



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

March 6, 2026

Wow. What a night.

This past Saturday, Sioux Falls Lutheran School was overflowing with joy as we gathered for our annual Celebrate His Gifts Gala — and God showed up in BIG ways.



We are incredibly grateful to share that this was a record-breaking, sold-out event! Through the generosity of our donors and the incredible blessing of a \$50,000 grant from the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML), we didn’t just meet our \$100,000 tuition assistance goal — we soared past it, raising \$178,600 for tuition assistance alone.

These funds will open doors for students to grow academically, socially, and spiritually at Sioux Falls Lutheran School — making Christ-centered education possible for more families in our community.

And let’s talk about that Dessert Auction... 🍰

You all absolutely *blew it out of the water!* With 54 desserts purchased, we raised \$11,550, shattering our previous record by nearly \$4,000.

In total, the evening raised just over \$274,000 — an incredible testament to the faithful support of our school family and community.

It truly was a night filled with blessings, thankful hearts, joyful fellowship, and powerful reminders of how God works through His people. To everyone who attended, donated, volunteered, sponsored, bid, baked, and prayed — **thank you**. Your generosity is shaping futures and sharing the love of Christ in lasting ways.

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PROM FUNDRAISER: Grandma's Kuchen



Orders will be ready for pick-up on Wednesday, March 11



CONCORDIA ST. PAUL'S BAND

Join us for a wonderful musical evening at SFLS on **Thursday, March 19!** Our High School Band will also be joining the concert to perform a few selections. 🎵



CSP
CONCORDIA ST. PAUL

19
March
2026

Performance By
Concordia University, St. Paul's Band
Under the direction of Mr. Aaron Isakson
SF Lutheran School High School Band will be joining for a few pieces during this concert
Free-will offerings will be collected to help support CSP's music ministries

7 PM | SIOUX FALLS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Hosted by Memorial Lutheran's Music Ministry

PANCAKE BREAKFAST



Join us after church on **Sunday, March 22, from 9:00 AM -1:30 PM** for Chris Cakes! All proceeds from this free will offering breakfast will benefit SFLS Activities.

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.

SERVING IN OUR COMMUNITY

On Thursday, March 12, most of our high school students will spend part of the day serving in our community. One of the groups will be going to Legacy Foundation, which is a non-profit organization that helps to provide medical equipment to those who might not be able to afford it through their leasing library. If you have medical equipment at home that you are no longer using, such as **crutches, wheelchairs, foot scooters**, etc, please bring them to school by *Wednesday, March 11*, so that we can deliver those items when we serve there.

NEEDS-BASED VARIABLE TUITION APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

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.

CAREER CORNER



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

CHAPEL

Chapel for Wednesday, March 11, will be led by Pastor Aker from Faith Lutheran Church in the Meyer Chapel & Performing Arts Center.

This year's theme is Walk by Faith, and this week's focus is *Lent: The Journey to the Cross*. This week's topic is *The Cross: Seeing with Eyes of Faith* based on John 19:17-30.

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

Preschool chapel will be held on **Wednesday, March 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 *Zaccheaus*.

Campus Chaplain the week of March 9 is Pastor Aker from Faith Lutheran Church.

Chapel Offerings: 3rd Quarter: \$701.37

Our chapel offerings this quarter will support Rev. Jordon and Alison Andreasen, LCMS missionaries serving in Romania. Through our gifts, we help share Jesus' love with people around the world.

We honor God by serving others!



PTF (PARENT TEACHER FELLOWSHIP)

Next PTF meeting: March 9, 5:30PM

PTF Movie Night : April 11, 2:30PM

Stay tuned for more details!!!

K-4 Teacher Conference Meals

PTF will provide dinner for our wonderful teachers during conferences on 3/10 and 3/12. How can YOU help? Please consider signing up for clean-up either night. Thank you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4DA8A722A1F8CE9-62290226-conference>

CONNECT WITH THE PTF ON FACEBOOK



Scan the QR Code with
your camera app to go
to the SFLS PTF
Facebook Page

EAGLE CARE

We are SO thankful for the warm weather God is blessing us with. We enjoy being outside.

COUNSELING SERVICES



Awareness Topic of the Month: DRUG FACTS

Parents are the first line of defense in preventing youth from beginning to use substances. Be informed and stay curious when talking to your son or daughter. Give them the opportunity to ask questions, seek out information if you are unaware of the answers, and build an environment of open communication with your child. Growing up isn't easy. Unfortunately, the world continues to present new ways for youth to experiment and gain access to information they may not fully understand. Research shows that people who begin using substances before age 15 are about 6.5 times more likely to develop a substance use disorder than those who wait until age 21 or later. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Why age 21 matters: The brain—especially the parts responsible for judgment, impulse control, and decision-making—continues developing into the early 20s. Using substances earlier increases the chance that the brain's reward system becomes wired toward addiction.

<https://drugfree.org/article/adolescent-substance-use>



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, March 9	Thursday, March 12
Monday, March 23	Thursday, March 26
Tuesday, April 7	Friday, April 10

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Education Fair

Be sure you have **Thursday, March 26** reserved on your family calendar for our first ever Elementary Education Fair! This evening, from **6:00-8:00 PM**, will be an evening of fellowship and celebration as we all share in the academic accomplishments of our students this school year. Students in Grades 2-5 will all participate and showcase their projects during a specific (yet to be determined) time during the evening. Kindergarten and 1st grade students will have work on display.

We hope all of our families can come out to enjoy community and applaud our students' work!

New 5th Grade Teacher

We are excited to welcome **Mrs. Katy Holm** to our Sioux Falls Lutheran family as a 5th-grade teacher beginning in the fall of 2026. Mrs. Holm has been student teaching in 3rd grade with Mrs. Mlnarik, and she is excited to work alongside Mr. Pinn.

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

Staffing Updates

In preparation for the 2026-27 school year, we want to share a few planned staffing updates with our families.

Mr. Alan West plans to retire at the end of the 2025-26 school year. We are so grateful for the ways Mr. West has plugged into our community and taught our students during the last three years. He has been a great addition to SFLS, and we rejoice that he will have a chance to enjoy a slower pace during retirement.

Mrs. Brenda Shane is also moving on to a new season of life at the end of this school year as she prepares to step away from teaching to care for her new grandchild. We have loved having her back at SFLS this year, and we look forward to having her involved in our school community in a variety of ways in the future. We are excited for her to experience the next season of life with a new generation.

Please join our school staff in thanking these two fantastic teachers for their service at Sioux Falls Lutheran School.

We will be welcoming **Mrs. Ashley Smallfield** as one of our new middle school teachers, who will primarily be teaching ELA. Mrs. Smallfield has taught at SFLS before and has children enrolled in the school. She currently teaches 7th-grade ELA in Sioux Falls. We are excited to add her to our SFLS family!

We will continue to communicate staffing updates for the 2026-27 school year to you as we have more information to share.

SAVE THE DATE: SPRING FLING WITH THE ARTS: Tuesday, March 17: 4:30 - 8 PM. More information is coming soon.

Testing and Service Learning

All 9th-11th-grade students will be testing on *Thursday, March 12*. Freshmen and Sophomores will take the PreACT. When testing is complete, the 9th-10th graders will travel off campus to serve in our local community.

Juniors will take the ACT. Due to the new format and test options, this will take the majority of the day. Students will have an extended lunch break before the second half of the test.

The seniors will be serving off-campus all day.

ATHLETICS

HIGH BOYS SCHOOL BASKETBALL

- Friday, March 6: Region 3B Round 2, 6 PM vs Bridgewater-Emery @ Madison
Winner moves on to SoDak 16: TBD

POWER LIFTING:



- March 7: Power Lifting State Meet at Baltic

SPRING SPORTS: Students who plan to participate in Track & Field or Golf this spring are required to sign up in BOUND and pay **prior to your first practice.**



GOLF: First practice: March 30 at 3:30 at the Brandon Golf Course.

SFLS 2026 Summer Camps

Activity	Date	Grades: for 26-27 SY	Times	Location	Cost
Drama	June 1-5	5-12	9-11 a.m.; Performance Friday at 7 p.m.	SFLS CPAC	\$100 (includes t-shirt)
Strength & Agility	June 1- July 31 (T/W/Th.)	7-12 7-12	7 - 8:30 8:45- 10:15	SFLS Fitness Room	\$185 (includes t-shirt)
Boys & Girls Basketball	June 8-10	K-2 3-5	9-10:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	SFLS Gym SFLS Gym	\$65 (includes t-shirt) \$65 (includes t-shirt)
STEM	June 29 - July 1	1-3 4-6	9:00 - 10:30 AM 10:30AM - 12:00PM	SMART Lab	\$65 (includes t-shirt) \$65 (includes t-shirt)
Football	June 16-18 July 7 & 9 July 7 & 9 July 7 - 9	9-12 3-6 7- 8 9-12	SIGN UP WITH MR. STRANDE 8-9:30 a.m. 6:30-8:30 p.m. 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Hamlin HS, Hayti, SD Eagle Field Eagle Field Eagle Field	\$50 \$50 (includes t-shirt) \$50 (includes t-shirt) \$65 (includes t-shirt)
This HS camp includes: July 8: 8am-4pm 7 on 7 Tournament at the Sanford Sports Complex					
Cheer	July 8-9 July 10	4-6 7-12	9am-12pm 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	SFLS Gym SFLS Gym	\$65 (includes t-shirt) \$65 (includes t-shirt)
Dance	July 13-16	5-12	9-11:30 a.m.	SFLS Gym	\$65 (includes t-shirt)
Volleyball	July 20-23	9-12 6-8 3-5	1:00-3:00 p.m. 3:00-4:30 p.m. 4:30-5:30p.m.	SFLS Gym SFLS Gym SFLS Gym	\$65 (includes t-shirt) \$65 (includes t-shirt) \$45 (includes t-shirt)
Marching Band (fee includes school year)	July 27-31 Aug. 3-7	6-8 9-12	8:00 am - 12:00 pm 8am-3pm	SIGN UP WITH MRS. BIRNSTIEHL SFLS SFLS	\$150 (includes t-shirt) \$185 (includes t-shirt)

Registration is OPEN NOW!

SUMMER CAMPS: Check out the new STEM Camp for elementary students AND some changes in the football camps!

Use the QR Code to get you to the registration page.
OR use [this link](#). Under Registration, click on Camps.
There will be no additional fees added to your registration. Payment is due at time of registration.
Questions? Ask Lisa: lasmus@sflutheranschool.com or
Monica: finance@sflutheranschool.com



SUMMER CAMP INFORMATION & SIGN UP



Join us for growth and positive interactions.

Many different camps are now open for registration!

2026



Congratulations to the HS Orchestra on their inaugural participation in the Festival of Orchestras held at Roosevelt HS on February 26.

Students performed and were critiqued by Dr. Christopher Stanichar (Northern State University) and Dr. Ioana Galu (Augustana University), as well as having the opportunity to observe/listen to performances by four other HS orchestras from the area.

Our SFLS Orchestra received superior ratings from both adjudicators, who spoke highly of our students' musicianship, teamwork and attention to technical details.

Thank you for developing and using your God given gifts, as well as representing our SFLS community with professionalism and positivity!



The SDHSAA Academic Achievement Team Award program is designed to recognize varsity athletic teams and fine arts groups for their academic excellence. The Academic Team Award program provides high school students with the opportunity to prove they can be overwhelmingly successful in both academics as well as in athletic and fine arts activities.

All varsity athletic teams and fine arts groups that achieve a combined grade point average of 3.0 or higher are eligible to receive an SDHSAA Academic Achievement Team Award. Congratulations to the 2025 All State Chorus and Orchestra members for earning this award for the 2nd year in a row.

Pictured: Brynlee Post- All State Orchestra and the All State Chorus Quartet, Jude Elkins, Kaitlyn Wald, Taylor Miller, Addison Vis.



[MARCH Middle School Ensemble Calendar](#)

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



CALLING ALL KINDERGARTEN PARENTS!

We want YOU to join the Kindergarten Spring Program on April 23!

If you play an instrument and are interested in accompanying your child's violin performance for the Spring Program, please reach out to [Ms.Temple!](#)

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

- 6th Grade Recital - March 11 at 2:00 PM in the Chapel

High School Spring Semester High School Ensemble dates:

- 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

NEW Virginia Strubbe from Lutheran Family Services will be at Faith Lutheran **Monday, March 23** beginning at **6:30 PM** to lead us to better understanding and helpful strategies for managing anxiety. This is a great opportunity for looking at and dealing with anxiety from a whole-wellness, mind, body, & spirit approach. Click [HERE](#) for additional details.

Lord of Life - Rev. Billy Newell

Our Redeemer - Rev. Brett Simek



Click [HERE](#) for worship times! The schedule includes details for Lenten & Easter worship services.

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.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

You're invited to a women's Bible study as we walk through *The Ministry of Motherhood* by Sally Clarkson. This encouraging study reminds us that motherhood is a God-given ministry and explores how He works through everyday moments to shape our hearts and homes. Together, we'll focus on building Christ-centered homes, choosing grace over perfection, and finding joy in every season. Whether you're a new mom, seasoned mom, or supporting the next generation, you're welcome.

Join us for a meaningful time of faith, encouragement, and fellowship — we'd love to have you!

Sign up Link: <https://form.jotform.com/260408648096060>

Book Link: https://www.amazon.com/dp/1578565820?ref=ppx_yo2ov_dt_b_fed_asin_title

Dates: March 15, March 29, April 12, April 26, May 3

Time: 3PM-5PM.

Location: Sioux Falls Lutheran School

Who: Any mother from any season of motherhood

Questions? Please reach out to Jennifer Reiners at Jenn.reiners@gmail.com or 605-370-2831.

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



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

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