

St. Peter News

September 2015

St. Peter Lutheran Church

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Deshler Lutheran School

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Principal Mr. Dan Deardoff

Principal home phone (cell) 402-364-3568

School Website www.deshlerlutherschool.org



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

September is one of the months I look forward to each year. As I have gotten older and lived in the Midwest, the season of Fall has become one of my favorites. I enjoy seeing the beauty of the leaves changing color. The heat of the summer fades, football is back and many activities at church get started back up. As a pastor each year, it is nice to have a break during the summer when not as much is going on, but I love September to get back to Bible studies and other things that go on at church.

I have mentioned many times this spring in Bible studies and in personal conversations with people that this nation has lost the ability to have a respectful discussion where there is disagreement. Just turn on the TV and watch the political commentators just “go off” on someone’s opinion and point of view. There is very little listening going on. It is yell and scream and try to make my point and if you don’t agree with me then I want you done and gone. We see this in our society with some agendas attacking the

church. Instead of respectfully disagreeing with the church, some

agendas want the church silenced and done away with. Unfortunately, this way of thinking has crept into the church among God’s people. Too often, we have forgotten how to disagree with one another. We have failed to take the time to listen to the other person. Then when they don’t agree with us, we want them silenced and gone.

As Christians, we have been facing a major culture shock. No longer does the culture hold to traditional Christian values and morality. The way our culture thinks is not the way it used to think. Many people don’t believe in absolute truth anymore. Homosexuality is accepted as a good lifestyle. Sex outside of marriage is encouraged. Our culture is faced with many more divisive issues than we have in the past.

As Christians, we seem to be in a state of shock right now about how to deal with the changes in our culture. How do we respond as Christians to those around us who think differently about these issues than what the Bible says? How can we respond in love and answer some of the questions and arguments that people around us

make about what the Bible says? We are going to take some time throughout this education year to deal with some of those topics. We are going to look at a biblical response to some of the most divisive issues today like: truth, sexuality, homosexuality, abortion, the environment and politics. This study is going to help us as Christians have good, well-informed, loving conversations with people that very well may disagree with us. It will help us be prepared to give a reason for the hope that we have and be prepared to share this hope with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15).

I really want to encourage you to come and be a part of this Sunday morning series. It will be a video-based series to hear some great information but also to discuss among ourselves how we can address these topics in the conversations that we have. If you are struggling with what is happening in our culture today, then this is the Bible study you need to be a part of. I pray that God would bless our upcoming education year here at St. Peter.

Until the whole world hears,

Pastor Brian

Official Acts

8-3-2015.....
Transfer of membership of
Christina Grace to Calvary
Lutheran Church, San Lorenzo,
California (LCMS)

Death Notices

Betty Bohling Age: 89
Date of death: 8-20-2015
Funeral service: 8-22-2015 at
Gerdes-Meyer Funeral Home,
Fairbury with burial at Fairbury
Cemetery

Elmer Schardt Age: 93
Date of death: 8-21-2015
Memorial service scheduled for
11:00 a.m. on 9-26-2015 at
St. Peter, Deshler

The Lutheran Hour

You can tune into *The Lutheran Hour* **Sundays** on these stations:

Omaha 1110 AM.6:30 a.m.
Omaha KOIL 1290 AM . 7:00 a.m.
GI KMMJ 750 AM. . . . 7:00 a.m.
Topeka WIBW 580 AM
7:30 a.m. on Saturday mornings
North Platte 107.9 FM8:30 a.m.
or anytime during the week at
www.lutheranhour.org

September 6 - "God's Grand Opening"

Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
God opens hearts to new life and
new opportunities, through faith in
Christ. (Mark 7:31-37)

September 13 - "There is Something More"

Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
God has something more in store
for all who put their faith in Him.
(Isaiah 50:4-10)

September 20 - "Tradition, Tradition, Tradition"

Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
What role do traditions play in our

relationships to God and each
other? (Mark 7:1-13)

September 27 "Free, Indeed"

Speaker: Rev. Ken Klaus
When our sins and guilt stick to us
like glue, Jesus makes us unstuck.
(John 8:34-36)

August Letter from Gary Thies

My dear Christian Missionary
Friends,

Greetings to you in the name of
our Lord Jesus who calls special
people like you to have the
privilege of being a part of this
kingdom work. This morning in
my devotion I couldn't help but
reflect on the words found
recorded in the book of James
1:22, "**Do not merely listen to the
Word, and so deceive yourselves,
do what it says!**" It is such a
blessing to write to you because
you are **DOING WHAT IT
SAYS!** The Lord tells us very
clearly what we are called to do.
We have to do what He
commands. In Mark 16:15: "**Go
into all of the world and preach
the good news to all creation!**"

You are doing just that and
following what the Lord is telling
us to do. We can't say to people in
lands of darkness that never heard
the name of Jesus that they don't
matter. We must follow the Lord's
command. By your gift, you are an
indication that you are listening to
the Lord's Word! We know where
our real home is and this world is
not our home. Heaven is our home.
Once we understand that important
command of Jesus, we must do all
we can to make certain that there
are more people in our real home
in heaven when we are together
with Jesus. It's pretty simple and
yet very hard for many to fully

understand because the world is
only thinking about themselves!
I've enclosed some pictures that
you will find on your church's
bulletin board as a reminder for
you to pray for our newest
missionaries. I've enclosed
pictures of eight of our new
missionaries that are struggling
trying to secure their prayer
support and their financial support.
Yes, the Lord Jesus has called all
these missionaries to bring the
message of Jesus to people in lands
of darkness where they've never
heard the name of Jesus. Won't
you please pray for these dear
missionaries that God will raise up
people who will support and pray
for them.

God bless you for sending your
gift of love of \$518 for the direct
support of your missionary family
in northern Ghana, Pastor Dale and
Suzanne Kaster. God is using them
in such a special way. Your
prayers for this family have been
such an encouragement, also.

Your Co-Worker for Christ,
Old Missionary Gary

Quarterly Voters Meeting 7-19-2015

The quarterly voters meeting of St.
Peter Lutheran Church was called
to order at 11:00 a.m. on July 19
with 51 voters present. A motion
was made by Naomi Grupe and
seconded by Marvin Baden to
approve the minutes of the April
15 quarterly voters meeting as
presented. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Doug Harms reported that there
have been two baptisms and one
funeral. Our church was also used
for one wedding. Membership as
of June 30, 2015 is as follows:
351 baptized, 296 communicant,
and 272 voting members.

Elders' Report

Doug Harms reported that our booth at the Thayer County Fair will be open each evening of the fair from 6 till 10 p.m. except Thursday. On Thursday night, the booth will be open from 7 till 10 because of the parade.

Trustees Report: No report

Treasurer's Report

Sara Kresser reviewed the current income and expense report. Balances as of June 30 are as follows: General Fund: \$5126.65, Building Fund: \$5928.33, Scholarship Fund: \$4628.56, and Cemetery Fund: \$8349.06.

School Board Report

Katrina Thomas of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma has accepted our call to teach kindergarten.

Cemetery Report

Bob Ludwig reported that Scott and Heath Finke installed a retaining wall on the southwest corner of Kiowa Cemetery. All work is done and Cecil and Joann Ehlers donated the money for this project.

The culvert on the west driveway of St. Peter cemetery needs to be extended. Bob is working with the State of NE to get this done.

Old Business

Kent Betten reported that the landscaping on the south side of the church is almost complete. The landscape committee will possibly install more rock on the west side of the church this fall.

Gene Mueller moved to table the discussion on voter age until a later date. Dale Hoops seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Business

As guided by the district office, Pastor Francik has been granted a 30 day paid leave of absence. The

leave will end on July 30, 2015. A motion was made by Tony Deepe to authorize Pastor's paid leave of absence. Bob Ludwig seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Doug Harms moved to adjourn the meeting. Gene Mueller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andy Schmidt, Acting Secretary

Letter from Missionaries Dale & Suzanne Kaster

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the saving name of Jesus Christ, our Lord! We pray that you are well and that you are rejoicing in His Gospel.

We want to thank you for your support that you have given to our work here in Ghana. Without supporters, such as yourself, we would not be able to live here in northern Ghana where the need for Christ is so great.

Just recently, the Muslims have ended their Ramadan fast and have joyously celebrated Eid-al Fitr. For them it is a time of joy as they suppose that their month-long fast has earned them favor in the eyes of God. But we know that it is Christ who has earned our favor from God. And we know that it is He who fasted for us and has fought the devil, overcoming him by His cross. As you can imagine, we are not able just to say those words to the Muslims we know. But we seek to invite them to church and to show them the love of God through acts of love and mercy. Please pray that our witness will bring many to the true faith that God has given in Jesus!

Know that in our daily devotions we pray for all of you. And we welcome any prayer requests you might wish to share with us. We want to stand with you in prayer to our gracious gift-giver God.

Don't forget that you can follow us more closely on Facebook. You don't even need a Facebook account as it is a public page. You can find us at www.facebook.com/kastersinghana.

Whatever summer excursions you are enjoying we pray will be blessed by our heavenly Father. God keep you safe, feed you with His enduring Word, and fill your mouths with His praises. God bless your witness to Christ where you are!

We commend you to Christ,

Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster
*Your Missionaries in Ghana,
West Africa*

Deshler Lutheran School Board Special Meeting 6-9-2015

Opening

A special meeting of the Deshler Lutheran School Board was called to order at 8:00 p.m. on June 9, 2015.

Present

Allen Werner, Jamie Calkins, Audra Capek, Pastor BJ Fouts, Pastor Brian Francik, Dale Endorf, Rick Stengel, Dan Deardoff, Russ Reinke, Tyler Harms and Karla Deepe.

Pastor BJ opened with Devotions.

President Werner announced that the purpose of the special meeting was to prepare to call a Kindergarten teacher (due to the departure of Christina Grace back

to California) and to establish a date for an Association Meeting.

Twelve names were received from the district but only one was willing and able to interview. Candidate, Katrina Thomas, was interviewed. She is located currently in Oklahoma (8 yrs) but her position there has been eliminated due to consolidation. The call committee reported that she interviewed very well but due to her divorce proceedings, she would need 60 days (from 05-15-15) before she would be able to move to Nebraska. Her children are age 3 yrs. and 1 yr.

Russ moved to also interview two local candidates and to notify congregations that an association meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 23 at 8:00 p.m. at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Deshler. Rick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by Russ; Dale seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor BJ closed with prayer.

Karla Deepe, Secretary

Deshler Lutheran School Board Meeting 6-15-2015

Opening

The regular meeting of the Deshler Lutheran School Board was called to order at 8:00 p.m. on June 15, 2015. Dale Endorf opened with devotions.

Present

Allen Werner, Pastor BJ Fouts, Russ Reinke, Tyler Harms, Jamie Calkins, Audra Capek, Dan Deardoff, Darin Jalas, Dale Endorf, Rick Stengel, Karla Deepe.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as presented.

Approval of Treasurer Report

As of June 15, 2015: Balance of General Fund: \$20,602.58. Balance of Needs Fund: \$12,293.05. Motion by Darin, second by Tyler to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Trustees

Doorbell has yet to be repaired. Dan is creating a list for School Board workday and will check with Lynn Bohling about possible rotation for painting classrooms.

FOS

Pastor BJ reported that FOS has asked for an estimate on redoing the gym floor. This estimate should come from the Trustees.

Church Council & Pastors

No report at this time.

Administration

Hot Lunch balance will receive \$1,000 from Needs Fund and employee payments will be paused for the summer. Dan will further investigate a bill received from Staples®. Cleaning and organizing continues. Dan has disposed of the obsolete computers.

Old Business

The board is seeking a replacement for Jean Schardt. Sherry Burger is considering the offer and more will be known by Friday.

The call committee has interviewed three candidates for the Kindergarten vacancy: Dee Jalas, Julene Schardt and Katrina Thomas. The call committee is recommending Katrina for the call. Rick moved to recommend to the association to extend a call to

Katrina if it is possible for her to move out of state by June 23. If she is not able to move out of state, to then call Dee Jalas. Second by Russ Reinke. Discussion followed. A ballot vote was taken. YES=4, NO=5. Motion did not pass.

Russ moved to recommend to the association to call Katrina but also to empower the board to contract a teacher if Katrina cannot accept the call at this time. Katrina would need to sign and return a letter of intent by July 17 indicating that she was able to leave the state of Oklahoma with her children. Tyler moved to amend the motion to read that Katrina must definitely accept or decline the call by July 17. Second by Jamie. Motion to amend the motion carried. Rick moved to further amend the motion to extend a call to Dee Jalas if Katrina declines the call and remove the option to contract a teacher. Second by Dale. A ballot vote followed to approve the amendment of the motion. Approval to amend the motion passed. A ballot vote was then taken on the amended motion. YES=3, NO=6. Motion did not pass.

Russ then moved to recommend to the association to call Katrina. Second by Audra. A ballot vote was taken. YES=7, NO=2. Motion passes.

Rick then moved that whomever the association approves to call at the June 23 meeting, to offer 95% of District guidelines for salary and benefits according to what is offered to our current teachers. Russ seconded. Motion carried.

New Business

No new business.

Motion to Adjourn by Tyler. Second by Audra. Motion carried.
Karla Deepe, Secretary

Deshler Lutheran School Association Call Meeting 6-23-2015

A special Call Meeting of the Deshler Lutheran School Association was called to order at 8:00 p.m. on June 23, 2015 at St. Peter Lutheran Church by DLS Board President, Allen Werner.

The purpose of this meeting was to call a new Kindergarten teacher (due to Christina Grace's acceptance of a call back to California.)

Pastor Brian Francik opened with a devotion and reading from Philippians.

President Allen Werner addressed the group with information about this process of finding candidates to interview, that the district provided twelve names. Eleven declined. Only one was still available to interview. She is Katrina Thomas of Oklahoma. Allen explained the situation of her pending divorce and custody of her children. He then informed the association members present about the local candidates who had been interviewed and were also in consideration.

Those candidates were:

- Dee Jalas
- Julene Schardt

The board and call committee recommended to the association that a call be extended to Katrina Thomas at this time. Discussion followed.

Krista Harms moved to call Katrina Thomas based on the recommendation of the board. Second by Shannon LeFave. The association voted. Results were YES=37, NO=4.

A call will be extended to Katrina Thomas of Oklahoma.

Allen Schardt moved to adjourn, second by Rod Holtzen. Motion carried.

Pastor Brian closed with a devotion.

Karla Deepe, Secretary

Sound System Operator Needed

Please speak with Pastor Brian, Steve Harms, or Doug Grupe if you are interested in helping out.

Acolyte Robe Volunteer Supplied

Linda Peters has volunteered to help Linda Sorge with the care of the acolyte robes. Thank you to both ladies for making sure the acolyte robes are clean and ready for worship services.

Deshler Lutheran School . . .

Leadership for Deshler Lutheran School

Don Weber retired this summer. Some may remember him as the person elected to the position of overseeing Lutheran schools in the Nebraska district. He served many years faithfully. Before he was at that position he was the principal at Christ Lutheran in Norfolk, NE. Before that he was a teacher in Lutheran schools. He will be missed during his annual visits to Deshler Lutheran School. He helped guide many teachers and principals here.

Bob Zeigler is the man who has been elected to serve in his place. He has moved to Seward, NE from

Florida. He has been a principal in Lutheran schools for 22 years and taught in Lutheran schools for 23 years. I am very excited to learn from such a wonderful leader who is the superintendent of the Lutheran schools in Nebraska. He comes with a lot of experience from a lot of different schools including ones in Missouri, Minnesota, and Florida.

Deshler Lutheran School is run by a school board of elected officials from Trinity Friedensau and St. Peter Lutheran churches. The called staff includes Dan Dearthoff as administrator, Kara Dunn as teacher, and Pam Werner as teacher. The association has also contracted Desirae Kohmetscher (soon to be Desirae Schardt) and Julene Schardt.

Pastors BJ Fouts and Brian Francik rotate each quarter to teach religion class to the junior high students. This first quarter of the 2015-16 school year also welcomes Vicar Seth DeBartolo as a junior high religion teacher.

Rachelle Jarchow is the food service manager and cooks meals daily which are beloved by all. Krista Harms is our interim custodian as Frank Tamme is suffering from health issues.

LWML September 3

“Back to School . . . Brighten the corner for kids” – join us Thursday, September 3 at 7:00 p.m.



Happy 98th Birthday, Barb



Helping long-time bulletin folder Barb Cabrera (seated) celebrate his birthday are fellow bulletin folders: Colleen Kruse, Lorna Ludwig, Naomi Grupe, Marilyn Genzmer, and Lorna Ludwig. Birthday cake was served during Sunday morning coffee fellowship August 23, the day before Barb turned 98 years young.

September Birthdays

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| Russell Wassom | 2 |
| Brigett Effenbeck | 3 |
| Chad Holle | 4 |
| Julia Schweer | 4 |
| Joston Wassom..... | 4 |
| Jerad Betten..... | 5 |
| Michael Finke | 5 |
| Sheryl Achterberg | 8 |
| Rose Plock | 9 |
| Ellen Schmidt..... | 9 |
| Sandra Meyer | 10 |
| Barbara Schardt..... | 10 |
| Lori Grummert | 12 |
| Kale Meyer..... | 12 |
| Dale Bohling | 13 |
| Heath Finke | 14 |
| Donna Genung | 15 |
| Alan Holle | 18 |
| Hayden Calkins | 21 |
| Sharon Houtwed..... | 22 |
| Everett Schardt..... | 23 |
| KayLee Jo Dunlap..... | 24 |
| Gavin Endorf..... | 24 |
| Casey Laaker..... | 24 |
| Pamela Harms | 27 |
| Rod Watson..... | 27 |
| Jenna Lemke | 28 |

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| Austyn Lindenmuth | 28 |
| Rebecca Bohling..... | 30 |
| Adam Holle | 30 |
| Janice Hornbostel | 30 |

September Baptism Birthdays

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| David Achterberg | 1 |
| Jill Bauer..... | 1 |
| Kevin Genzmer..... | 3 |
| Conner Schardt | 3 |
| Addisin Schardt | 3 |
| Larry Loontjer | 4 |
| Autumn Deepe..... | 7 |
| Edna Moll | 8 |
| Brian Schardt..... | 8 |
| Carlee Schardt | 8 |
| Kent Betten..... | 11 |
| Dakotah Lemke | 12 |
| Dale Klaumann..... | 20 |
| Julia Schweer..... | 20 |
| Dale Bohling..... | 21 |
| Kenzie Bohling..... | 21 |
| Michael Finke..... | 22 |
| Gage Genzmer | 22 |
| Hayden Meyer | 22 |
| Lori Grummert | 23 |
| Jerad Betten | 24 |
| Leah Schmidt..... | 24 |
| Sandra Meyer | 25 |
| Ellen Schmidt | 25 |
| Russell Wassom | 25 |
| Chad Holle..... | 28 |
| Penny Befort..... | 30 |
| Kale Meyer | 30 |
| Larry Wilbeck..... | 30 |



| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|----------|
| Dale & Nancy Hoops | September 1 | 14 years |
| Allen & Joyce Schardt..... | September 4 | 49 years |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| Kenneth & Julie Effenbeck | September 7 | 19 years |
| Galen & Melissa Sasse | September 9 | 20 years |
| Jeremy & Addisin Schardt | September 10 | 4 years |
| Dale & Janice Klaumann..... | September 12 | 45 years |
| Scott & Penny Befort | September 16 | 9 years |
| Tyson & Jill Bauer..... | September 17 | 10 years |
| Alan & Lynn Bohling..... | September 20 | 35 years |
| Justus & Jolene Harms..... | September 20 | 7 years |
| Jeffrey & Lori Grummert..... | September 24 | 21 years |
| Dale & Lori Schardt | September 26 | 29 years |
| Eugene & Patricia Mueller..... | September 29 | 37 years |

Open Forum at Deshler Lutheran School September 1

Based upon communications the school board and administration has had in the last few weeks we are having an OPEN FORUM at Deshler Lutheran School. The Nebraska district executive will be here for that fellowship. It is an opportunity for us to share and communicate comments and concerns. It will be held Tuesday, September 1, 2015 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. I warmly invite all families to come, share, and/or listen.

Dan Deardoff