



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

September 4, 2026

The Good Works God Has Prepared

Sometimes God begins His work in us long before we understand where it will lead. At Wednesday's chapel, Pastor Jason Rensner and his wife, Kris, shared part of their family's story with our students. Long before she became a foster parent, Kris was a seventh-grade girl with friends who had been adopted. Their stories touched something in her heart—a tug she remembered years later when she and Pastor eventually opened their own home to children in foster care.

They spoke about the joy of welcoming children into their family, but also about the hardships—the very real struggles carried by children who enter foster care.



Children may arrive in a new home at one of the most difficult and uncertain moments of their young lives, carrying experiences and emotions most of us can scarcely imagine. And into those moments, God calls people to step.

Pastor Rensner pointed us to the beautiful words of Ephesians 2:10:

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Prepared in advance. I keep thinking about those words—and about a seventh-grade girl who couldn't possibly have known what God would someday ask of her. Perhaps that's one of the reasons Wednesday's message was so important for our students. We don't know what good works God is already preparing for them. We don't know which experience, relationship, Scripture passage, chapel message, teacher, or friend He may use to plant a seed that won't fully grow for years.

QUICK LINKS

[Activities](#)

[Affiliate Member](#)

[Association Churches](#)

[Athletics](#)

[Career Corner](#)

[Chapel](#)

[Counseling Services](#)

[Development](#)

[Eagle Care](#)

[Elementary](#)

[High School](#)

[Middle School](#)

[Music](#)

[Photography](#)

[PTF](#)

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

[Upcoming Events](#)

But we trust He is at work.

Throughout this school year, our chapel offerings will support [The Foster Network](#), a local organization that walks alongside children and the families caring for them. The Foster Network provides clothing, shoes, hygiene items, welcome bags, furniture assistance, educational opportunities, and other practical support—helping meet very real needs during seasons of tremendous transition.

A few coins or dollars placed into a chapel offering may seem like such a small thing. But perhaps that's part of the lesson, too. Following God's call doesn't always begin with something big. Sometimes it begins by noticing, caring, and giving what we have. By allowing another person's story to touch our heart.

So this year, I hope our chapel offering plates overflow. As families, we have a wonderful opportunity to help our children experience the joy of giving—not simply by sending a few dollars along on chapel mornings, but by talking with them about *why* they are giving and whom their gifts will serve. A dollar tucked into a backpack becomes something more when a child understands it can help provide clothing, a pair of shoes, a welcome bag, or another tangible expression of care for a child walking through a difficult season.

And perhaps, somewhere along the way, God will use small acts of generosity to stir something in the heart of one of our students.

After all, sometimes it begins with a seventh-grade girl and a quiet tug she doesn't yet fully understand.

My prayer is that throughout this year, our students will learn more about the children and families served by The Foster Network. I pray they'll give generously. But even more, I pray they'll begin asking a question that can shape an entire life:

What good work might God already be preparing for me?

We may not know the answer for years. But God does.

With Gratefulness,

Mrs. Tia Esser, Executive Director

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.



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 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.sioxfordslutheran.com/careers. Contact Debbie Pankow at dpankow@sflutheranschool.com for more information.

CHAPEL

Chaplain for the week of September 8 is Pastor Simek from Our Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Chapel times for Wednesday, September 9, in the Meyer Chapel & Performing Arts Center, led by Pastor Simek from Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. This year's theme is EXTRAordinary. This month's theme is *Treasures in Jars of Clay; God Uses Ordinary People*; This week's topic: *Known and Loved; God Knows Every Student by Name* based on Psalm 139:1-16.

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

Preschool chapel will be held on Thursday, September 10, 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*.

Chapel Offerings This year's offerings will support [The Foster Network](http://TheFosterNetwork.com).

The current offering total is: \$325.25

Please join us each week by bringing a little of what you have been blessed with in an offering to support the children in the Sioux Falls area who are in need of Foster care. This is one way that **we honor God - by serving others!**

The **Sioux Falls Lutheran School (SFLS) Counseling Program** meets 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** provides primary school counseling services 4 days per week. New this year, **Claire Daniel** provides prevention counseling services 2 days per week. (Click [HERE](#) to read Claire's Bio) Mrs. DeVos is at SFLS **Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays** while Miss Daniel is here on **Thursdays and Fridays (this is an update)**. Please see the additional information about our counseling program and services listed to the right. We encourage you to reach out, welcome Miss Daniel, and take a moment to get to know her. Many students will recognize Miss Daniel, as she completed her bachelors-level social work internship at SFLS through Augustana University last school year.

Miss Daniel began providing services on September 3.

Contact: Barb DeVos at bdevos@sflutheralschool.com or bdevos@carrollinstitute.com or
Direct: 605.681.7993 (confidential voicemail) Claire Daniel at cdaniel@sflutheralschool.com



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

BUILDING OUR FOUNDATION—TOGETHER - A MESSAGE FROM OUR DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Building the Foundation Starts With Who We Are: This Is Our Community

As we begin another school year, we are reminded that what makes Sioux Falls Lutheran School special isn't simply the number of students in our classrooms or the buildings around us. It's the community God has built here.

At SFLS, we are a family brought together by a shared mission and a commitment to five values that have shaped our school from the beginning: **Faith. Family. Community. Excellence. Safety.**

Our vision for the future isn't simply to become a bigger school. It's to grow intentionally—to remain a close-knit family community while preparing our students and school for what God has ahead.

We are building the foundation for that future—together.

And throughout our history, this foundation has been strengthened by people who believe in the mission of Sioux Falls Lutheran School and choose to invest in it. From endowments and scholarships to gifts that directly support our students and teachers, generosity takes many forms and has a lasting impact on our school community.



If you'd like to see some of the stories behind the generosity that helps make our mission possible, we invite you to visit our Giving page and learn how Eagles past and present are helping build the foundation for generations to come.

[\[Explore Stories of Generosity\]](#)

Whether through prayer, encouragement, volunteering, financial support, or a combination of the unique gifts God has given each of us, we all have a part to play in building the foundation. God equips each person differently, and when we use those gifts in service to one another, we strengthen our school community and help create opportunities for generations of students to come.

Thank you for being part of the SFLS family and for faithfully using what God has given you to help build the foundation.

PTF (PARENT-TEACHER-FELLOWSHIP)

Correction: RESCHEDULED due 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.

RAISERIGHT (AKA SCRIP)

Order Dates by 10 AM	Pick-Up Dates after 11 AM
Monday, September 14	Thursday, September 17
Monday, September 28	Thursday, October 1
Monday, October 12	Thursday, October 15
Monday, October 26	Thursday, October 29

EAGLE CARE

Eagle Care at SFLS! Eagle Care provides before- and after-school care for students from 3-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.**

Care is **\$8.00 per hour**, billed in 15-minute increments (\$2.00 per 15 minutes). Charges are tracked through a system connected to your FACTS account. A check-in code will be provided for morning care and used again at afternoon pickup.

Please note that **afternoon Eagle Care is currently full and cannot accommodate drop-in care.** If care is needed, please join the waitlist by emailing Reid Nusser, Eagle Care Director, at eaglecare@sflutherschool.com.

REMINDER: NO EAGLE CARE on MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 due to the holiday. SCHOOL CLOSED.

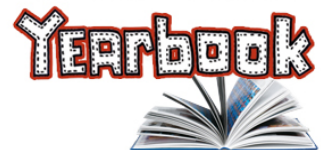
ELEMENTARY

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

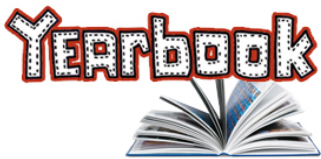
We're excited to share that yearbooks have arrived! Students and parents who ordered a yearbook last spring will be notified by Mrs. Iverson.



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! **You can begin signing up on September 8th at mybooster.com.**

MIDDLE SCHOOL



2025-2026 K-8th Grade Yearbooks The 2025-26 K-8th grade yearbooks have arrived! Students and parents who ordered yearbooks last spring will be notified by Mrs. Iverson.

DAILY PLANNER & ASSIGNMENT CHECK

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

FUN RUN

Our Fun Run PTF 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! **You can begin signing up on September 8th at mybooster.com.**

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 yearbooks have arrived! Students and parents who ordered yearbooks last spring will be notified by Mrs. Albers.

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



FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES: We will be starting an FCA Huddle Chapter at SFLS later this month. Please look for details coming soon.

ATHLETICS

ATHLETIC PASSES: Today, Friday, Sept. 4 is the last day to order!

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
- Saturday, September 12 at 9 AM - Heartland Preview @ Yankton Trail Park

FOOTBALL:

- **Friday, September 4 at 7 PM: @ Platte-Geddes** - note the time and location change due to dangerous heat forecast at the original 4:30 game time.
- Friday, September 11 at 4:30 PM: HOME vs Bridgewater/Emery/Ethan
- MIDDLE SCHOOL: Saturday, September 12, Canistota Jamboree

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

VOLLEYBALL:

- Tuesday, September 8:
 - C/JV/Varsity to Follow: HOME vs Menno. Games begin at 5
- Thursday, September 10:
 - MS/JV/V to Follow: HOME vs ORR. Games begin at 5

MUSIC



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

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!

The High School Choir will be singing on Sunday, September 20 at Faith Lutheran church. The service begins at 9:00. Students must be there by 8:20. The address is 601 N Cliff Ave, Sioux Falls. Parents are welcome to come and worship with the choir and the Faith congregation!

AFFILIATE MEMBER

Risen Savior - Rev. Tanner Sutcliffe

Risen Savior Lutheran Church is hosting "Sundae Funday: An Afternoon of Faith, Fun & Ice Cream" for children of all ages.

 Sunday, September 13  1:00—4:00 PM  Risen Savior Lutheran Church
Cost: \$25 for the first child & \$5 for each additional child



RISEN SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sundae Funday!

AN AFTERNOON OF FAITH, FUN & ICE CREAM!

WHO: Children of all ages! Parents can enjoy a few hours to run errands, catch up on things at home, relax, or simply enjoy some time together while their children are cared for and entertained.

WHAT: An afternoon with God's word through the story of David and Goliath followed by watching the movie David. Also includes games, crafts and of course snacks including ice cream!

WHEN: Sunday, September 13th 1:00pm — 4:00pm

WHERE: Risen Savior Lutheran Church 1401 N Main Street, Tea, SD

HOW MUCH? \$25 for the first child, \$5 for each additional child. The cost includes the entertainment, crafts and snack!
Register here: <https://forms.gle/CNJQXCq7sX24A8bQ6>

NO GIANT IS TOO BIG WHEN GOD IS WITH YOU!

GAMES! CRAFTS! ICE CREAM! & MORE FUN!

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO SUPPORT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT RISEN SAVIOR

Register: <https://bit.ly/sundae-funday-rslc-2026>

♥ Every dollar raised will go toward supporting Christian Education at Risen Savior
"Taste and see that the Lord is good." — Psalm 34:8

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

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@sflutherschool.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