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

October 23, 2026

Thank You for Helping Shape the Future of SFLS



The Sioux Falls Lutheran School Board of Directors extends its sincere appreciation to everyone who participated in the **"Help Shape the Future" survey** this past summer.

Your thoughtful responses affirmed the heart of our mission—developing students who are **Faith Secure, World Ready, and Capable Christian Servant-Leaders** in a Christ-centered, Lutheran environment.

The feedback received also provided valuable perspectives as the Board continues its work of reviewing and clarifying the school's Ends Policies and prayerfully planning for the future of SFLS.

We are grateful for the partnership of our families, faculty, staff, association congregations, and the broader SFLS community. Your continued prayers, encouragement, and commitment are a blessing to this ministry.

Thank you for helping us faithfully steward the mission of Sioux Falls Lutheran School for today's students and generations yet to come.

With gratitude,
SFLS Board of Directors

QUICK LINKS

- Activities
- Association Churches
- Athletics
- Booster Club
- Career Corner
- Chapel
- Counseling Services
- Development
- Eagle Care
- Elementary
- Fall Festival
- High School
- Middle School
- Music
- Preschool
- PTF
- RaiseRight (aka SCRIP)
- Student Council
- Theater
- Upcoming Events

All-School Photo – Postponed Until Spring

With our Eagles' exciting playoff win last night, our football team is now headed to Britton next Thursday for the second round of playoffs! With the game being nearly three hours away and taking place the evening before our scheduled photo, we want to be mindful of the late night of travel for our players, coaches, and families.



Our goal for this special all-school drone photo is to have as many of our students and staff together as possible as we celebrate SFLS's upcoming 50th anniversary. With that in mind, we have decided to postpone the photo until spring!

We are currently exploring possible spring dates and will share more information once a new date is confirmed.

Thank you for your continued patience and flexibility as we work to make this special photo happen. We can't wait to see our entire SFLS family come together for this memorable moment in our school's history!

And of course, congratulations to our Eagles football team! Best of luck in the next round of playoffs! 💙🦅

Education Freedom Tax Credit Scholarships: What We Know So Far

For more than a year, I've shared updates about the Education Freedom Tax Credit program, approved as part of the One Big Beautiful Bill. We've been waiting for details about how it will work, and they're finally starting to roll out. While some rules and procedures are still being finalized, here's what we know for now.

Beginning January 1, 2027, eligible taxpayers can receive a dollar-for-dollar federal income tax credit of up to $1,700 annually for qualifying contributions to approved scholarship granting organizations. Those organizations will provide scholarships for eligible K–12 students.

The potential is significant. The American Federation for Children estimates that approximately nine out of ten South Dakota school-age children could qualify. Income limits are three times the applicable area median income, adjusted for household size—extending eligibility well beyond traditional tuition assistance and our current state tax credit program.

Education Reform Now estimates that if 15% of its identified pool of eligible South Dakota taxpayers contributed at the full credit amount of $1,700, contributions could total approximately $77 million annually. We don't yet know individual scholarship amounts; those will depend on contributions received and scholarship organizations' award policies.

For SFLS, this opportunity complements the generosity that sustains our ministry:

- The annual Eagle Fund supports today's operating needs.
- Our endowment builds lasting resources for future generations.
- The new scholarship program can help families access Christian education.

As you plan your annual charitable giving in 2027, please consider continuing your support of the Eagle Fund and endowment while also taking advantage of this new opportunity to help families access Christian education through a qualifying scholarship contribution in 2027.

We'll share more as details are confirmed. Because the credit is nonrefundable and individual circumstances vary, please visit with your tax adviser as you plan.

Thank you for helping us faithfully steward this beautiful ministry for generations to come.

With Gratefulness,

Mrs. Tia Esser, Executive Director
Romans 12:2

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@sflutheranschool.com

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.

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.siouxfallslutheran.com/careers.

CHAPEL

Chaplain for the week of October 26 is Pastor Aker from Faith Lutheran Church.

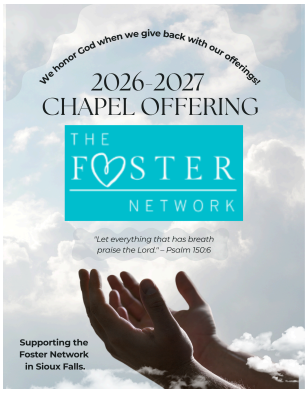
6th - 12th Chapel on Wednesday, October 28, in the Meyer Chapel & Performing Arts Center will be led by Pastor Lehr from Zion Lutheran Church. **K-5th Chapel** will be led by the 5th Grade class. This year's theme is EXTRAordinary. This month's theme is *God Equips the Called; God Provides What We Need;* This week's topic: *Different Gifts, One Purpose,* based on Romans 12:4-8.

- 6-12 chapel begins at 8:05AM led by the Pastor Lehr
- K-5 chapel begins at 8:50AM led by our 5th Grade class

5th Grade Chat & Chapel will also be on Wednesday, October 28. All 5th grade parents/guardians/family members are welcome to join for fellowship in the commons after drop-off, before the chapel service! More communication will come from your teacher.

Preschool chapel will be held on Wednesday, October 28, led by DCE Liz Peters from Memorial Lutheran Church, in the Early Childhood wing beginning at 8:40 and 9:00AM. The theme is *Moses' Birth*.

Chapel Offerings This year's offerings will support The Foster Network.
The current offering total is: $1857.65
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!**





Mark your calendars: 5th-12th Grade Veteran's Day Chapel, Wednesday, November 11 at 8:50AM. Please join us for a special chapel service honoring the men and women who have served or are serving in the United States Armed Forces. This meaningful service will include prayer, Scripture, music, and a time of recognition for our veterans. All are welcome as we give thanks to God for those who have served our nation.

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 Awareness Week with a Free Resource!

October 19–25 is National Estate Planning Awareness Week! No matter your age or stage of life, having an up-to-date plan helps protect what God has entrusted to you and prepares you for life's important milestones.

Through our partnership with FreeWill, Sioux Falls Lutheran School invites you to complete a free financial check-up to make this important step a little easier.

In less than 30 minutes, you can take meaningful steps to care for your loved ones, name guardians for dependent children, and make important 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 <u>5:15PM</u> on Thursday, October 29 for the Fall Festival.

BOOSTER CLUB

Booster Club's "Palette & Punch" craft night from 7:00-9:30PM on Friday, November 13.

Join us in the SFLS Commons for a fun evening of creating **festive fall pumpkins** with step-by-step guidance from Mrs. Heidi Albers! All craft supplies, appetizers, mocktails, and raffle items will be provided. The cost is $40 per person, with all proceeds benefiting the SFLS Booster Club and supporting student extracurricular activities and sports.



Please RSVP at [THIS LINK], contact Booster Club at sflsbooster@sflutheranschool.com or call 605-335-1923 by November 9. Participants may pay when they arrive for the evening.

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 HARVEST



At our teachers' conference we talked about how often, as teachers, we plant seeds of faith and knowledge, but don't always get to see the results or impact of our work, especially when we serve very young ones. In 1 Corinthians 3:6, Paul writes, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow." This verse reminds us that we are but humble servants planting seeds and God is our Provider in making the seeds grow.



We are grateful that God allows us to care for his creation by harvesting beautiful things such as pumpkins! And this week, "somehow" they grew in our PreK garden for the little ones to harvest. A huge **THANK YOU to PTF** for providing funding for our little ones to have this harvest experience!

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

NEW NO SHORTS NOVEMBER!

Wow! What a gorgeous week we have had, but we know fall, winter, and much cooler temperatures are coming! The "shorts season" at SFLS ends on October 31. From November 1 - March 31, all K-8 students should wear pants to school. Thank you for working with us on this as we keep students safe and warm this winter.

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 7th & 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

Fall High School Testing finished 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

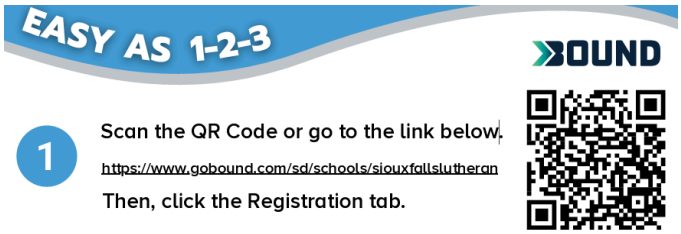
HS WINTER ACTIVITIES MEETING:

- 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.



ORAL INTERP: Tuesday, October 27 at Brookings

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES:
The next meeting is November 6 at 6:45AM in the Upper Room. These meetings will be held every-other Friday morning.

ATHLETICS

MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL practices begin on Monday, October 26 at 3:30.

CROSS COUNTRY:

- Saturday, October 24: State Meet in Rapid City

FOOTBALL:

- Thursday, October 29: Playoff Round 2 @ Britton vs Britton-Hecla, 7 PM

VOLLEYBALL:

- **Friday, October 23:** C/JV/V HOME vs Howard. Games begin at 5PM ~ DIG PINK
- **Monday, October 26:** JV/V HOME vs Mitchell Christian. Games begin at 6:15PM ~ SENIOR NIGHT

🏐 **VOLLEYBALL GAME-TIME VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

We can't run our home games without our amazing volunteers! We still need help with concessions for tonight and Monday's game, as well as book, clock, and line judge for Monday.

Thank you for generously giving your time to support our students and help make game nights a success! We truly appreciate you! 💙🤍 Go Eagles!

Please use this link to volunteer at our volleyball games. Volleyball

MUSIC

Click or scan to take a look at the SFLS Strings Site!

OCTOBER Middle School Ensemble Calendar

THEATER



STUDENT COUNCIL

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

Red Ribbon Week (Drug Awareness Week) begins TODAY! 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

FRESH HOPE GROUP

Fresh Hope Group at Faith Lutheran began a 6-session Bible study on October 12 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 held on Monday, October 26.
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



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

Lord of Life - Rev. Billy Newell

NEW Lord of Life Lutheran (2600 S Sycamore) invites you to their Soup Supper this **Friday, October 23** from **5-7:30PM**. Join us for some homemade delicious soups, pies, and desserts. A free offering will be taken and all proceeds will support our youth ministry.

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.

Please contact schooloffice@sflutheranschool.com with any questions or concerns.

SIOUX FALLS LUTHERAN SCHOOL
World Ready. Faith Secure.

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