



EAGLES NEWS



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PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Dec. 12, 2025

Launching This Spring: The SFLS K–12 Mentor Program



This spring, we'll begin a new Mentor Program for our Kindergarten through 12th grade students—something rooted deeply in Scripture and inspired by the way Jesus walked so lovingly with His disciples. He taught them, listened to them, encouraged them, and reminded them again and again that they were loved.

Our Mentor Program is designed to pair one caring adult with a student for a simple weekly lunch-time visit. Students are recommended by their

classroom teacher, who first connects with parents for permission. From there, our team thoughtfully matches each child with a trained mentor whose gifts and personality fit well. Mentoring isn't about having all the answers—it's about showing up, listening, and helping a child feel valued and seen.

We are now seeking [applications](#) from individuals who feel called to pour into a young person in this meaningful way. If you feel even the slightest nudge, we encourage you to **read the FAQs below** and prayerfully consider whether God may be calling you to invest in a child through this meaningful ministry.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to our Mentor Programming Committee for the thoughtful, faithful, mission-fulfilling work they've poured into this program. Their dedication is an extraordinary gift. Please join me in thanking:

On-Site Program Coordinators

- Brooke Aker
- Barb DeVos

Mentor Programming Committee Members

- Virginia Strubbe – Lutheran Family Services Liaison, Mentor Training Leader, Mentor Liaison
- Pastor Corey Aker – Mentor Screening & Participant Retention
- Brian Pederson – Male Mentor Recruiter, Mentor Screening
- Peggy Baney – Grant Writer, Technology Support
- Jennie Hohn – Assist. with Mentor Training; Matching Committee

QUICK LINKS

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- Angela Hoekman – End-of-Year Celebration Coordinator; Mentor
- Brenda Bernard – Leadership Team Representative

Questions may be directed to Mrs. Aker or Mrs. DeVos at mentoringcoordinators@sflutherschool.com.

Apply to be a mentor!

FAQs

What is a mentor?

To put it simply, a mentor is an adult willing to spend time with a student. The mentor shows interest in and cares for the student, listens intently, asks questions, and lets the student know he or she has an extra adult who supports them. All of this is done by simply being present with your student during their lunch break once per week.

Why should you consider being a mentor?

The best reason is that you'll make a lasting impact on the life of a young person. Your consistent presence will mean the world to your student, and he or she will remember what you did for their lifetime.

How do I mentor a student?

There are an endless number of ways to do this, but we would encourage you to utilize the many different games we have available to play together. During the game time, you can get to know each other through natural conversations. Your time, presence, interest, and care are the key elements you are offering when you mentor.

When would I meet with my mentee?

Once you are assigned to a mentee, you will be informed of the time of their lunch break. Looking at your schedule for the week, you then determine which weekday works for you to meet with the student every week at that time.

Where would I meet with my student?

Mentors and mentees will meet in the reading area at SFLS. Games and books are provided for your use.

How do I become a mentor?

Simply complete the [mentor application](#) and authorize a background check. Once approved, you'll be invited to a training session that walks through the program, answers questions, and helps you feel confident and prepared. After training, our team will thoughtfully match you with a student who will benefit from your care.

Thank you for considering this wonderful opportunity!

With Gratefulness,

Mrs. Esser

Romans 12:2

SIOUX FALLS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Ribbon Cutting & **DEDICATION**

YOU'RE INVITED! Middle & High School Wing Ribbon Cutting & Dedication

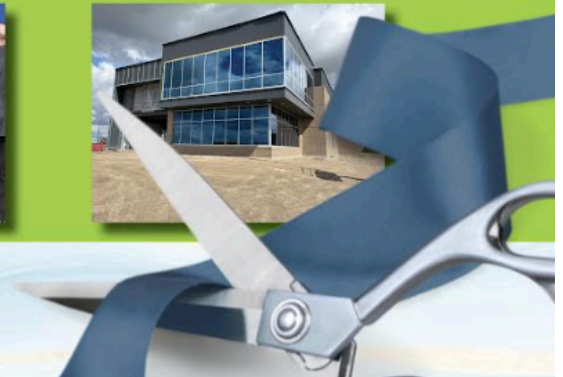
Tuesday, January 20 • 4:30 p.m.
Sioux Falls Lutheran School

6715 S. Boe Lane
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Celebrate this milestone with our SFLS community!



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



SAVE THE DATE: Annual Trivia Night:

Saturday, January 24, 2026 This fun evening is sponsored by the current 7th grade class to support the annual leadership/earth science trip for 8th grade students in the Black Hills September 8-11, 2026.

Pictured: 2024-25 Winners



Booster Club Fundraiser on Sunday, December 14:

ART

Donations of ice cream pails with lids would be greatly appreciated. 6-8 more are needed. Thank you!

CAREER CORNER



We're hiring a 5th Grade Teacher for the 2026–27 school year, as well as Preschool Educational Assistants and Eagle Care Workers for the current school year. Learn more and apply:

siouxfallslutheran.com/careers.

CHAPEL

Campus Chaplain the week of December 15 is DCE Liz Peters from Memorial Lutheran Church.

K-12 Chapel on Wednesday, December 17 at 8:50 AM, will be led by **Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher**, President of the South Dakota District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in the **Meyer Chapel & Performing Arts Center**.

This year's theme is **Walk by Faith**, and this week we focus on **Advent: THANK YOU for Supporting Shepherds and Magi—Worshipping by Faith**.

During chapel, President Sturzenbecher will also **commission and install Mr. Stubkjaer as a Called Worker**, celebrating his successful completion of the **LCMS Colloquy**, a theological and professional formation program for Lutheran educators seeking recognition and placement as rostered workers in the Church. We give thanks to God for this milestone and for Mr. Stubkjaer's faithful service among us!

Preschool chapel will be held on **Wednesday, December 17**, 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 **"The Three Wisemen"**.

Chapel Offerings: Our second quarter offering continues to grow. With 1 chapel left in the quarter, we have an offering of \$936.46 that will go to [FEEDING SOUTH DAKOTA](#). FYI: Every \$1 provides 3 meals!

We honor God by serving others!



COUNSELING SERVICES

Welcome to Tools for Growth & Resilience:



The holiday season can be a busy, exciting but also difficult time of year. We each experience a range of emotions and sometimes don't get the sleep we each need or the healthy meals our bodies need to emotionally regulate. This is an introduction to ways to co-regulate with our children ([link](#)).

Children look to grown-ups, be it a parent, teacher, older family member, etc. for safety and assurance. If the adult provider is dysregulated, the child's sense of safety is not present and the child is unable to self-regulate. For more ideas check out the link. If your child struggles with emotional dysregulation and you'd like more assistance locating resources feel free to reach out.

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, December 15	Thursday, December 18
No Orders Week of December 22	No Orders Week of December 22
No Orders Week of December 29	No Orders Week of December 29

EAGLE CARE

Please check your FACTS account for November billing. Contact us if you have any questions. Remember, if you don't check out, we check your child out at 5:00 PM.

Eagle Care will be **open** on **Friday, December 19**, after school. May you find and take those moments of peace and joy as we anticipate our Savior's birth.

PRESCHOOL

Upcoming Music Dates:

Tuesday, December 16: PreK 4s Fjelstad & FF Boyens Christmas Program 9 AM

Thursday, December 18: PreK 4s Brinkman & 3s/4s VanDenHoek Christmas Program 9 AM

Immunizations Update Reminder

Time is flying, and our children are growing so fast! If your child receives any new immunizations during a doctor's visit, please email the updated record to schooloffice@sflutherschool.com or drop off a paper copy at the school office. Thank you for helping us keep our records up to date and stay in compliance with state requirements.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Advent - We are now in the season of Advent. What is Advent?

- Advent is a season in the church year where we anticipate the coming/arrival of our Savior Jesus.
- We celebrate Christ coming to us in three ways - past, present, future. Christmas and the Old Testament prophets tell us how Jesus came to earth in the past. We read about and anticipate Christ's second coming on the Last Day. Christ is present with us even now through Word and Sacrament and his people, the Body of Christ.

Students get to see Advent wreaths at chapel and throughout the building. Our Advent wreath had **two candles** lit this week. The second candle is blue and symbolizes peace. It is sometimes called the Bethlehem Candle. With this second candle, we remember how the angels over Bethlehem proclaimed "Peace on earth" to the shepherds.

Christmas Caroling: Tuesday, December 16, 3rd Grade at Trail Ridge

HIGH SCHOOL

Semester Finals are next Thursday and Friday, December 18 & 19. The schedule for these days can be found at this [LINK](#). Periods 1-4 will test on Thursday and Periods 5-8 will test on Friday. Note that to avoid conflict with our "Specials Teachers" on Friday, period 6 will begin at 9:00 and period 5 will begin at 10:20. The Booster Club will again be providing lunch for the High School students and staff. Students who are on ICU (have unfinished work) are expected to be at school at 8AM and are NOT allowed to leave when they do not have a final exam.

ATHLETICS

MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL Game Schedule:

Boys:

Location & Opponent

Girls:

12/15/25	Monday	4pm	8 only	Boys @ Alcester/Hudson Girls HOME vs Alcester/Hudson	12/15/25	4pm	8 only
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HS BB GAME VOLUNTEERS: We are in need of 4 scoretable workers for each of the home JV (Boys and Girls) and C (Boys) games: book, scoreboard, clock and shot clock. (Adults only) Please sign up [HERE](#) for games your player WILL NOT be playing in to minimize conflict of interest. The times are approximate as we will have a rolling schedule on doubleheader game nights. Thank you everyone for your help.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Games:

- **Girls:**

- December 16 HOME vs ORR: JV/V: 4:00/6:30
- December 20: Varsity @ River City Classic, Chamberlain
 - 11:30 AM vs Chamberlain. We are the away team.
- January 2: @ St. Mary's, Dell Rapids: JV: 3:30; V: 6:00

- **Boys:**

- December 12 at Vermillion: C/JV/V: 4:30/6:15/7:30
 - Games will be streamed on Tanager Streaming: 3 options
 1. <https://fan.hudl.com/usa/sd/vermillion/organization/15784/vermillion-high-school>
 2. [Liveticket.tv](https://www.liveticket.tv)
 3. <https://www.youtube.com/@VermillionTanagers>
 - December 13 at Estelline/Hendricks: C/JV/V: 11:00/12:00/1:00
 - December 16: HOME vs ORR: JV/V: 5:15/7:45
 - December 20: Varsity @ River City Classic, Chamberlain
 - 10 AM vs Lyman: We are the away team.
 - January 2: @ St. Mary's, Dell Rapids: JV: 4:30; V: 7:15
- Click the [LINK for the girls game schedule.](#)
 - Click the [LINK for the boys game schedule.](#)

POWER LIFTING:

- Practices: 6:15 - 7:30 AM: M/W/F
- First Meet: January 17 in Baltic

Music

[DECEMBER Middle School Ensemble Calendar](#)

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



FALL SEMESTER PHOTO GALLERIES

NEW Our sincere thanks to Brian Hall for his work photographing SFLS events this fall. You can find links to his galleries below, and **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.

- [December 11 - High School Christmas Program](#)
- [December 8 - Varsity Girls Basketball](#)
- [December 2 - 4th & 5th + 6th-8th Grade Christmas Programs](#)
- [November 18 - Middle School Girls & Boys Basketball](#)
- [November 11 - Veterans Day Chapel](#)
- [November 3 - Volleyball](#)
- [October 3 - Football](#)
- [September 30 - Volleyball](#)
- [September 26 - Football Game, Dance Team & Middle School Marching Band](#)

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!****

Please take special note of the Advent, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day schedules. If you don't currently have a church home, we warmly invite you to visit one of these congregations.

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.

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

911 provides first responder dispatch for:

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

Call for Emergencies
911

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.



SOUTH DAKOTA

safe2say.sd.gov

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



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siouxfallslutheran.com | (605) 335-1923