



EAGLES NEWS



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April 2, 2026

Listening Well, Growing Stronger: Winter ParentPulse Insights at SFLS

At Sioux Falls Lutheran School, listening is an act of stewardship.



This winter, families once again shared thoughtful, candid feedback through our ParentPulse survey—and the results reflect a deeply engaged community committed to the strength and future of this ministry.

Overall, parent satisfaction remains in the “excellent” range. While results are slightly lower than our fall survey, this was both expected and purposeful. The winter survey was designed to

take a deeper look at areas of concern identified earlier in the year, giving us clearer insight into where we can grow.

What We’re Doing Well

Several themes continue to stand out as defining strengths of the SFLS experience:

- **A Relational Culture that Feels Like Home**

Families consistently describe SFLS as a “home away from home,” where students are truly known, valued, and cared for.

- **Exceptional Faculty and Staff**

Our teachers remain one of our greatest blessings. Parents express strong trust and appreciation for the way our faculty invest in both the academic and personal growth of each student.

- **A Christ-Centered Foundation**

Above all, families deeply value the integration of faith throughout the school day. Our shared commitment to developing students who are *World Ready, Faith Secure* continues to be at the heart of all we do.

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What We Heard—and How We're Responding

As a community committed to continuous improvement, we are grateful for the clarity families provided in four key areas:

1. **Tuition & Affordability**

Families shared a growing sense of financial pressure and a desire for greater clarity. In response, we are:

- Providing a clearer, school-wide picture of the true cost of education versus tuition
- Expanding awareness and access to Partners in Education Scholarships
- Strengthening communication around tuition assistance and available resources

2. **Parking & Traffic Flow**

Concerns around congestion and safety were evident. Our response includes:

- Reinforcing established procedures and supervision
- Making targeted operational improvements where possible
- Continuing to monitor the situation, recognizing that large-scale structural changes are not currently desired

3. **Discipline Consistency**

Families expressed a desire for greater consistency and clarity in student discipline. We are:

- Convening a school-wide discipline committee (already underway)
- Strengthening alignment across divisions and faculty
- Improving communication with families to ensure clarity and shared understanding

4. **Academic and ExtraCurricular Growth**

Parents affirmed the importance of continued growth in meeting diverse student needs. In response, we are:

- Integrating this feedback into upcoming strategic planning work
- Exploring expanded academic pathways and student support systems
- Building on the strong leadership already in place in this area

Moving Forward Together

This feedback tells a powerful story. It is the story of a deeply invested, highly engaged, and committed community—not only to what SFLS is—but to what it is becoming.

As we look ahead, our focus is clear:

- **Strengthen clarity**
- **Improve consistency**
- **Communicate with greater transparency**

We are grateful—for your trust, your partnership, and your shared commitment to this mission.

Together, we continue the work of raising up the next generation of Christian servant-leaders—prepared for a complex world, and anchored in Christ.

With Gratefulness,

Mrs. Tia Esser, Executive Director

Romans 12:2

SFLS AFTER-SCHOOL HOMEWORK HELP

Homework Help is a free resource for students after school on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays until 4PM. It is supervised by an MS/HS teacher and provides students with a quiet, studious environment to complete homework or work on group projects. Use the QR code to sign your student up! Click [HERE](#) for more information and to access the QR code.

NEW

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sioux Falls Lutheran School's annual golf tournament is coming up on Monday, August 3 at Bakker Crossing. This year's Mardi Gras-themed event

will add even more fun and flair to a great day on the course with our community. All proceeds support our school's activities and athletics programs. More details, including registration and sponsorship opportunities, will be shared soon—stay tuned!



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.

SUPPORT SFLS WITH THE COMMUNITY CARD – in Partnership with First National Bank



The First National Bank in Sioux Falls is excited to offer a Community Card in partnership with Sioux Falls Lutheran School—a simple way to support SFLS through everyday purchases.

The [Community Card](#) works like a debit card, drawing directly from your checking account. When you swipe your card and select the credit option, a portion of each purchase is donated back to Sioux Falls Lutheran School.

It's an easy way to show your school spirit while supporting the mission of SFLS in your daily life. To request a card or open an account, please contact Emily Schonebaum at (605) 782-5742 to learn more.

LIBRARY

NEW

As we near the end of the school year, please take a moment to check with your student(s) for any overdue or missing library books. We appreciate your support in ensuring all books are returned so all students can continue to enjoy our library collection!

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.

SFLS ART CONTEST

Our high school art students participated in our first-ever SFLS Art Contest—and the results were outstanding! It has been a joy to see these students use their God-given talents with such creativity, dedication, and purpose.



Every entry received a *Superior Rating (95+)*, an exceptional accomplishment. Even more exciting, select works across nine categories will represent SFLS at the State Art Contest, April 8–11.

Representing SFLS at State

2026 State Art Competition		
Student	Category	Title
Kaitlyn Wald	Crafts	My Mind in Pages
Emalee Vinz	Mixed Media	Uncia, Ghost of the Mountain
Rylee Steuerwald	Drawing Colored	Smudge of Sundown
Kennedy Parrish	Drawing Monochromatic	Royal Ink
Rylee Steuerwald	Functional Ceramics	Winterlight Castle
Livia Sinkgraven	Acrylic	Sunset Sea
Livia Sinkgraven	Watercolor	Harbor Morning
Kaitlyn Wald	Three-Dimensional	Last Light
Rylee Steuerwald	Print Making	Fragments of Tomorrow

One piece was chosen as Grand Champion, Congratulations, Livia Sinkgraven for her watercolor painting “Harbor Morning.”

The awards ceremony will be held at 3:00 PM on Saturday, April 11. If there is interest, a caravan to Aberdeen will be organized, leaving around 9:00 AM and returning to Sioux Falls around 7:30 PM after enjoying the exhibit and awards ceremony. Reach out to Mrs. Hoekman for more information.

Congratulations to these talented students—we are so proud of you!

CAREER CORNER

We're hiring!

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



CHAPEL

Chapel for **Wednesday, April 8**, will be led by Pastor Ascher in the Meyer Chapel & Performing Arts Center.

This year's theme is Walk by Faith, and this week's focus is *Easter and Beyond: Doubting Thomas: From Sight to Faith* based on John 20:24-29.

- 6-12: 8:05AM

- K-5: 8:50AM with **2nd Grade Chat & Chapel** (2nd Grade parents/guardians/family members are welcome to join for fellowship in the commons before chapel.)

Preschool chapel will be held on **Thursday, April 9**, 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 *Easter*.

Campus Chaplain the week of April 7 - April 10 is Pastor Ascher, Resurrection Lutheran Church.

Chapel Offerings: Our 2nd Semester offering supporting the work of Missionaries Rev. Jordon and Alison Andreasen serving in Romania continues with a total of \$1028 so far. Please join us in supporting these missionaries for the last 7 chapels this year. Through these gifts, we join in God's mission of sharing the love of Jesus with people around the world.



We honor God by serving others!

BUILDING AN ARK OF FAITH FOR OUR YOUNGEST LEARNERS

Step by step, two by two, we are building an Ark of Faith — a joyful new playground for our littlest disciples. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, each gift, big or small, helps bring this vision to life. From our mighty Elephants to the diligent Ants, every member of our giving Ark is making a lasting impact. Soon, children will have a safe, faith-filled place to laugh, explore, and grow *for generations of tiny disciples*.



Through the month of May, gifts toward the Ark Project can go even further thanks to a \$5,000 matching opportunity through PTF — doubling the impact of your generosity. You can learn more about this match in the PTF section below.

We invite you to climb aboard by scanning the QR code, emailing bmakepeace@sflutherschool for more information, or visiting the early childhood entrance to see the progress firsthand!



Thanks to your generous contributions to our fall fundraiser, the PTF was able to donate \$10,000 toward the new Preschool Ark Initiative playground equipment! You can see the LION representing this gift displayed in the preschool wing vestibule.



Even more exciting — PTF will **match gifts up to \$5,000 through the month of May**, doubling the impact of your support! If you would like to contribute, please scan the QR code in the Ark of Faith section above.

PTF MOVIE NIGHT: Saturday, April 11, 2:30 PM

The Prince of Egypt (1998) is a landmark animated musical from DreamWorks that brings the story of Moses to life—from his beginnings as a prince in Egypt to his role as the deliverer of the Hebrew people.



EAGLE CARE

We wish our Eagle Care families a most blessed Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and joyous Easter Sunday.

COUNSELING SERVICES



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
Tuesday, April 7	Friday, April 10
Monday, April 20	Thursday, April 23
Monday, May 4	Thursday, May 7

PRESCHOOL

Community is one of our core values at SFLS, and we’re excited to help families begin building connections as they prepare for kindergarten during the 2026–27 school year. To support this, we’re hosting a **Kindergarten Meet & Greet at 10:00 AM on Saturday, April 11.**

We would like to extend a special invitation for current 4 and 5-year-old families to join us—especially if you are registered for or still considering kindergarten at SFLS. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other families, connect with our elementary principal, ask questions, and give your child time to play and begin forming friendships with future classmates.

Please [sign up here](#) if you’re able to attend. We look forward to welcoming you!

SAVE THE DATE: 2026-27 School Year BACK TO SCHOOL ORIENTATION & SCHOOL PICTURES: *August 13*

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Holy Week

Holy Week in the church calendar begins with **Palm Sunday**, when we remember Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem on a donkey—our King has come! Throughout the week, we reflect on Jesus’ unwavering commitment to His mission: giving His life on the cross to pay for our sins. **Maundy Thursday (no school):** Jesus institutes the Lord’s Supper and models love and service by washing His disciples’ feet. **Good Friday (no school):** We call this day “good” because of the sacrificial love Jesus poured out for us on the cross.

And then comes **Easter**—the celebration of the resurrection and the promise of new life. What an amazing God we have, who came to earth to rescue us!

We pray that you have a church community where you can gather in worship this week. If you are searching for a church home, we warmly invite you to explore the link at the bottom of this newsletter. Our association congregations offer many meaningful opportunities to worship and celebrate this weekend—we would love for you to join us.

SAVE THE DATE: 2026-27 School Year BACK TO SCHOOL ORIENTATION & SCHOOL PICTURES: *August 17*

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION: Friday, May 15 at 6:30 PM in the Dr. Vaughn & Joann Meyer Chapel and Performing Arts Center.

SAVE THE DATE: 2026-27 School Year BACK TO SCHOOL ORIENTATION & SCHOOL PICTURES: *August 17*

ATHLETICS

TRACK & FIELD

Click [HERE](#) for the full Varsity schedule. Results can be found on the [Athletic.net](#) website. You can also download the [APP](#).



GOLF

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

Click [HERE](#) for the full Golf schedule.

BOYS BASKETBALL End of season awards night: Thursday, April 9: 6PM

Summer Camp Registrations are still open. Please note the new Strength and Agility Camp schedule.



SUMMER CAMP INFORMATION & SIGN UP



Join us for growth and positive interactions.
Many different camps are now open for registration!



2026

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@sflutheralschool.com or Monica: finance@sflutheralschool.com



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 BOYS 7-12 GIRLS	6 a.m. - 7 a.m. 7 a.m. - 8 a.m.	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!

MUSIC

[APRIL Middle School Ensemble Calendar](#)

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



High School Spring Semester High School Ensemble dates:

- Wednesday, April 22 - Large Group Contest (Band and Choir)
- Tuesday, April 28 - Spring Concert (All Ensembles)
- Friday, May 15 - Graduation (Choir, Orchestra, Band)

Upcoming Elementary/Middle School Music Events:

- Wednesday, April 8 - 2nd Grade Music Class on the Stage (after Chat and Chapel)
- Thursday, April 23 - Kindergarten and 3rd Grade Spring Programs
 - Kindergarten at 12:30 PM
 - 3rd Grade at 2:00 PM
- Wednesday, April 29 - 1st Grade Music Class on the Stage (after Chat and Chapel)
- Monday, May 11 - 4th-8th Grade Spring Concerts
 - 4th/5th Grade at 6:00 PM
 - Middle School at 7:15 PM

ASSOCIATION CHURCHES

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

Faith - Rev. Corey Aker & Rev. Jason Rensner

Our Redeemer - Rev. Brett Simek

Lord of Life - Rev. Billy Newell

Resurrection - Rev. Chris Ascher

EASTER: 7 am SUNRISE WORSHIP

8 to 9:15 Breakfast Served (Youth Fundraiser)

9:30 am FESTIVE WORSHIP

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.

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



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

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