



**ST PETER LUTHERAN  
CHURCH - DESHLER NE**

*Worship - Community - Mission*

**Monthly Newsletter**

# January 2024

## **St. Peter Lutheran Church**

**400 East Hebron Avenue**

**P.O. Box 69**

**Deshler, NE 68340**

Church Office Telephone 402-365-4341

Pastor Email Address [pastorbfrancik@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbfrancik@gmail.com)

Office Email Address [stpeterdeshler@gmail.com](mailto:stpeterdeshler@gmail.com)

Pastor Telephone (cell) 402-710-6679

Church Website [stpeterdeshler.org](http://stpeterdeshler.org)

## **Deshler Lutheran School**

**509 East Hebron Avenue**

**PO Box 340**

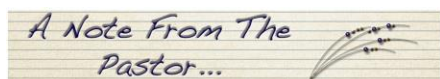
**Deshler, NE 68340**

School Office Telephone 402-365-7858

School Email Address [deshlerluth@gpcom.net](mailto:deshlerluth@gpcom.net)

Principal Mr. Todd Voss (cell) 402-720-5590

School Website [DeshlerLuth.org](http://DeshlerLuth.org)



## **Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:**

What are you looking forward to in 2024? Maybe you have a family trip, or a special event planned that you are really looking forward to.

I wanted to share two things I am looking forward to:

### **1) Reading Through the New Testament**

— I pray that you will be part of our three-year read through the Bible. I am really looking forward to diving deeper into the New Testament and hearing what God is teaching you. I pray that you will go through this with other people and receive that support and encouragement.

### **2) Leadership Learning Community (LLC)**

— As many of you are aware I am going to be part of a group of pastors doing some leadership training over the next two years. I am looking forward to seeing how God is going to strengthen and grow me as a pastor. I pray that God will equip me to be an even greater pastor for you.

I look forward to seeing how God is going to bless St Peter and Faith in the coming year. We have definitely seen some great momentum and growth in both

congregations. God has brought new members and families to our midst. I look forward to seeing how God is going to grow you into a greater disciple of Jesus in the coming year. My prayer is that we are open to what God wants to teach us and how God wants to use us in 2024.

In Jesus — the Healer of the hurting,  
Pastor Brian

## **A LIFE OF STEWARDSHIP**

### **The Chief Stewards of Humanity: Mom and Dad**

Parents have a very high calling from God. They are called to be stewards of the greatest gift: the gift of life. Parenting thus gives us a keen insight into all our stewardship. Parents know that they have been given a great treasure in their children, a treasure that does not belong to them, yet for which they feel a great deal of responsibility. Truth be told, every gift we have been given is like this, because everything we have — whether our own personal skills and powers or our wealth and time — is all from God. He entrusts it all to us so that we can use it all and take care of it all for His great purposes.

— LCMS Stewardship Ministry:  
[lcms.org/stewardship](http://lcms.org/stewardship)

## **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 10-1-2023**

Membership ..... 10-1-2023  
Baptized.....297  
Confirmed.....244  
Voting members .....209

### **MEMBERSHIP GAINS**

#### **Through Affirmation of Faith through Baptism**

12/10/2023....Paige Addison Hansen

#### **Through Baptism**

12/10/2023....Graham James Hansen

#### **Through Transfer**

### **MEMBERSHIP LOSSES**

#### **Through Transfer**

#### **Through Release**

### **OTHER OFFICIAL ACTS**

## **End of 4th Quarter 12-31-2023**

Baptized.....299  
Confirmed.....244  
Voting members .....209

## **Financial Update**

**As of December 17, 2023 (51 Sundays)  
General Budget**

Offerings Received	<b>\$348,866.71</b>
Offerings Budgeted	<b>\$386,924.25</b>
Difference	<b>\$38,057.54</b>
<b>Missions-Nebraska District Support</b>	
Goal	<b>\$6,866</b>
Received	<b>\$6,622</b>
Difference	<b>\$244</b>



Anytime at [lutheranhour.org](http://lutheranhour.org)  
**Sunday mornings:**

06:30	KFAB	Omaha	1110AM
07:30	WIBW	Topeka	580AM
08:00	BOTT	N. Platte	107.6FM
10:00	KRVN	Lexington	880AM

01/07 **"As We Forgive"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Dr. Michael Zeigler discusses forgiveness—what it is and what it isn't. (Matthew 6:12; Luke 11:4)

01/14 **"How Could She Ever Forgive Him?"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Michael Zeigler. Dr. Michael Zeigler explains why it's not a contradiction to offer forgiveness while insisting on justice. (Matthew 18:27)

01/21 **"The Battleground of Forgiveness"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler (Psalm 32:1)

01/28 **"Forgiveness Is a Gift from Far Away"** Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola (Psalm 103:11-12)



The mission of Red-Letter Living is to challenge people to be greater followers of Jesus Christ. Red Letter Living helps you live a fulfilling, meaningful life through daily, Jesus-centered challenges. Our practical challenges are easy to follow and support you on your journey to discover your purpose and deepen your understanding of Jesus' life and teachings. Join us for a 40-day challenge on your own, with your family, or with your church community, and find greater fulfillment and happiness. Visit [redletterchallenge.com](http://redletterchallenge.com) to learn more and

access some free resources and consider purchasing a challenge book for yourself or your family.



## From the Principal's Desk.... January 2024

Happy New Year!

DLS will open the new year on Thursday, January 4 as school resumes for the second semester. We are looking forward to an exciting first month back following the Christmas celebration. National Lutheran Schools Week, January 21-28, will definitely be a highlight. Students will be participating in special activities, working on servant events, taking an on-line mission trip to Australia, enjoying the school carnival, dress-up days, singing at Trinity-Friedensau, and more. A finalized schedule of events will be posted in our weekly *Share and Care*. Be sure to check it out and join us as we celebrate the blessing of our school and Lutheran Schools around the world!

Students in grades 5-8 will be busy preparing for upcoming academic competitions. Congratulations to this year's Thayer County Spelling Bee qualifiers. They are as follows: 8<sup>th</sup> graders Dean Baden, Sophia Fritz & alternate Johnny Hinz; 7<sup>th</sup> graders Gavin Endorf, Phinn Harms, & alternate Haylyn Mackey; 6<sup>th</sup> graders Kaidan Robinson, Kyleigh Lopez, & alternate Braden Johnson; and 5<sup>th</sup> graders Brynlee Johnson, Sophia Kessler, & alternate Cord Holtzen. The Thayer County Spelling Bee will be February 19<sup>th</sup> in Hebron at the Court House.

Students will also begin working on their speeches for the Nebraska Speech Contest. This year's theme is "Inventions that Have Improved the Quality of Life." Students will start brainstorming, researching, and writing their speeches in late January. The DLS speech contest will be Friday, March 22. You are welcome to attend this engaging event.

In December, we enjoyed two special chapel services. On December 7, we held our Cookies with Congregations event. What a great day that was! Thank you to everyone who joined us. Pastor Flores led chapel, the Kindergartners shared a wonderful Advent song, the 7-8 graders did a great job singing "Hallelujah" from their musical, and all the students sang

our theme song from John 15:5. Then, we walked over to DLS for some of Mrs. Jarchow's famous cookies and some fellowship with our guests. Mrs. Voss shared some amazing stories about how God is at work through our tie-blanket ministry, and we closed the event in prayer. On December 14, Mrs. McCown's 3-4 class did an excellent job with their classroom chapel. Students did a super job reading, singing, playing the joy bells, using their art skills, and sharing a wonderful message about the candy cane and all the symbolism it entails about Jesus, our Savior and King!

Looking back on the past month and year, we can only see God's goodness. That doesn't mean there hasn't been challenges or difficulties, but we clearly see God's amazing provision through the highs and the lows. He is faithful. We praise Him for the work He is doing in our lives and through the school ministry of Deshler Lutheran School. Thank you for your faithful support, prayers, and assistance!

We look forward with expectant hearts to see all that God will do in and through the ministry of Deshler Lutheran School! Happy New Year and God Bless!

In Christ,

Todd Voss, Principal  
Deshler Lutheran School

**Calendar Events:**  
1/4 School Resumes  
1/4 Chapel @ 10  
1/11 Chapel @ 10  
1/15 Board of Ed Meeting @ 7:30  
1/18 Chapel @ 10  
1/21-28 National Lutheran Schools Week  
1/21 DLS School Carnival 4-6:00 pm  
1/28 DLS Student Choir signs @ Trinity-Friedensau

Todd Voss, Principal  
Deshler Lutheran School  
*"Connected in Christ!"*

**Calendar Items:**  
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## Deshler Lutheran School

### Board of Education Meeting Minutes

November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Attendance:** Todd Voss, Pastor Flores, Pastor Francik, Kolby Finke, Dale Endorf, Tyler Harms, Justus Harms, Jeremy Schardt, Tyler Stengel, Trent McCown

**Visitors:** Doug Harms, Brad Cooper, Kalli Mumm, Doug Schardt

Tyler Stengel opened with devotion.

The agenda stood approved as presented.

**Visitor input:** Doug Harms, Doug Schardt, and Brad Cooper were there to discuss the long-term future of DLS. An encouraging conversation was held about how to plan to sustain the future viability of Deshler Lutheran School and what was needed from supporters of the school. There were several ideas that were brought forward and discussed and ways that they could be acted upon. We also discussed ways that more members and people of the community could be involved and encouraged by what happens at DLS daily. It was presented that DLS is an enormous asset to both the community and the association congregations.

The minutes were approved as presented.

#### Treasurer Report:

General Account: \$27,623.35

Hot Lunch Account: \$18,426.56

Needs Account: \$63,341.05

Chapel Account: \$844.85

Library Fund: \$2,060.06

CD: \$6,565.82

LCMS Foundation: \$8,147.45

Extension Fund: \$42,679.61

The CD was rolled over at 5.25% interest to mature on 6/3/2024.

A discussion was held about Jean Schardt's pay as the Hot Lunch Administrator. This was tabled until the December meeting.

Justus Harms made a motion to approve the Treasurers Report; seconded by Kolby Finke. Motion carried.

**Trustees Report:** The door seals on the refrigerator have been replaced. The seals on the freezer will also need to be replaced soon. Thanks to Brad Cooper for winterizing the sprinkler system. The snow removal schedule was discussed.

**Pastors Report:** Nothing to report.

#### Administrators Report:

1. Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program – This has been going well and enjoyed by all the students by introducing them to new fruits and vegetables.
2. DLS Student Choir sang at St. Peter on October 22<sup>nd</sup>
3. Christmas Card Sales
4. Parent Teacher Conferences
5. Fall Fling Parties
6. 5-8 Fall Musical "The Loaned Manger" was on November 3<sup>rd</sup>
7. 1-2 Chapel was on November 9<sup>th</sup>
8. Veteran's Day Program was on November 10<sup>th</sup>
9. Cookies with Congregations will be on December 7<sup>th</sup>
10. Chamber Christmas/DLS Cookie Walk will be on December 9<sup>th</sup>
11. DLS Singing at St. Marks on December 13<sup>th</sup>. This was changed as there will be no service at St. Marks that day.
12. 3-4 Chapel will be on December 14<sup>th</sup>
13. Maternity Leave and Long-Term Subs
14. Blessings – St. Marks donated to DLS and there was also an anonymous donation made.

#### Old Business:

- A. Kitchen Update – The new stoves had problems, so Lichty Appliance remedied the problem by replacing them both with a different model.
- B. Biennial Dinner Auction

- C. Teacher Aide – EANS II Funding – this has been going well and helpful to the teachers and students.
- D. LB 753: Opportunity Scholarship
- E. Constitution Review – A special association meeting will be held on December 10<sup>th</sup> at St. Peters to review and adopt changes to the constitution.

#### New Business:

- A. Long Term Planning – This is the conversation that was held with St. Peters elders during the visitor input.
- B. New Board Member Invite and Elections.

#### Dates to Remember:

12/7 Cookies with Congregations

12/18 Board of Education Meeting at 7:30

#### Executive Session:

Executive session was entered at 8:51 to discuss staff Christmas gifts. Justus Harms made a motion to exit executive session at 8:55; seconded by Tyler Stengel. Motion carried.

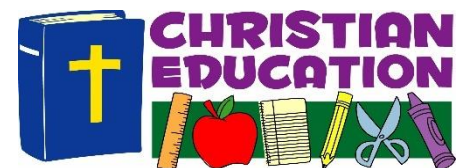
Executive session was entered at 8:56 to discuss options for a congregational rebate. Justus Harms made a motion to exit executive session at 9:21; seconded by Trent McCown. Motion carried.

Tyler Stengel made a motion to rebate half of the month of December payments to both congregations; seconded by Kolby Finke. Motion carried.

Jeremy Schardt made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Kolby Finke. Motion carried.

Pastor Flores closed with a prayer.

Submitted by Justus Harms.





## Kindergarten



Here's what our Kindergarten Friends shared, when asked what gifts they'd like to give for Christmas ~

**Bryndal** - "I want to give someone who doesn't know about Jesus, a Bible. I'd like to give my babysitter Carol a hug, and help my sisters with things, like learning about Jesus. I like giving Jesus my praises by singing songs to Him."

**Casen** - "I'd like to give a family of ducks, a very hungry hippo, and a funny cockroach to Bryndal. I like to give Jesus my heart and give everyone else things that they like."

**Kora** - "I'd like to give Bryndal a toy horse, my brother a dinosaur that if you press a button it talks, walks, and roars! I'd also like to give Casen a toy squid and Mathew a toy dog. I'd like to give Mom a new apron because she likes baking! And for Dad, a new spatula for grilling. I give Jesus my heart by singing songs about Him, and by talking to Him."

**Mathew** - "I'd like to give Legos to my Dad's friend's kids, and a Tyrannosaurus Rex to Mrs. Reinke. I like to give God's light and love to others, and I like to give God what I always give Him; my sins."

Mrs. Reinke and our Kindergarten Friends

## 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade.



We are all SO excited for Christmas break! The first and second graders got to enjoy a quick field trip to Victory Too and make their own personalized "Joy to the World" shirts to give them something to wear during the Christmas season. They had a blast! Prayers for a safe and fun break!



## 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade.



Pictured from Back Left: Alex Morales, Laynee Hudson, Maddyn Harms, Savannah Patterson, Wyatt Kane, Aadyann Justus  
Front Left: Izzy Scollin, Katherine Holley, Kaylin Kidwell, Chase Laaker, Kade Stengel, Casey Laaker, Cameron Schardt, Jase Stengel

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students have had a pretty busy December with many activities from Cookies with Congregations, Bingo at Parkview Haven Nursing Home, and our chapel service. We are so thankful for this season where we can remember all Jesus has done for us. In our chapel, we talked about the Legend of the Candy cane. That specific candy was made to help us remember Jesus and all He did for us. I am thankful for your support of our school that we are able to teach these kids about Him! Thank you!

In Christ,

Rachel McCown

## 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas Party



## Cookies with Congregation

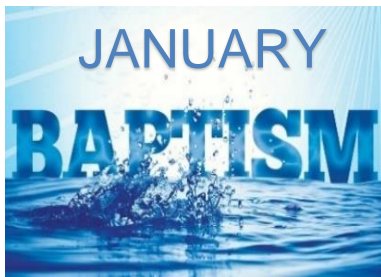


## Christmas Eve Program





- 5 Graylee Meyer
- 6 Pastor James Moll  
LeAnna Renz
- 7 Laura Worley
- 11 Beverly Harms
- 12 Ashlyn Cooper
- 14 Alan Bohling
- 15 Marla Finke
- 18 Pastor Brian Francik
- 19 Blakely Bohling
- 24 Julian Voss
- 25 Randall Meyer
- 26 Tyler Harms
- 27 Stormi Capek  
Marjorie Holle
- 31 Jamie Calkins  
Skylar HorseChief  
Lola Ralston



- 3 Tanner Bauer
- 6 Gina Scollin
- 9 Matthew Sasse
- 10 Dale Hoops  
Dillon Schardt
- 11 David Larkins  
Madison Sasse
- 15 Don Betten  
Milo Finke  
Barbara Schardt
- 17 Shelby Farnstrom  
Pastor James Moll
- 19 Audra Capek
- 21 Campbell Bohling  
Kinzley Bohling  
Reese Harms
- 22 Beverly Harms
- 28 Marilyn Bargaen  
Anita Harms  
Jonathan Hinz
- 29 Sheryl Achterberg
- 31 Marla Finke



24 Larry & Lynda Plock



### January Job Duties

Elder	Brad Cooper
Acolyte	Kayson Biltoft
Flowers	Sheryl Achterberg
Envelope Committee	Aaron & Kinsey Bohling Galen & Melissa Sasse
Sound	Dale Endorf
Video	Mike Zucker
Backpacks	Colleen Kruse



We enjoyed the amazing light display at Dale & Meghan Endorf's house for our December event, as well as making our own pizzas and playing board games. We are looking forward to making tie blankets and working through an escape room puzzle at our January event. We will donate the tie blankets we make to our Foster Care Closet when we serve there again in March. Our January event will be Sunday, January 14, from 5:30pm – 8:00pm, in the Mother's Room at church.



The St. Peter LWML will gather on Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 7:00pm to share Bible Study and fellowship. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to join us. Quilt Tying will begin on Thursday January 11 from 9am to 3 pm. Come help put together quilts which will be sent to Orphan Grain Train to distribute to people who need them. Contact Joyce Schardt for more information. 402-365-4139.



### St. Peter's Women's Bible Study

A Women's Bible Study will begin mid-January. We will focus our study on "Sip, Savor, and Drink Deeply" by Deb Burma. We will meet on Tuesday mornings at the church at 10:00 a.m. for 7 weeks. Please contact Linda Peters if you are interested in attending or have any questions.



**Direct Deposit Offerings** - Automatic withdrawal is available to give your offerings here at St. Peter. Signup forms are available in the Narthex, or if requested can be mailed or emailed to you. If you have any questions, please contact our treasurer, Sara Kresser, at 402-984-2453 or fourleafclover9@hotmail.com.





**Giving Online** - You can give online using a debit or credit card. Click on the "Give" tab on [www.stpeterdeshler.org](http://www.stpeterdeshler.org), then select "Click to Give." Please note: There is a fee for using a debit or credit card. It will be deducted from your offering unless you choose to cover the fee.



Contact Pastor Brian or any C.A.R.E. Warriors Team Member for more information.

**Discipleship starts with relationships.**  
(Acts 2:42-47)



Keep Saving! Simply buy products from the Best Choice® and Always Save® brands at your favorite local grocer and save the UPC (proof of purchase) from the product's label. Deshler Lutheran School will earn \$30 in cash for each bundle of 1,000 UPCs collected and mailed to Best Choice Save-A-Label. The jar is located in the hallway above the coat rack.

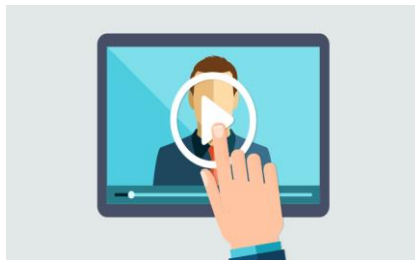


#### **Available In the Narthex –**

Sign-up Sheets, Sunday Bulletins, My Devotions, Portals of Prayer, Life Date, Announcements, Newsletter, Direct Deposit Slips, Cemetery Policy, Annual Report, Phone Directory, etc.



**Are You on Facebook?** - Check out the St. Peter, Faith, and DLS Facebook pages, like, and follow them to get updates on your feed. We are continuing to find ways to encourage the body of Christ in the technology world.



**Video of Services** - A DVD of each Sunday service is available in the white basket on the mailbox shelf in the Narthex. All videos are available for anyone to take home, watch, and return.



# January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday														
	<b>1</b> 9:45am New Years' Service with Holy Communion	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 12:30pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Elders Meeting	<b>4</b> 10am DLS Chapel 7pm LWML	<b>5</b> Pastor's Sabbath 1pm Bulletin Folders	<b>6</b>														
<b>7</b> 9:45am Worship with Holy Communion 11am Adult Bible Class and Sunday School	<b>8</b> 7pm Agape Readers	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 12:30pm Bulletin Deadline	<b>11</b> 10am DLS Chapel	<b>12</b> Pastor's Sabbath 1pm Bulletin Folders	<b>13</b> Pastor Brian Gone														
<b>14</b> Pastor Brian Gone 9:45am Worship 11am Sunday School	<b>15</b> 7:30pm DLS Board of Education Meeting	<b>16</b> 11:30am Pastor @ Circuit Meeting	<b>17</b> 12:30pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Council Meeting	<b>18</b> 10am DLS Chapel 6:30pm Bible Study @ Faith Pastor Brian @ LLC	<b>19</b> Pastor's Sabbath 12pm Newsletter Content Deadline 1pm Bulletin Folders	<b>20</b>														
<b>21</b> 9:45am Worship 11am Annual Meeting DLS Carnival	<b>22</b> Pastor Brian Gone	<b>23</b> Pastor Brian Gone	<b>24</b> Pastor Brian Gone 12:30pm Bulletin Deadline	<b>25</b> Pastor Brian Gone 10am DLS Chapel	<b>26</b> Pastor Brian Gone Pastor's Sabbath 1pm Bulletin Folders and Newsletter Assembly	<b>27</b> Pastor Brian Gone														
<b>28</b> 9:45am Worship with Holy Communion 11am Adult Bible Class and Sunday School	<b>29</b> 7pm Men's Bible Study Pastor Brian @ LLC	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 12:30pm Bulletin Deadline		<div>January Job Duties</div> <table><tr><td>Elder</td><td>Brad Cooper</td></tr><tr><td>Acolyte</td><td>Kayson Biltoft</td></tr><tr><td>Flowers</td><td>Sheryl Achterberg</td></tr><tr><td>Envelope Committee</td><td>Aaron &amp; Kinsey Bohling Galen &amp; Melissa Sasse</td></tr><tr><td>Sound</td><td>Dale Endorf</td></tr><tr><td>Video</td><td>Mike Zucker</td></tr><tr><td>Backpacks</td><td>Colleen Kruse</td></tr></table>		Elder	Brad Cooper	Acolyte	Kayson Biltoft	Flowers	Sheryl Achterberg	Envelope Committee	Aaron & Kinsey Bohling Galen & Melissa Sasse	Sound	Dale Endorf	Video	Mike Zucker	Backpacks	Colleen Kruse
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ST PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

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