

JANUARY 2026

# FOOTSTEPS OF FAITH

NEWSLETTER OF ABERDEEN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

# 2026

Dear Aberdeen Christian School Families and Community,

As we begin a new semester and look ahead to the remainder of the school year, we welcome you with gratitude, expectation, and faith. Scripture reminds us in Isaiah 43:19, “*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?*” As a school community, we are trusting that God is actively at work in and through Aberdeen Christian School, guiding us into new opportunities for growth, learning, and discipleship.

We are deeply thankful for the continued support of our ACS Board, the ACS Foundation, and our dedicated staff and faculty. The diversity and volume of gifts—time, wisdom, leadership, prayer, and service—poured into ACS are a powerful testimony to God’s provision. Each role, whether visible or behind the scenes, contributes to the mission of educating students in truth, excellence, and Christ-centered purpose.

As we continue to implement our Faith and Family First Initiative, we are prayerfully preparing for the transition to a four-day school week in 2026-2027. We recognize that change can bring questions and growing pains, yet we are confident that change also unfolds according to God’s plan. Ecclesiastes 3:1-3 reminds us, “*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens... a time to tear down and a time to build.*” We believe this is a time to build—strengthening faith, supporting families, and stewarding our resources wisely.

We would also like to remind families that we are concluding the first semester on January 20th. At that time, students will have the opportunity to add or drop a class if needed, ensuring that each student is appropriately scheduled to complete all South Dakota Graduation Requirements. Our administration, staff, and faculty team are committed to walking alongside students and families to support academic success and long-term planning.

As we grow and move forward together, we do so with joy and trust in the Lord. Scripture encourages us in James 1:2-4, “*Consider it pure joy... whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.*” Even in seasons of growth and adjustment, we press into God’s Word, relying on Him for wisdom, strength, and direction in all things.

Thank you for being part of the Aberdeen Christian School community. We look forward to what God will continue to do in and through our students, families, and staff as we faithfully serve Him together!

In Christ,

Dr. Sombke

## Reminder

Applications for new school board members are due in the school office by February 15th. Please inquire with Dr. Sombke if interested.

**January 20th**- First semester ends; students have until the **23<sup>rd</sup>** to make changes to their schedules.

**January 21st**- 12:30-6 p.m. Blood drive at ACS; organized by ACS senior, Lauren Meyers.

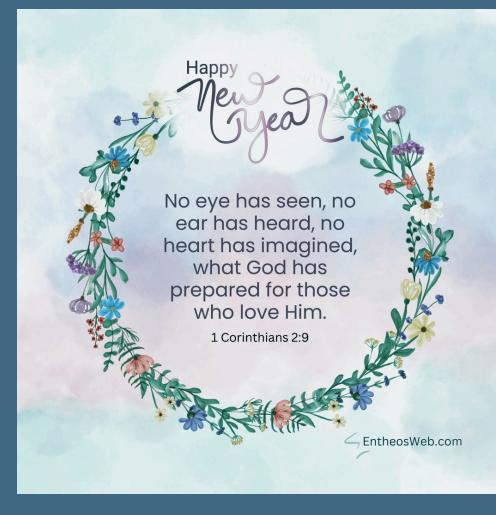
Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held February 12th and 13th.

**There will be NO SCHOOL on February 13th and February 16th.**

### Online Spirit Shop IS OPEN!

Get your gear to cheer on our students and show your school spirit!

[WWW.PROMOPLACE.COM/ACSSPIRITSHOP](http://WWW.PROMOPLACE.COM/ACSSPIRITSHOP)



# A SPECIAL BLESSING



ACS PreK-2<sup>nd</sup> graders with their quilts



7/8<sup>th</sup> graders with their quilts

## WAYS TO GIVE

We are so thankful for our generous donors, who make it possible for this ministry to continue to be a growing presence in the Aberdeen community. All gifts are tax deductible. Thank you for considering a gift through one of the following:

- Direct gift to ACS by cash or check
- Gifts through the Foundation:  
Endowments and charitable bequests
  - Crop through AGTEGRA
- Cows, bulls, stocks, life insurance, farm equipment  
Contact Rodney Johnson  
(605) 252-0842
- S & S Auction (% sales to ACS)

The quilters from Zion Lutheran Church generously chose our students to be the recipients of their beautiful, handmade quilts this year! These dedicated volunteers spent countless hours lovingly creating a quilt for every PK-8th grade student at ACS. They presented our PreK-2<sup>nd</sup> and 7/8<sup>th</sup> grade classes with their quilts on December 15<sup>th</sup> and will present the others later this year.

Dr. Sombke shared with our students about the symbolism of the blankets being a comfort to us, just as Christ is a comfort to us. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 says, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."

We are deeply thankful to the quilters of Zion Lutheran Church for sharing their time, talents, and hearts with our ACS family. Their generosity is truly a blessing to our community.



ACS is blessed to not only shepherd and educate our amazing students, but also to serve with them in service to God and others.

The January Senior Spotlight is on ACS senior, Lauren Meyers!

For her senior project, Lauren is organizing and hosting a blood drive at ACS on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Please see the included poster for more information and how you can help to make this a successful drive!

Thank you, Lauren, for your service to our school and community with this blood drive! We pray blessings over your senior year.

Each month, the Aberdeen Exchange Club sponsors these awards, which are decided upon by the students teachers. *The Youth of the Month* award is given to a high school student and is based on students involvement in school activities, community involvement and classroom performance.

*The Young Citizen Award* is given to a middle school student who demonstrates exemplary citizenship, great attitude, offers service to others, good leadership, and sportsmanship.



## ABERDEEN EXCHANGE CLUB YOUTH AWARDS

### JANUARY:

YOUTH OF THE MONTH WINNER:

*Ava Groneberg- Senior*

YOUNG CITIZEN AWARD WINNER:

*Layla Rivett, 8th grade*

### SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Linda Shoup, Karen Edwards, Becky Kaiser, Betsey Dinger, Michelle Ramirez, Larry Inches, Steven Schaeffer, Mandilyn Fliehs, and Jen Schaeffer. Terms ending on June 30th include Becky Kaiser, Karen Edwards, and Larry Inches. Thank you all for your service to ACS!

The Jan. meeting will be held on the 19th at 6 pm at the school.



### PLEASE PRAY

We appreciate your prayers for the students, faculty, families, school board, and the community of Aberdeen. May ACS be a bright light to others!

### **PASTOR GRED FRED**

ACS CHAPLAIN | SENIOR BIBLE



#### HOMETOWN

Raised in Springfield, MO  
Graduated from Mobridge, SD

#### FAVORITE SEASON

Fall

#### FAVORITE SNACK

Jalapeño Chips and Ice Cream  
(separately)

#### FAVORITE HOBBY

Hunting, reading, gaming and  
playing with my kids!

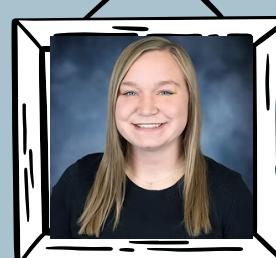
#### DO YOU COLLECT ANYTHING?

Books, board games & BluRays!

### *Meet our TEAM*

### **MRS. ASHLYN SCHAIBLE**

5TH GRADE



#### HOMETOWN

Warner, SD

#### FAVORITE SEASON

Fall

#### FAVORITE SNACK

White Cheddar Cheez-its

#### FAVORITE HOBBY

Reading, spending time  
with family & friends, and  
being on the farm!

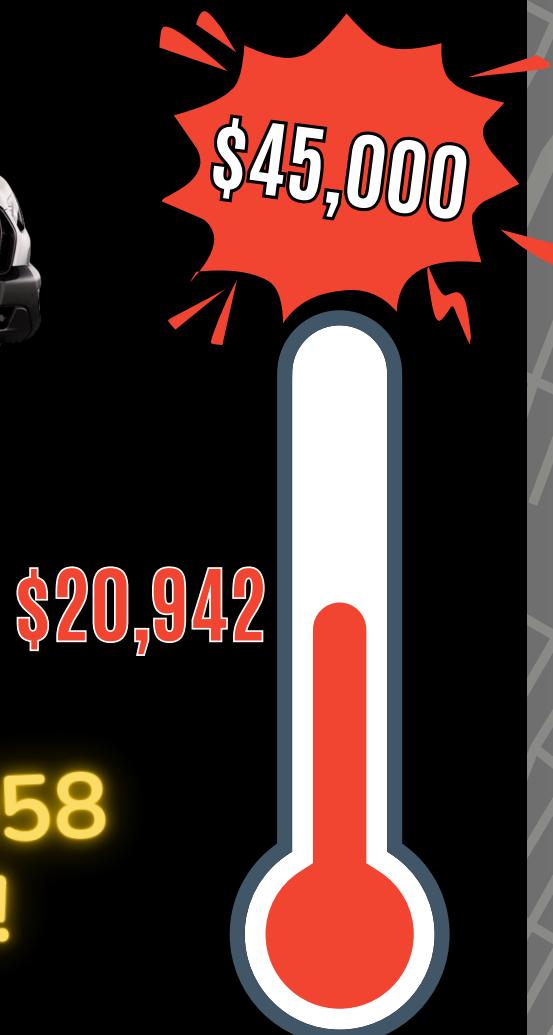
# ACS VAN-TASTIC FUNDRAISER

Aberdeen  
Christian  
School

*Our school is in need of a new van for trips, activities, and safe student travel. Join the mission!*



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO  
DONATED TO OUR SPECIAL  
PROJECT AT OUR  
KNIGHT OUT EVENT!



We have \$24,058  
left to raise!!!



WILL YOU HELP US REACH OUR \$45,000 GOAL?

## WAYS TO GIVE

- Donate online to our Zeffy account:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/van-tastic-fundraiser>

- Cash/Checks can be given to the ACS front office



join us for a  
**SCHOLARSHIP DRIVE**  
and **save lives**



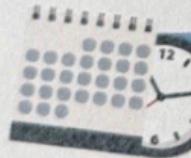
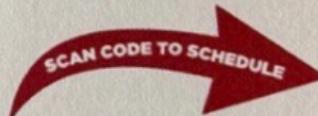
Your donation with LifeServe will help save your neighbor, a friend, family member or a stranger in your own community!

Only blood collected by LifeServe Blood Center is provided to YOUR LOCAL hospitals. After all, shouldn't your blood go to your hospital to save your neighbors?

# LAUREN MEYERS BLOOD DRIVE

Aberdeen Christian - Knights Hall

**Wednesday, January 21**  
**12:30 PM - 6:00 PM**



**APPOINTMENTS ARE ENCOURAGED**

Text: LIFESERVE to 999-777 | Call: 800.287.4903 | Visit: [lifeservebloodcenter.org](http://lifeservebloodcenter.org)

**LifeServe**  
BLOOD CENTER

YOUR BLOOD. YOUR HOSPITAL. YOUR NEIGHBOR.