



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

May 15, 2026

In recent months, several local LCMS congregations have expressed interest in exploring new ways to affiliate with SFLS in ministry. In response to these conversations, our School Board unanimously approved the creation of an Affiliate Member level of support, beginning with the 2026–27 school year.

We are pleased to share that Risen Savior Lutheran Church in Tea, SD, will be the first congregation to join SFLS as an Affiliate Member.

This affiliation is designed to strengthen collaboration between SFLS and congregations that share our mission while remaining distinct from formal association membership. As an Affiliate Member, Risen Savior will:

- Provide \$10,000 in financial support to SFLS during the 2026–27 school year (evaluated annually).
- Receive one non-voting representative on the SFLS School Board beginning in July.
- Be eligible for a 20% discount on K–12 tuition for its members (contingent upon fulfillment of the annual financial commitment; evaluated annually).

Beyond these structural elements, this affiliate membership reflects a shared commitment to developing capable Christian servant-leaders equipped to serve Christ and neighbor. We are grateful for the opportunity to deepen collaboration through shared ministry, outreach, and support for families.

We look forward to the many blessings this affiliation will bring to both SFLS and Risen Savior, and we pray that this new Affiliate Member option will open doors for additional partnerships with other congregations in the future.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Board Chair, JoAnn Hirsch, at joannhirsch4@gmail.com.

With Gratefulness,  
Tia Esser  
Executive Director

## QUICK LINKS

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[Chapel](#)

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

[Upcoming Events](#)

[VBS](#)

## END OF SCHOOL YEAR INFORMATION NEW

- **K-8 Field Day:** Monday, May 18 - Activities run from 12:30-2:30 PM. Parents are welcome.
- **Last Chapel:** Preschool is Monday, May 18 at 8:40 & 9:00 AM  
K-11 is Tuesday, May 19 at 10:30 AM
- **Last Day of School:** Preschool through 11th grade is Tuesday, May 19. Dismissal times are:
  - Preschool at 11:00 AM
  - K-11th at 11:30 AM
  - NO AFTER-SCHOOL EAGLE CARE
- **Lost & Found:** We will be donating anything left after school on Tuesday, May 19 to St. Vincent de Paul (northeast corner of 41st St. & Tea-Ellis road). Jewelry and electronics are kept in the school office.
- **Medications:** Please remember to pick up medications that were kept at the school during the year. They will not be sent home with your student. If you have any questions, please contact [schooloffice@sflutheranschool.com](mailto:schooloffice@sflutheranschool.com)

## SUMMER MEAL PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY NEW

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (Dakota News Now) - The Sioux Falls School District has announced the return of its Summer meal program, offering free meals to children and teens in the community throughout the summer.

The program begins on Thursday, May 28th, and will provide free breakfast and lunch to children ages 1-18.

The program will be available Monday through Friday, with breakfast served from 8:00 am to 8:30 am, and lunch served from 11:30 am to 12:30 am.

Meals will be served at six elementary schools in Sioux Falls:

\*Terry Redlin (1721 E. Austin Street)

\*Hayward (400 N. Valley View Road)

\*Rosa Parks (5701 E. Red Oak Drive)

SIOUX FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**SUMMER MEAL PROGRAM 2026**  
THURSDAY, MAY 28th - FRIDAY, AUGUST 7th  
MEALS SERVED M-F | BREAKFAST: 8-8:30 AM | LUNCH: 11:30 AM-12:30 PM  
FREE to all children 1-18 | No paperwork necessary! | \*No meals on Friday, July 3rd

♥ TERRY REDLIN 1721 E. Austin St.	♥ HAYWARD 400 N. Valley View Rd.	♥ SUSAN B. ANTHONY 2000 S. Dakota Ave.
♥ JOHN F. KENNEDY 4501 S. Holbrook Ave.	♥ ROSA PARKS 5701 E. Red Oak Dr.	♥ SONIA SOTOMAYOR 1510 S. Lake Ave.

Child Nutrition SUSD  
This institution is an equal opportunity provider

\*JFK (4501 S. Holbrook Avenue)

\*Susan B. Anthony (2000 S. Dakota Avenue)

\*Sonia Sotomayor (1510 S. Lake Avenue)

No paperwork or registration is required. No meals will be served on Friday, July 3, for Independence Day.

## **2026-27 BACK TO SCHOOL ORIENTATIONS/SCHOOL PICTURES**

- Preschool: Thursday, August 13 from 10AM-7PM
- Elementary/Middle School/High School: Monday, August 17 from 12PM-7:30PM



## **FROM THE SFLS DEVELOPMENT TEAM: Matching Gift Challenge to Finish the Year Strong**

We have some exciting news! Thanks to the generosity of John and Michele Sturdevant, a \$50,000 matching gift is available for our Annual [Eagle Fund](#) through June 30! Every gift made will be matched dollar-for-dollar—doubling your impact on the students, teachers, and mission of Sioux Falls Lutheran School.

The Eagle Fund helps bridge the gap between tuition and the true cost of an SFLS education. It supports classrooms, equips teachers, and nurtures faith in each of the 550 students we serve every day. Generosity like this is what makes Christ-centered education possible.

We also recently shared our [Development Update](#), offering a closer look at the heart behind the Eagle Fund, stories of generosity impacting students right now, and how God continues to provide through faithful supporters and legacy gifts. If you haven't had a chance to read it yet, we invite you to take a moment—you may just find a meaningful way to be part of the story.

## **LAST CHANCE TO APPLY FOR NEEDS-BASED VARIABLE TUITION & SDPE SCHOLARSHIPS**

[K–12 needs-based variable tuition](#) applications for the 2026–27 school year are due through TADS by **Friday, May 15**. Thanks to the continued generosity of our donors, SFLS anticipates awarding up to \$400,000 in tuition assistance to qualifying families.

**Important SDPE Update:** New legislation (SB 84) expands eligibility for the [South Dakota Partners in Education \(SDPE\) scholarship program](#) beginning in 2026–27.

- **Income eligibility is increasing to 200% of the Free & Reduced Lunch Income Guidelines**, meaning more families may qualify.

- Students who have been in the program for three years or are entering high school will need to **reapply this year** (all families who wish to be considered for tuition assistance funds through SFLS during the 2026-27 school year need to reapply this year).
- Reapplying students' household income may not exceed **250% of the Reduced Lunch Income Guideline**.
- **Children in Foster Care automatically qualify** and receive the same scholarship amount for three years.
- SDPE prioritizes **returning students first**, and then new applicants.

## 2026-2027 Qualifying Income Scale

We honor the income level that originally qualified the student, or we use the lower-income level of a subsequent application submitted before the time to reapply.

A qualifying income cannot be more than what is listed below.

Household Size	Free Lunch Income Level	Reduced Lunch Income Level	200% Of Reduced Lunch Income Level	250% Reapplying Students Only
2	\$28,132	\$40,034	\$80,068	\$100,085
3	\$35,516	\$50,542	\$101,084	\$126,355
4	\$42,900	\$61,050	\$122,100	\$152,625
5	\$50,284	\$71,558	\$143,116	\$178,895
6	\$57,668	\$82,066	\$164,132	\$205,165
7	\$65,052	\$92,574	\$185,148	\$231,435
8	\$72,436	\$103,082	\$206,164	\$257,705
For each additional family member, add	\$7,384	\$10,508	\$21,016	\$26,270

### What to Do:

- Visit [www.mytads.com](http://www.mytads.com) and click "Financial Aid Assessment" to start your application.
- Submit your application to **both SFLS and SDPE** to be considered for all available assistance.
- Ensure your application reaches a **GOOD form rating by May 15, 2026** (late applications will be waitlisted).

TADS will guide you through required documentation, including your most recent tax return. **For technical support, contact TADS** (Mon–Fri, 7am–5pm CST) at 612-548-3320, 800-477-8237, or [TADS-Support@venturedsolutions.com](mailto:TADS-Support@venturedsolutions.com).

As a friendly reminder, **all infant through 12<sup>th</sup> grade families may reduce tuition through [RaiseRight](#)** by purchasing gift cards for everyday expenses and earning tuition credit throughout the year.

### SIGN UP & JOIN THE FUN!

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 bring even more fun and flair to a great day on the course with our community, all while supporting our school's activities and athletics programs. Registration is now open at

<https://siouxfallslutheran.ejoinme.org/2026SFLSGolfRegistration>—\$500 per team of four. Interested in getting your name out on the course? Hole sponsorships are available for \$750—reach out to learn more!



**BOOK SALE:** The SFLS Annual Used Book Sale will be held at Memorial Lutheran Church from August 5-8. We have already begun collecting books at the school, and boxes are available at the main entrance and the preschool entrance. Donations



will be accepted at the school through August 1. Memorial will also have donation boxes available at the church beginning June 1.

We accept all books, puzzles, board games, records, music, CDs, and DVDs. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the Tuition Assistance Fund.

## CAREER CORNER

### We're hiring!

2026-27 School Year:

- Full-time Orchestra Teacher
- Varsity Football Assistant Coach
- Junior High Football Coach
- Middle School Volleyball Head Coach & Assistant Coach
- Head Varsity Girls Basketball Coach
- JV Boys Basketball Coach
- Middle School Track Head Coach & Assistant Coach
- Eagle Care Workers (especially 18+)



Learn more and apply: [siouxfallslutheran.com/careers](https://siouxfallslutheran.com/careers).

## CHAPEL

**Campus Chaplain** for the week of May 19 is Pastor Billy Newell from Lord of Life Lutheran Church.

**Chapel** time for K-11 on **Tuesday, May 19 is 10:30 AM**.

We will be wrapping up this year's theme of *Walk by Faith*.

**Preschool chapel** will be held on **Monday, May 18**, 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 is With Me Wherever I Go*.

**Chapel Offerings:** Our 2nd Semester offering supporting the work of Missionaries Rev. Jordon and Alison Andreasen serving in Romania continues with a total of \$1,554.98 so far. Please join us in supporting these missionaries for the last chapel offering this school 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*.

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



**NEWSFLASH: PTF Matches Gifts to Preschool ARK OF FAITH Project through the Month of May!**

Even more exciting — PTF will **match gifts up to \$5,000 through the month of May**, doubling the impact of your support!



**PTF (PARENT TEACHER FELLOWSHIP)**

**NEXT MEETING:** June 15 from 5:30-7:00 PM in the Upper Room. The PTF budget for the next school year will be discussed.

**SWEET SUPPORT FOR FIELD DAY!** Thank you so much to Mrs. Miki Iverson and her company B&G Milkyway for donating ice cream as a fun field day treat for Kindergarten through 8th grade students!! We appreciate your generosity!

**EAGLE CARE**

**THANK YOU:** The entire Eagle Care staff thanks you for letting us serve your family this school year. We wish you all a joyful summer and ask our Heavenly Father to keep you all safe.

**REGISTRATION FOR 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR:** Remember to watch for an email early this summer with a form to register for before- and/or after-school care for the 2026-27 school year. We do have your information from the enrollment forms submitted in January; however, we understand that plans may change.

**COUNSELING SERVICES**

**Awareness Topic for May: Mental Health**

This **Mental Health Month**, Mental Health America invites you to reflect on what a “good day” looks like to you. Click [here](#) to learn more.



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](mailto:bdevos@carrollinstitute.org) or [bdevos@sflutherschool.com](mailto:bdevos@sflutherschool.com)

<b>Order Date by 10 AM</b>	<b>Pick-Up Date after 11 AM</b>
Monday, May 18	Thursday, May 21

**\*\*For the summer RaiseRight schedule, click [Here!](#)\*\***

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Spring MAP scores** are being sent home by your student's teacher.

**FIELD DAY**

K-8 will participate in Field Day in the afternoon on *May 18*. **Parents are welcome to come as spectators to this fun event.** Field day events will take place from 12:30-2:30. Students will be grouped by Family Groups to rotate through the activities. Please pray for good weather and plan to send **sunscreen!**

It has been a wonderful year. We look forward to these last couple days as a way to provide **closure** for our students (and adults) and to **celebrate** the year we have shared together.



**K-8th GRADE YEARBOOK ORDERS!**

We're excited to continue offering K-8 yearbooks as a special way to capture this year's memories! After many years of providing them at no cost, yearbooks will now be available for purchase at \$20 each.

If your family would like to order one for the 2025-2026 school year, please use the link below **by June 1**.

<https://shop.memorybook.com>

All users will have to register the first time they access the site. School Code: 064826M.

Yearbooks will be available for pick up at back to school night in August.

Thank you for your understanding and support—we're grateful to continue providing this keepsake for our students!

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Tonight, Friday, May 15, 6:30 PM, the following seniors will graduate from High School. You are welcome to attend.

1. Josiah Baumann
2. Kiersten Bjordahl
3. Sam Borg
4. Madilyn Dinges
5. Ka'Marrien Garcia
6. Lewis Jerke
7. Calvin Johnson
8. Joshua Rhinehart
9. Peter Samp
10. Livia Sinkgraven
11. Kelton Spates
12. Macy Stadheim
13. Rylee Steuerwald
14. Kaitlyn Wald



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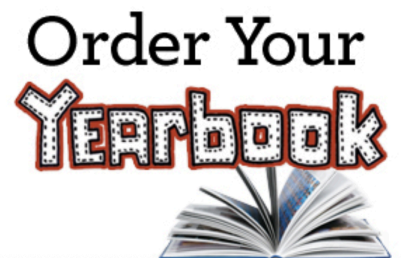
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## HS YEARBOOK ORDERS!

For current students in 9th-12th grade who would like to purchase 2025-2026 yearbooks, order forms are available in the school office or you may order through this [google form](#). Contact Mrs. Heidi Albers if you have any questions! **All orders are due by June 1.**



**TRACK & FIELD**

- May 21: HS Meet @ White: Dolphin Last Chance
- May 29-30: HS Meet @ HWF: SD State Championships



Results can be found on the [Athletic.net](http://Athletic.net) website. You can also download the [APP](#).



**GOLF**

- Thursday, May 21: Regions Golf @ Dell Rapids beginning at 9AM

**Summer Camp Registrations** are still open - see registration deadlines below.

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@sflutherschool.com](mailto:lasmus@sflutherschool.com) or

Monica: [finance@sflutherschool.com](mailto:finance@sflutherschool.com)

**DUE TO THE SDHSAA SUMMER MORATORIUM RULES, A DATE CHANGE WAS NEEDED IN THE MS/HS FOOTBALL CAMP... SEE THE CHANGE IN RED.**

Football	June 16-18	9-12	SIGN UP WITH MR. STRANDE	Hamlin HS, Hayti, SD	\$50
	July 7 & 9	3-6	8-9:30 a.m.	Eagle Field	\$50 (includes t-shirt)
	July 9 & 10	7- 8	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Eagle Field	\$50 (includes t-shirt)
	July 8-10	9-12	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Eagle Field	\$65 (includes t-shirt)
This HS camp includes: July 8: 8am-4pm 7 on 7 Tournament at the Sanford Sports Complex					

**Summer Camp Registration Deadlines:**

1. Drama: May 22
2. Strength and Agility: May 25
3. Basketball: June 2
4. STEM: June 29
5. Football: June 30
6. Cheer: June 24
7. Dance: June 29
8. Volleyball: July 6



## MUSIC

### High School Spring Semester High School Ensemble

- Friday, May 15 - Graduation (Choir, Orchestra, Band)

## ASSOCIATION CHURCHES

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

### Food Pantry Open to All

The Memorial Lutheran Church Food Pantry will now be open to all SFLS families, staff, friends, and neighbors in need of food assistance. (No questions asked and no forms to complete)

The Food Pantry will be open Monday - Thursday, 9:00-4:00PM or by appointment. You may call the church office at 605-334-7133 for an appointment or with questions. Memorial Lutheran Church is located at [5000 South Western Avenue](#).

**Faith** - Rev. Corey Aker & Rev. Jason Rensner

### BACK TO SCHOOL CLOTHING GIVEAWAY

The Outreach teams from Memorial and Faith will host a Back-to-School Clothing Giveaway and Meal on Saturday, July 25, from 11 AM to 4 PM. Our desire is to provide gently used clothing for infants through teens, helping them start the school with confidence and pride.

We will begin collecting clothing donations in June and are seeking gently used items for infants through adults. Clean clothes may be dropped off at Memorial or Faith Lutheran through July 20.

**Our Redeemer** - Rev. Brett Simek

**Lord of Life** - Rev. Billy Newell

**Resurrection** - Rev. Chris Ascher

Click [HERE](#) for 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.

**SOON TO BE AN AFFILIATE CHURCH**

Risen Savior Lutheran Church, located at 1401 N. Main Ave. in Tea, invites children who have completed PreK 3's through 4th grade to attend Vacation Bible School (VBS) July 12–15 from 6:15–8:30 PM.

Please note: Children who have not attended preschool must be 4 years old by September 2026 to participate.

Please register using this link:  
<https://tinyurl.com/5n9bvku69Q/viewform?pli=1>



Please contact [schooloffice@sflutheranschool.com](mailto: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](http://siouxfallslutheran.com) | (605) 335-1923