



Sioux Falls Lutheran School

# EAGLES NEWS



[Mrs. Tia Esser](#)  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

[Mr. James Stubkjaer](#)  
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL  
ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

[Dr. Kristen Newell](#)  
ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL  
ELEMENTARY STEM DIRECTOR

[Mrs. Brenda Bernard](#)  
PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Dec 13, 2024



SIOUX FALLS  
LUTHERAN SCHOOL  
World Ready. Faith Secure.



## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Cookie Walk & Sale

December 15, 2024  
2:00-4:00pm at SFLS

*Pick up your preordered  
cookies or buy a box for \$20  
to fill with a variety of treats at  
the cookie walk.*

### EAGLE CARE REMINDER



Afterschool **Eagle Care** will NOT be offered on Friday, December 20th. This does include infants, 1s & 2s. Any questions, contact [eaglecare@sflutheranschool.com](mailto:eaglecare@sflutheranschool.com). Thank you.

### PET DRIVE THANK YOU



We just want to take a moment to send a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our Pets in Need Drive such a success! On behalf of the first graders, we are beyond grateful for your generosity. Thanks to your incredible support, we were able to deliver *three carloads* of supplies to the Sioux Falls Humane Society! Whether you donated or spread the word, your kindness is truly appreciated. It's heartwarming to see our community — and especially our first graders — come together to make a real difference for furry friends in need.

Thank you again for making this drive such a success. We couldn't have done it without you!

Mrs. Vercruyse & Mrs. Thomas

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## 2025-26 Re-Enrollment Update



As families with children enrolled at SFLS, you receive the highest enrollment priority for the 2025-26 school year. Because several of our classes are at or near capacity and we have large wait pools for many early childhood programs, reserving spots in a timely fashion for your student(s) and any siblings you wish to enroll during the 2025-26 school year is extremely important. **Specific instructions for re-enrollment will roll out when we return from Christmas break. For now, you'll find a few important updates to be aware of below.**

First, new student [admissions applications](#) for the **2025-26 school year will open on Monday, December 16**. If you have a child who is not currently enrolled or is in our wait pool for enrollment, you'll need to complete an admissions application for the 2025-26 school year. In order to ensure that all currently enrolled students have the opportunity to reserve their seats for the 2025-26 school year when we return from break in January, **we will not begin processing applications for new students until the week of January 27**.

Second, to help your budget planning for the year ahead, [preschool](#) and [K-12](#) tuition rates for the 2025-26 school year are now available on our website. In order to maintain and enhance the high-quality experience your children deserve, we require an application fee and enrollment/re-enrollment fee each year. We understand that this may prompt questions, so we'd like to share four reasons why this is an important part of our school's annual process.

### 1. Securing Your Child's Spot:

Each school year, we work diligently to ensure that our classrooms are properly staffed, our programs are well-resourced, and our facilities are ready to serve. Re-enrollment fees help us project accurate enrollment numbers so we can make informed decisions about class sizes, teacher assignments, and materials, ensuring every student gets the attention they need.

### 2. Supporting School Operations:

These fees cover essential administrative costs related to the enrollment process, including recordkeeping, processing applications, and maintaining up-to-date technology and software to serve our families efficiently. These steps help us to be proactive in providing a seamless educational experience.

### 3. Commitment to Growth:

Enrollment fees are an important part of our financial planning. They allow us to invest in new programs,

hire and retain excellent faculty, and improve facilities, all while keeping tuition as affordable as possible. The early commitment through this fee strengthens our ability to plan strategically for the upcoming year.

#### **4. Building a Sustainable Future:**

Your support through the enrollment process helps ensure that Sioux Falls Lutheran School remains a vibrant place for your children, and future generations, to grow in faith and knowledge. It's an investment not only in your child's education but also in the continued success of our school community.

Application fees are \$25. Enrollment fees for new students (including new students who belong to current families) is \$400 per student; \$200 of that \$400 fee serves as a tuition deposit for the 2025-26 school year. Returning student re-enrollment fees are \$200 per student. We truly value your partnership in this mission and appreciate your understanding of the purpose behind these fees. Our goal is to provide your family with the best educational experience possible, while being good stewards of our resources.

Our deepest thanks for entrusting us with the care and education of your children. It is a joy and honor to serve your family at SFLS, and we encourage you to contact our admissions office with any questions. If you need any assistance logging into your family portal, please feel free to contact FACTS support at 866-441-4637.

Blessings,

Megan Baedke, Director of Community Engagement | Preschool & Kindergarten Admissions

Vania Asmus, Admissions & Marketing Coordinator | 1st-12th Grade Admissions

#### **LICENSE PLATE DECAL**

Show your SFLS support on your SD license plate! We now have license plate decals available for purchase. They are \$10 for a set of two. Please contact Mikela Iverson at [miverson@sflutherschool.com](mailto:miverson@sflutherschool.com) to purchase.



#### **LOST & FOUND TABLES**

Stop by the table outside the school office to claim your items! Also, we are doing a continuous locker room cleanout and those items are located on a table in the high school wing. What remains will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul (northeast corner of 41st St. & Tea-Ellis road) after school on Friday, December 20th.

Please keep in mind...preschool does have their own Lost & Found spot, so don't forget to check there, jewelry & electronics are kept in the school office (including Chromebook chargers), Spirit Wear is kept and coats/snow gear are not donated until the summer. Contact [schooloffice@sflutherschool.com](mailto:schooloffice@sflutherschool.com) with any questions.

## CAREER CORNER

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

### Preschool:

- Substitute assistants: are you interested in being on our call list to assist in one of our classrooms? This could be in infants, toddlers and 3-year-olds to 5-year-olds. With subbing, you have complete flexibility to choose specific days and say yes or no when getting a call. Come have fun with us!

### Elementary:

- Full-time 4th grade teacher (2025-2026 school year)

### Eagle Care:

- Part-time afternoon assistants. Adults and/or high school age students:
  - Flexible schedule: between 3:15 - 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday

### Facilities:

- Full-time and part-time evening custodian

Please prayerfully consider joining our team and/or sharing these opportunities with someone you believe would be a good fit! Contact Debbie Pankow at [dpankow@sflutheranschool.com](mailto:dpankow@sflutheranschool.com) for more information.

View jobs and application instructions here: [www.siouxfallslutheran.com/careers](http://www.siouxfallslutheran.com/careers).

## CHAPEL

**Chapel times** for Wednesday, December 18th, led by Pastor Aker from Faith Lutheran Church:

- 6-12 chapel at 8:10 AM
- K-5 chapel at 8:50 AM

This year's theme is ONE - The Gospel Story is Our Story. This week's topic is: Many Roles, One Ministry; Pastors

**Preschool chapel** will be held on Thursday, December 19th, led by DCE Liz Peters from Memorial Lutheran Church, in the Early Childhood wing beginning at 8:40 and 9:00 AM. The theme of this week's chapel is Wisemen.

### CHAPEL OFFERINGS:

First semester we are supporting Missionary Hayden Rensner in Ethiopia.

One more chapel offering for the semester!

Collected: \$1244.51 **We honor God by serving others!**

**Campus Chaplain** the week of December 16th is Pastor Aker from Faith Lutheran Church.



**MISSION OF CHRIST Network**

**About the Ministry**  
Hayden lives in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and works as an ESL Instructor at Yesus Mekane Seminary. Through serving as an ESL instructor to the seminary students, she works to equip pastors and church leaders with the tools they need to share the Gospel effectively in Ethiopia and throughout the world.

**Prayer Requests**

- Yesus Mekane Seminary would continue to flourish and enable pastors and church leaders to be equipped and sent out into the world with the saving news of Jesus.
- That Hayden would form good relationships with those whom she works and interacts with.
- God would be glorified in the partnerships Hayden has both in the USA and in Ethiopia.

**Contact Information**  
Hayden Rensner  
[hayden.rensner@missionofchrist.org](mailto:hayden.rensner@missionofchrist.org)

Hayden Rensner  
Serving the Lord in Ethiopia

"He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit."  
Titus 3:5

## Help is 3 Numbers Away



Safe2Say South Dakota is a statewide tip line that allows South Dakota students, school staff, and community members to safely and anonymously report sensitive information that concerns their safety, or the safety of others, including mental health concerns.




## December is nationally a prevention month called 4D Month.

The 4 Ds are Distracted, Drowsy, Drunk and Drug Impaired. Below are some national statistics on how distracted driving can come in different forms. Safe travels to you and your families. Merry Christmas!

—Mrs. DeVos

# DECEMBER IS DRUNK, DRUGGED AND DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

 <b>13,524</b> DEATHS FROM DRUNK-DRIVING CRASHES IN 2022 <small>(One person every 39 minutes)</small>	 <b>54%</b> DRIVERS INVOLVED IN SERIOUS INJURY CRASHES WHO TESTED POSITIVE FOR AT LEAST ONE DRUG <small>(SEPT 2019- JULY 2021)</small>
 <b>3,308</b> NUMBER OF PEOPLE KILLED BY DISTRACTED DRIVING IN 2022	 <b>2,514</b> PEOPLE KILLED IN CRASHES INVOLVING A TEEN DRIVER (15-18 YEARS OLD) IN 2022
 <b>RULES OF THE ROAD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DON'T DRIVE IMPAIRED</li> <li>• BUCKLE UP AND MAKE SURE YOUR PASSENGERS DO TOO</li> <li>• KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE ROAD, HANDS ON THE WHEEL AND MIND ON THE TASK OF DRIVING</li> <li>• FOLLOW THE POSTED SPEED LIMIT</li> <li>• LIMIT NUMBER OF PASSENGERS FOR TEEN DRIVERS</li> </ul>	

NHTSA.GOV

**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)**

<b>Order Dates by 10 AM</b>	<b>Pick-Up Dates after 11 AM</b>
Monday, December 16	Thursday, December 19
No Orders Week of December 23	No Orders Week of December 23
No Orders Week of December 30	No Orders Week of December 30

**EAGLE CARE**

**Eagle Care will NOT be open** on FRIDAY, December 20th after school. This includes infants, ones and twos classrooms. That Friday afternoon will mark the beginning of the Christmas break for all of SFLS. We will be back in session on Thursday, January 2, 2025 at 7:00 AM.

**We welcome Ms. Schulz** to our staff. Amber is a senior physical therapy student at Augustana University. She looks forward to getting to know our students. Welcome Amber!

**FYI details/registration for Summer Eagle Care** will be available in the middle of February.

**PRESCHOOL**



**Stroller Parking Needs:** Please reserve the separate parking row (near the black iron fence) for families with strollers. It can be dangerous for families trying to load infants and toddlers into their carseats, especially in the winter. This also takes extra time, so it will help traffic move through the parking lot if we can save these spots for our youngest children. Please update your family and friends who help with transportation. Thank you!

## ELEMENTARY

This is week two of the season of Advent. What is Advent?

- Advent is a season in the church year where we anticipate the arrival of our Savior Jesus.
- We celebrate Christ coming to us in three ways - past, present, future. Christmas and the Old Testament prophets tell us how Jesus came to earth in the past. We also read about and anticipate Christ's second coming on the Last Day. Christ is also present with us even now through Word and Sacrament and his people, the Body of Christ.

Students get to see Advent wreaths at chapel and throughout the building. Our Advent wreath had two candles lit this week. The first candle is blue and symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the Prophecy Candle. With this first candle, we remember the hope that God's people had in the Old Testament as the prophets declared that a Savior would come.

The second candle is also blue and symbolizes peace. It is sometimes called the Bethlehem Candle. With this second candle, we remember Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and that Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

You are invited to come hear about the third candle next week! You are always invited to chapel at 8:50 on Wednesday mornings. It is fun to celebrate this season with all of our Sioux Falls Lutheran family!

## HIGH SCHOOL

### ACT TEST PREP

Juniors will be taking the ACT in March. It is not too early to begin preparing for the test. Did you know there are free [practice tests and resources](#)? Please let Mrs. Slavens know if you have any questions.

### FAFSA

Seniors and parents - the [FAFSA is now open!](#) Complete the form to apply for financial aid for college, career school, or graduate school.



**VOLUNTEERS** at our home games are key to our ability to host these games. You may find opportunities to volunteer by clicking on [THIS LINK](#).

### BASKETBALL:

- December 13: JV/V BBB home vs. Vermillion, JV @ 6:15, Varsity to follow (VTF)
- December 14: C/JV/V BBB home vs. Estelline, JV @ 1, VTF
- December 14: MS GBB @ Viborg/Hurley Tournament
- December 16: MS GBB @ Alcester/Hudson beginning @ 4
- December 17: MS/JV/V BBB HOME vs. ORR beginning @ 4
- December 21: JV BBB Tournament @ Beresford

## [DECEMBER Middle School Ensemble Calendar](#)

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



### Upcoming Christmas Music Events:

**December 13 - Mrs. Johnson's Kindergarten "Music Class on the Stage" - 2:45 PM**

**December 17 - Ms. Melcher's Kindergarten "Music Class on the Stage" - 2:45 PM**

### ASSOCIATION CHURCHES

**Faith** - Rev. Corey Aker and Rev. Jason Rensner

**Lord of Life** - Rev. Billy Newell

**Sounds Of The Savior: *The Telling of the Christmas Story*.** The Christmas season goes by so quickly, so we would love for you to spend some time with us remembering what the season is all about, Jesus! Join us on Sunday evening, December 22 at 6:30 PM as we recount the birth of our Savior! This will be a combination of the telling of the Christmas story along with Christmas music incorporated to worship the newborn King! We hope this will be a new annual tradition! We also plan to do a Christmas cookie potluck! Feel free to bring some Christmas cookies to share and also enjoy some hot chocolate! (Bringing Christmas cookies is not required!) We would love to have you there, and please invite your family, friends and neighbors!

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

**Our Redeemer** - Rev. Howard Shane (primary vacancy pastor), Rev. David Morfitt (vacancy pastor)



**Resurrection** - Rev. Chris Ascher

**PIZZA RANCH fundraiser** for our youth who will be attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July. Mark your calendars for a night off from your kitchen! MONDAY DECEMBER 23rd from 5 to 8 PM. (NOTE: 10% of buffet sales plus all tips will be donated by Pizza Ranch.)

\*\*Click [HERE](#) for all church's worship times including Advent & Christmas services\*\*

HIGH SCHOOL SUPPORTING MEMBER

**ZION** - Rev. Greg Lehr

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Please contact [schooloffice@sflutherschool.com](mailto:schooloffice@sflutherschool.com) with any questions or concerns.



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