



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

Upper School Construction Update Earthwork, Footings, and Foundations completed for the Two-story Addition!



After approval by the SFLS United Voters Assembly on October 27, 2024, Hoogendoorn Construction completed the earthwork, footings, and foundations for the Upper School two-story addition. Structural steel has been ordered and will arrive in time for the re-start of construction this spring, pending final Voters' Assembly approval in February.

Thanks to God, for the successful completion of new strong foundations for a quickly expanding Upper School!

December 9, 2024: Hoogendoorn Construction began framing and pouring footings.



December 10, 2024: Hoogendoorn completed most of the topsoil removal and formed foundation walls.



December 30, 2024: foundation walls poured, including the elevator shaft (in front of the workers).



By January 3, 2025, the site is ready for structural steel, starting in March.



Images by Gordon Krause, Owner's Representative; and Tia Esser, Executive Director

"Christ is my firm foundation; the Rock on which I stand." ~ Cody Carnes

Jan 10, 2025

2024 TAX INFORMATION NEW

Families enrolled at SFLS who used the TADS billing system in 2024 will click [HERE](#) for instructions on accessing your tax information. For steps through the FACTS Management system, click [HERE](#). *Keep in mind, if you have been billed through TADS and FACTS in 2024, you will need to access both systems.* Please consult your tax advisor for questions regarding tax credits and deductions.

DRAMA NEW

SFLS **SIoux FALLS LUTHERAN SCHOOL**
EST. 1977
World Ready. Faith Secure.

Oh, What a Tangled Web

by John R. Carroll

Soup Supper Fundraiser & One-Act Performance

Saturday, January 18th
5:00pm Soup Supper
6:30pm Performance

Chili, Chicken Noodle Soup, Cheesy Potato Soup, Desserts, & Drinks!

Free Will Offering to support the Spring Musical Production!

Produced by special arrangement with THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC., of Woodstock Illinois.

QUICK LINKS

[Career Corner](#)

[Chapel](#)

[Counseling Services](#)

[PTF](#)

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

[Eagle Care](#)

[Elementary](#)

[Upper School](#)

[High School](#)

[Art](#)

[Athletics](#)

[Music](#)

[Association Churches](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

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. **Re-enrollment instructions were sent via email earlier this week. Please check your inbox for instructions.**

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.**

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 \$225 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@sflutheranschool.com to purchase.



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

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 for more information.

View jobs and application instructions here: www.siouxfallslutheran.com/careers.

CHAPEL

Chapel for Wednesday, January 15th, will be led by Pastor Billy from Lord of Life Lutheran Church:

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

This year's theme is ONE - The Gospel Story is Our Story. This week's topic is: *The Body of Christ; Building up the Church.*

Kindergarten Chat & Chapel will be held on Wednesday, January 15th from 8-8:45 AM. Kindergarten parents/guardians/family members are welcome to join for fellowship in the commons before chapel.

Preschool chapel will be held on Wednesday, January 15th, 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 *Jesus' Baptism*.

Campus Chaplain the week of January 13th is Pastor Asmus from Memorial Lutheran Church.

Chapel Offerings for 2nd semester, will go to support Lutheran Family Service (LFS). So far we have collected \$62.90. LFS offers the following services:



Pregnancy Help



Adoption Services



Marriage Counseling



Mental Health Counseling



Outreach

COUNSELING SERVICES

Help is 3 Numbers Away

211 maintains a comprehensive database of community resources and provides information and referrals for essential needs like:

- Food
- Housing and Shelter
- Utility Assistance
- Healthcare Services
- Government Services

211 also can connect people with information and referrals for:

- Transportation
- Legal Services
- Support Groups
- Disaster Aftercare
- Everything Else

988 provides crisis support for:

- Thoughts of Suicide
- Mental Health Crisis
- Substance Use Crisis
- Emotional Distress

911 provides first responder dispatch for:

- Medical Emergency
- Fire
- Reporting a Crime
- Disaster Response
- Life-Threatening Situation

Call for Information and Community Resources 211

Call for Suicide Intervention and Crisis Support 988

Call for Emergencies 911

Whole Person Care

Warm Handoff

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.

SAFE 2 SAY SOUTH DAKOTA

safe2say.sd.gov

SUBMIT A TIP BY CALLING 1-844-373-7233

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT A TIP

PARENT-TEACHER-FELLOWSHIP

NEXT MEETING:
 Monday, January 13th at 5:30 PM
 in the reading area
 between the preschool & elementary wings

CONNECT WITH THE PTF ON FACEBOOK



Scan the QR Code with your camera app to go to the 911 PTF Facebook Page



RAISERIGHT (AKA SCRIP)

Order Dates by 10 AM	Pick-Up Dates after 11 AM
Monday, January 13	Thursday, January 16
Tuesday, January 21	Friday, January 24
Monday, January 27	Thursday, January 30

Special PICK-UP INFORMATION FOR Tuesday, January 14, 2025. SFLS is hosting the Sioux Falls Chamber Mixer from 4:30-6:30 PM on January 14th. We expect 200+ chamber members in The Commons that night. Therefore, ALL EAGLE CARE STUDENTS NEED to be picked up at the PRESCHOOL ENTRANCE, DOOR B, to avoid the crowd. Thank you!

ELEMENTARY

This week we entered one of my [Dr. Newell's] favorite seasons of the school year. I lovingly call these days "Enrollment Season." I enjoy looking toward and planning for the future. During the cold, dark days of January, it brings me joy to anticipate how all of our students will "level up" next August. We look forward to continuing to serve and partner with your family in educating your child with the love of Jesus. Part of our planning for next year will include creating class lists. Now that our elementary grades are almost entirely double-sectioned, I wanted to share with you the process we use to place students in classes for the next school year. This process is very intentional and involves a lot of prayer, time, and thoughtfulness on the part of our teachers and administrators. We work to make sure the make-up of classes is well balanced, caring for student relationships, academic, spiritual, and social/emotional needs. We also try to keep the boy/girl ratios the same in each class. We do our very best to balance individual and group needs throughout this decision-making. Thank you in advance for trusting us in this process. We are grateful to have an elementary team full of fabulous teachers!

UPPER SCHOOL

MULTIMEDIA CLUB has been canceled until further notice. Please contact Mrs. Vania Asmus in the front office with any questions.

TRIVIA NIGHT! SAVE THE DATE!

9TH ANNUAL SFLS
7TH GRADE CLASS FUNDRAISER
TRIVIA NIGHT

Saturday SFLS Commons
March 8th 6:00pm

Trivia
Night

SFLS
SIoux FALLS
LUTHERAN SCHOOL

The poster features a blue background with white and yellow text. At the bottom, there are several hands of different colors (red, orange, black, white) reaching up towards the word 'Trivia'. The SFLS logo is in the bottom left corner.

Join us on Saturday, March 8th to test your knowledge and support the 7th graders' epic journey to the Black Hills this September!

Form your dream team of 8, bring your A-game, and help raise funds for food, supplies, and site admissions for their Leadership & Earth Science Trip.

Stay tuned for more details—it's going to be a night to remember!

Any questions, contact Miss Ockander at mockander@sflutherschool.com.

HIGH SCHOOL

WINTER FORMAL

Saturday, January 11th from 7-9 in the HS Wing. See the poster for more details.

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.



ART

Please save small containers with 4-6 oz. lids. (cottage cheese, sour cream, yogurt, etc.) They can be turned in to Mrs. Hoekman or at the front desk.

ATHLETICS

NON-WINTER SPORTS STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING PROGRAM:

Jaycee will be running a strength and conditioning program for non-winter sports athletes 2x weekly beginning January 14. This program is a fantastic opportunity to enhance athletic performance, build strength, and promote injury prevention ahead of their spring sports seasons.

Cost: \$50

Sessions will begin on January 14 (Jaycee is planning on running this strength and conditioning program Jan. 14 through February, and possibly into March. But she will make sure it doesn't overlap with getting started with track season when that time comes.) The January schedule will run Tuesdays and Thursdays with the exception of the first week, it will run on Friday (17th) instead of Thursday (16th). Feb/March will be communicated later.

- Middle School sessions from 3:30 - 4:15
- High School sessions from 4:20 - 5:20

Please sign up [HERE](#) and pay in cash or check to Lisa Asmus in the front office BEFORE your Jan. 14th session. A GroupMe will be created to help with communication once the program has started.

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:

- January 14: JV/V BBB @ Gayville-Volin beginning at 6:15
- January 17: JV/V BBB HOME vs Chester beginning at 6:15

MUSIC

JANUARY Middle School Ensemble Calendar

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



Upcoming Recital Dates (for students taking lessons):

February 10 - 2nd Recital - 2:00 PM

February 11 - 3rd Recital - 2:00 PM

February 12 - 4th Recital - 2:00 PM

February 26 - 5th Recital - 2:00 PM

February 27 - 6th Recital - 2:00 PM

March 4 - 7th Recital - 2:00 PM

March 5 - 8th Recital - 2:00 PM

March 6 - 5th-8th Solo Contest - 4:00-7:00 PM (please note date change from what was originally published)

Elementary and Middle School Concerts:

May 1 - Kindergarten and 3rd Spring Programs

Kindergarten - 12:30 PM

3rd Grade - 2:00 PM

May 12 - 4th-8th Spring Concerts

4th/5th - 6:00 PM

6th-8th - 7:15 PM

High School Music upcoming events:

-Friday, January 10: Senior Tuba Recital - Colin Thuringer (SFLS Alum) 7:00 PM (see info below)

-Sunday, January 26: Choir will sing at the worship service at Lord of Life Lutheran Church.

More details to come.

-Monday, March 10: Spring Fling. 4:00-8:30 (All HS music students)

-Tuesday, April 8: HS Spring Concert 6:30 (All HS music students)

-Monday, May 5: Dallas Brass will be here at SFLS to give a concert in the evening and to work with our music students - more details coming soon

-Friday, May 16: SFLS Graduation Ceremony - HS music students will perform

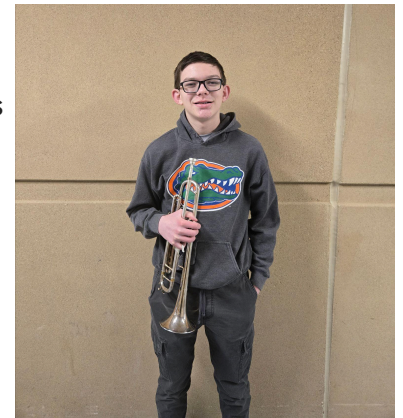
10 JAN 2025	PRESENTING COLIN THURINGER	FEATURING: GREGSON MEECHAN PERSICHETTI SADLER
7 P.M. TREATS WILL BE PROVIDED AFTERWARDS	PERFORMING HIS SENIOR RECITAL	SFLS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



SFLS graduate and current Concordia-Nebraska student, Colin Thuringer, will be performing his senior tuba recital this Friday, January 10th, at 7:00 PM in the Chapel. It will be a fun opportunity to hear some great music, and to support Colin as he gets ready to graduate from Concordia in the Spring with a Music Education degree. Please see the paragraph below from Colin.

As part of the requirements for a CUNE music major, each student is required to perform a recital on their principal instrument. With one recital done in Seward, I wanted to give you all an opportunity to hear what my four years at Concordia have resulted in. Join me at 7 PM on Friday, January 10th for a performance of my tuba recital! Snacks and refreshments will be provided following.

CONGRATULATIONS to Caden Nyberg who auditioned and was chosen as the First Trumpet Chair in one of the Middle School All-State Jazz Band ensembles. Caden will spend time in rehearsals on Friday, January 31st and perform a concert on Saturday, February 1st in the Mitchell Performing Arts Center. There were a total of only 10 trumpets chosen in the entire State of South Dakota for this event. Way to go, Caden!



ASSOCIATION CHURCHES

Faith - Rev. Corey Aker and Rev. Jason Rensner



Fresh Hope for Mental Health Support Group

Room 101, Faith Lutheran Church
601 N Cliff St, Sioux Falls, SD

Parking & Entrance: North side of building
Mondays at 6:30-8pm

You and/or your loved ones are invited to join us.

January - Relationships

- Jan 6 – Toxic Relationships
- Jan 13 – Image and Stigma
- Jan 20 – Overcoming Loneliness
- Jan 27 – Guidelines for Self-Disclosure

February – Medical Therapy

- Feb 3 – Getting the Most from Your Therapy
- Feb 10 – Coming to Terms with a Diagnosis

What to Expect

You will be in the company of peers who experience similar experiences with mental health. Fresh Hope is a safe place. What is shared in a Fresh Hope meeting is confidential. You will not be judged, reprimanded, or condemned. You'll see we're a group who looks confidently to the Lord.

Who May Participate?

Anyone who now or has had a mental health challenge, including anxiety and panic disorders, bipolar disorder, schizo-affective disorder, schizophrenia, PTSD, as well as depression, and other diagnosable conditions, may attend Fresh Hope. The loved ones, family members and/or friends of those who have a mental health diagnosis may also become part of a Fresh Hope group.

Questions: Contact Shelly at health@faithlutheransioxfalls.org
www.freshhope.us



Providing real hope and real healing to widows who grieve the loss of their spouse and are seeking purpose for this season of life.

ATTENTION WIDOWS!

Losing a spouse is a profound and life altering experience. Widow Talks are a way for you to:

- Embrace your journey through grief
- Discover your new identity
- Empower you to envision and create a future in which you can thrive...not just survive.

Widow Talks: Conversations with Those who Know
Begins January 8, Wednesdays at 1pm

Faith Lutheran Church, 601 N Cliff Ave., Sioux Falls

Dates and Topics:

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| January 8 | <i>It Begins With A Story</i> |
| January 15 | <i>The Winters of Our Lives</i> |
| January 22 | <i>Remembering</i> |
| January 29 | <i>A Widow's Perspective Psalm 23</i> |
| February 5 | <i>Overcoming Your Fears</i> |
| February 12 | <i>What About Anxiety and Worry</i> |
| February 19 | <i>Lamenting Your Loss</i> |
| March 5 | <i>Heavenly Bottles</i> |

What you can expect:

Widow Talks, peer-led support group, creates a safe environment where widows can grow, learn to thrive, and begin to live joyful, fulfilling, abundant lives despite their tragic loss.

If interested in attending Widow Talks, please contact:
Shelly Hoefs, health@faithlutheransioxfalls.org,
or call (605) 332-3401.

Lord of Life - Rev. Billy Newell

Memorial - Rev. Aaron

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

It is time for our annual
Family event Cabin Fever
Burn Off!!!

Sunday, Jan. 26th, 1-6 PM

Bring the family to burn off
energy! We will have
inflatables, fun and games,
crafts, snacks, service
projects, and something for
parents and kids to do to

keep busy!!! Free will offering will be taken. This is targeted for families with elementary and younger children.



**CURE YOUR
CABIN FEVER!**

Memorial Lutheran Children's Ministry
5000 S Western Ave
Sioux Falls

**Cabin Fever
Burn Off
Sunday,
Jan. 26th
1-6 PM**

Families with littles, come play together! Inflatables, games, snacks, crafts, service project...pure fun!

Children MUST have an adult with them!!!

Free-will offering.

Our Redeemer - Rev. Howard Shane

(primary vacancy pastor), Rev. David Morfitt
(vacancy pastor)

Soup & Pie Luncheon - The annual Our Redeemer Soup & Pie Luncheon will be on Saturday, January 11, 2025, 11AM-1PM. There will be a variety of soups and pies. This year your freewill donation goes toward the ORLC Benevolent Fund, which supports those in need within the Our Redeemer congregation and the Sioux Falls community. Signup is not required, but is appreciated:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F49ADAD2BA0F4CE9-54105467-ourredeemer>



Soup & Pie Luncheon

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
2200 S Western Ave, Sioux Falls

**Saturday, January 11, 2025
11AM-1PM**



Variety of Soups and Pies

Your freewill donation goes toward the Our Redeemer Benevolent Fund, supporting those in need within the Our Redeemer congregation and in our community.

Resurrection - Rev. Chris Ascher

Click [HERE](#) for all church's worship times

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 with any questions or concerns.



**SIOUX FALLS
LUTHERAN SCHOOL**
World Ready. Faith Secure.

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siouxfallslutheran.com | (605) 335-1923