



ST. LOUIS 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

October 16, 2026



FACTS WEBINAR

New Look, Easier Navigation - App Updates Launched October 15

 Calling all Custom App and Family App Users!

On October 15, the FACTS Custom App and FACTS Family App got a modern redesign on iOS and Android. Based on feedback, we've made the most-used features easier to reach and refreshed the overall layout.

What's new:

Bottom navigation: Home, Apps, Profile, and More tabs.

Personalized Home screen: Displays your pinned and most-used apps.

Notifications: A bell icon with an indicator when there are unread messages.

Everyday actions under More: Report an Issue, Share this App, Settings, and log in or out.

What's not changing: Branding and defaults stay as configured, and the Apps tab opens to the same page families know today.

This is a navigation and layout update only, with no changes to grades, homework, or other Student Information System (SIS) features.

NEW GUEST CHECK-IN PROCEDURE

Beginning Wednesday, October 21, the first day of the second quarter, we will begin checking in **ALL guests** at the front desk when they enter the building.

QUICK LINKS

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[Upcoming Events](#)

We already have a secure entry process in place, requiring all guests to “buzz” the office before being allowed through a locked door. We also currently check in most of our guests. However, for larger-attendance events such as chapel, recitals, Grandparents’ Day, and other special events, we have allowed guests to enter without completing the check-in process.

After consulting with safety personnel across the state, we have been advised to check in **ALL guests**, regardless of the size or nature of the event.

This new procedure will also apply to **preschool pick-ups/drop-offs between 8:30AM and 3:00PM**. If you are picking up your preschooler for an appointment or any other reason during this time, please enter through the main entrance and follow the same sign-in/sign-out procedure at the front desk.

While we understand that this may sometimes feel inconvenient, especially when you are a familiar parent or member of our school community, this consistent procedure allows us to uphold our safety practices with integrity. Thank you in advance for your patience, understanding, and partnership as we work to maintain a safe environment and put the safety of our students first.

PICTURE RETAKES

WHEN: Wednesday, October 21 beginning at 8AM in the Reading Area

ORDERING INFORMATION: Your student will need to bring their original photo packet with them to school that day. After retakes, a new packet will be sent home that will have the instructions to order inside. If you prefer not to order online or missed the open house photo day, paper forms will be available. Photo packages may still be purchased online. Detailed instructions for placing an online order are provided [HERE](#).

Please call (605) 362-9221 or email office@schootimephotos.com with any questions.



HOW TO VOLUNTEER AT SFLS

Volunteers play an important role in supporting our students, strengthening our school community, and nurturing the Christ-centered environment we value. Whether you have an hour to give each week, enjoy helping at special events, or simply want to find a way to serve, there are many opportunities to get involved. **Explore our new [volunteer opportunities page](#)** and contact the individual listed with each volunteer opportunity to learn more or get involved.

MORE FAMILIES. MORE POSSIBILITIES. A NEW WAY TO HELP.

Haven’t qualified for tuition assistance—or never applied because you thought your income was too high? A new federal scholarship program, the Education Freedom Tax Credit (EFTC) could open the door.

Beginning in 2027, broader income guidelines could open the door to tuition scholarships for more SFLS families. Our longtime partner, **South Dakota Partners in Education (SDPE)**, is preparing to participate, pending required approvals.

There's an opportunity for donors, too: qualifying contributions to approved scholarship organizations may qualify for a federal income tax credit of up to **\$1,700 per individual**, with proposed rules allowing up to **\$3,400 for married couples filing jointly**, subject to qualifying contributions and tax liability.

We're encouraged by the possibilities for making Christian education more affordable! Details are still developing, and scholarships aren't guaranteed. **Watch your News Note for more details as they become available.**

YEARBOOKS

Did you miss out on ordering a K-8th grade 2025–2026 yearbook for your student? We have extras available!

Yearbooks are \$20 each and can be charged to your FACTS account.

If you'd like to order one for your student(s), please email Mrs. Iverson at miverson@sflutherschool.com

LOST & FOUND

 **Important Note:** Any items left unclaimed by the end of the school day today, Friday, October 16 will be packed up and donated to St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store on the corner of Ellis Rd. and 41st St. Don't wait—take a look today!

CAREER CORNER

Accounting & Lunch Program Assistant

This full-time, year-round position works closely with our Finance Director and combines accounting and administrative responsibilities with oversight of our school lunch programs. We're especially interested in connecting with candidates who have a background in accounting, bookkeeping, accounts payable/receivable, finance, or related areas.



After School Eagle Care

We're seeking kind, gentle, fun-loving individuals to serve as part-time workers in our after school Eagle Care program Mon-Fri from 3:15-6:00PM. Qualifications: love for serving infants–8th grade students with joy, patience, and care.

Coaching Positions

Middle School Boys Basketball Assistant Coach
Middle School Track Assistant Coach
Middle School Track Head Coach
Middle School Boys Basketball JV Coach
Middle School Girls Basketball Assistant Coach

Other Openings

Substitute Teachers
Volunteer Baby Rockers

Learn more and apply: www.sioxfordslutheran.com/careers.

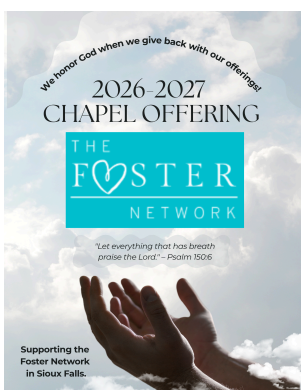
CHAPEL

Chaplain for the week of October 21 is Pastor Ascher from Resurrection Lutheran Church.

Chapel on Wednesday, October 21, in the Meyer Chapel & Performing Arts Center will be led by Pastor Ascher and or Seniors. This year's theme is EXTRAordinary. This month's theme is *God Equips the Called; God Provides What We Need*; This week's topic: *Wisdom from God*, based on James 1:5; Proverbs 3:5-6.

- 6-12 chapel begins at 8:05AM led by the SFLS Seniors
- K-5 chapel begins at 8:50AM led by Pastor Ascher. Our second graders will receive their Bibles.

Preschool chapel will be held on Thursday, October 22, led by DCE Liz Peters from Memorial Lutheran Church, in the Early Childhood wing beginning at 8:40 and 9:00AM. The theme is *Daniel and The Lion's Den*.



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

The current offering total is: \$1596.74

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!**

COUNSELING SERVICES

COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT SURVEY

The **Sioux Falls Health Department, Avera, Sanford, and the Sioux Falls VA Health Care System** are working together to gather community input about local health and well-being.

Your feedback can help identify community concerns and needs related to **physical and mental health, access to resources, and the social, economic, and environmental factors that affect our community.**

 **Survey open:** September 1–November 30 Take the Survey [HERE](#)

 **Time to complete:** 3–5 minutes

Please note: Carroll Institute is not a partner in this Community Health Assessment.

Contact: Barb DeVos at bdevos@sflutheranschool.com or bdevos@carrollinstitute.com or Direct: 605.681.7993 (confidential voicemail) (Barb's bio [HERE](#)) Claire Daniel at cdaniel@carrollinstitute.org or cdaniel@sflutheranschool.com or Direct: 605.681.7317 (confidential voicemail) (Claire's Bio [HERE](#))

Building Our Foundation—Together - A Message From Our Development Team

Celebrate National Estate Planning Week with a free school resource

Did you know that October 19-25 is National Estate Planning Awareness Week? No matter your age, an up-to-date plan protects what God has entrusted to you and helps you prepare for all of life's milestones.

To make this important step a little easier, Sioux Falls Lutheran School invites you to complete a [free financial check-up](#) with our community partner, FreeWill.

In less than half an hour, you'll be able to provide lasting care for your loved ones, protect dependent children by naming a trusted guardian, and outline future decisions that reflect your values.

[Make Your Plan Today](#)

EAGLE CARE

Eagle Care will close at 5:15PM on Thursday, October 29 for the Fall Festival.

Eagle Care families, please continue communicating any changes in your child's attendance via email.

If you are in need of drop in care, please email Reid Nusser, Eagle Care Director, at eaglecare@sflutheranschool.com.

FALL FESTIVAL

TREAT TRAIL AT THE FALL FESTIVAL: Happy Fall! We will be hosting a Treat Trail event at the Fall Festival. If you would like to decorate a table and pass out treats or trinkets, please let Miss Heather Miller know (hmiller@sflutheranschool.com). The Fall Festival runs from 5:30-7:30PM; the treat trail will close at 7:00PM.

Set up will begin at 4:30PM. We ask that each table please bring a bag of candy or trinkets to start with. Once you run out, we will resupply you with treats. All table themes must be fun and appropriate for young children.

We are also looking for donations of candy, fruit snacks, or fall themed trinkets. If you would like to donate something, please bring it to the office or to Miss Miller's room in the early childhood wing.

We hope you will join us as we celebrate the fabulous fall season and the bountiful harvest of blessings that God gives to us.



🍁 Fall Festival Needs YOU! 🍁

Our Fall Festival is just around the corner, and we need YOUR help to make it a fun and successful 🍁 evening for our school families! 🍁

Whether you can give 30 minutes or a little more, every helping hand makes a BIG difference! ❤️

We truly can't pull off this fun-filled evening without our amazing school community!

👉 Click the link below to sign up and help make the Fall Festival a success! 🍁



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C49ACA72AA7FE3-45141044-ptffall>

Eagle Care will close at 5:15PM on Thursday, October 29 for the Fall Festival.

PTF (Parent-Teacher-Fellowship)

CONNECT WITH THE
PTF ON FACEBOOK



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



RaiseRight (aka SCRIP)

Order Dates by 10 AM	Pick-Up Dates after 11 AM
Monday, October 26	Thursday, October 29
Monday, November 9	Thursday, November 12
Monday, November 30	Thursday, December 3
Monday, December 14	Thursday, December 17

PRESCHOOL



PRESCHOOL PREVIEW EVENT

Saturday, November 21 at 10:00AM

Designed for **children entering 2-, 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old preschool** during the 2027-28 school year, this fun-filled morning of activities will allow children and parents to connect with teachers, explore classrooms, and discover what makes SFLS the place families trust to lay a firm foundation for their child's future. **Current SFLS families are encouraged to join in the fun by bringing a friend or neighbor** who is exploring preschool options for next year.

Please [register each child who will attend](#) so we can plan supplies and activities accordingly.

ELEMENTARY

SAFETY DRILLS

We will have our first lockdown drill of the year the week of October 26. Dr. Newell will come around and talk with each elementary class in preparation for this drill. We drill in a calm manner so we can respond in a calm manner. We will have law enforcement in the building to help us. We are so grateful for their work to help keep us safe.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PREVIEW NIGHT

Monday, November 16

5:30PM - Middle School Preview

6:30PM - Dinner catered by Chick-fil-A

Current 5th grade families are invited to learn more about what's ahead as students transition into middle school. Hear from our faculty and administration, explore academic and extracurricular opportunities, and discover what to expect in the next stage of your student's education. Families considering SFLS are also welcome to attend! This is a great opportunity to experience our community, learn about our programs, and see how we prepare students to be World Ready, Faith Secure.

Please [register in advance](#) if you plan to attend.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL PREVIEW NIGHT

Monday, November 16

6:30PM - Dinner catered by Chick-fil-A

7:00PM - High School Preview

Current 8th grade families are invited to learn more about what's ahead as students transition into high school. Hear from our faculty and administration, explore academic and extracurricular opportunities, and discover what to expect in the next stage of your student's education. Families considering SFLS are also welcome to attend! This is a great opportunity to experience our community, learn about our programs, and see how we prepare students to be World Ready, Faith Secure.

Please [register in advance](#) if you plan to attend.

HIGH SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH NIGHT

Join Concordia University St. Paul for a circuit-wide youth event at Sioux Falls Lutheran School from 6:00-8:00PM on Wednesday, November 4. The evening will include pizza, games, God's word, and a Bible study for parents. **Sign up:** bit.ly/2026-hs-youth.

HIGH SCHOOL TESTING

We wrapped up our Fall High School Testing on Thursday, October 15. Thank you to the families who supplied snacks and drinks during the testing. Your students really appreciated it. Except for students who took the ASVAB, it will still be several weeks before the results come back. Mrs. Slavens will meet with students and email families when the results come in.

ACTIVITIES

WINTER ACTIVITIES MEETINGS:

- Wednesday, October 21 at 3:30PM in the PAC- Chapel
 - 5-8 Grade Boys/Girls Basketball: Wednesday, October 21 at 3:30PM.
- Thursday, November 5 at 6:00PM in the PAC
 - HS Boys & Girls Basketball: Thursday, November 5 at 6:00PM.
 - Powerlifting: Will also be included with the HS Basketball meeting.
 - HS Drama/One Act

If there is an SFLS Volleyball playoff contest on the evening of the HS meeting, we will move the meeting to 3:30PM and communicate that change to families beforehand.

During these meetings, coaches will share their program philosophy, expectations, tentative practice and competition schedules, communication procedures, and other important information students and parents will need for a successful season. If for some reason, you are not able to attend, please reach out to that coach as they will be able to share that information with you.

Please remember if your son/daughter has not had a physical in the last 3 yrs., or has not filled out the SDHSAA or SFLS Athletic Handbook forms, you can find instructions about that process below.

EASY AS 1-2-3

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Scan the QR Code or go to the link below.
<https://www.gobound.com/sd/schools/siouxfallsislutheran>
Then, click the Registration tab.

>OUND


MIDDLE SCHOOL ONE ACT: Twenty-six 5th - 8th graders are busy getting ready to perform *Gretchen and the Grudge*, by Edith Weiss. Make plans to attend the public performances on Saturday, November 7 at 6:30PM or Sunday, November 8 at 4:30PM. We hope to see you there!

ORAL INTERP: Friday, October 23 at Sioux Falls Washington



FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES:

The next meeting is October 23 at 6:45AM in the Upper Room. These meetings will be held every-other Friday morning.

ATHLETICS

CROSS COUNTRY:

- Saturday, October 24: State Meet in Rapid City

FOOTBALL:

- Friday, October 16: HOME vs Garretson, 3:30PM: FB and Cheer Senior Recognition at ½ time

VOLLEYBALL:

- **Monday, October 19:** The Varsity Game that was suspended at Wayverly-South Shore will be finished at 7PM at the Deubrook High School in White.
- **Tuesday, October 20:** MSA/MSB/C/JV/V @ Canistota. Games begin at 3:30PM
- **Friday, October 23:** C/JV/V HOME vs Howard. Games begin at 5PM
- **Monday, October 26:** JV/V HOME vs Mitchell Christian. Games begin at 6:15PM

VOLLEYBALL GAME TIME VOLUNTEERS: We cannot run our home games without the help of our volunteers. **We truly appreciate it when you give your time to support our students and help make game nights a success!**

Soar, Eagles! 🦅💙💜

Please use these links to volunteer at our last 2 home volleyball games. [Volleyball](#)

MUSIC



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

OCTOBER Middle School Ensemble Calendar

ALL-STATE CHORUS PREP DAY:

Eight students attended the All-State Chorus Prep day at South Dakota State University in Brookings on Thursday, October 8. Students sang with hundreds of other students from around the region and learned more about vocal technique from the voice professors at SDSU. Excellent job on a great day of singing! In attendance were (back row) Josiah Newell, Ethan Bergan, Parker Merriam, (front row) Ella Aker, Taylor Miller, Addison Vis, Kennedy Parrish, and Evelyn Thorn.



CONGRATULATIONS to the High School Marching Eagles for sweeping their Class at the "March to the Meridian" Parade Competition last Saturday. They earned "Best Winds," "Best Percussion, " and "Best Color Guard" in their Class. They also brought home First Place for their Class that day! Mrs. Birnstiehl and Mrs. Miller would like to thank each and every student for their hard work, grit, dedication, determination, and attention to detail this Marching Band season. We are incredibly proud of you for striving for excellence! We also want to recognize that it is God who gives you these musical talents. Thank you for putting them to use and stretching yourselves to your full potential. Way to go, EAGLES!!



I would like to extend a very sincere "thank you" to everyone who attended the Marching Eagles' First-Ever Indoor Marching Band Show! What a great way to celebrate our students and the musical gifts that God has given them. Music is a gift from God, and I feel very blessed to be able to share that gift with my students! An update on the funds that were taken in on Monday evening. We brought in \$3,788.25, and today another check for \$2,000 was in my school mailbox! WOW! When I reached out to the generous donor, they said they were happy to include and match the \$2,000 gift even though it was not collected on Monday evening. My sincere THANK YOU to each and every one of you who donated! God is SO, SO VERY GOOD! This is going to allow us to order our High School Marching Percussion! How exciting!!

STUDENT COUNCIL

● **RED RIBBON WEEK:** October 23 – October 30 ●

Red Ribbon Week (Drug Awareness Week) begins on October 23! Join us in taking a stand for a safe, healthy, and drug-free school community.

Here is how everyone can get involved:

- Pledge Wall: All students will have the opportunity to sign a red ribbon and make a pledge to live drug-free. Watch our pledge wall fill up with red ribbons throughout the week!
- All-School Dress-Up Day (October 29): Wear RED on Thursday, October 29 to show your support!

🍩 Homeroom Donut Party: The homeroom with the highest percentage of students wearing red on October 29 will win a Donut Party!

Let's show our school spirit and commitment to being drug-free!

AFFILIATE MEMBER

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

ASSOCIATION CHURCHES

[Faith](#) - Rev. Corey Aker and Rev. Jason Rensner

Join us for a three-session Bible study exploring a faithful, Scripture-centered perspective on finances. [FAITHFUL FINANCES](#) Oct. 22 (7PM)

FAITHFUL FINANCES

*A Biblical Perspective on
Money and Possessions*

THREE-SESSION SERIES

Fall 2026

Faith Lutheran Church

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
MATTHEW 6:21

FRESH HOPE GROUP

Fresh Hope Group at Faith Lutheran began a new 6-session Bible study about living well even when life doesn't "get fixed". The gatherings are safe and confidential; building bridges from hopelessness to hope through faith-filled, hope-centered support.

When: 2nd & 4th Mondays @ 6:30-8PM. The next meeting will be on Monday, October 26. (The first meeting was held Monday, October 12).

Where: Rm 101, Faith Lutheran Church.

Who: Anyone who experiences mental health challenges and people who love them, as well as anyone who is feeling hopeless at this time.

What: The curriculum is "Six Myths, Six Truths". Inspired by the book *When God Doesn't Fix It* by Laura Story. The study breaks down lies about suffering and answers them with Scriptural truths.

How: The meeting format includes viewing a short video with discussion.

Feel free to share this invitation with friends and family.

Any questions, and to let us know you are attending,
please email:

adminasst@faithlutheransiouxfalls.org

Lord of Life - Rev. Billy Newell

Our Redeemer - Rev. Brett Simek

Resurrection - Rev. Chris Ascher

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

Click this [link](#) for all church worship times!



SUPPORTING MEMBER

ZION - Rev. Greg Lehr & Rev. Paul Winckler

BUSINESS PARTNERS

We are grateful for local sponsors who passionately support our mission of developing Capable Christian Servant-Leaders in a Complex World: World Ready, Faith Secure. These businesses invest in our school community in many ways, including sponsoring annual events like our Gala and Golf Tournament, supporting athletics and fine arts programming, and serving as scoreboard sponsors. We're grateful for their partnership and the many ways they help advance our mission. **Please consider supporting these businesses when you have the opportunity!**

If you know a business owner who may be interested in becoming an SFLS business partner, encourage them to [learn more on our website](#) and connect with us at sponsorships@sflutherschool.com.



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& INTENTION"





UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Please contact 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 | (605) 335-1923