

# Tidings of Peace

## December 2018 Newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church, Deshler, Nebraska

**Office Hours:** 9:00 AM Monday - Friday

◆ **Phones:** Office: 402-365-7746 ◆ Preschool/Parish Hall: 402-365-7855 ◆  
◆ Pastor Rich Stevenson ◆ Marla Maschmann, Office Administrator ◆  
◆ Jake Beam, President ◆ Kim Roth, Preschool ◆  
◆ Chandra Hillman & Stuart Reinke, Youth ◆ Arlis Hohl, Custodian ◆  
◆ **E-Mail:** [peaceoffice.deshler@gmail.com](mailto:peaceoffice.deshler@gmail.com) Website: [www.peacedeshler.info](http://www.peacedeshler.info)



December is a very busy month for most of us. There is shopping and baking to do in anticipation of holiday parties. Families with children are preparing for winter break. Plans are being made to host relatives and friends who are coming to town for a visit. In all of the busyness and excitement of these events, it is easy to forget the real meaning of the season.

Advent is a time of waiting in anticipation of the coming of the Messiah into the world. But which coming? The obvious answer is the birth for our Savior, Jesus, in Bethlehem. In this sense, then, we can think of Christmas, the culmination of the Advent season, as a "looking back" in gratitude for the gift God gave us in His Son.

But Advent is not just about looking back in time to the incarnation of God's Son in that little town of Bethlehem. It is also about looking forward with eager longing for another coming, the second coming of God's Son to establish the fullness of God's kingdom on earth. Sometimes memories of Christmases past can bring on sadness and loneliness for many, but it is that promise from God of His second coming that brings us the true JOY of the Christmas season. It is that promise that will get us through the silent nights into His holy night.

So even as we find ourselves overwhelmed by the obligations and opportunities of December, let us take time to ponder the wonders of this season of Advent as we await with great expectation the coming of our God.

**WED. DEC. 5**

**6:00 PM - Women's Advent Painting Event** - *see painting with sign-up sheet in the church overflow. You need to sign up in advance.*

**SUN. DEC. 9**

**8:30 AM - S.S. Children's Dress Rehearsal**  
**10:00 AM - Sunday School Children's Christmas Program**

**"A Play in a Manger"** ~ *directed by Cindy Mueller & Connie Eitzmann*

**11:15 AM - Soup Luncheon and Fellowship**

Peace Lutheran is sharing fellowship together following the Children's Christmas Program. The children will leave immediately following worship to sing at Parkview Haven and all are invited for soup and fellowship following worship. Parents of children ages Preschool thru 8<sup>th</sup> Grade will receive a postcard indicating what they are to furnish.

**1:00 PM - Peace Youth and Congregational Caroling Party**

Come hop on a hay rack and join us as we carol around Deshler and deliver Christmas stockings filled with goodies.

**DEC. 24**

**5:30 PM - Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship** *led by the Youth of Peace*

**DEC. 25**

**10:00 AM - Christmas Day Service of Carols and Communion**

**12:00 Noon - Christmas Dinner** *Join friends for a meal in the Peace Lutheran Parish Hall on Christmas Day! Details are on page 3 of this newsletter.*

**DEC. 31**

**6:30 PM - New Year's Eve Worship - NO Service on New Year's Day**

# Worship, Education and Stewardship for November 2018

## Worship Attendance

## (Compared to 2017)

Oct. 28	214 +	167 + 7 = 174
Nov. 5	139 + 4 = 143	158 + 7 = 165
Nov. 11	177 + 8 = 185	153
Nov. 18	117 + 19 = 136	143 + 6 = 152
Nov. 21	33 (Thanksgiving Eve)	39
Nov. 22	59 (Thanksgiving Day)	57
Nov. 25	10 (Sat.) - No Worship (Blizzard)	129

**General Budget Balance as of October 31, 2018 = +\$4667.49**

## Stewardship General Budget

Oct. 29	\$ (+\$)
Nov. 4	\$3303.50 (+\$50 OCC /+\$100 World Hunger /+\$100 Food for the Poor /+\$20 Women of Peace)
Nov. 11	\$1935.25 (+\$150 OCC / +\$100 Food for the Poor)
Nov. 19	\$2746.50 (+\$150 OCC)
Nov. 22 & 23	\$0.00 (+\$1207.28 Matt Talbert Kitchen & Outreach in Lincoln +\$100 Food for the Poor)
Nov. 25	No Worship

## Education

Oct. 28	58	\$70.75
Nov. 4	69	\$76.75
Nov. 11	63	\$55.53
Nov. 18	62	\$54.65
Nov. 25	No Sunday School	

***Sunday School Offering for Dec. - Feb. is designated for Heifer Project.***

***Congregational Mission Offering for December: Oaks Indian Mission and our monthly support to our missionary, Lindsey Mueller.***

***Christmas Eve & Day offerings are designated for our Well Project.***



## Financial News.....

For the past several years, during the Advent and Christmas Seasons, Peace Lutheran has raised money to drill wells in Africa where there is dire need of good, clean drinking water. Cards are available in the office if you wish to make a donation in honor of someone. The cost to drill a well is about \$10,150. To date we have received \$800. Please mark your gift "African well" and place it in the Sunday offering plate or drop it off during office hours.

Peace Lutheran continues to help combat hunger in the world with our monthly auto giving program. We currently have 23 participants and send \$305 per month through Lutheran World Relief. If you wish to participate in this program, please stop in the office for forms and instructions. Thank you for your support of these missions where the love of Christ is shared around the world!  
~ Becky Mize, Treasurer



**Offering Envelopes for 2019 will be in your mailboxes on Sun., DEC. 16.** If you **DO NOT** want us to order a box for you for 2019, please let us know as our order for 2019 has to be placed in February of 2019. These boxes of envelopes are not free to us, so if you don't want them we'd appreciate if it you'd let us know by calling the church office at 402-365-7746; or you can email us a [peaceoffice.deshler@gmail.com](mailto:peaceoffice.deshler@gmail.com). If we inadvertently missed someone this year, please let us know as we have extra boxes and would be happy to get you a set.

## Address Changes:

Joshua & Melissa Weber  
1403 Hillview Drive  
Norfolk NE 68701

# Weekend Worship Schedule...

NO Saturday Worship in December  
& Pending on Interim Pastor in January

10:00 AM Sunday Morning Worship

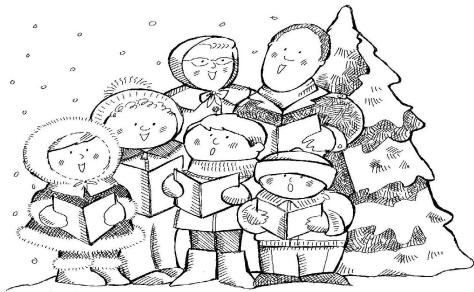
Dec 2: 8:45 -9:15 AM Christmas Program  
practice with regular classes to follow.

Dec 9: 8:30 – 9:45 S.S. Dress Rehearsal

9:00 AM YOP & Adult Class

10:00 AM Sunday School Program

Dec. 16, 23, & 30: 9:00 AM All S.S. Classes  
Special holiday worship schedule  
is on the front page.



Christmas Caroling Party

## **DECEMBER 2 - Advent 1**

Message from our Missionary, Lindsey Mueller

Peace Choir Sings

Goodies shared by the WOW Board in appreciation for volunteers

## **DECEMBER 9 - Advent 2**

Sunday School Children's Christmas Program

**"A Play in a Manger"** (Soup Dinner following, hosted by the  
Discipleship & Education Team)

## **DECEMBER 16 - Advent 3**

Holy Communion

Sermon: "Preparation" (Luke 3:7-18)

Peace Choir Sings



## **DECEMBER 23 - Advent 4**

Sermon: "The Magnificence of a GOD who Loves Us!" (Luke 1:46-55)

## **DECEMBER 30 - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Christmas**

Sermon: "The Father's Work!" Luke 4:41-52

## **JANUARY 6 - Epiphany Sunday**

Installation of Church Leaders

Join us for an afternoon of  
"good old fashioned hay rack ride and Christmas caroling".

Sunday, December 9 - 1:00 PM

Soup, Cinnamon Rolls/Breads, Relish and fellowship from 11:15 - 12:30.

Then we'll fill the Christmas stockings with goodies  
and have some fun caroling!

If you've never gone caroling on the hayrack before - consider adding that to your "Bucket List". Once you've shared in this experience, you'll realize the joy that it brings to someone else and to your own Christmas Spirit. The holidays can be a difficult time for many and to those we visit, just knowing you have friends and a church family who care is what sharing Christ's love is all about.

We'll need enough goodies to fill about 25-30 Christmas stockings. If you know of someone having a difficult time this Christmas, let the church office know as we set up our caroling list for those dealing with physical or emotional hardship this past year.

- \* **This event is for all ages, youth, adults with or without children. Join us as we get together to fill & deliver Christmas Baskets and sing Carols! Bring your friends!**
- \* Please help, if you can, by bringing goodies to the church kitchen to add to the stockings. We would like to deliver about 30 Christmas stockings. We've had great response with goodies the past couple of years, so please continue by having your items in the kitchen by that Sunday morning marked "Goodies for Stockings".
- \* Parents of Sunday School Children (Preschool - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade) will receive a postcard in the mail indicating what you need to bring for the luncheon. This event is hosted by the Discipleship & Education Ministry Team.

# Peace Happenings

## Happy December Birthday to...



*Birthdays are special celebrations of the gift of life that God has blessed you with and is a day worth celebrating!! Please let Marla know if a birthday/anniversary date is incorrect or missing. It helps insure that the church records are accurate.*

Dec 2	Deanna Maschmann	Dec 16	Tate Mosier	Jan 1	Bryan Bower
	Brad Reinke	Dec 17	Glenn Kirchhoff		Kevin Ostdiek
	Brody Renz		Zoey Fangmeyer	Jan 3	Connie Eitzmann
	Kaeden Stichka		Ansley Cahill	Jan 4	Dawn Schleif
Dec 4	Sondra Ehlers	Dec 20	Carol Good		Kimberly Fayle
	Jason Fangmeyer		Kim Ruhnke		Kimberly Roth
Dec 6	Wayne Pohlmann		Kylie Farringer		Kristopher Collins
Dec 7	Beverly Pitts	Dec 21	Michelle Schardt	Jan 5	Jazmynne Fangmeyer
Dec 8	Daryl Nelson		Tasie Schardt	Jan 6	Trevor Taylor
Dec 9	Ardythe Dunn	Dec 22	Warren Fintel	Jan 7	Leora Freitag
	Richard O'Neal	Dec 23	Robert Folkerts		Ashleigh McBride
	Tyler Fangmeyer	Dec 25	John Flint		Braelynn Renz
Dec 12	Emily Pohlmann	Dec 26	Brendan Schardt		Kailyn Gehle
Dec 12	Justice Jacob-Keown	Dec 27	Nathaniel Powers	Jan 8	Gary Hoops
	Liberty Jacob-Keown	Dec 30	Terri Fangmeyer	Jan 10	Wilma Christian
Dec 14	June Degner		Betsy Maschmann	Jan 11	Cindy Petersen
Dec 15	Jami O'Neal	Dec 31	Nicole Mosier	Jan 12	Jolie Reinke
Dec 16	Janice Muehling		Ginger Ridolfi	Jan 13	Rick Krotz
	Kristi Duensing		Ethan Meerkatz		Diana Jacobe
	Madison Shaw				

*(Special note will be made of these birthday milestones - 75, 80, 85, 90 and over. If you wish to have your age remain private, just let the office know. / Anniversaries are recognized in 5 year increments following the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary)*



## Those Celebrating December Anniversaries...

Dec. 1, 2007	Tyler & Alisha Fangmeyer	Dec. 27, 1969	Warren & Jae Fintel
Dec. 3, 2001	Randy & Linda Weideman	Dec. 27, 1980	George & Janet Kruse
Dec. 12, 2002	Bill & Donna Tittler	Dec. 29, 1957	Cecil & JoAnn Ehlers
Dec. 22, 1962	Lonny & Jan Freitag	Dec. 30, 1967	Vic & Peg Johnson
Dec. 27, 1964	Eldon & Judy Kirchhoff	Jan. 7, 2000	Shannon & Tina Sloane
		Jan. 11, 1959	Larry & Deanna Holtzen (Happy 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary!!)

## Congratulations and God's Blessings...

...to Cody and Taylor Eitzmann at the birth of their first child, a baby boy, Griffon Jeffrey-Scott Eitzmann, born on Friday evening, November 9, 2018, at Mercy Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. At 34 weeks gestation, he weighed 4 lbs. 2 oz. and was 17 inches long. We continue to keep these new parents and their precious little son in our prayers as they will spend many weeks in the NICU. Congratulations also to grandparents, Scott and Connie Eitzmann!

## Welcomed to the Lord's Table...

On All Saints Sunday, November 4, 2018, the following young people were welcomed to communion following their sessions of instruction: Keira Marquart, Manuel Motto, Easton Nash, Jolie Reinke, Tasia Schardt, Daphne Smith.



# Thanks for Being Such a Blessing!

~ From Yvonne Hoops & Jan Freitag, Operation Christmas Child Project Leaders



THANK YOU TO ALL THE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD VOLUNTEERS! We wish to thank everyone who willingly served in a variety of roles: those who folded boxes and set up the many items on tables for our activity, everyone who helped fill the boxes with goodies, and all who stayed late to clean up the mess. We also wish to thank everyone who graciously donated funds throughout the year to purchase these supplies and the cost of shipping. Without your generosity this undertaking would not be possible.

Please continue to pray for the children around the world who will be receiving your gifts in the coming weeks. We have been blessed to be a blessing to others. ~ Yvonne Hoops and Jan Freitag

SIDE NOTE...THE SHIPPING COST HAS INCREASED TO \$9 PER BOX. I KNOW THIS SEEMS VERY EXPENSIVE BUT IT GOES TO HELP PAY FOR MORE THAN JUST SHIPPING. THIS MONEY HELPS PAY FOR THE GOSPEL BOOKLETS EACH CHILD RECEIVES ALONG WITH THE MINISTRY, TRAINING, PROCESSING, AND COLLECTION THAT GOES ALONG WITH THIS PROJECT. DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED ALL YEAR LONG AS I HAVE ALREADY STARTED MAKING PURCHASES FOR NEXT YEAR. THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." (Hebrews 13:16)

## Thank You's Received...

...My sincere thanks to Pastor Rich for his visit and prayers and the casserole meal from the Women of Peace. Also thanks to my church family, friends and neighbors for cards, phone calls and all your kindness and concern. It was all very much appreciated. ~ Darlene Hess

...Thank you for your prayers for my sister, Sonya Chappell.. She is scheduled to return home next week in time for Thanksgiving. ~ Deanna Maschmann

...Thank you to the members of Peace Lutheran Church for your generosity this past spring during our "Cold Days-Warm Hearts" clothing drive. Thirty boxes of donated winter clothing were delivered to Crossroads Center Rescue Mission in Hastings, NE in late summer. Because of your charitable gifts many less fortunate individuals will stay a bit warmer during the cold months ahead. Thank you again for opening your hearts to our brothers and sisters in need ~ Yvonne Hoops

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." (Hebrews 13:16)

## Sunday School Perfect Attendance for October

### Preschool/Kindergarten

Jase Beam  
Olivia Flint  
Kailyn Gehle  
Tatiana Cruz

### 1st/2nd Grades

Jackson Beam  
Jaden Beam  
Drew Buckles

### 3rd/4th/5th Grades

Danica O'Neal

### 6th/7th/8th Grades

Danessa Buckles  
Danica Buckles

## Remember Our College Students This Christmas Season...



Our college students will soon be preparing for semester finals during the first weeks of December, which can be very stressful. While they're away from their home congregation, they can use our *prayers* and *correspondence* aimed at showing them Christian love, concern, and encouragement - to remain faithful to our Lord as well as to do their best with all the talents and skills God has given them.

Here is a list of our college students. **Please let the office know if we've missed anyone currently in college and if anyone is graduating this December.** This list only includes those members of Peace in undergraduate studies. We'd like to thank the Women of Peace and the Youth of Peace who will send the students greetings and a gift certificate to a fast food restaurant in their college town. If you've been missed, there's still time to give me your address to get in on the goodies. ☺ *Merry Christmas!*

Kimberly Bargaen  
Need Address  
Kearney NE 68845

Braelyn Isernhagen  
University Suites 471  
1780 R Street  
Lincoln NE 68508

Jared Pohlmann  
Nebraska Wesleyan University  
5000 Saint Paul Ave SMB 6220  
Lincoln NE 68504

Ryan Brandt  
Schramm Hall Room 328  
1130 N 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lincoln NE 68508-1298

Ethan Meerkatz  
515 Fairway Dr. Apt. 11  
Milford, NE 68405

Ragan Pohlmann  
2001 S. Summit Ave  
Box 1547  
Sioux Falls SD 57197

Briana Dahl  
1026 Bertrand St. Apt. #1  
Manhattan KS 66502

Mackenzie Mohrmann  
113 State Ave  
Ames IA 50014

Katie Roth  
7601 West Waverly Rd  
Malcolm NE 68402

Brady Fangmeyer  
Smith Hall 506  
1120 N 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lincoln NE 68508-1299

Rio Mohrmann  
2519 W 58<sup>th</sup> St.  
Stillwater OK 74074

Mason Roth  
Knoll Residential Center #358  
440 N 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lincoln NE 68508-1607

Jeffrey Grummert  
801 West 26<sup>th</sup> St.  
Kearney NE 68845-4350

Tyra Mohrmann  
104A White Hall  
Laramie WY 82070

Amanda Schultz  
SMB 10003  
5000 St. Paul Ave.  
Lincoln NE 68504

Brittaney Hartley  
1111 Main St  
Neihardt Room 311  
Wayne NE 68787

Kylee Nutsch  
515 Sherman Street  
Wayne NE 68787

Logan Schultz  
716 E 56<sup>th</sup> Street Apt. F1  
Kearney NE 68847

Anthony Hillman  
Central Community College  
Clay Hall Room 119  
Hastings NE 68901

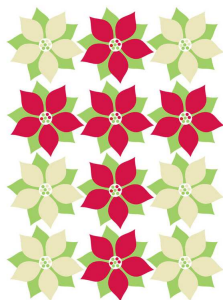
Natasha O'Neal  
718 W 25<sup>th</sup> St.  
Apt. B  
Kearney NE 68845

Trista Sloane  
1008 N Grant Ave  
York NE 68467-2544

# *A Big Thank You To Our Volunteers...*

- ...to Yvonne Hoops and Jan Freitag, who helped coordinate the Operation Christmas Child project this year, and to Kim Roth for all the shopping and preparation of the items used. Their passion to touch the life of a child, in a country where they have so little, is such a blessing to Peace Lutheran. Also thanks to Becky Mize for applying for Thrivent Action Team Funds to aid in this project. This project wouldn't happen without these individuals and we are grateful for their time and dedication.
- ...Thanks to Merlyn and Lorena Pohlmann and Marla Maschmann for taking the time to create the beautiful Thanksgiving display as we "Give Thanks" this season for all our wonderful blessings. Also thanks to Fred and Ardith Maschmann for growing some of the pumpkins used.
- ...to Connie Drohman and Bonnie Thompson, who as pew re-stockers for the month of December, took the time and initiative to give the pews a deep cleaning, vacuuming the cushions on top and underneath and also the hymn racks, scrubbing off milk spills and crayon, etc. We love having little children in the church and wouldn't want it any other way, but as any parent knows, accidents happen and it's great to have volunteers to do a deep cleaning like this once in awhile.
- ...to Tiffany Beam and Mindy Stichka for organizing the 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary meal and concert event November 16! And to Bill Mize and Pastor Rich for all their work in setting the stage and sound. It was a fun night of fellowship and celebration in our ministry and we thank all those who brought food, helped serve (the Youth of Peace especially), or even just attended. We look forward to many more years together as a family in Christ.
- ...to Scott Eitzmann, Monte Gehle and Jon Mohrmann who will soon complete their terms on Council. Your exemplary service as Church Council members these past three years is appreciated so much by the members and staff of Peace!
- ...This past year these are the volunteers that have helped one month or several months putting the newsletter together: Rose Brettmann, Sondra Ehlers, Louisa Fintel, Darlene Hess, Laurie Koester, Ervin & Helen Lunzmann, Earlene Othling, Fairy Peters, Julia Pohlmann, Jennifer Reinke, Harlan Schnakenberg, Don & Mary Stelling. I may have forgotten someone, as I didn't remember every month to write down my volunteers, but you are all appreciated just the same. And special thanks to Irene Fintel for adhering all the labels ahead of time and Julia Pohlmann and Fairy Peters for labeling and inserting newsletters in the mailboxes. We have a lot of fun joking around and assembling the newsletter. Sometimes we even have goodies! Anyone is welcome to join us any month of the year- it takes less than 45 minutes.
- ...to so many of you who help with the projects that the Women of Peace provide. There are women who do so much for the kits and blankets that it's hard to name them and not leave someone out, but I know they do it from their heart and probably say a silent prayer as they care about each and every person who receives their gifts. This year they donated the majority of their items to Orphan Grain Train and Royal Family Kids Camp.
- ...to those who make the preparations when we have a baptism here at Peace. Linda Fangmeyer embroiders little pink or blue crosses on the baptismal handkerchiefs, put the letters on the banner, sets out the Christ Candle and inscribes the baptismal candle box, Marla Maschmann makes the certificates, and Howard Reinke crafts wooden candle holders for the baptismal candles. We know that you all work with love and joy preparing this special occasion for a family.
- ...to Connie Eitzmann and Cindy Mueller for once again taking charge of the Christmas program. We look forward to "A Play in a Manger" this year and we know that even with the weather cancellations, they can pull the program together. They are so dedicated to the kids of our congregation and that's what keeps them going each year. They have that passion in their hearts to make sure that the children of Peace know what the true meaning of Christmas is.
- ...to the Roth family for caring for the flowers gardens and preparing them for winter. Also, for planting the perennials around the trees and we'll pray along with you that they survive the winter as they will be a nice addition to the church grounds.
- ...to Earl and Anthony Hillman, Glen, Marla and Betsy Maschmann for the nice job they do mowing the 3 cemeteries.
- ...to George Kruse who volunteers as Cemetery Chairperson, always being available to stake out the lots or headstones as needed and keeping the maps updated. And also, as our videographer, he tapes funerals or weddings when requested. What a nice service he and his wife, Janet, offer by making very nice keepsake DVD's for a minimal cost for any service or occasion videoed in our sanctuary.
- ...to Arlis Hohl for cooking the meat and coordinating the Thanksgiving Dinner. They served approximately 47 people that day and I heard it was a wonderful meal with abundant food. Thanks to anyone who helped in the preparations and clean-up as it makes the day special for so many.
- ...to Anita Stevenson for faithfully checking the AED on a monthly basis and thank you to Connie Drohman who has volunteered to take over for Anita.

*Poinsettias* will again decorate our chancel to celebrate the birth of Jesus!



*It is by God's  
will that we have  
been sanctified  
through the  
offering of  
the body of  
Jesus Christ...*

Hebrews 10:10, NRSV

You're welcome to donate a poinsettia this Christmas in memory of a loved one, in celebration of a special occasion, or just to beautify our worship time together. This year we'd prefer that you purchase your own poinsettia and bring it and then please sign the tablet in the office to specify in memory of, in joy of, etc. so that it can be listed in the church bulletin.

If you're unable to purchase your own poinsettia, you're welcome to sign the sheet in the office and indicate that you're making a monetary donation and we'll be glad to see that one gets purchased for you. Costs usually range from \$10 for smaller ones and \$20 for larger ones. Please look closely when you take one home as poinsettias with labels have been taken home accidentally by others in the past

## *The Memorial Christmas Tree...*



Because of the decline in Christmas Tree farms, and the higher cost each year of providing a real Christmas Tree for the Memorial Tree, memorial funds in loving memory of Ivan Valek were designated by his family to purchase a 9 foot artificial Christmas tree. The idea of a Christmas tree in the overflow began in memory of our nephews Craig and Fred Jr. Maschmann, but has grown to be a meaningful tribute to all those who celebrate Christmas in Heaven. Many of the ornaments are in the form of angels, reminding us that our loved ones are now celebrating Christmas with Jesus. We rejoice in that hope we have as we celebrate the heavenly angels (angel ornaments), the family ties (bows) that will never be broken or forgotten, even in death, and the precious name of Jesus (candy cane - J), who came to earth as our Savior.

**You are welcome to attach a memorial to the tree in memory of your loved ones this Christmas.** May the promise that Christ's birth gives us help to calm any anxiety you feel during the holiday season.  
~ Glen and Marla Maschmann , "Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!"

## *3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Christmas Banquet...*



If you don't have plans for dinner on Christmas Day you're invited to join friends for dinner at Peace Lutheran Parish Hall. Arlis Hohl has once again volunteered to cook the meat for Christmas Dinner so no one has to spend the day alone. (Thank you Arlis!!☺) You may give the office or Arlis a call if you'd be able to help with meal preparations (#768-8321).

A sign up sheet will be posted on the church bulletin board or you may RSVP by calling the church office at #365-7746. **RSVP's** are appreciated, but not required. If you'd be able to furnish the mashed potatoes, salad, dessert, vegetables or rolls and could help with decorating or setting up please indicate that.

## *Thank You Coffee hosted on December 2...*

The WOW board hosted a Coffee Fellowship following worship on the First Sunday of Advent as a "Thank You" to everyone for supporting them this past year.

The Women of Peace also have a nice selection of Christmas cards in the Card Corner and Cookbooks in the church office, so be sure to check it out. *Wishing everyone a very Blessed Merry Christmas!! Jami O'Neal, WOW Coordinator*

## *Peace Choir needs...*

Do you like to sing alto? Peace Choir is looking for more alto voices, starting January through April. Oh, and if you like to sing soprano, we could use you too, starting in January. Any questions? - ask any choir members. We practice on Wednesdays at 8:00 and sing the first and third Sundays of every month, September thru April. ~ *Julia Pohlmann*



## *Women's News...*

The Women of Peace work hard all year on many projects. This year we are sending 244 bars of soap, 34 Baby Care Kits, 57 School Kits, 40 Personal Care Kits, 16 Fabric Kits and 84 blankets to Orphan Grain Train. Earlier this year 54 Personal Care Kits, 55 School Kits and 55 tied blankets went to Royal Family Kids Camp. Several ladies applied for Action Team Funds from *Thrivent Financial for Lutherans* throughout the year and used the seed money to purchase quilt batting, material and items for all the kits, and then sometimes even refreshments for the volunteers. Any monetary donations received from Thank-offering Sunday, November 18, will be donated to Orphan Grain Train to help cover the cost of shipping the items all over the world. Anyone may still make a donation with checks payable to "Women of Peace".

Thank you to everyone who helped load the 45 boxes, donated items for health and school kits and/or came to blanket tying days. Special thanks to Julia Pohlmann for binding all the blanket edges and to Patty Elting, of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Davenport, for coming to Peace with their trailer to load our items and transport them to Orphan Grain Train in Grand Island. Your kind offer was greatly appreciated, Patty! ~ Louisa Fintel, Missions Project

And thank you, Louisa, as this truly couldn't be accomplished without someone leading, coordinating and organizing all the donations and the volunteers. Quoted from God's Little Instruction Book: "Whatever is worth doing at all, Is worth doing well." And from *Colossians 3:23*: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." Louisa, and all those who help with these projects - you truly put this verse into action working with all your heart for the Lord - and for that, we at Peace Lutheran Church THANK YOU!

**PRAYERFULLY SIMPLE BIBLE STUDY** group is starting a new study in January entitled "Sip, Savor, and Drink Deeply". The cost of a study book is \$8.00 and will be led again by Janice Reinke. (*Thanks so much Janice!!*) They meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth House. Please sign up and pay for your new book in the church office. We welcome any woman of Peace to join us. We don't meet during the summer months and you don't have to be there every month to get something out of the study.

## *Give the gift of life-giving water this Christmas... A Well.*

I contacted Angie with Water 4 Kids International to let her know that we are again striving to complete a well for Christmas and thought I'd just share her gratefulness in her response with all of you:

*Great hearing from you! Marla, you are amazing! Thank you for taking this campaign to heart and for keeping this critical need for safe water in front of Peace Lutheran. Yes, you all have drilled 15 life-saving wells. Can you believe that? I'm sure over 60,000 thirsty people, mostly children, have access to clean, safe water and the love of Jesus because of the faithfulness of Peace Lutheran Church. We'll be more than happy to connect you all with two more needy villages where your donations will go this Christmastime. Absolutely. We have nearly 30 villages waiting to receive a borehole, so thank you for being the answer to one — maybe two villages' prayers. :-)*

*Marla, I am including Melissa Baker, our Church Partnership coordinator, as well as Mark Sorerensen, our Development Director on our email because I know they would love to get to know you and the impact Peace Lutheran is having on the world. Your congregation has truly saved thousands of lives and has made an eternal difference!*

*We are so blessed by your partnership. Blessings, Angie*

Our statistics: 2012 - 2 wells; 2013 - 3 wells; 2014 - 4 wells; 2015 - 1 well; 2016 - 2 wells; 2017 - 1 well; 2018 - 2 wells.

Last year we sent \$20,340 to drill wells in Itanda A, Uganda and Buyombo, Uganda at a cost of \$10150 each. I shared the bios of those villages in the February and April newsletters when we received word that we had been paired with a village. Those wells were finished and dedicated in August of 2018.

Because no one should have to drink dirty water, we are again this year accepting donations to drill another well in Africa. To date we have received gifts of \$800 for our Christmas 2018 campaign. **Please make all checks payable to Peace Lutheran Church**, and mark "African Well". Gift cards are also available on the counter in the office if you'd like to give your gift as a Christmas gift to someone. If you need several gift cards please check early as we'd need to ask for more.