

St. Peter News

August 2021

St. Peter Lutheran Church

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Deshler Lutheran School

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From Our Pastor

Greetings to you in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ

I believe one of the biggest concerns with the church in America today is spiritual lethargy. This of course is nothing new. Remember what Jesus said to the church in Laodicea in Revelation 3:15-16, ***"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth."*** The church had become indifferent and it had led to idleness. They had become halfhearted, in-name-only Christians in a self-sufficient wealthy city of Laodicea. Does that sound similar to some in the church today?

I recently read the article "How to Battle Spiritual Lethargy" by Jeremy Peters. In this article, he shares 11 items that bring out or initiate spiritual lethargy. Over the next few months, I want to share portions of this article and ask you to be reflective in your own life and see if these are present in your life.

"(1) Pride and Self-Centeredness

As is the case with all sin, spiritual laziness finds a root in our pride.

Failing to exert the effort demanded for godliness often stems from "thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought to think" (Rom 12:3; cf. Phil 2:3). When our minds are captured by exaltations of self, there is little room left for devotion. Raising our own self-importance inevitably lowers the priority of pursuing Christ.



(2) Toleration of Pet Sins

In Hebrews 12, the author exhorts his readers to run the race set before them, with endurance, fixing their eyes on Jesus. The race is grueling. It demands stamina. If there is any hope of finishing, we must "lay aside" those sins that so easily entangle us. Having died to sin and raised to newness of life, Christians have a new orientation, away from sin and toward holiness. Still, "acceptable" sins linger in our flesh—not acceptable in the eyes of the Almighty, but in our own estimations. These are sins that we more easily fall into than others.

(3) Lesser Distractions

Sin is not the only weight that hinders our run. The author also identifies "encumbrances." He broadens his warning with the universal qualifier "every." This is a category of hurdles that are not sinful, but still deterrent. Spiritual laziness is often a matter of distracted attention. It's the exertion of energy toward what is good, but not best. This is an important word for men going into ministry. Your sermon preparation, preaching, and counseling must not replace time alone with God. Work hard to preserve the latter, without neglecting the others. Do not allow busy service to distract you from sitting at the feet of Jesus (Luke 10:38-42)."

How would you describe your faith life right now? Hot? Cold? Lukewarm? Are you spiritually lethargic? Consider if these first three items are causing some of your lethargy. I would get encourage you to get into the Bible consistently, have meaningful times with other Christians, and be in God's house worshipping Him with other believers. Above all, rely on the Holy Spirit to encourage you and give you new joy and thirst for Christ.

In Jesus, the Healer of the hurting,
Pastor Brian

Official Acts

7-10-2021..... Wedding Service for
Lauren Schmidt & Matthew Gilg

The Lutheran Hour

Anytime at www.lutheranhour.org

Sunday mornings:

6:30 KFAB Omaha 1110 AM
11:15 KRFS Omaha 1600 AM

August 1 - "Blowing in the Wind"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus
"Archives August" begins with a classic message from Pastor Ken Klaus in which he contrasts popularly-held urban legends with the unchanging truth of God's Word. (Ephesians 4:14-16)

August 8 - "Seeing The Savior Sore"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer
"Archives August". Jesus got upset when religious people got in the way of those He wanted to reach. (Ephesians 4:26)

August 15 - "A Sunny Place for Shady People"

Speaker: Dr. Oswald Hoffmann
"Archives August." The life of a notorious saint shows how the grace of God makes the Church a sunny place for shady people. (Ephesians 5:8)

August 22 - "Ephesians 5"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer
"Archives August"
(Ephesians 5)

August 29 - "Use What You've Been Given"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz
"Archives August"
(Ephesians 6:10-17)

St. Peter Financial Update

As of July 11, 2021 (28 Sundays)

General Budget	
Offerings Received	138,525.64
Offerings Budgeted	193,756.08
Difference	-55,230.44
Missions-Nebraska District Support	
Goal	3,769.00
Received	2,700.00
Difference	-1,069.00

RightNow Media Spotlight - Irreplaceable" by Jim Putman

In a Society filled with stress and anxiety, Suicide has become a topic that can no longer be avoided. In the last few years the suicide rate among teens has been at an all-time high across America. The Irreplaceable Project was born out of a desire to reduce the stigma of suicide and to generate open discussions that lead to relational connection, support and resources for help. Real Life Ministries, in partnership with Chi Rho Films and a local community school district, has developed a docuseries featuring teens and adults who have had personal experience with the devastating effects of suicide. The 6-episode docuseries and accompanying discussion guides is designed to provide the understanding and tools needed to begin honest, open discussions that can lead towards hope and change a life. Every one of us is IRREPLACEABLE.

If you would like to learn more about how to get started with RightNow Media, please talk to Todd Voss or Pastor Brian and we will get you started. All you need is the internet and an email address.

Summer Open Forums

We invite you join us after church this summer for our open forums on different parts of ministry here at St. Peter. If you can't make it on a Sunday, we encourage you to fill out an open forum form either on paper or you can fill it out online by going to our church website. These are opportunities for you to share your thoughts on where we are at as a congregation and where we see the Lord leading us. The August schedule is:

August 1 – Stewardship
August 8 – Discipleship
August 15 – Membership
August 22 – Strategic Planning Part 1
August 29 – Strategic Planning Part 2

Fair Booth Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to be at our church booth for the upcoming Thayer County Fair August 11-14. If you can spend an hour there on a night, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. This is a great opportunity to share the love of Jesus with others.

Deshler Lutheran School Board Minutes 6/21/2021

Attendance: Todd Voss, Kolby Finke, Jeremy Schardt, Pastor Francik, Gage Baker, Brian Schardt, Galen Sasse, Tyler Harms

Visitors: None

Devotion: Todd Voss opened with devotion

DLS Minutes, Cont.

Meeting Agenda: Approved with addition of themed T-shirt discussion to New Business

May Minutes: Approved as presented

Treasurer's Report: Current Balances as of 6-20-21: General Account \$19,667.60 , Hot Lunch Account \$6,241.35 , Chapel Account \$100.23 , Needs Account \$60,273.23, Flex CD \$6,396.79 , LCMS Foundation Endowment Fund \$7,268.91 , Lutheran Church Extension Fund \$41,624.00. Motion made by Jeremy Schardt to approve with a second by Gage Baker. Motion Carried.

Trustee's Report: Ceiling Tiles in 1&2 as well as the 5&6-grade room need to be inspected.

Pastors' Report: None

Administrator's Report: 1) NDE Annual Reports were completed for 2020-2021 2) LED lights were installed on June 5. 3) 2021-2022 school year theme will be "Held together in Jesus" and the Bible verse will be Colossians 1:17 (15-20). 4) Enrollment Projections are 46 students for 2021-2021 school year. 5) FOS will have a popcorn & cotton candy stand at Dresher Daze. 6) Reminder of upcoming Red Cross Blood Drive on June 23. 7) Marketing and promotional video update was provided, initial video was submitted and Todd provided feedback for changes. 8) Mowing in July will be taken care of by the Voss family. 9) Reminder that VBS will be at DLS on July 12-16. 10) DLS will have an entry in the Thayer County Fair parade as well as have a booth during the fair. 11) Reminder that Back to School Night will be on August 16.

Old Business: 1) Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools approved \$54,291 in funding for

DLS. 2) Auction Update, FOS discussed projects – Interior Doors, Kitchen Mixer, & Kitchen Floor Mats. A motion to accept the Cash-Wa proposal for a new Hobart mixer paid for by FOS was made by Galen Sasse, seconded by Kolby Finke. Motion carried. 3) CEI –Security & Sound – still working on install date. 4) Call process guidelines tabled.

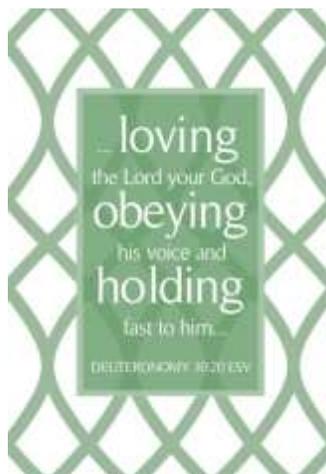
New Business: 1) Hot Lunch Prices for 2021-2022 – Adults \$4.00, Kids \$3.00, \$0.50 for extra milk. 2) Summer project list was reviewed. 3) Boy's restroom window has been cracked. A quote from Fairbury glass will be requested for replacement. 4) A motion to purchase Themed T-shirts for the 2021-2022 school year out of Needs was made by Tyler Harms, seconded by Brian Schardt. Motion carried.

Dates to Remember: July 19, 2021 – July School Board Meeting Executive Session: Entered executive session at 9:15. Motion by Brian Schardt seconded by Kolby Finke to leave executive session at 9:35. Motion carried.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Galen Sasse, seconded by Jeremy Schardt. Motion carried.

Pastor Brian closed with prayer.

Brian Schardt,
Substitute Secretary



Lutheran Women's Missionary League Minutes 7/1/2021



Six members met for our LWML meeting. Lunch was served by hostess Linda Sorge.

Anita Harms, our zone delegate to the National Convention led a Bible study. The study was called "Running the Race... Looking to Jesus" which was also the theme of the convention. Anita told highlights and showed pictures of the National Convention held in Lexington, Kentucky.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved and will be placed on file. The treasurer's report was approved and will be placed on file.

President Lois thanked everyone who helped with the No Cost Garage Sale. She also mentioned our appreciation for those who helped and are not members of our group.

Colleen discussed serving coffee and cookies for LWML Sunday and asked if a date had been selected for LWML Sunday. A date had not been selected and will be looked into.

Joyce stated that one of the 5-gallon drink coolers at the school needs a new spigot. She will get a new one for the cooler.

President Lois reminded us of the LWML Retreat on September 17 & 18 at Covenant Cedars Bible Camp, Hordville, Nebraska.

Mites were collected.

Meeting Adjourned.

Substitute Secretary,
Barb Schardt

From the Principal's Desk....

The 21-22 school year is quickly approaching! I pray that everyone has enjoyed their summer. Summer is always a time for our staff to recharge, evaluate, plan ahead, and gear up for the next school year. We are looking forward to an excellent school year and ask that you would keep DLS—our students, families, and staff—in your prayers!

Our theme for the 21-22 school year is "Held together in Jesus!" and comes from Colossians 17:1, which reads as follows: He (Jesus) is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." WOW! All things are held together in Jesus from the first "Let there be" to the very last breath on this earth. In each and every situation we find ourselves, we are reminded that Jesus holds us together. It's His strength, His love, His grace that holds us together. This is the great news that we will be focusing on with our students throughout the school year. What comfort and confidence we can have when we know this TRUTH! Praise God that you and I are "Held together in Jesus!"

Some important dates for you to be aware of as we head into the month of August. DLS will have a booth down at the fairgrounds. Be sure to stop by! August 16th will be Back-to-School Night! Everyone is invited to come to the Open House from 5:30-6:30 and grab a hamburger/hotdog meal from 6-7:00. A BIG THANK YOU to the LLL groups from both St. Peter-Deshler and Trinity-Friedensau for running the grill and helping to serve the meal. August 17th at 6:00 pm, FOS (Friends of School) will be having a planning meeting for the 2022 DLS Biennial Dinner Auction, which is scheduled for Nov. 13. Make plans now to join us that night and

all are encouraged to get involved with this year's event. August 19th marks the first day of the 21-22 school year! We will begin the year in God's House with opening chapel at 9:15. As always, guests are welcome to join us for chapel.

This summer we were able to complete some school improvement projects again. We praise God for the funding that was providing through Thrivent grants and federal funding through the Emergency Act for Non-Public Schools (EANS). Classroom lights were converted to LED by the Board of Education on June 5 with the use of Thrivent Action Teams. A new security camera system has been installed at DLS to monitor the playground and exterior of the building. This was paid for with EANS funding. DLS is now on the fiber network that Great Plains Communication installed in Deshler through the Dream Gig program. New classroom projectors and updated devices will also be purchased with EANS dollars.

We are excited to return our entire staff from last year and look forward to having students back in the building. Please continue to pray that the Holy Spirit would work in powerful ways through the school ministry of Deshler Lutheran School. Thank you for your prayers and faithful support!

Held together in Jesus!

Todd Voss, Principal
Deshler Lutheran School

CALENDAR ITEMS:

August 9, 10

Back to School Meetings for Teachers/Staff

August 15

Teacher Rededication @ Trinity-Friedensau

August 16

Back-to-School Night 5:30-6:30
Open House/M meal from 6-7:00

August 16

DLS Board Meeting @ 8:00

August 17

FOS Auction Planning Meeting
6:00pm in DLS Gym

August 19

1st Day of School / 9:15 Opening
Chapel

August 27

School Picture Day



The Save-A-Label program is an extremely successful program, which helps non-profit organizations raise money. Deshler Lutheran School earns \$.03 for each Best Choice UPC within a bundle of 1,000 labels. Here is a big thank you to all of you that have been collecting Best Choice UPC labels for Deshler Lutheran School. Since January of this year, 3,504 UPC's have been received. Thank you to those who have been bringing in labels and to Marilyn Barga for faithfully counting the labels.

If you are new to this, this is what you do. Cut the UPC symbol from any and all Best Choice items - bread wrappers, can and jar labels, cartons, candy wrappers, frozen package bags, foam cup & plate packages, cookies, crackers, pet food, medications, and the list goes on to include the 4,400 Best Choice products available. Drop UPC's in the labeled jar on the table beside the mailboxes (in the Narthex). You do not need to save the entire label, just the UPC as pictured below. The numerals 70038 indicate Best Choice.





Dorothy Holtzen	1
Cameron Schardt	2
Bryce Sedlachek.....	2
Paula Voss.....	3
Brooke Sasse.....	4
Melissa Sasse.....	4
Derick Larkins	6
Elaine Schardt.....	6
Kinsey Bohling.....	7
Amber Deepe	9
Millie Schardt.....	9
Jill Bauer.....	10
Dale Endorf.....	10
Addisin Schardt.....	10
Autumn Deepe.....	13
Joseph Ruhnke.....	14
Darren Schardt.....	14
Leah Schmidt.....	14
Johnathan Zucker.....	15
Larry Loontjer.....	17
Jeremy Schardt.....	17
Julene Schardt.....	19
David Achterberg.....	20
Mark Varner.....	20
Anthony Deepe.....	21
Kenzie Bohling	24
Brian Schardt.....	24
Desirae Schardt.....	26
Cooper Laaker	27
Hayden Meyer.....	29
Tami Finke.....	30
Karen Schardt.....	30
Mason Thompson-Finke.....	30
Susan Harms	31

AUGUST BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Karen Schardt.....	1
Eric Hopken	2
Scott Laaker.....	4
Dennis Schmidt.....	5
Patricia Mueller.....	6
Bruce Finke	8
Reinold Kruse.....	9
Jonathan Peters	9
Dale Endorf.....	10
Janet Larkins.....	10
Kristin Doering.....	11
Julianna Finke.....	11
Karen Fegter.....	12
Gary Meyer	12
Tyson Bauer.....	13
Brextin Harms.....	14
Roberta Laaker	14
Darren Schardt.....	14
Cindy Watson	14
Rod Watson.....	14
Dorothy Holtzen.....	16
Melissa Sasse.....	17
Kolby Finke	18
Cameron Schardt	18
Cale Schardt.....	18
Brynn Bauer.....	19
David Pohlmann.....	20
Elaine Schardt.....	20
Isabella Scollin.....	20
Brooke Sasse.....	21
Logan Schardt	26
Jeremy Schardt.....	27
Millie Schardt.....	28
Derick Larkins	29
Amber Deepe	30
Johnathan Zucker	30



Marvin & Diane Schardt	August 1	45 years
Michael & Nicole Zucker.....	August 5	21 years
Rodney & Sheryl Achterberg.....	August 7	39 years
Roger & Jayne Roskilly	August 7	27 years
Brian & Julene Schardt.....	August 9	24 years
Reinold & Colleen Kruse	August 11	42 years
Jonathan & Linda Peters.....	August 12	44 years
Delbert & Pamela Lemke	August 20	50 years
Matthew & Alesha Vieselmeyer.....	August 22	20 years
William & Julia Schweer.....	August 23	13 years
Kale & Mikayla Meyer.....	August 25	3 years
Neil & Monica Bohling.....	August 26	26 years
Anthony & Karla Deepe	August 26	33 years
Troy & Colleen Hansen	August 29	29 years
Randall & Tamara Meyer.....	August 30	41 years

“Rocky Railway” Vacation Bible School July 12-16, 2021



The theme for Vacation Bible School at St. Peter Lutheran in Deshler was “Rocky Railway.” Vacation Bible School was held July 12-16th at Deshler Lutheran School. A total of 46 children, ranging in the age from 3 years old to kids having finished 6th grade, attended a week long VBS. The children started each evening with supper and then had their “Rocky Railway” opening with Pastor Brian. After the opening, the children went with their group leaders to different sites throughout the evening, and Pastor Brian led the children in a Rocky Railway closing. The mission project for VBS was providing alpacas to families in Ecuador. The children brought offering all throughout the week and donated an amazing \$440.70 which will buy 44 alpacas. These will provide resources and income for struggling families and communities in Ecuador.

Each day focused on different lessons that showed the children that Jesus’ power will pull us through as we go through life. Only Jesus will be able to help and save us. Day 1 was Jesus’ power helps us do hard things; Day 2 was Jesus’ power gives us hope; Day 3 was Jesus’ power helps us be bold; Day 4 was Jesus’ power lets us live forever; Day 5 was Jesus’ power helps us be good friends. The different sites had activities that focused on the lesson for that day.

A closing ceremony was held at the end of Vacation Bible School on Friday, July 16 at 8:15 p.m. for parents, grandparents, and friends. Pastor Brian went through and summarized each day and the kids sang songs. The program finished with a slideshow of pictures from the week.

Besides the 46 children attending, we had 21 adults and 14 Jr. High and High School students (with an additional 5 Jr. High students on Wednesday) that helped with Rocky Railway VBS. Big thanks to all our helpers and for the families for sending their kids to VBS this year.