



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 1, 2026

SFLS to be Featured in PeaceWise Promotional Video

SFLS was recently contacted by [PeaceWise](#) about being featured in a video designed to share the [blessings and benefits of PeaceWiseKids and PeaceWiseYouth](#) more broadly within the US/Canadian market.



We look forward to welcoming **605 Video Company to campus on Monday, May 4,** to film the video.

In an effort to ensure our school is well represented in this video, **we encourage you to send your students to school in spirit wear and kindly ask for your diligent adherence to our dress code on Monday, May 4.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to let me know. We appreciate your support of this exciting opportunity and again look forward to sharing the finished product with you!

Blessings,

Megan Baedke, Director of Community Engagement

Marli Ockander, Middle School Science Teacher & PeaceWise Champion

Tia Esser, Executive Director

LIBRARY

As the school year wraps up, this is a friendly reminder to check backpacks, bedrooms, and bookshelves for any library books that may still be at home. **Please return all books by the week of May 11.** If a book has been lost or damaged, we would greatly appreciate a replacement. Thank you for helping us care for resources that bless all of our students!

MISSING SILVERWARE

If your student accidentally brought home some SFLS silverware from the lunchroom, please return ASAP! Thank you.

QUICK LINKS

[Ark of Faith](#)

[Association Churches](#)

[Athletics](#)

[Career Corner](#)

[Chapel](#)

[Counseling Services](#)

[Eagle Care](#)

[Elementary School](#)

[Middle & High School](#)

[Music](#)

[Preschool](#)

[PTF](#)

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

[Upcoming Events](#)

PLANNING AHEAD:

Last day of school for preschool through 11th grade is **Tuesday, May 19**. Dismissal time will be:

- Preschool will dismiss at 11AM
- K-11 will dismiss at 11:30AM
- Eagle Care only offered 7-8AM/ No after-school care

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! Every gift made to the [Eagle Fund](#) 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—supporting classrooms, equipping teachers, and nurturing faith in all 550 students we serve each day. It's one of the many ways generosity makes Christ-centered education possible.



We also shared our very first [Development Update](#) this week, giving a deeper look into the heart behind the Eagle Fund, stories of generosity shaping students right now, and how God continues to provide through faithful supporters and legacy gifts. If you missed it, we encourage you to take a moment to read it and see how you can be part of this story!

NEEDS-BASED VARIABLE TUITION & SDPE SCHOLARSHIPS – APPLY BY MAY 15

[K–12 needs-based variable tuition](#) applications for the 2026–27 school year are due through TADS by 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 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.

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

BOOK SALE

Sioux Falls Lutheran School Annual Used Book Sale August 5-8

Money raised goes to Tuition Assistance Fund

- Donation boxes are now available at the main entrance or at the Preschool entrance at SFLS.
- Donations at SFLS will be accepted until August 1.
- Donation boxes available at Memorial Lutheran Church (5000 S. Western Avenue) on June 1.
- Donations accepted include books of all genres for all ages, CD's, DVD's, records, music, board games and puzzles.



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!

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.

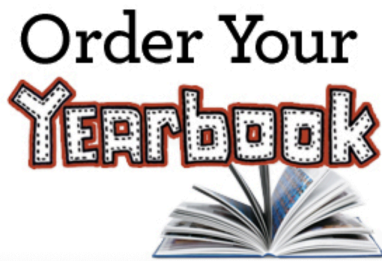
If your family would like to order one, please use the link below **by June 1**.

<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!



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.**

HELP US SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT KINDERGARTEN

As you may recall, we shared last spring that enrollment in our 4-year-old preschool program for the 2025–26 school year was lower than in previous years, and we intentionally expanded our 2-year-old program to move younger children out of our wait pool.

With fewer 4-year-olds moving up to kindergarten, we have more openings in kindergarten for the 2026–27 school year than usual—just as we anticipated.

This creates a wonderful opportunity to welcome more students from across our community as they begin their kindergarten journey at Sioux Falls Lutheran School.

Share the Love. Earn \$500.

Refer a friend for kindergarten at Sioux Falls Lutheran School and you **BOTH** receive a tuition credit!



Families who are registered for the 2026-27 school year and refer a friend who enrolls in kindergarten for the 2026-27 school year will earn a \$500 tuition credit for both themselves and their friend!*

Know a family with an incoming kindergartener? Invite them to explore SFLS today!

- ✓ You receive \$500
- ✓ Your friend receives \$500
- ✓ It's that simple!



*To qualify for the \$500 tuition credit, the new family must meet all admissions requirements, complete the entire enrollment process, pay the \$400 enrollment fee, and maintain continuous enrollment for the duration of the 2026-27 school year. Once these conditions are met, both the referring family and the new family will receive a \$500 tuition credit on April 15, 2027. This offer is only valid for new kindergarten enrollments for the 2026-27 school year.

Do you know a family with an incoming kindergartener? We would love your help in spreading the word and inviting them to explore SFLS. Please see details on how you can get involved!

CAREER CORNER

We're hiring!

Junior High Track & Field Coach (Spring 2026)

2026-27 School Year:

Head Varsity Girls Basketball Coach

Junior High Football Coach

Eagle Care Workers (especially 18+)

Learn more and apply: siouxfallslutheran.com/careers.



CHAPEL

Chapel for Wednesday, May 6 will be led by Pastor Simek from Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in the Meyer Chapel & Performing Arts Center.

This year's theme is Walk by Faith, and this week's focus is *The Church's Mission by Faith: Your Faithful Calling: Walking by Faith in Daily Life* based on Colossians 3:17, 23-24.

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

Preschool chapel will be held on **Thursday, May 7**, 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 *Saul turns to Paul*.

Campus Chaplain the week of May 4 is Pastor Simek from Our Redeemer 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 \$1,370.85 so far. Please join us in supporting these missionaries for the last 4 chapels 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!



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 for more information, or visiting the early childhood entrance to see the progress firsthand!



NEWSFLASH: PTF Matches Gifts to Preschool ARK OF FAITH Project

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 (PARENT TEACHER FELLOWSHIP)

No PTF meeting in May due to band concerts.

Next Meeting: June 15 from 5:30-7:00 PM in the Upper Room.

🎉 Teacher Appreciation Week is Next Week (May 4-8)

The amazing PTF team has put together a full week to show our gratitude for the teachers, aides, and staff who pour so much into our students every day.



Our goal is to create a meaningful, fun, and well-coordinated week that ensures *every staff member feels seen and appreciated*—teachers, aides, office staff, custodial, and support teams.

Here's what's planned:

- **Monday:** Breakfast Bar + Fun Raffle
- **Tuesday:** Coffee Truck ("Thanks a Latte")
- **Wednesday:** Student Notes of Gratitude (notes + small treats delivered by students)
- **Thursday:** Classroom Appreciation (parent-supported)
- **Friday:** Float Bar Celebration

📧 **Wednesday details:** Students are invited to arrive a few minutes early to participate in a special gratitude activity where they can pick up and deliver a note and small treat to staff members who have made a difference. All items are supplied at the doors when they arrive!

❤️ **Thursday Appreciation**

This is the day for each family/students to have an opportunity to do something individually for any staff that has made a difference in their lives.

Some grades may plan something together if coordinated.

Otherwise, if you are in need of an idea, while not all teachers responded, please find a list of teacher favorites here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1M8TX71G4tvFhhufA0sLmBEPuflZWVNOt1fXhSZpiczM/edit?usp=sharing>

Thank you for partnering with PTF to spoil our amazing teachers this week!

EAGLE CARE

SAVE THE DATES:

Monday, May 18 is the last day for after-school Eagle Care.

Tuesday, May 19, we will only offer care before school from 7:00-8:00AM. (All students will be dismissed early.)

Tuesday, May 26 is the first day for registered Summer Eagle Care families.

Summer Eagle Care families- Please make sure you've received an email with more information about this summer.

Awareness Topic: Marijuana Use

Marijuana use among youth can affect learning, decision-making, memory, and emotional development. 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 or bdevos@sflutheranschool.com

RAISERIGHT (AKA SCRIP)

Order Dates by 10 AM	Pick-Up Dates after 11 AM
Monday, May 4	Thursday, May 7
Monday, May 18	Thursday, May 21
Monday, June 1	Thursday, June 4

PRESCHOOL



Last Day of School: Tuesday, May 19

Preschool will dismiss at 11AM.

SAVE THE DATE: 2026-27 School Year BACK TO SCHOOL ORIENTATION & SCHOOL

PICTURES: *August 13*

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



The end of the year is getting closer and closer. There is still a lot to learn and fun to be had! Please continue to keep a close eye on your classroom newsletters.

- **Monday, May 18** will be Field Day for our Elementary students. Parents are welcome to attend. More details will come out as we get closer. We will have Field Day in the afternoon, unless the afternoon looks like it will be rainy, then we will switch to the morning.
- **Tuesday, May 19** is the last day of school. K-11 will dismiss at 11:30.

SAVE THE DATE: 2026-27 School Year BACK TO SCHOOL ORIENTATION & SCHOOL

PICTURES: *August 17*

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

AP Testing May 5, 6, 8, & 12

- Tuesday, May 5: 8-12 - AP Chemistry; 12-4 - AP US Government
- Wednesday, May 6: 8-12 - AP Literature
- Friday, May 8: 8-12 - AP US History
- Tuesday, May 12: 8-12 - AP Calc; 12-4 - AP Psych

High School Finals Schedule, May 14-15, will be done in 80 minute blocks

- **Thursday, May 14**
 - 9 - 10:20: 1st Period Classes
 - 10:20 - 11:40: 2nd Period Classes
 - 11:40 - 12:35: Lunch provided by Booster Club
 - 12:35 - 1:55: 3rd Period Classes
 - 1:55 - 3:15: 4th Period Classes
- **Friday, May 15**
 - 9 - 10:20: **6th Period** Classes
 - 9:00: High School Graduation rehearsal followed by a parade throughout the school.
 - 10:20 - 11:40: **5th Period** Classes
 - 11:40 - 12:35: Lunch provided by Booster Club
 - 12:35 - 1:55: 7th Period Classes
 - 1:55 - 3:15: 8th Period Classes

If students have work to complete, they can come as early as 7:45 to work in the HS Wing. Any student on ICU will not be allowed to leave during school hours if they have a period without a test. If your student is not on ICU and you give them permission, they may leave if they do not have a final. An email was sent by Mrs. Asmus for you to give permission.

Study Hall Volunteers Needed for 2026–2027 School Year

Sioux Falls Lutheran School is seeking dependable and caring volunteers to help supervise high school study hall periods during the upcoming school year. In order to increase the number of class offerings, we

are in need of additional support to ensure our students have a structured, productive environment for study and quiet work.

Study halls run throughout the day from 8:50 AM to 3:20 PM. Volunteers are welcome to choose days and times that fit their schedules, with the understanding that consistency is important for our students.

Volunteers would assist by monitoring students, maintaining a focused atmosphere, and offering general support during assigned study hall times. This is a great opportunity to serve our school community, build relationships with students, and support their academic success.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the school office. We are grateful for your consideration and partnership in serving our students.

“Serve one another humbly in love.” — Galatians 5:13

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

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

Summer Camp Registrations are still open. 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 or Monica: finance@sflutherschool.com



SUMMER CAMP INFORMATION & SIGN UP

Join us for growth and positive interactions.

Many different camps are now open for registration!



2026

Music

[MAY Middle School Ensembles Calendar](#)

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

High School Spring Semester High School Ensemble dates:

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

Upcoming Elementary/Middle School Music Events:

- Monday, May 11 - 4th-8th Grade Spring Concerts
 - 4th/5th Grade at 6:00 PM
 - Middle School at 7:15 PM



2026-27 MUSIC REGISTRATION OPEN HOUSE

Current 1st-7th Grade Families ... Please watch for an email soon with information from Mrs. Prouty on Music Registration for the 2026-27 School year! This includes information about lessons, as well as music ensemble options for Middle School students. We will have an informational night on Thursday, May 14, in case you want to ask questions or chat with the Music staff. This will be from 3:30-6:00 PM in the Music Room.

SD SENIOR HONOR CHOIR

Shout-out to Caius Bertelsen, Jude Elkins, and Leland Bertelsen for making it into the SD Senior Honor Choir! The live audition included singing a classical solo and an a cappella patriotic song, as well as sight-singing, tonal memory, and a written musical terms test. These gentlemen will join 150 singers from around the state for a camp in July at Black Hills State University in Spearfish. We know you will represent SFLS well. Congratulations!





CELEBRATING SUPERIOR SUCCESS IN MUSIC

Congratulations to the High School Choir and High School Concert Band for earning Superior ratings at the Region 2 Large Group Contest in Harrisburg on Wednesday, April 22! Mrs. Birnstiehl and Mrs. Miller are very proud of your composure, focus, and performances for the judges!

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.

Please contact schooloffice@sflutheralschool.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