



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

Feb 7, 2025



| QUICK LINKS |
|--|
| Career Corner |
| Chapel |
| Counseling Services |
| PTF |
| RaiseRight (aka SCRIP) |
| Eagle Care |
| Elementary |
| Middle School |
| High School |
| Athletics |
| Music |
| Association Churches |
| Upcoming Events |

NEEDS-BASED VARIABLE TUITION APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN ^{NEW}

The [K-12 needs-based variable tuition](#) application window for the 2025-26 school year is now open through TADS. Thanks to our expanding list of generous donors who continue to graciously invest in our mission through donations to our needs-based variable tuition fund, we are preparing to award up to \$400,000 in needs-based variable tuition to qualifying families during the 2025-26 school year. Applications for the 2025-26 school year are due by May 15, 2025.

To apply, please log into or create a TADS account for your family at www.mytads.com by clicking on "Financial Aid Assessment." TADS will provide a complete list of required documentation before you begin your application, but please know that items like your previous year's tax return are required.

If your family has received funds through the [South Dakota Partners in Education \(SDPE\) tax-credit scholarship program](#) for the past three years, you must reapply for those funds this year as well by sending your application to both SFLS and SDPE.


If you have any technical questions while submitting your variable tuition application, please feel free to contact TADS support directly at 800-477-8237 or support@tads.com (M-F 7 AM - 8 PM CST).

CALLING ALL SFLS ASSOCIATION CHURCH FAMILIES for a United Voters Assembly (UVA) meeting on Sunday, February 23rd, to approve the Upper School's phase 3 construction and loan! 

The Sioux Falls Lutheran School Board has scheduled the next UVA meeting to approve the Upper School's Phase 3 construction project and a loan from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

We ask all eligible voters to mark your calendars and plan to attend this important meeting:

 Date: Sunday, February 23, 2025

 Time: 1:30 PM

 Location: Sioux Falls Lutheran School's Meyer Chapel

In addition, to help ensure a strong turnout and meet each church's quorum requirements, we would greatly appreciate your help with spreading the word.

Next week, a narrative and related materials describing the details of the proposed approval items will arrive in your email inboxes from your congregations' administrative assistants—please be on the watch for that information, so you can be well-prepared to vote.

We are eager to take this next step in our expansion! Thanks to the UVA's approval granted on October 27, 2024, the winter phase of construction is now complete. Hoogendoorn Construction successfully installed footings and foundations in November and December before the deep freeze, with all workers remaining safe and weather conditions being favorable. Structural steel has been ordered, and we anticipate resuming construction in mid to late March, pending UVA approval and the arrival of warmer temperatures.

What a remarkable milestone in the history of Sioux Falls Lutheran School—one that will bless future generations for years to come. Thank you for your invaluable partnership in this exciting season of growth—we couldn't do it with you!

Finally and most importantly, join me in lifting prayers of thanksgiving for God's unwavering faithfulness as He continues to lead and provide for our Gospel-spreading, kingdom-building mission.

With Gratefulness,

Mrs. Tia Esser, Executive Director

LIBRARY WISH LIST



The students are always putting in requests for library books at school. Check out our wishlist here: <https://a.co/9O4TPXA>

LOST & FOUND TABLES

Stop by the table outside the school office and the one in the high school wing to claim your items! What remains will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul (northeast corner of 41st St. & Tea-Ellis road) after school on Wednesday, February 12th.



June 15 - 21, 2025

CAMP MINNEBOJI

for students finishing 4th - 8th grades

Minneboji is a 7-day/6-night Christian summer camp program for those who are finishing 4th-8th grade that has been enriching lives since 1949. Led by pastoral and lay volunteers from the South Dakota district of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Minneboji takes place at the beautiful lakeside facilities of Camp Okoboji - LCMS in Milford, Iowa. The structured week includes large group Bible study, small group Cabin study, music, crafts, games and outdoor activities including swimming and boating as well as evening entertainment. Campers also have daily free periods, when they can simply enjoy God's creation and reconnect with friends old and new.

Camp Booklet:



Register Here:



HIDDEN and REVEALED

Theme verse: 1 Corinthians 3:7

HONORS CAMP

for students finishing 9th grade

Honors camp is a capstone experience for up to 40 responsible young ladies and gentlemen who have completed the 9th grade (entering 10th grade in the Fall of 2025). Honors camp is a camp-within-a-camp, following its own schedule for morning and afternoon activities. The week includes special service projects as an opportunity to give back for the blessings campers have received through their time at Minneboji.

The program focuses on peer ministry training, team building activities, and overall equipping and strengthening the Christian foundations of young people.

Registration closes May 1 or when it is full

SPIRIT WEAR ORDERS

If you placed a spirit wear order in November and did not receive a notification (or it went to spam), to pick your order up, please call Dakota Sports 605-332-2131.

TRIVIA NIGHT

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@sflutheranschool.com.



VOLLEYBALL FUNDRAISER



EMPIRE PLACE (SD)

Community Care Event

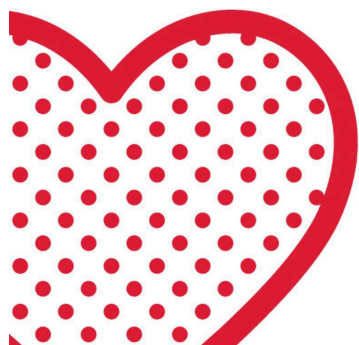


Join us for a community care event to support

Sioux Falls Lutheran Volleyball

April 22nd | 4PM - 8PM
Chick-fil-A Empire Place

Mobile Order Code: SFLVB25



25%

of all mobile orders with code, and marked catering orders in-person dine-in, carry-out, or drive-thru orders will go to the organization!

Must mention
Community Care Night
when placing order.

2024 TAX INFORMATION

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.

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!

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, February 12th, will be led by Pastor Winkler from the LCMS District Office:

- 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: *New Life; Life with our Neighbor.*

Preschool chapel will also be held on Wednesday, February 12th, led by DCE Liz Peters from Memorial Lutheran Church, in the Early Childhood wing beginning at 8:40 and 9:00 AM.

Campus Chaplain the week of February 10th, is DCE Hailey Jo Miller from Memorial Lutheran Church.

Chapel Offerings for 2nd semester will go to support Lutheran Family Service (LFS). So far we have collected **\$311.95**. LFS offers the following services:



Pregnancy Help



Adoption Services



Marriage
Counseling



Mental Health
Counseling



Outreach

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.



SOCIAL MEDIA WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

- Studies show that spending more than 3 hours a day on social media doubles the risk for mental health problems (depression, anxiety, etc) in adolescents.
- Teens spend an average of 3.5 hours a day on social media.

“The FBI estimates that, at any given time, there are 500,000 sexual predators online scouring social media profiles, often posing as children ages 12 to 15 when searching for victims.”



SNAPCHAT

- Must be 13 to create an account, but there is no age verification so users can easily provide a fake birthday when creating an account
- Messages (“snaps”) can be set to disappear after viewing, but the recipient can take a screenshot
- SnapMap shows user’s location in real time unless set to Ghost Mode
- Family Center Feature allows parents and caregivers to view their child’s privacy settings and who they are communicating with.

INSTAGRAM

- Must be 13 to create an account, Instagram claims to use AI to determine if a birthday is authentic
- Terms of use do not prohibit the portrayal of violence, swear words, or drugs
- Mature content can appear in photos and comment sections
- Vanish mode allows users to send messages that disappear after being viewed.
- Accounts for users under 18 are automatically set to private



“Short-form content (bursts of stimulation of about three to five seconds) and the use of algorithms are two ways that social media companies keep children online by releasing dopamine in the brain and making them lose track of time.”

TIK TOK



- Includes “Tik Tok for Younger Users” (ability to watch videos but not to comment, search or post videos) for users under 13, but users could put in a fake birthdate
- Family Pairing mode allows parents to control certain aspects of a child’s Tik Tok account.

ROBLOX

- Recommended for ages 13+
- Posts and chats for users 12 and under are filtered for inappropriate content and personal information
- Recommended that parents disable the chat function for kids



Commonsensemedia.org, HHS.gov

<https://ahs.atlantichealth.org/about-us/stay-connected/news/content-central/2024/10-facts-about-kids-and-teens-on-social-media.html>



**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, February 10 | Thursday, February 20 **Note: Later pick-up date due to RaiseRight updating their system |
| No RaiseRight orders week of February 17 | Thursday, February 20 |
| Monday, February 24 | Thursday, February 27 |

EAGLE CARE

We have begun our planning for summer. We will offer care for current SFLS children enrolled in infants-fourth grade. In order to have a group for students in the grades 2-4, we will need to have 8 or more students. We will be in session from Tuesday, May 27 - Friday, August 1, 2025, 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM. Priority will be given to those families who need care four-five days a week for the entire day. Registration will be sent in the middle of February. Questions may be directed to the following email: eaglecare@sflutherschool.com.

ELEMENTARY

We are grateful for the Junior Achievement volunteers who have been visiting our classrooms again this school year! By combining JA programming with their own personal and professional experiences, JA volunteers teach students about careers, money management, entrepreneurship, and ethics. They help students connect what they learn in school with the skills needed for success in both their personal and professional lives.

Junior Achievement (JA) gives students hope for a brighter future. This school year, nearly 2,000 JA volunteers are committed to teaching JA programs, empowering over 56,000 South Dakota students to pursue their dreams.

Please join us in thanking the volunteers and teachers listed below for their involvement in JA during the 2024-25 school year. If you're interested in sharing your knowledge and business experience with local students or would like to sponsor a student for \$25, please contact the JA office at (605) 336-7318 or jasd@ja.org.

Sioux Falls Lutheran School - JA Volunteers and Teachers:

| Grade | Teacher | Volunteer | Employer |
|-------|-------------------|------------------|--|
| K | Serenati Melcher | Volunteer Needed | |
| K | McKenzie Johnson | Britt Strum | The First National Bank in Sioux Falls |
| 1 | Britney Vercruyse | Greg Jasmer | Marsh McLennan Agency, LLC |
| 1 | Amanda Thomas | Tasha Jurrens | The First National Bank in Sioux Falls |
| 2 | Sierra Geistfeld | Jenna Klepatz | Essentia Health |
| 2 | Sierra Geistfeld | Mike Klepatz | Holmes Murphy and Associates, Inc. |
| 2 | Hiedi Johnson | Scott Johnson | POET, LLC |
| 3 | Katie Mlnarik | Jackie Klein | Wells Fargo |
| 3 | Rachel Borchardt | Steven White | International Flavors and Fragrances |
| 4 | Kristy Bridges | Sarah Gilster | Wells Fargo |
| 5 | Jon Pinn | Sarah Gilster | Wells Fargo |

MIDDLE SCHOOL

ICU REMINDER: ICU is the system SFLS uses when students have late work. A list of late assignments is visible and shared among MS teachers who show concern toward the students by asking them about it – Do you need help or have questions? Do you need another copy? Should you communicate with that teacher? Students are typically asked these questions and given reminders during study hall and in regular classes. **Late work is an issue among all middle school classes.** Please help the teachers by holding your child accountable to his/her learning and due dates. Also, find ways to build responsibility in your child at home. This is an important life skill that we partner with you on as we teach your children. Students on this list of late assignments will be kept in from recess on Tuesdays to give students the assistance and time they need to complete the learning. These late assignments can also be completed at home as homework so there would be no need to miss recess.

HIGH SCHOOL

SFLS SCHOLARSHIP HUB

Upcoming 2025 graduates, be sure to check the scholarship hub often as it gets updated with new scholarship opportunities.

FAFSA

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

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE POST-HIGH SCHOOL PROCESS on February 18! [RSVP](#)



Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Grand Canyon University will provide information on:

- FAFSA Applications
- Grants
- Savings Programs
- Post HS Planning Process

JR/SR/PARENT NIGHT

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18
5:30 P.M.
SUPPER WILL BE PROVIDED

PLEASE RSVP BY FEBRUARY 10



Supper:
Chicken
Nuggets,
Mac and
Cheese,
Lemonade,
Fruit

ATHLETICS

BASKETBALL:

- February 7: JV/V BBB @ Canistota: JV @ 6:15; VTF
- February 10: C/JV BBB & JV GBB HOME vs Lower Brule
 - C Boys-5pm,
 - JV Boys- 6:15pm,
 - JV Girls to follow or around 7:30pm
- February 15: JV/V BBB at Sunshine Bible Academy: JV @ 12 with Varsity to Follow

CHRIS'S CAKES ATHLETIC FUNDRAISER:

Save the Date: Sunday, March 30, 9:30 AM - 1 PM. More information is coming soon.

NON-WINTER SPORTS STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING PROGRAM: All students Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:30 - 4:15

ROBOTICS: February 8: Robotics @ Harrisburg

VOLUNTEERS at our remaining 3 home games are key to our ability to host these games. You may find opportunities to volunteer by clicking on [THIS LINK](#).

K-3
100TH DAY OF SCHOOL
Bow Hold Challenge



FEBRUARY Middle School Ensemble Calendar

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



4th-8th Grade Choir students have been invited to sing the National Anthem at a Sioux Falls Stampede Hockey game on Saturday, March 1st at 6:05 PM! Please watch for ticket information coming soon from Mrs. Prouty.

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:

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

-Tuesday, April 8: HS Spring Concert 6:30 PM (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

ASSOCIATION CHURCHES

Faith - Rev. Corey Aker and Rev. Jason Rensner

Lord of Life - Rev. Billy Newell

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

Are you looking for something to do on Valentine's Day? How about dinner and entertainment at Memorial:



Date Night

Friday, February 14

5:30pm
Meal begins
(optional)

6:30-9:30 pm
Program

Tickets \$25/couple

Dinner and entertainment provided.
Tickets available online or at the church.

To buy tickets



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.

February and March 2025 - Behaviors

Febr 17 – Overcoming Shame

Febr 24 – 4 Conducts

March 3 – Anxiety Behavior/Cognitive Therapies

March 10 – Anxiety: Relaxations Techniques

March 17 – Charting Moods & Anxiety

March 24 – Living within Your Limitations

March 31 – Breathing Techniques with Gentle Chair & Mat
Yoga-based movement (Open to All)

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 confidentially 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@faithluthersiouxfalls.org
or call (605) 332-3401 www.freshhope.us

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

INSTALLATION SERVICE - Rev. Brett Simek will be installed at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church (2200 S Western Ave, Sioux Falls) on Sunday, February 9 at 2 PM with a cake reception following. All are welcome to attend!

Resurrection - Rev. Chris Ascher



Lutheran Women in Mission
PRAYER SERVICE 2025

Blessed are they...

Matthew 5:1-12

The Beatitudes of Christ
Saturday, February 8
(March 1 - Backup Date)
Registration, Food, Fellowship - 9:00-10:00 am
Service - 10:00 am
A Mite Offering will be collected

EVERYONE WELCOME

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
2200 S Western Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD
Hosted by the Women in Mission of
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

A Sioux Falls Zone Board Meeting, including group presidents, will follow the Service.

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@sflutheranschool.com with any questions or concerns.



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

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