



Sioux Falls Lutheran School

# EAGLES NEWS



[Mrs. Tia Esser](#)  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

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

[Mrs. Brenda Bernard](#)  
PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Dec. 5, 2025

## Thank You for Helping Us Soar on Giving Tuesday!

Because of you, Giving Tuesday at Sioux Falls Lutheran School was an incredible day of generosity, celebration, and Christ-centered community. Thank you for choosing to support our students' faith and learning in such a meaningful way.

**Impact:** We reached 38 donors and raised \$5,599.40 to strengthen the educational experience of every student at SFLS. Each gift—large or small—helps us continue forming capable Christian servant-leaders who are secure in their faith and ready to navigate a complex world.



**Thank you for Stepping into the Spotlight:** Al & Pam Schneider, Alan & Dawn West, Andrew & Laurie Hamann, Austin & Heidi Albers, Ben & Jeannie Bertsch in honor of their son and brother, Keenum Bertsch, Ben & Monica Johnson, Anonymous, Bradley Hanisch, Andrew & Bree Makepeace, Bud & Roxanne Makepeace, Clay & Stacie Noteboom, Dustin & Ashley Larson, Frank & Kim Thuringer, Jason & Erin Matthies, Jason & Kristina Jeremiason, Jay & Kristi Prouty, Jeanine Greenwood, Jim & Brenda Bernard, Anonymous, Justin & Abigail Breems, Anonymous, Mark & Colleen Johnson, Anonymous, Michael & Megan Baedke, Michael Gibbons in honor of Elyse Prouty and her classmates, Anonymous, Mindy Dold, Paul & Tia Esser, Randall & Sherree Gayken, Rev. Corey & Brooke Aker, Rev. Scott & Sarah Sailer, Rod & Tina Lenz in Honor of Tia Esser, Scott & Brenda Shane, Sierra Geistfeld, Anonymous, Travis & Mikela Iverson, and Adam & Vania Asmus.

## A Helpful Update to Our Administrative Wing

### QUICK LINKS

[Art](#)

[Association Churches](#)

[Athletics](#)

[Career Corner](#)

[Chapel](#)

[Counseling Services](#)

[Eagle Care](#)

[Elementary School](#)

[High School](#)

[Middle School](#)

[Music](#)

[Preschool](#)

[PTF](#)

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

[Upcoming Events](#)

As our school continues to grow, we're always looking for simple ways to make our spaces work even better for students, families, and staff. One small update you'll soon see is the addition of a door at the entrance to our administrative wing.

For years, this hallway has been completely open, which made it easy for people to walk through. But with more students and families on campus, the extra foot traffic and noise have made it harder for our office team to focus on supporting teachers, assisting parents, and caring for students who need a quiet moment.



This new door will:

- Create a **quieter workspace** for our staff who keep things running smoothly
- Reduce **unintentional traffic** in an area designed for student and family support
- Maintain an environment where **confidential conversations** can happen

comfortably

Most importantly, this update doesn't change our hospitality. Our office will remain the friendly, welcoming place you're used to—our administrative assistants will continue greeting you at the main entrance, answering your questions, and getting you to the people you need.

Thank you for celebrating this little improvement with us! It's one more way we're continuing to shape a school environment that reflects our core values of faith, family, community, excellence, and safety.

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### SFLS 2025 Annual Newsletter—DON'T MISS IT!

Don't miss our annual newsletter, **linked [here](#)**—it features an inspiring alumni story, a celebration of our 2024–25 donors, a great article highlighting our Christ-centered approach to athletic coaching, and more. It's a joyful snapshot of God's work in and through SFLS this past year!



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### Library Wishlist

Mrs. Iverson continues to receive requests for new library books from students—what a great problem to have! Click [here to view](#) our Amazon wishlist; our students (and Mrs. Iverson!) are so grateful for any donations.

### Lost and Found



Please visit the Lost & Found tables outside of the school office by **Friday, December 19**. After school that day, any remaining items will be donated.

## Christmas Concert:

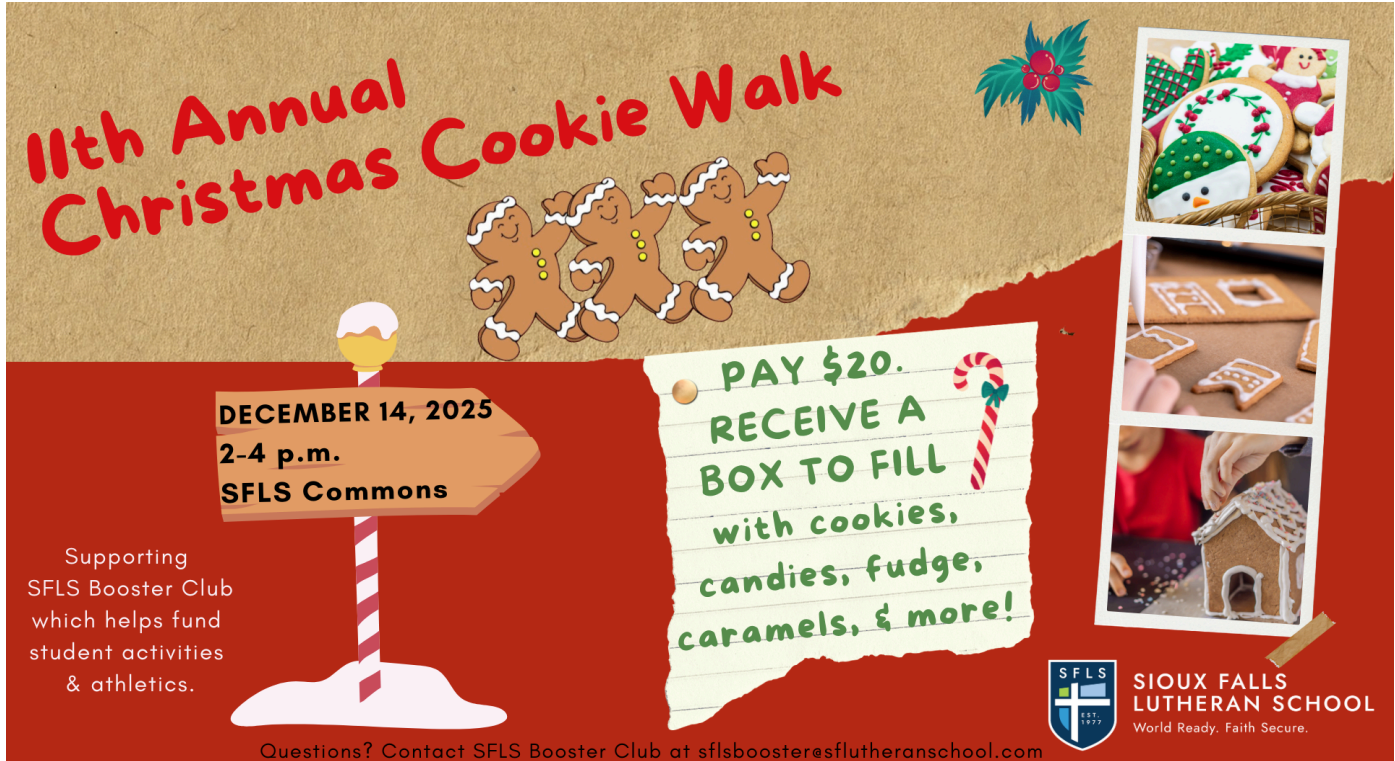
A poster for a Christmas concert. The background is dark blue with a starry night sky. In the center, there is a silhouette of a nativity scene under a star. To the left, the text "OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH VOCAL AND BELL CHOIR" is written in white, followed by "CHRISTMAS CONCERT" in large, bold, white letters. To the right, the date and time "DECEMBER 7th, 2025 · 3:00 PM" are written in white, followed by "FREE WILL OFFERING" and the location "SIOUX FALLS LUTHERAN SCHOOL VAUGHN & JOANN MEYER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER".

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
VOCAL AND BELL CHOIR

# CHRISTMAS CONCERT

DECEMBER 7th, 2025 · 3:00 PM  
FREE WILL OFFERING  
SIOUX FALLS LUTHERAN SCHOOL  
VAUGHN & JOANN MEYER  
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

## Booster Club Fundraiser:

A poster for the 11th Annual Christmas Cookie Walk. The background is brown paper with a red torn edge at the bottom. The title "11th Annual Christmas Cookie Walk" is written in red, slanted letters. Below the title are three gingerbread men. To the right is a holly leaf. On the right side, there are three photos: one of decorated cookies, one of gingerbread houses, and one of a person's hands. In the center, there is a sign that says "PAY \$20. RECEIVE A BOX TO FILL with cookies, candies, fudge, caramels, & more!". To the left of the sign is a signpost with a sign that says "DECEMBER 14, 2025 2-4 p.m. SFLS Commons". At the bottom left, there is text about supporting the SFLS Booster Club. At the bottom right, there is the SFLS logo and the school's name and motto.

11th Annual  
Christmas Cookie Walk

DECEMBER 14, 2025  
2-4 p.m.  
SFLS Commons

PAY \$20.  
RECEIVE A  
BOX TO FILL  
with cookies,  
candies, fudge,  
caramels, & more!

Supporting  
SFLS Booster Club  
which helps fund  
student activities  
& athletics.

Questions? Contact SFLS Booster Club at [sflsboosters@lutheranschool.com](mailto:sflsboosters@lutheranschool.com)

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

If you are interested in donating cookies for the Cookie Walk, please contact Leanne Holdorf at [lholdorf@sflutheranschool.com](mailto:lholdorf@sflutheranschool.com) by Tuesday, 12/9!



## 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](https://siouxfallslutheran.com/careers).

## CHAPEL

**Campus Chaplain** the week of December 8 is Pastor Aker from Faith Lutheran Church.

**Chapel** on Wednesday, December 10, is led by Pastor Aker from Faith Lutheran Church, in the Meyer Chapel & Performing Arts Center. This year's theme is Walk by Faith.

This week's topic: *Advent; Joseph: Faith in the Face of Uncertainty*

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

**Preschool chapel** will be held on Thursday, December 11, 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 "Angels and Shepherds".

**Chapel Offerings:** Our second quarter offering continues to grow. With 2 chapels left in the quarter, we have an offering of \$849.77 that will go to [FEEDING SOUTH DAKOTA](https://www.feedingsouthdakota.org). FYI: Every \$1 provides 3 meals!

**We honor God by serving others!**

**THANK YOU for Supporting**



Together we can  
end hunger.



## COUNSELING SERVICES



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](mailto:bdevos@carrollinstitute.org) or [bdevos@sflutheranschool.com](mailto: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 8	Thursday, December 11
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

ADVENT is here! DECEMBER is here. So many extra events and opportunities are upon us. Be assured Eagle Care is here to support you and your family the best we can. We 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



### 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@sflutheralschool.com](mailto:schooloffice@sflutheralschool.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.

We have an Advent wreath on the altar in chapel. This week we had one candle lit. The first candle is purple and symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the Prophecy Candle. With this first candle, we remember the hope God's people had in the Old Testament as the prophets declared that a savior would come.

All are welcome to join us at chapel! We look forward to seeing you at the Christmas programs and "music class on the stage." It is fun to celebrate this season with all of our Sioux Falls Lutheran family!



**Indoor Dismissal** - With the winter season will come more "indoor dismissals." We do this when the temperature (with windchill) is below 0°F. During an indoor dismissal, students will wait in the Commons until their name is called (if you go through the pick-up lane) or their adult walks into the building to get them (if you choose this method). We will alert you to an indoor dismissal with a text message and an email. Complete instructions are in that email. Please feel free to ask if you have any questions!

### MIDDLE SCHOOL



**Indoor Dismissal** - With the winter season will come more "indoor dismissals." We do this when the temperature (with windchill) is below 0°F. During an indoor dismissal, students will wait in the Commons until their name is called (if you go through the pick-up lane) or their adult walks into the building to get them (if you choose this method). We will alert you to an indoor dismissal with a text message and an email. Complete instructions are in that email. Please feel free to ask if you have any questions!

### HIGH SCHOOL

Semester Finals are coming fast. The dates are 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.

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

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL Game Schedule:**

<b>Boys:</b>				<b>Location &amp; Opponent</b>	<b>Girls:</b>		
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

### **HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL**

#### **Games:**

- **Girls:** December 8 HOME vs Elkton: JV/V: 6:15/7:30
- **Boys:**
  - December 12 at Vermillion: C/JV/V: 4:30/6:15/7:30
  - December 13 at Estelline/Hendricks: C/JV/V: 11:00/12:00/1:00
- 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

### [DECEMBER Middle School Ensemble Calendar](#)

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



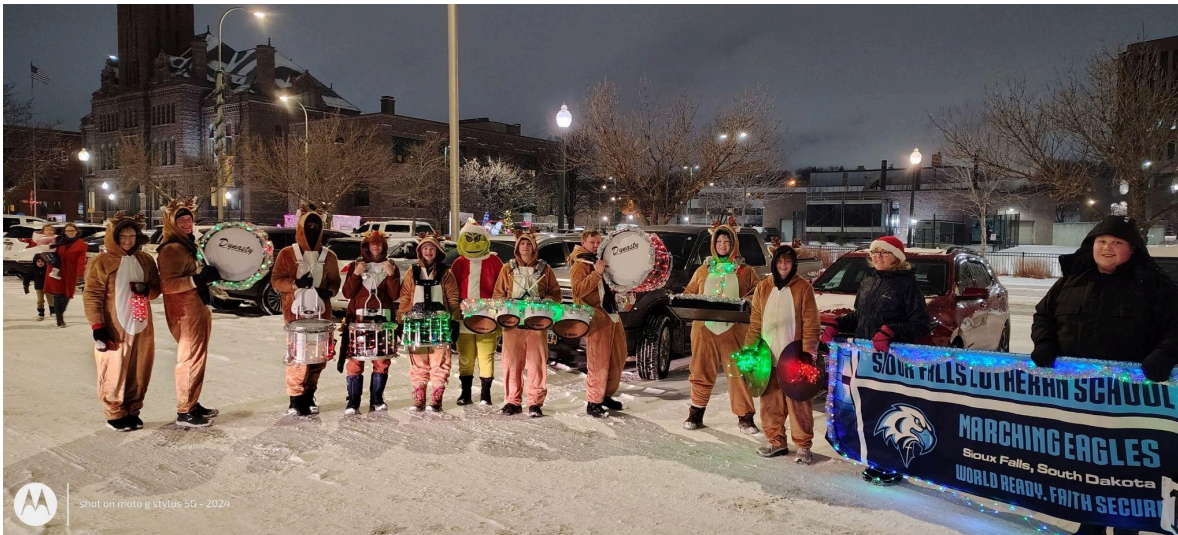
Congratulations to 9th grader Evelyn Thorn, and 7th graders Olivia Eide and Olivia Anane for being accepted into the 2026 South Dakota Jr. Honor Choir! These three singers were chosen from over 800 auditions!



Evelyn and Olivia A. will be in the SSA choir, while Olivia E. will be part of the SATB choir. Singers in grades 7-9 will come together in Rapid City on January 23-24 to rehearse and put on a final concert featuring both the SSA and SATB choirs. We know you will represent SFLS well!

The SFLS Drumline took to the streets for the 2025 Parade of Lights in Downtown Sioux Falls this last Friday. They decorated their drums and marching banner in battery-operated lights and rocked a mash up of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" with a drum cadence called "Grizzly Funk." They also played a mash up of "Jingle Bells" with a cadence entitled "Rock It." They donned reindeer attire and were assembled as a team of reindeer with Rudolph leading the way!

Members of the Drumline that evening were: Ben Jeffcoat, Bridget Miller, Jake Hohn, Brennan Vis, Landon Keller, Noah Baumbach, Gabe Jeffcoat, and Rowen Becker. Banner carriers were Carson Fjelstad and Evelyn Thorn.



Thank you for representing SFLS in this community event, Eagles!!



## Upcoming Music Dates:

### Tuesday, December 9

12:30 PM 1st Grade Christmas Program

2 PM 2nd Grade Christmas Program

### Thursday, December 11

6:30 PM High School Christmas Concert

### Tuesday, December 16

9 AM Pre-K4 Fjelstad & FF Boyens Christmas Program

3rd Grade Christmas Caroling at Trail Ridge

### Thursday, December 18

9 AM Pre-K4 Brinkman & 3/4 VanDenHoek Christmas Program

## 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**

**Call for Warm Handoff**  
**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.*



**SOUTH DAKOTA**

[safe2say.sd.gov](https://safe2say.sd.gov)

Please contact [schooloffice@sflutheranschool.com](mailto:schooloffice@sflutheranschool.com) with any questions or concerns.



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