



SIoux FALLS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

EAGLES NEWS

World Ready. Faith Secure.



Mrs. Tia Esser
Executive Director

Mrs. Brenda Bernard
Preschool Director

Dr. Kristen Newell
Elementary Principal

Mrs. Liz Slavens
Secondary Academic Principal

Mr. James Stubkjaer
Student Life Director

August 28, 2026

Partnering with ParentPulse & You to Shape SFLS

Sharing your thoughts helps us build a stronger school together.

Dear SFLS Families,

One of the most important ways we grow stronger as a school is by listening well to the families we are grateful to serve. Beginning the week of **September 7**, our first ParentPulse surveys of the 2026–27 school year will begin arriving in family inboxes.

ParentPulse gives us an ongoing opportunity to hear from you throughout the year—not just about what we can do better, but also about what is going well and what you value most about your family’s experience at Sioux Falls Lutheran School. Because surveys are sent to only a portion of our families at a time, you may not receive one right away. But when yours arrives, I hope you’ll take just a few minutes to share your thoughts with us.

Your candid feedback is a gift—and please know that we personally read and respond to **every single comment** shared through ParentPulse. Your feedback helps us celebrate what’s working, identify opportunities for growth, and ensure we remain faithful to our mission, vision, and core values. Most importantly, it helps us continue building a Christ-centered school community where children are known, loved, challenged, and prepared to use their God-given gifts in service to Him and others.

So, when ParentPulse lands in your inbox, **please take the survey**. Whether you share encouragement, an idea, or something we need to hear and address, your voice is vital. Listening to one another—and learning from one another—is one more way we partner together to make SFLS stronger for every child and every family.

With Gratefulness,

Tia Esser, Executive Director

Romans 12:2

P.S. Please know we will personally read and respond to **every single comment** shared through ParentPulse.

QUICK LINKS

[Activities](#)

[Association Churches](#)

[Athletics](#)

[Career Corner](#)

[Chapel](#)

[Counseling Services](#)

[Development](#)

[Eagle Care](#)

[Elementary](#)

[High School](#)

[Middle School](#)

[Music](#)

[Photography](#)

[Preschool](#)

[PTF](#)

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

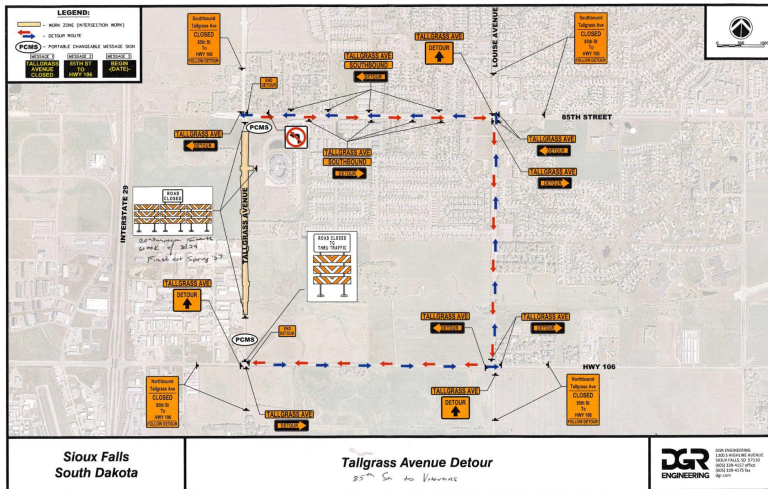
[Upcoming Events](#)

License Plate Stickers

Do you have non-profit license plates on your car? Show your SFLS support with these license plate decals! Please contact Mikela Iverson at miverson@sflutheralschool.com to arrange pick up. They are \$10 for a set of 2.



🚧 HEADS UP: TALLGRASS AVENUE (South of 85th) CLOSURE



Families traveling to and from SFLS from **Tea and areas south of Sioux Falls** need to plan ahead for a significant road closure that is now in effect.

As of last Monday, **Tallgrass Avenue is closed south of 85th Street to approximately one-quarter mile north of Lincoln County Highway 106 (271st Street)** for a major reconstruction project.

According to City engineers, the road is expected to **remain closed through November or December**, when it reopens temporarily as a **gravel roadway for the winter months**. Tallgrass **closes again next spring**, with completion of the project anticipated for **late spring 2027**.

With the ongoing construction surrounding the **85th Street/I-29 interchange**, this closure especially affects families who typically use Tallgrass to travel to and from school. Please use an alternate route and allow a little extra time as everyone adjusts to the new traffic patterns.

We know getting everyone out the door and to school on time can already be an adventure—**road construction certainly doesn't make it easier!** Thank you for planning ahead, driving safely, and packing a little extra patience for the morning commute.

CAREER CORNER

At SFLS, every role—from the classroom to the kitchen to Eagle Care and beyond—plays a vital part in our mission to equip Capable Christian Servant-Leaders in a Complex World: *World Ready, Faith Secure*.

Would you or someone you know make a great addition to our team? We're seeking:

Eagle Care Workers: kind, gentle, fun-loving individuals to serve as part-time workers in our before and after school Eagle Care program. We are especially in need of caregivers who are 18 years and older.

Responsibilities include keeping infants- fifth graders safe, happy, and engaged from 3:00pm-6:00pm.

Coaches: Middle School Girls Basketball Head Coach, Middle School Girls Basketball Assistant Coach, High School Boys Basketball JV Coach, Middle School Track Head Coach, Middle School Track Assistant Coach.

Please prayerfully consider joining our team and/or sharing these opportunities with someone you believe would be a good fit! Job descriptions and application instructions are available at www.siuksfallslutheran.com/careers. Contact Debbie Pankow at dpankow@sflutheranschool.com for more information.

CHAPEL

Chaplain for the week of August 31 is Pastor Rensner from Faith Lutheran Church.

Chapel times for Wednesday, September 2, in the Meyer Chapel & Performing Arts Center, led by Pastor Rensner from Faith Lutheran Church. This year's theme is EXTRAordinary. This month's theme is *Treasures in Jars of Clay*; This week's topic: Created with Purpose; WE are God's Workmanship based on Ephesians 2:10.

- 6-12 chapel begins at 8:05 AM; K-5 chapel begins at 8:50 AM

Preschool chapel will be held on Wednesday, September 2, led by DCE Liz Peters from Memorial Lutheran Church, in the Early Childhood wing beginning at 8:40 and 9:00 AM. The theme is *Creation: God Created Me*.

Chapel Offerings This year's offerings will support [The Foster Network](http://TheFosterNetwork.org). Here is a little bit about them: Since our organization began in 2012, The Foster Network has supported local foster families in Sioux Falls, SD, and the surrounding area. We provide essential resources for children in foster care. This includes access to support groups, events, scholarship opportunities, bedroom furniture access, and The Closet, where foster families can receive clothing, supplies, and toys for the children they are fostering. We aim to ensure families have reliable and safe access to the necessary resources to create happy and loving homes.



Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year!

The **Sioux Falls Lutheran School (SFLS) Counseling Program** is gearing up to meet the school counseling and prevention service needs at SFLS. This year we are excited to have full 5 day counselor coverage through the Carroll Institute Adolescent Services Program. **Barb DeVos** will provide primary school counseling services 4 days per week. New this year, **Claire Daniel** will provide prevention counseling services 2 days per week. (Click [HERE](#) to read Claire's Bio) Mrs. DeVos will be at SFLS **Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays** while Miss Daniel will be here **Wednesdays and Thursdays**. These days are subject to revision based on Miss Daniel's scheduling needs. Here is additional information about our counseling program and services. Please reach out to welcome Miss Daniel and take a moment to meet her. Many students will remember Miss Daniel, as she completed her bachelors-level social work internship through Augustana University at SFLS last school year.

Barb DeVos
SD Certified School Counselor
Carroll Institute Adolescent
Services Program



Hello, this will be my 18th school year at Sioux Falls Lutheran School. I provide school counseling services Pre-K-grades 12.

SERVICES PROVIDED

- 4 days weekly, M, T, W, & F
- Classroom guidance
- Parental resources
- Individual student sessions
- Small groups
- Career & Post High School Planning Support
- Collaborate with Teachers & Admin. on social, emotional concerns
- Participate in student 504 Plan, Teacher Assistance Team and other behavioral plan needs
- Provide threat assessments, PRN

CREDENTIALS

- MS, NBCC, LAC, LPC-MH, QMHP, ADHD-CCSP

Miss Daniel will begin providing services on September 2.

Contact: Barb DeVos at bdevos@sflutheranschool.com or bdevos@carrollinstitute.com or

Direct: 605.681.7993 (confidential voicemail)

DEVELOPMENT

HAPPY NATIONAL MAKE-A-WILL MONTH 2026

Planning for your family's future is an act of love. So is planning for the future of the ministries that matter most to you. Since 1977, Sioux Falls Lutheran School has partnered with families to raise capable Christian servant-leaders—World Ready, Faith Secure. Through every season, our community has faithfully invested in the next generation.

This August, Make-a-Will Month is a wonderful opportunity to take a simple step toward caring for your family and creating a lasting legacy.

Through our partnership with FreeWill, you can create a will at no cost and in under 20 minutes. As you make your plans, you also have the opportunity to include a gift to Sioux Falls Lutheran School—helping ensure that generations of students to come have the opportunity to grow in faith, character, and academic excellence.

Your legacy can help build a future where Christ remains at the center of education for generations to come.

Create your Free Will Today—

https://partner.freewill.com/siouxfallslutheran?utm_source=partner&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=202608_siouxfallslutheran_mawm_toolkit_news_long

There is no obligation to include Sioux Falls Lutheran School in your will. We simply want to make sure our families know this free resource is available to them.

PTF (PARENT-TEACHER-FELLOWSHIP)

Correction: RESCHEDULED do to the holiday

PTF Meeting: September 14 at 5:30 PM

Where: Upper Room (2nd floor in the High School Wing)

**CONNECT WITH THE
PTF ON FACEBOOK**



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



Keep the SFLS Spirit Going: Donate Your Gently Used Spirit Wear

As you prepare for Back-to-School events, the SFLS PTF will have a donation bin available for gently used SFLS Spirit Wear.

If your children have outgrown their SFLS Spirit Wear or you're ready to clear out your closets, this is a great opportunity to pass those items along to another SFLS family.

Throughout the year, the PTF will host Pop-Up Spirit Wear Sales featuring donated items at deeply discounted prices. Every dollar raised goes directly toward supporting our school.

Thank you for helping keep the SFLS spirit strong in our community!

If you have any questions, please contact Abby Breems at abby.breems@gmail.com.

Order Dates by 10 AM	Pick-Up Dates after 11 AM
Monday, August 31	Thursday, September 3
Monday, September 14	Thursday, September 17
Monday, September 28	Thursday, October 1
Monday, October 12	Thursday, October 15

EAGLE CARE

Welcome, or welcome back, to Eagle Care at SFLS!

Eagle Care provides before- and after-school care for students from three-year-old preschool through eighth grade. **Before-school care is available from 7:00–8:00 AM, and after-school care is available from 3:30–6:00 PM.**

The cost for Eagle Care is **\$8.00 per hour**, billed in 15-minute increments. For example, care from 3:30–3:45 PM will cost \$2.00.

We will keep track of your charges through a software system connected to your **FACTS account**. You will need a code to check your student in for morning care and will use the same code when you pick up your student after school.

At this time, afternoon Eagle Care is full and cannot accommodate drop in care. If your student needs care, please join the waitlist by emailing Eagle Care at the address below.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Reid Nusser, Eagle Care Director, at eaglecare@sflutherschool.com.

PRESCHOOL

Our Little Eagles Take Flight!

As toddlers and preschoolers learn new skills, they gain confidence and experience the joy in doing things independently. By providing opportunities to practice a variety of skills, we help them grow into



capable, confident learners who are ready to solve problems and take on new challenges.

These everyday moments are also the beginning of developing a **servant heart**. As children learn to care for themselves and accomplish things independently, they can begin to use those skills to help others – including their friends, teachers, and caregivers.

Be on the lookout for new opportunities and challenges coming your little one's way! Each new skill is another step toward growing in confidence, independence, and a heart for serving others.

ELEMENTARY

The Great Jacket Escape: Label It Before It Wanders Off

'Tis the season for cool mornings and warm afternoons. Many students appreciate a jacket for morning recess. Those jackets tend to be forgotten by the afternoon. It is helpful to put names in jackets and to check the lost and found frequently. (That seems to be a favorite place for my own children's jackets!)

Parent Teacher Conferences

K-12 Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on September 28 and 29. This is a little earlier than we have usually done for Elementary families, so please highlight these dates in your calendar. A sign-up will come out about two weeks before for you to schedule sessions with your child's teacher.

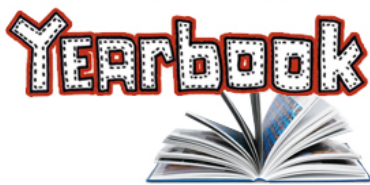
2025-2026 K-8th Grade Yearbooks

The 2025-26 K-8th grade yearbooks will be arriving soon! Students and parents who ordered yearbooks last spring will be notified by Mrs. Iverson when they arrive.

Fun Run

Our Fun Run fundraiser will be here before we know it. Kick-off day is September 21. The Fun Run *event* will be on October 1. Get excited! We have another fun day planned to celebrate the dollars we raise, which are utilized by our PTF to support **all** of their many initiatives as they support teachers and students at SFLS!

MIDDLE SCHOOL



2025-2026 K-8th Grade Yearbooks

The 2025-26 K-8th grade yearbooks will be arriving soon! Students and parents who ordered yearbooks last spring will be notified by Mrs. Iverson when they arrive.

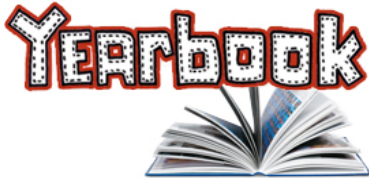
DAILY PLANNER & ASSIGNMENT CHECK

Ask your MS child about assignments/learning and sign his/her planner on a daily basis.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **8th Grade Leadership Retreat** to the Black Hills will be September 8-11.
- **6th Grade to Inspiration Hills** - A day trip to Inspiration Hills is being planned for a day in September. You will be informed after we finalize the details.

HIGH SCHOOL



2025-2026 High School Yearbooks

The 2025-26 high school yearbook will be arriving soon! Students and parents who ordered yearbooks last spring will be notified when they arrive.

ADD/DROP: The last day to add or drop a course is **TODAY** - Friday, August 28. Parents must sign the form before Ms. Holdorf (Registrar) and Mrs. Slavens (Principal).

ACTIVITIES

BLOOD DRIVE Sign up: Wednesday, September 30, 8 - 11 AM

MARCHING BAND: Friday, September 18, MS & HS Competition at Parker

ORAL INTERP: Monday, October 5 at Milbank



ATHLETICS

ATHLETIC PASSES: Athletic passes can be purchased through [BOUND](#). Click on the link, then click on STORES to find the pass options. Purchase of these passes supports our athletic department. The deadline is September 4. T-shirts that come with the passes will be ordered after September 4.

CROSS COUNTRY:

- Friday, September 4 at 5:45 PM - Augie Twilight @ Yankton Trail Park

FOOTBALL:

- Friday, August 28 at 7 PM: @ Baltic
- MS: Saturday, August 29: Jamboree @ Alcester-Hudson 11 AM vs Canistota
 - 10:45 vs Ethan

- 12:30 PM vs Freeman
- Friday, September 4 at 4:30 PM: HOME vs Platte-Geddes

GAME TIME VOLUNTEERS: Please use these links to volunteer at our home games. [Football](#) [Volleyball](#)

VOLLEYBALL:

- Saturday, August 29: VARSITY only @ Irene/I Have a Dream VB Tournament at Irene-Wakonda Jr-Sr High School, 130 State St, Irene, SD (Match times are estimated as they will begin when the previous match ends.)
 - 9:15 vs JVC (Irene Court Old Gym)
 - 10:45 vs Ethan (Irene Court Old Gym)
 - 12:15 vs Gayville-Volin (Irene Court Old Gym)
- Thursday, September 3:
 - JV/Varsity to Follow: @ Menno beginning at 6:15
 - MS @ Abiding Savior: 4 & 5 PM

MUSIC



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

[AUGUST/SEPTEMBER Middle School Ensemble Calendar](#)

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming Marching Eagle Events (please note if they are High School - HS, or Middle School - MS, events):

- Friday, September 18, 2026 - Parker Marching Band Festival (BOTH MS and HS bands)
- Friday, September 25, 2026 - Beresford Watchdog Marching Festival (ONLY MS band)
- Saturday, September 26, 2026 - Tri-State Marching Band Festival in Luverne, MN (ONLY HS)
- Friday, October 2, 2026 - Menno Band Days (BOTH MS and HS bands)
- Saturday, October 3, 2026 - Festival of Bands in Sioux Falls (ONLY HS band)
- Saturday, October 10, 2026 - March to the Meridian in Yankton - (ONLY HS band)

The Marching Eagles perform their parade competitions in the mornings for each of these dates. Parade times and step-off times will be coming soon!

ASSOCIATION CHURCHES

[Faith](#) - Rev. Corey Aker and Rev. Jason Rensner [Lord of Life](#) - Rev. Billy Newell

[Memorial](#) - Rev. Doug Slavens, DCE Hailey Jo Miller and DCE Liz Peters

[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

AFFILIATE MEMBER

[Risen Savior](#) - Rev. Tanner Sutcliffe

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

PHOTOGRAPHY

School Time Photos - Photography by Mark Inc.

Photo packages may still be purchased online. Detailed instructions for placing an online order are provided [HERE](#). If you have any questions, please contact School Time Photos at www.schooltimephotos.com or call 605-362-9221.

To find your student's school ID number, log in to your Family Portal and select the **Family Tab**, then choose **Family Home**. Next, use the drop-down menu located in the center of the page to select your student. Their school ID number will be listed as System XXXXX. This is the ID number you will need when placing your order.

Special Note: Orders placed after retake photos have been delivered to the school will be shipped directly to your home. **Shipping fees will apply.**

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