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 9, 2026

ADJUSTED DISMISSAL FOR OCTOBER 16 FOOTBALL GAME

As we prepare to host our final regular-season home football contest of the year on Friday, October 16, at 3:30PM vs. Garretson, we want to help make the afternoon as safe and smooth as possible for our students, families, and visiting fans.

To help with the increased traffic during our regular dismissal time as fans arrive for the football game, SFLS will plan to dismiss K-12 students beginning at 3:00PM on Friday, October 16.

If the weather forecast calls for significant rain, we may need to use the SFLS parking lot for additional spectator parking. If we determine that parking spectators in the school lot will be necessary, we will notify families by the middle of the school day on Thursday, October 15, and infant through 12th grade dismissal will begin at 2:30PM. Students who can not be picked up until the regular 3:00/3:15/3:20 dismissal times will be able to stay with their teachers and will *not* be charged for Eagle Care.

Students who attend Eagle Care are welcome to stay on campus until their typical pick up time. They will remain with their classroom teachers until their regularly scheduled transition to Eagle Care and may be picked up any time before 6:00PM.

Our goal is to provide a safe environment for our students and families while also being good hosts to those joining us for the game. We appreciate your flexibility, patience, and help as we work through the logistics of a busy afternoon.

QUICK LINKS

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

We look forward to seeing many of you at the game on October 16 to cheer on our Eagles!

Blessings,
James Stubkjaer
Director of Student Life
Sioux Falls Lutheran School

2027–28 NEW STUDENT ADMISSIONS APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN!

New student admissions applications for the 2027–28 school year are now open. Families interested in enrolling a new student—including siblings of current SFLS students—are encouraged to review the application timeline and admission information. **Check your inbox for an email with the subject line *2027–28 New Student Admissions Applications Are Open!* for important dates, admission priorities, tuition information, and more.**

Know a family who may be a great fit for SFLS? Please feel free to share the email with them!

📸 ONE WEEK UNTIL OUR SCHOOLWIDE DRONE PHOTO!

We're officially **ONE WEEK AWAY** from our schoolwide drone photo! 💙💚

On **Friday, October 16**, all SFLS students and staff will head to the blacktop to form **"SFLS" with a cross in the center** for a special photo from above as we look ahead to celebrating **50 years of Sioux Falls Lutheran School during the 2027–28 school year!**

The biggest thing to remember: WEAR YOUR COLOR!

🤍 **Preschool Students & Staff:** Wear **WHITE**
💙 **K–12 Students & Staff:** Wear **BLUE**

Please wear a shirt, sweatshirt, or other top in your assigned color. These colors are what will make our **white cross and blue SFLS letters** stand out from the air!

📅 **Friday, October 16**
🕘 **Students will begin getting into position at 9:15 AM**
📍 **SFLS Blacktop**

Families, please help us by making sure your student arrives in their assigned color that morning!

Our **rain/weather date is Friday, October 30**.

We can't wait to see more than 600 SFLS students and staff come together for this special moment in our school's history! 📸💙💚

Please contact Vania Asmus at vasmus@sflutheranschool.com with any questions.

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.

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.



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@sflutheranschool.com

LOST & FOUND

Our Lost & Found is overflowing! Before buying a replacement, check the tables set up in the High School Wing and outside the office to see if your missing items are there.

If you've misplaced smaller or higher-value items like jewelry, glasses, or a phone, please stop by the office to claim them.

⏰ **Important Note:** Any items left unclaimed by 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.siouxfallslutheran.com/careers.

CHAPEL

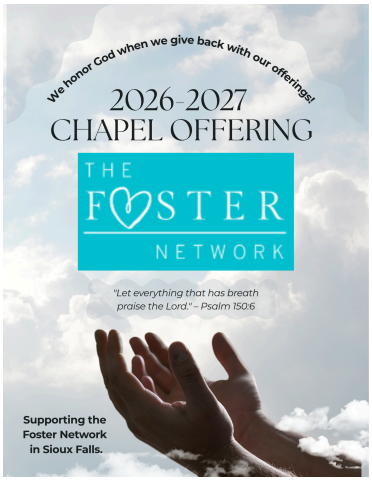
Chaplain for the week of October 12 is DCE Hailey Jo Miller from Memorial Lutheran Church.

Chapel on Wednesday, October 14, in the Meyer Chapel & Performing Arts Center will be led by DCE Hailey Jo Miller from Memorial Lutheran Church. This year's theme is EXTRAordinary. This month's theme is *God Equips the Called; God Provides What We Need;* This week's topic: *Strength for Today,* based on Philippians 4:13.

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

Preschool chapel will be held on Wednesday, October 14, led by DCE Liz Peters from Memorial Lutheran Church, in the Early Childhood wing beginning at 8:40 and 9:00AM. The theme is *Esther*.

Chapel Offerings This year's offerings will support The Foster Network.
The current offering total is: $1501.69



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

Generosity Rooted in Faith: Donor Spotlight #3

"What do you need?"



It's a simple question, but for **John & Michele Sturdevant**, it says a lot about the way they live, serve, and give.

Earlier this week, we shared the third story in our **SFLS Generosity Rooted in Faith Donor Spotlight Series**. This month, we invite you to get to know John and Michele and discover a story of family, faith, showing up for others, and a heart for helping wherever there is a need.

In case you missed it, read Donor Spotlight #3: John & Michele Sturdevant HERE.

EAGLE CARE

NEW **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

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

PTF (Parent-Teacher-Fellowship)

PTF Meeting

When: Monday October 12

Time: 5:30PM

Where: Upper Room (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

FUN RUN Thank you for all of your time and efforts in helping to raise money for our school. The Fun Run has been a big success! **The Reward Store will remain open until October 12 for you to select and order your student's prizes.**

RaiseRight (aka SCRIP)

Order Dates by 10 AM	Pick-Up Dates after 11 AM
Monday, October 12	Thursday, October 15
Monday, October 26	Thursday, October 29
Monday, November 9	Thursday, November 12
Monday, November 30	Thursday, December 3

PRESCHOOL

FUN RUN: Thank you for supporting our PTF Fundraiser! Be sure to order your prizes by Monday, October 12!

PUMPKIN FUN

Grandma Pumpkin came to teach our preschoolers all about pumpkins - growing pumpkins, different varieties of pumpkins and gourds, and an interactive story!





ELEMENTARY

HEARING SCREENING

The Sioux Falls Sertoma Club will be here on October 12 to provide hearing screenings for all K-5 and 7th-grade students. We are so grateful for their partnership. In the past, these in-school screenings have served as a helpful early indicator, allowing us to identify students who may benefit from further evaluation and support. If you would like your student to opt out of this screening, please email knewell@sflutheranschool.com by October 9.

SAFETY DRILLS

We will have our second fire drill on Monday, October 12. We will pair this with our severe weather drill. We are grateful for extremely secure spaces where our students can go in the case of a strong wind/tornado event. Our severe weather shelters can withstand winds up to 250 mph! Wow!

MIDDLE SCHOOL

HEARING SCREENING

The Sioux Falls Sertoma Club will be here on October 12 to provide hearing screenings for all K-5 and 7th-grade students. We are so grateful for their partnership. In the past, these in-school screenings have served as a helpful early indicator, allowing us to identify students who may benefit from further evaluation and support. If you would like your student to opt out of this screening, please email knewell@sflutheranschool.com by October 9.

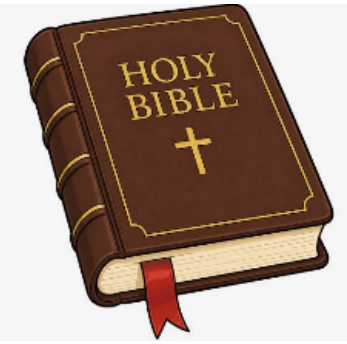
FUN RUN

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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.**



ACTIVITIES

WINTER ACTIVITIES MEETINGS:

As we prepare for our upcoming winter activities season, we will be holding Winter Activities Parent/Student Meetings to help students and families prepare for the season ahead.

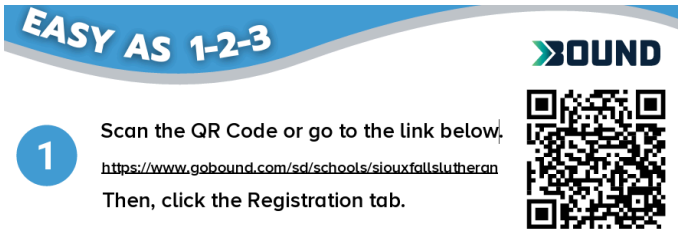
Our proposed meeting dates are:

- 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 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.



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!

MARCHING BAND:

- Saturday, October 10, HS @ Yankton

ORAL INTERP:Friday, October 23 at Sioux Falls Washington

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES:
The next meeting is October 23 at 6:45AM. These meetings will be held every-other Friday morning.

ATHLETICS

CROSS COUNTRY:

- Wednesday, October 14: Noon - 3PM, Region 2B @ Irene

FOOTBALL:

- Friday, October 9: vs Estelline/Hendricks at Estelline, 7PM
- Monday, October 12: MS @ St. Mary's in Dell Rapids, 5PM
- Friday, October 16: HOME vs Garretson, 3:30PM

GAME TIME VOLUNTEERS: We have a few more home volleyball and one remaining home football game. 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 home games. Football Volleyball

VOLLEYBALL:

- **Tuesday, October 13:** MS/C/JV/V HOME vs Beresford. Games begin at 3:30PM
- **Thursday, October 15:** MS/C/JV/V HOME vs Freeman Public. Games begin at 3:30PM
- **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

MUSIC

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

OCTOBER 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):

- Saturday, October 10, 2026 - March to the Meridian in Yankton - (ONLY HS band) - 8:30AM Parade

- **FIRST-EVER INDOOR MARCHING BAND SHOW - MONDAY, OCTOBER 12**
  Both the MS and HS Bands, and Drumlines, will be performing. The show begins at 7:30PM. There will be a Pie and Ice Cream Social to follow in the lunchroom. Hope you can join us to celebrate the musical gifts and provision the Lord has provided this marching band season!

Congratulations to Choir students Kenna List, Becca Ascher, and Evelyn Thorn for being accepted into the Concordia National Honor Choir. They will sing with students from all over the country at Concordia University in Seward NE in early November.





Congratulations, also, to Ethan Bergan, Logan Baumbach, Noah Baumbach, Gavin Hulscher, and Evelyn Thorn for being accepted into the Concordia National Honor Band. They will play with students from all over the country at Concordia University in Seward, NE, on Thursday, November 5.

Congratulations to both the Middle School and High School Marching Bands for their showing at Menno Band Days last Friday. The Middle School Band brought home 1st place in their class. The High School Band earned 1st place in their class as well. The High School Color Guard swept the entire parade with 1st place for the Guard Caption Award. AND……both the Middle School Drumline and the High School Drumline captured 1st place in their drum-offs that took place before the Awards Ceremony that day!



This last Saturday, the High School Marching Eagles marched in the Festival of Bands in Sioux Falls. The competition was very steep. They competed against 8 other bands in their class and were honored with 1st Place in Class A, and they also earned 4th place OVERALL in the entire parade which consisted of 20 bands. Way to go, Marching Eagles!! Thank you for your hard work and grit! Pictured are the Seniors that are part of our High School Marching Band at the Festival of Bands.



Later that day, the High School Marching Eagles played for the tailgate party of the Stampede Opening Game, too! Thank you for your service to the greater Sioux Falls Community, Eagles!!

AFFILIATE MEMBER

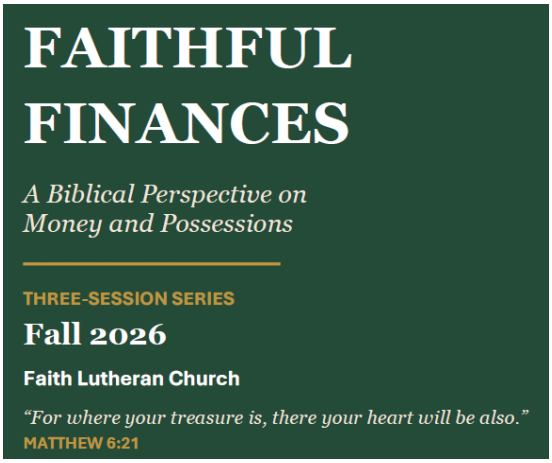
Risen Savior - Rev. Tanner Sutcliffe

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. 15, Oct. 22 (7PM)



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

NEW 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@sflutheranschool.com.

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DAKOTA
CPA







































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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siouxfallslutheran.com | (605) 335-1923