFLS/shop/home>

 Or stop by the Yours On The Spot retail store and mention code: NovSale20Pct to get your discount!

 Basketball online spirit store coming soon!

COMING SOON: BOOSTER CLUB **CHRISTMAS** COOKIE WALK ... Sunday, December 14, 2-4 PM

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

Veterans Day Chapel is Tuesday, November 11, led by Pastor Lehr from Zion Lutheran Church.

- Grades 4-12 at 8:50 AM



Wednesday, November 12, led by DCE Hailey Jo Miller from Memorial Lutheran Church.

- Grades K-3 at 8:50 AM

This year's theme is *Walk by Faith*. This week's topic: Faith in Everyday Life: I Am With You Always.

Preschool chapel will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 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 "David & Goliath".



Chapel Offerings: Our second quarter offering begins with \$204.80 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.

Chaplain for the week of November 10 is DCE Hailey Jo Miller from Memorial Lutheran Church.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Welcome to Tools for Growth & Resilience:

A **Reset Space** or **Calm Corner** ([link](https://copingskillsforkids.com/blog/2016/4/27/how-to-create-a-calm-down-spot?rq=Reset%20Space)) 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@sflutheralschool.com

DRAMA



**5TH-8TH GRADE
DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS**

FAST FOOD
by Tracy Wells

**Friday, November 7 at 6:30pm
Sunday, November 9 at 4:30pm**

**Admission:
\$5 Students (K-12)
\$7 Adults**

**Dr. Vaughn & JoAnn Meyer
Chapel & Performing Arts Center
Sioux Falls Lutheran School**

Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.
(www.playscripts.com)



**SFLS HIGH SCHOOL
ONE-ACT AUDITIONS**

*The Masque
of Beauty and
the Beast*

BY MICHAEL ELLIOT BRILL.
BASED ON THE LEGENDARY STORY.

**DATE:
Tues. November 11**

TIME: 3:20 – 4:30pm **PLACE: SFLS Chapel**

Any student interested in being a part of the one-act (acting, stage managing, make-up, costumes, etc.) should attend auditions! If you cannot make the audition time but would still like to try out, please see Mrs. Albers!

Next PTF Meeting:

Monday, November 10, 5:30 PM
High School Wing

**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 10	Thursday, November 13
Monday, November 17	Thursday, November 20
No Orders Week of November 24	No Orders Week of November 24
Monday, December 1	Thursday, December 4

EAGLE CARE

We welcome Jourdan Thill to our afterschool group. Jourdan will be helping with the preschool group a few days a week.

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

Please be sure to stay in your vehicle when in the pick-up line at the end of the day! Thank you! If you would like to walk to get your student, please park in the parking lot and walk up to the cross walk.

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@sflutheranschool.com

👉 **If you're interested, [sign up here](#)** (There are 3 spots still available on January 10, 2026.)

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

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Please be sure to stay in your vehicle when in the pick-up line at the end of the day! Thank you! If you would like to walk to get your student, please park in the parking lot and walk up to the cross walk.

HIGH SCHOOL

Members of the High School Choir class went on an outing to see a Transept Concert at St. Joseph Cathedral in downtown Sioux Falls. Students enjoyed the beautiful venue, and completed reflection papers to help reinforce the concepts learned in Choir class.



ATHLETICS

FOOTBALL: Awards night: Monday, November 17 @ 6:30 PM

CROSS COUNTRY: End of Season Celebration & Awards, Sunday, November 16, 5-7 PM

MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL Game Schedule:

Boys:				Location & Opponent	Girls:		
11/10/25	Tuesday	5:15/6pm	Boys 7/8	MCM	11/10/25	3:45/4:30	Girls 7/8
11/13/25	Thursday	4:40/5:15pm	Boys 7/8	HOME vs Canistota	11/13/25	3:45 PM	Girls 7&8 combined
11/18/25	Tuesday	5:15/6pm	Boys 7/8	HOME vs Centerville	11/18/25	3:45/4:30	Girls 7/8
11/20/25	Thursday	TBD	Boys 7/8	@ Bridgewater	11/20/25	TBD	Girls 7&8 combined
11/24/25	Monday	5pm	Boys 8 only	HOME vs Mitchell Christian			
12/1/25	Monday	5:15/6pm	Boys A/B	HOME vs Elkton	12/1/25	3:45/4:30	Girls 7/8
	Saturday			@ Alcester/Hudson	12/6/25	TBD	Girls 8 only
12/9/25	Tuesday	TBD	Boys A/B	HOME vs St. Mary's	12/9/25	TBD	Girls 7/8
12/15/25	Monday	5 PM	Boys A/B	HOME vs Alcester/Hudson	12/15/25	4 PM	Girls 7/8
12/16/25	Tuesday	TBD	Boys A/B	@Oldham-Ramona-Rutland			

JUNIOR EAGLES BASKETBALL! See the Elementary School Section above.

MUSIC

[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!

Congratulations, SFLS Honor Choir Students!

This past weekend, our talented Elementary Honor Choir students represented Sioux Falls Lutheran School at the SDMEA Elementary Honor Choir!

After months of rehearsing at school, they joined students from across the state on Saturday for a full day of music-making and capped it off with a beautiful concert performance.

A special shout-out to Emmarie, Elsie, and Kaeleigh, who were recognized as 3-year Honor Choir members — what an amazing accomplishment!


We're so proud of all our young musicians for sharing their gifts and representing SFLS so well!



Congratulations to the 2025 All-State Choir and Orchestra students! The Choir Quartet from Sioux Falls Lutheran included: Taylor Miller (Soprano), Addison Vis (Alto), Kaitlyn Wald (Tenor), and Jude Elkins (Bass). Brynlee Post represented Sioux Falls Lutheran in the All-State Orchestra. Brynlee was a Second

Violin and made 2nd Chair in her section! These music students rehearsed at the Denny Sanford Premier Center with students from all over South Dakota for two days before performing an excellent concert on Saturday, November 1.

If you missed the concert, you can check it out here!

 [2025 SDHSAA All-State Chorus & Orchestra Concert](#)



[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

BIBLE STUDY

Iron Eagles Men's Group @ SFLS

Date: Nov 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

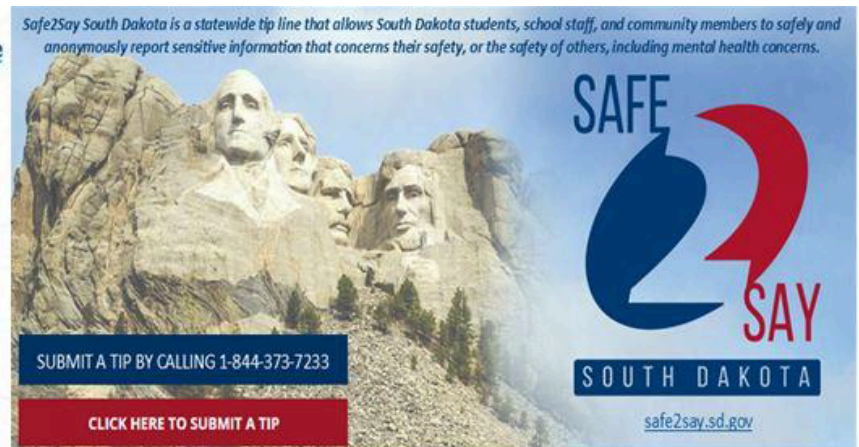
Wine & Design: Join us from 7:00-9:30 PM on Sat, Nov. 8, to create your own campfire creation.

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>.



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



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

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