



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

FEB 6, 2026

National Lutheran School's Week: Thankful for Christian Education

Sioux Falls Lutheran School, with 547 students, falls into the ~3% of LCMS schools with over 500 students. We know this sweet size allows us to provide excellent education and opportunities for our students while still maintaining a tight knit community. Please see below how SFLS compares to the national numbers.

Nationally - By the numbers:

- 1,733 LCMS Schools
- 160,969 Students
- 21,313 Teachers
- 637 NLSA Accredited Schools
- 1,664 Early Childhood Centers
- 722 Elementary Schools
- 114 High Schools
- 2 Birth-12th Grade Schools
- ONE SFLS - GO EAGLES!



SFLS Numbers:

- 170 Early Childhood Students
- 228 Elementary Students
- 65 Middle School Students
- 84 High School Students
- 50 Classroom Teachers
- 30 Educational Assistants
- 20+ Coaches
- 150 Total Personnel
- ONE BIG FAMILY!



I like numbers. But we know numbers don't tell the whole story. Instead, each number represents a beautiful, loved, redeemed child of God! We celebrate the ability to pray, read scripture, and share the Gospel with our students everyday!

Kristen Newell, Ed.D.

K-5th Principal and Elementary STEM Director

QUICK LINKS

[ART](#)

[Association Churches](#)

[Athletics](#)

[Career Corner](#)

[Celebrate His Gifts Gala](#)

[Chapel](#)

[Counseling Services](#)

[Drama](#)

[Eagle Care](#)

[Elementary School](#)

[Middle & High School](#)

[Music](#)

[NEEDS-BASED VARIABLE TUITION](#)

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

[Upcoming Events](#)

LOST & FOUND

NEW

We invite you to stop by our Lost & Found table located just outside the school office to see if any items belong to you or your family. Higher-value items, such as jewelry, electronics, and Chromebook chargers, are being kept safely in the office.

Please remember that Preschool has its own Lost & Found area, so be sure to check there as well. Any unclaimed items will be donated soon. Thank you for helping us reunite these items with their owners!

NEW

PTF (Parent Teacher Fellowship): Next Meeting is February 9 at 5:30 PM

PARKING LOT ETIQUETTE



Dear SFLS Families,

As a family community at Sioux Falls Lutheran School, we partner together to nurture students in a safe, caring, and peace-filled Christian environment. In support of our shared commitment to safety and community, we ask for your help in making our parking lot a positive and orderly space during drop-off and pick-up times.

Recent ParentPulse feedback indicates that parking lot flow, safety, and drop-off/pick-up etiquette remain areas where we can grow together. We take that feedback seriously and know that improving this experience will require shared awareness and cooperation from all of us.

To ensure smooth traffic flow and safe access for all families, please:

- Keep the parking spots near the PreK wing available for parents/grandparents with very young children
- Always stop at the two-way stop signs  (near Door B)
- Use the crosswalks to help drivers see you crossing
- Please be attentive (off phones), driving slowly through and out of the parking lot using the city's gravel road
- If you need to make phone calls or work in your car for a while, we kindly ask that you move your car further out in the parking lot so that the flow of young families can keep moving

These small but important actions reflect our shared responsibility to care for one another and model servant leadership for our children.

Thank you for partnering with us as we work together—guided by faith and community—to keep Sioux Falls Lutheran School a safe and welcoming place for all.

Blessings,

The SFLS Leadership Team

2025 TAX INFORMATION To find instructions for accessing your 2025 tax information through the FACTS Management System, click [HERE](#). Please consult your tax advisor for questions regarding tax credits and deductions. With any other other questions, contact Monica at finance@sflutherschool.com.

NEEDS-BASED VARIABLE TUITION

K-12 Needs-Based Variable Tuition Applications for 2026-27 school year are now open through TADS. Thanks to our expanding list of generous donors who continue to graciously invest in our mission through donations to our needs-based variable tuition fund, **we are preparing to award up to \$400,000 in needs-based variable tuition to qualifying families** during the 2026-27 school year.

To apply, please log into or create a TADS account for your family at www.mytads.com by clicking on "Financial Aid Assessment." TADS will provide a complete list of required documentation before you begin your application, but please know that items like your previous year's tax return are required. **Applications for the 2026-27 school year are due by Friday, May 15.**

If you have any technical questions while submitting your variable tuition application, please feel free to contact TADS support directly at 612-548-3320, 800-477-8237, or TADS-Support@venturedsolutions.com (M-F 7am-5pm CST).

South Dakota Partners in Education (SDPE) K-12 Scholarship Program

In addition to donor-funded variable tuition through SFLS, qualifying families are also eligible to submit their TADS application to the South Dakota Partners in Education (SDPE) K-12 scholarship program. During the 2025-26 school year alone, SFLS families qualified for over \$206,000 in tuition assistance through SDPE, which allowed us to spread our own variable tuition budget even further. If your family qualifies for SDPE and you plan to apply for variable tuition, please plan to submit your application to both entities.

Earn Tuition Credit through RaiseRight

Finally, please also remember that RaiseRight is available as a source of tuition assistance for all early childhood through 12th grade families. Simply buy gift cards for your favorite brands at face value through RaiseRight and use them, instead of cash or other cards, to make purchases. A percentage of each gift card you buy goes directly into an account for your family and gets applied toward your tuition at designated times throughout the course of the school year.

ART

SFLS Artists Shine! 🎨

We are proud to congratulate SFLS art students **Kaitlyn Wald, Rylee Steuerwald, and Emalee Vinz**, who were selected to represent our school in the **Augustana High School Invitational**. Chosen for their creativity, craftsmanship, and dedication, these students will have their artwork showcased in this juried exhibition hosted by the **Eide/Dalrymple Gallery** in partnership with **Augustana University's Art Department**.

Exhibition on view through February 6, 2026

Gallery reception, awards, and studio tours: Friday, February 6, 6–8 PM (awards at 7:30 PM)

Congratulations to our SFLS artists for representing our art department with excellence—we are so proud of you! 🎨

CAREER CORNER



We're hiring a Junior Varsity Track & Field Coach (Spring, 2026), Head Varsity Volleyball Coach, Middle & High School Science Teacher (Physics emphasis), an Orchestra Teacher, and a 5th Grade Teacher for the 2026–27 school year. Learn more and apply:

siouxfallslutheran.com/careers.

CELEBRATE HIS GIFTS GALA

CELEBRATE HIS GIFTS DESSERT AUCTION: If you love to bake as much as many love to eat dessert, please [sign up to bring a dessert](#) to the Celebrate His Gifts Gala on Saturday, February 28.

Tickets for the 2026 Celebrate His Gifts Gala are *SOLD OUT!*

We will honor the God-given talents of our students through a radiant evening of live musical performances, visual art, and Christ-centered celebration. From elegant decor to heartfelt showcases, this unforgettable night will shine a light on the transformative power of faith, creativity, and community at Sioux Falls Lutheran School.

Date: Saturday, February 28

Doors open at 4 PM

Dinner served at 5:30 PM

Location: Sioux Falls Lutheran School

6715 S Boe Ln

Sioux Falls, SD 57108

[Check out auction item sneak peeks and more here!](#)

Campus Chaplain the week of February 9 is Pastor Rensner from Faith Lutheran Church.

Chapel on Wednesday, February 11, will be led by Pastor Rensner in the Meyer Chapel & Performing Arts Center.

This year's theme is Walk by Faith, and this week we focus on Faith in Jesus' Ministry; Blind Bartimaeus: "Your Faith Has Made You Well" based on Mark 10:46-52.



Chapel Times:

- 6-12: 8:05
- K-5: 8:50

Preschool chapel will be held on Wednesday, February 11, led by Liz Peters, DCE from Memorial Lutheran Church, in the Early Childhood wing, beginning at **8:40 AM** and **9:00 AM**. The theme is "**Jesus Blesses the Children**".

Chapel Offerings: 3rd Quarter: \$363.46

Our chapel offerings this quarter will support Rev. Jordon and Alison Andreasen, LCMS missionaries serving in Romania. Rev. Andreasen works to plant Lutheran churches and share the Good News of Jesus Christ with people in Romania and nearby countries. Through our gifts, we help share Jesus' love with people around the world. For more information check out...

<https://www.lcms.org/andreasen>

<https://missioncentral.us/andreasen/>



We honor God by serving others!

SUMMER REGISTRATION FORMS The DEADLINE IS: **Tuesday, February 10.**

Let us know if you have any questions via email to

eaglecare@sflutheranschool.com. We look forward to serving you this summer.





ALCOHOL: KNOW THE FACTS

Information for Students & Parents

⚠ The Reality of Underage Drinking

- **4,300 deaths** occur annually among people under age 21 due to alcohol use
- Youth who start drinking before age 15 are **5 times more likely** to develop alcohol dependence
- Alcohol is the #1 drug of choice among American teens
- The teen brain continues developing until age 25 - alcohol disrupts this critical development

🧠 Brain Development

Alcohol damages the hippocampus (memory & learning) and prefrontal cortex (decision-making). Teen brains are more vulnerable to permanent damage than adult brains.

📖 Academic Impact

Students who drink are more likely to fall behind in school, miss classes, and have lower GPAs. Alcohol affects concentration and memory formation.

⚖ Legal Consequences

Underage drinking can result in arrest, fines, license suspension, community service, and a criminal record that affects college and job opportunities.

🚗 Dangerous Decisions

Alcohol is involved in 35% of teen traffic deaths. It also increases risky behaviors including unprotected sex, violence, and accidents.

👤 FOR STUDENTS: Ways to Stay Alcohol-Free

- Have a plan to say NO - practice responses with trusted friends
- Choose friends who support your healthy choices
- Get involved in sports, clubs, hobbies, or volunteer work
- Talk to a trusted adult if you feel pressured or need support
- Remember: Most teens DON'T drink - don't let media fool you!

👨👩👧👦 FOR PARENTS: How You Can Help

- Talk openly and often about alcohol - start conversations early
- Set clear rules and consequences about alcohol use
- Model healthy behaviors and relationships with alcohol
- Know your child's friends and their parents
- Stay involved - know where your teen is and who they're with
- Create a "no questions asked" ride-home policy for safety

📞 NEED HELP? RESOURCES AVAILABLE 24/7

SAMHSA National Helpline: 1-800-662-4357 (Free & Confidential)

Crisis Text Line: Text "HELLO" to 741741

Talk to your school counselor or prevention specialist

Barb DeVos, Contracted School Counselor, is available to support your child's well-being. Barb is at Sioux Falls Lutheran School *Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays*. bdevos@carrollinstitute.org or bdevos@sflutheranschool.com

Order Dates by 10 AM	Pick-Up Dates after 11 AM
Monday, February 9	Tuesday, February 17
Monday, February 23	Thursday, February 26
Monday, March 9	Thursday, March 12

*** UPDATE: RaiseRight orders turned in Monday, February 9 may be picked up on **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17.****

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

5TH GRADE PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES:

- Monday, February 9: 3:30 - 6:45 PM
- Tuesday, February 10: 3:30 - 6:45 PM

Sign up [HERE](#).

Conferences will be held in the 5th grade classroom. Specials Teachers will be in the MS/HS Wing.

STATE ROBOTICS TOURNAMENT @ SFLS on March 13 & 14

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

MS/HS Parent/Teacher conferences:

- Monday, February 9, 4-8 PM
- Tuesday, February 10, 4-7 PM

Please note: The basketball games against Great Plains Lutheran that were postponed because of cold and wind last weekend are being held in the gym on Monday, February 9. C: 4; JV 5:15; V 6:30

Sign ups for these conferences can be found below:

1. [Middle School Conference Sign Up](#)
2. [High School Conference Sign Up](#)

For your convenience, below is the availability of the Specials Teachers.

- 1. Monday:** Strande, PE; Gosch, Spanish; Mrs. Slavens, English/Theology; Pr. Slavens, Pr. Ascher, Pr. Newell, Theology; Birnstiehl, Band; DeVos, Counselor; Aker, Academic Support
- 2. Tuesday:** Hoekman, Art; Miller, Music/Choir; Brinkman, Stem; Mrs. Slavens, English/Theology; Pr. Slavens, Pr. Ascher, Theology; Birnstiehl, Band; Biteler, Orchestra - 4-6 PM; DeVos, Counselor; Aker, Academic Support

Location of conferences:

- **5th grade:** Mr. Pinn's room
- **Middle and High School:** outside their classrooms in the Middle/High School wing
- **Specials teachers:** Middle/High School wing commons areas



SFLS High school Students in D.C. for the March for Life



On Friday, January 23, three high schoolers from SFLS attended the March for Life in Washington D.C. Taylor Miller, Kyleigh Gordon, and Bridget Miller, along with chaperone Melissa Miller attended the LCMS Y4Life conference in our nation's capital January 22-24. The conference provided great information and presentations by speakers from all around the country. All Concordia Universities were represented, along with Life groups or LCMS groups from several other universities. SFLS alumni Jonathan Baumann, Annika Bjordahl, and Kelsie Miller were in attendance, along with Pastor Drevlow

and two of his children, Joy and Moses Drevlow, who are also former SFLS students. Of course, the highlight of the conference was the March for Life on Friday. Taking place every year since 1974, the March for Life rapidly grew to be the largest pro-life event in the world, with over 150,000 marchers. It was an amazing experience!

Beyond High School: College & Trade Pathways Evening on February 19, 5:30 PM - Are you and/or your high school student overwhelmed by deciding what career and/or college path to pursue after graduation? Do you have questions about how to pay for college and training after high school? We have brought together two resources for you for an informative evening in the SFLS high school learning area. First, join Brady Compaan, an admissions counselor from the University of Northwestern—St. Paul, for an interactive session on four-year colleges and how to start the college search. You will learn the differences between public and private colleges, how applications and admissions work, financial aid basics, and helpful tips to find the right fit. Next, Rita Nelson from Build Dakota will cover navigating the Build Dakota Scholarship, the importance of career exploration, the current skills gap, and how students can leverage today's workforce shortage to their advantage.

All juniors and seniors and parents, please visit our [SFLS Scholarship Hub](#). We are continually updating this list of scholarships and it is organized by the due date.

STATE ROBOTICS TOURNAMENT @ SFLS on March 13 & 14

ATHLETICS

HS BB GAME VOLUNTEERS: Thank you to those who signed up to volunteer at our home games!

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Games:

- **Girls:**
 - Saturday, February 14: @ Great Plains Conference Classic @ South Central Jr & Sr High
 - Monday, February 16: @ Alcester-Hudson 6 PM
- **Boys:**
 - Friday, February 6 HOME vs Canistota
 - JV 5:15 PM; V 7:45 PM
 - Monday, February 9: HOME vs Great Plains Lutheran: C 4; JV 5:15; V 6:30
- Click the [LINK for the girls game schedule](#).
- Click the [LINK for the boys game schedule](#).

POWER LIFTING:

- February 7: Power Lifting Meet at Dell Rapids Public
- March 7: Power Lifting State Meet

SUMMER CAMPS:

SFLS 2026 Summer Camps

Activity	Date	Grades: for 26-27 SY	Times	Location	Cost
Volleyball	July 20-23	9-12	1:00-3:00 p.m.	SFLS Gym	\$65 (includes t-shirt)
		6-8	3:00-4:30 p.m.	SFLS Gym	\$65 (includes t-shirt)
		3-5	4:30-5:30p.m.	SFLS Gym	\$45 (includes t-shirt)
Drama	June 1-5	5-12	9-11 a.m.; Performance Friday at 7 p.m.	SFLS CPAC	\$100 (includes t-shirt)
Football	June 16-28	9-12	SIGN UP WITH MR. STRANDE	Hamlin HS, Bryant, SD	\$50
	July 7-9	3-6	8-9:30 a.m.	Eagle Field	\$65 (includes t-shirt)
	July 7-9	7-12	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Eagle Field	\$65 (includes t-shirt)
Strength & Agility	June 1- July 31 (T/W/Th.)	7-12	7 - 8:30	SFLS Fitness Room	\$185 (includes t-shirt)
		7-12	8:45- 10:15		
Boys & Girls Basketball	June 8-10	K-2	9-10:30 a.m.	SFLS Gym	\$65 (includes t-shirt)
		3-5	10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	SFLS Gym	\$65 (includes t-shirt)
Marching Band (fee includes school year)	July 27-31	6-8	8:00 am - 12:00 pm	SFLS	\$150 (includes t-shirt)
	Aug. 3-7	9-12	8am-3pm	SFLS	\$185 (includes t-shirt)
Cheer	July 8-9	4-6	9am-12pm	SFLS Gym	\$65(includes t-shirt)
	July 10	7-12	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	SFLS Gym	\$65 (includes t-shirt)
Dance	July 13-16	5-12	9-11:30 a.m.	SFLS Gym	\$65 (includes t-shirt)

Registration is OPEN NOW!

Use the QR Code to get you to the registration page. There will be no additional fees added to your registration. Payment is due at time of registration.

Questions? Ask Lisa:

lasmus@sflutherschool.com or

Monica:

finance@sflutherschool.com



2026

SUMMER CAMP INFORMATION & SIGN UP



Join us for growth and positive interactions.

Many different camps are now open for registration!



DRAMA

The cast and crew of “The Masque of Beauty and the Beast” performed at the State One-Act Contest in Brandon on Thursday, February 5, 2026. State One-Act results will be announced Saturday evening at the awards ceremony.

Photos Courtesy of South Dakota Public Broadcasting.



MUSIC



Congratulations to Mrs. Vercruyse's 1st Grade Class!

Mrs. Vercruyse's class had the highest portion of students finish the 100th Day of School Bow Hold Challenge and they won a Bow Hold Party with the Middle School Orchestra!

Congratulations to everyone who finished the Bow Hold Challenge!!!

[Take a look at the incredible bow holds on the SFLS Strings Site!](#)



FEBRUARY Middle School Ensemble Calendar



Upcoming Music Recitals (for students who take music lessons):

- 2nd Grade - February 9 at 2:00 PM.
- 3rd Grade - February 10 at 2:00 PM.
- 4th Grade - February 11 at 2:00 PM.
- 5th Grade - February 25 at 2:00 PM.
- 7th/8th Grade - February 26 at 2:00 PM.
- 6th Grade - March 11 at 2:00 PM.

All recitals will take place in the Chapel. Family and friends are invited to attend!

We will also have an optional **5th-8th Grade Music Contest** on Thursday, March 5, after school. This is a chance for our students to play for a judge, who will give them feedback on their performance. More information to come on this later.

High School Spring Semester High School Ensemble dates:

- Friday, February 20 - Small Group Contest at SFLS - 1-3 pm in Band Room (Band only)
- Thursday, February 26 - Festival of Orchestras at RHS (Orchestra only)
- Saturday, February 28 - Gala- Jazz Band, Small Choir, Trumpet Quartet
- Monday, March 9 - Solo and Small Ensemble Contest at Augustana (Choir only)
- Tuesday, March 17 - Spring Fling for the Arts (All Ensembles)
- Thursday, March 19 - Concordia St. Paul Band Concert at SFLS (SFLS Band will join for 2 pieces)
- Wednesday, April 22 - Large Group Contest (Band and Choir)
- Tuesday, April 28 - Spring Concert (All Ensembles)
- Friday, May 15 - Graduation (Choir, Orchestra, Band)

ASSOCIATION CHURCHES

Memorial - Rev. Doug Slavens, DCE Hailey Jo Miller and DCE Liz Peters

Faith - Rev. Corey Aker & 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 & Rev. Paul Winckler

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please visit your FACTS family portal calendar or click this [link](#) to our website for upcoming events.

Please contact schooloffice@sflutheranschool.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