

Tidings of Peace

December 2020 Newsletter

Peace Lutheran Church, Deshler

Designated Office Hours: 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM / 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM Wed.

◆ Phones: Office: 402-365-7746 ◆ Preschool/Parish Hall: 402-365-7855 ◆

◆ Pastor Joseph Love 402-405-6322 ◆ Bill Mize, President ◆

◆ Marla Maschmann, Office Administrator ◆ Kim Roth, Preschool ◆

◆ Chandra Hillman, Youth Director ◆ Arlis Hohl, Custodian ◆

E-Mail: peaceoffice.deshler@gmail.com Website: www.peacedeshler.info



Amid the secular trapping of the holidays, we can lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas, until we lament with Charlie Brown,

"Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?"

Advent is a time when we ponder on what Christmas is all about.

Advent involves waiting. Waiting can be hard, and not just for children.

This four-week time as the Christian church prepares for Christmas we invite you to join us, whether it be online or in person here at Peace Lutheran Church, as we open our hearts to the true meaning of Christmas.

Be ready to welcome Jesus this year and let his Spirit's warmth fill your waiting heart.

December Highlights...

DEC. 24

5:00 PM & 7:00 PM - Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Sermon: "And it came to PASS..." Text: Luke 2:1-20

DEC. 25

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

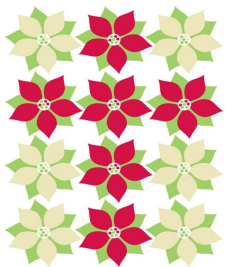
Sermon: "'Proximity Affects Relationships!'" Text: John 1:1-14

DEC. 31

7:00 PM New Year's Worship Service

Sermon: "Left-Overs" Text: Luke 2:22-40

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. As with the past few years **we'd prefer that you purchase your own poinsettia** and bring it. 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....



The Christmas tree in the overflow is 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!"*

Worship, Education and Stewardship for November 2020

<u>Worship Attendance + Facebook)</u>		<u>(Compaed to last year)</u>
Oct. 25	97 +124	199
Nov. 1	87 +94	120
Nov. 8	81 +112	157
Nov. 15	60 +117	121
Nov. 22	47 +147	135
Nov. 25	24 +109	48
Nov. 26	25	64
Nov. 29	48 +93	104

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

Congregational Mission Offering for December: divided between Peace Emergency Assistance Fund and the Thayer County Ministerial Emergency Fund, plus our continued monthly support of \$300 to Paul & Comfort and \$950 to our African Well Project.

Holiday Offerings: Water 4 Kids International for our Christmas Well Project.

Stewardship General Budget - November offerings were designated to Nuckolls & Thayer Co. Food Panties. Thanksgiving offerings for Crossroads Mission in Hastings.

Oct. 25	\$2626 (+\$700 Missions / +\$1550 Bldg Fund /+\$946.36 Well)
Nov. 1	\$3556 (+\$25 OCC / +\$100 World Hunger)
Nov. 8	\$2397 (+\$15 OCC / +\$1100 Well)
Nov. 15	\$2482.75 (+\$220 OCC)
Nov. 22	\$2073 (+\$100 Thanksgiving / +\$50 Bldg. Fund)
Nov. 25	\$400 (+\$605 Crossroads Mission)
Nov. 26	\$500 (+630 Crossroads Mission +\$50 Well)
Nov. 29	\$1198 (+\$75 Crossroads Mission)

Offering Envelopes for 2021 will be in your mailboxes on SUNDAY, DEC. 20.

If you **DO NOT** want us to order a box for you for 2022, please let us know as our order for 2022 has to be placed in February of 2021. 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. 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.

Education

Oct. 25	41	\$16.75
Nov. 1	42	\$9.50
Nov. 8	39	\$11.50

Sunday School Perfect Attendance for October

Janae Beam	Jaden Beam	Wyatt Kane	Danessa Buckles
Jase Beam	Drew Buckles	Jackson Beam	Danica Buckles
Ryker Kane	Traigan McDonald	Rigley McDonald	Addy Hintz

Remember Our College Students ...



This year college students are dealing with taking finals online, as many of them are remaining home after Thanksgiving break for finals. Attending college this past year, during a pandemic, has been very stressful. Please keep these college students, and all students, teachers and educators in our prayers. Our college students are: Ryan Brandt, Anthany Collins, Brady Fangmeyer, Emmit Hintz, Braelyn Isernhagen, Jaelyn McDonald, Ethan Meerkatz, Tyra Mohrmann, Ragan Pohlmann, Adam Roth, Katie Roth, Mason Roth, Sydney Roth, Tyra Schardt and Amanda Schultz. Attending graduate school is April Vonderfecht. **Please let the office know if we've missed anyone currently in college and if anyone is graduating this December.**

We'd also like to thank the Women of Peace and the Youth of Peace who will send the undergraduate students greetings and gift certificates to fast food restaurants in their college town. *Merry Christmas*

Weekend Worship Schedule

DECEMBER 6 - Advent 2

Holy Communion

Sermon: "The Preparation" Text: Mark 1:1-8

DECEMBER 13 - Advent 3

Sermon: "The Plan" Text: John 1:6-28

DECEMBER 20 - Advent 4

Holy Communion

Sermon: "The Partnership" Text: Luke 1:26-38

DECEMBER 27 - 1st Sunday After Christmas

Sermon: "Left-Overs" Text: Luke 2:22-40

DECEMBER 31 - New Year's Eve

Sermon: "This Is the Day!" Text: Psalm 118:24

JANUARY 3 - 2nd Sunday After Christmas

Holy Communion

JANUARY 10 - Baptism of our Lord

Installation of Officers

FYI...The shipping cost is \$9.00 per box. That might seem very expensive, but it goes to help pay for more than just shipping. This money helps pay for the gospel booklets that each child receives along with the ministry, training, processing, and collection that goes along with this project. Donations are accepted all year long as we 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-OFFERING SUNDAY FOR THE WOMEN OF PEACE WAS NOVEMBER 15.

We offered our thanks to God and asked His blessings on the service projects completed this year. Thank you for your donations, prayers and support. Your compassion and generosity help give stability and hope to children and families who receive school kits, hygiene kits and blankets through the Lincoln/York Royal Family Kids Camp and the Orphan Grain Train facility at Grand Island. Throughout the year, Thrivent Action Team funds were used to purchase fabric, quilt batting and supplies for the kits. Thrivent funds also provided meals for the sewing days held early this year. Monetary donations received on Thankoffering Sunday will be donated to Orphan Grain Train to help cover the cost of shipping the items all over the world. Anyone may make a donation marked "Thankoffering" - checks payable to "Women of Peace". ~ *Becky Mize, WOW Action Team Chairperson*



Thanks for
Being Such a
Blessing!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SUNDAY WAS NOVEMBER 8.

The church family at Peace Lutheran has truly been a blessing this year. We delivered 113 boxes of Christmas joy to our drop-off collection site. Imagine the look of those precious children when they receive your gift this Christmas season. What an honor to be a part of this serving church. Thank you, also, to everyone who graciously donated funds throughout the year to purchase needed 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 ~Becky Mize ~Jan Freitag ~Kristi Duensing*

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS ELECTED FOR OFFICES ON NOVEMBER 15:

CHURCH COUNCIL - Troy Kane, Linda Loontjer, Jami O'Neal

CEMETERY BOARD - Mike Isernhagen

BLUE VALLEY LUTHERAN HOMES DELEGATE - Eldon Kirchhoff

ENDOWMENT FUND - Linda Fangmeyer

LCMC DELEGATE - Glenn Kirchhoff

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - There was a tie which will be decided upon at the December Church Council meeting.



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!! Special birthdays are Diana Jacobe will be 75 on Jan. 16. 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
Dec 4	Sondra Ehlers	Dec 18	Haven Renz	Jan 4	Dawn Schleif
	Jason Fangmeyer	Dec 20	Carol Good		Kimberly Fayle
Dec 6	Wayne Pohlmann		Kim Ruhnke		Kimberly Roth
Dec 7	Beverly Pitts		Kylie Farringer		Kristopher Collins
Dec 8	Daryl Nelson	Dec 21	Michelle Schardt	Jan 5	Jazmynne Fangmeyer
Dec 9	Ardythe Dunn		Tasia Schardt	Jan 6	Trevor Taylor
	Richard O'Neal	Dec 22	Warren Fintel	Jan 7	Leora Freitag
	Tyler Fangmeyer	Dec 23	Robert Folkerts		Ashleigh McBride
Dec 12	Emily Pohlmann	Dec 25	John Flint		Braelynn Renz
Dec 12	Justice Jacobe-Keown	Dec 26	Brendan Schardt		Kailyn Gehle
	Liberty Jacobe-Keown	Dec 27	Nathaniel Powers	Jan 8	Gary Hoops
Dec 14	June Degner	Dec 30	Terri Fangmeyer	Jan 12	Jolie Reinke
Dec 15	Jami O'Neal		Betsy Maschmann	Jan 13	Diana Jacobe
Dec 16	Janice Muehling	Dec 31	Nicole Mosier	Jan 15	Cecil Ehlers
	Kristi Duensing		Ginger Ridolfi	Jan 16	Dylan Reinke
	Madison Shaw		Ethan Meerkatz		Janet Kruse

(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 25th anniversary)



Those Celebrating December Anniversaries...

(Happy 40th Anniversary to George & Janet Kruse & Happy 25th Anniversary to Damon & Debra McDonald!!)

Dec. 1, 2007	Tyler & Alisha Fangmeyer	Dec. 29, 1957	Cecil & JoAnn Ehlers
Dec. 22, 1979	Lonny & Jan Freitag	Dec. 30, 1995	Damon & Debra McDonald
Dec. 27, 1964	Eldon & Judy Kirchhoff	Jan 7, 2000	Shannon & Tina Sloane
Dec. 27, 1980	George & Janet Kruse	Jan. 11, 1959	Larry & Deanna Holtzen
Dec. 27, 1969	Warren & Jae Fintel	Jan. 14, 2017	Jennifer & Chuck Sjogren

Congratulations...

...to Marilyn Cook at the birth of a new little great-grandson. Hunter Elston was born to Mat and Holly (Cook) Elston, of Lincoln, on Monday, November 2, 2020, weighing 6 lbs. 5 oz. and was 19 inches long.

...to Josh and Lindsey (Mueller) Cotner at the birth of their first child, a little daughter, Lily Lu Cotner. She was born at Bryan LGH on Thursday, November 12, 2020, at 8:49 p.m. weighing 8 lbs. 6.8 oz and was 20.75 inches long. Congratulations also to grandparents, Wayne and Cindy Mueller!

Thank You's Received...

Women of Peace, Thank you so much for the \$500 to go towards the playground equipment. I have been discouraged by the recent vandalism and your donation provided me with hope. Thank you so much! You have no idea how much this is appreciated! ~ Sincerely, Kim Roth, Preschool Director

Dear Members of Peace, I would like to thank you for all the cards, gifts and treats I received for Pastor Appreciation Month in October. It is a privilege to serve you, God's people, with the love and message of Christ! ~ Pastor Love

Dear family at Peace, Jeanette and I would like to thank everyone for their thoughtfulness in response to our card shower for our 60th wedding anniversary. It was greatly appreciated. ~ Richard & Jeanette Mohrmann

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



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. A donation to this worthy cause will help give a community the gift of water that will improve their lives year round. 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. In addition to the mission budget amount of \$950 a month, we have received \$3,896.36 to date. Please mark your gift "African well" and place it in the Sunday offering plate or drop it off during office hours.

Our statistics: 2012 - 2 wells; 2013 - 3 wells; 2014 - 4 wells; 2015 - 1 well; 2016 - 2 wells; 2017 - 1 well; 2018 - 2 wells; 2019 - 1 well; 2020 - 2 wells. We have drilled 18 life-saving wells since we first became aware of such a need that Christmas in 2012. On Sunday, December 6, we shared a slide show of the villages Kololo and Nasinjehe, Uganda where our wells were drilled in 2020. When I contacted Iviana at Water 4 Kids International, and shared with her that we'd be drilling at least one well with our Christmas giving in 2020, she paired us up with the village of Achilet Buteba, Uganda. We also shared pictures of the village of Achilet Buteba on that Sunday, and below is the bio and letter we received from our partners in mission at Water 4 Kids International.

Dear friends of Peace Lutheran Church,

THANK YOU for your amazing gift of safe, clean water for those in need in the remarkable country of Uganda in Africa! Your generous financial donation will relieve the suffering of thousands of men, women, and children who are affected daily by the contaminated water they drink. Physical diseases, mental anguish, time lost at work and school, and even death plague vulnerable communities simply because they have had no other options for life-sustaining water. So many people, in so many ways, will thrive because you are bringing them LIFE, through your life-saving gift of safe, clean water!

Hope 4 Kids International would like to introduce you to the village you are positively impacting for years to come. Millions of children living in poverty do not have access to clean, SAFE drinking water. Dysentery, cholera, infection, livestock hazards, drowning, assault, animal attacks, insects, and snake bites are just a few of the obstacles to retrieving water every day. The only water they have to drink is deadly and unsafe to obtain. Lack of safe water robs children in Uganda of educational opportunities, trapping them in a lifecycle of severe poverty. Unsafe water is extremely life-threatening. In remote villages of Uganda, accidents and diseases related to water are responsible for up to 75% of all deaths. In many villages, up to 50% of the children will die before their 5th birthdays.

ACHILET BUTEBA VILLAGE PROFILE

<i>Village: Achilet Buteba</i>	<i>Sub-County: Buteba</i>
<i>District: Busia</i>	<i>Distance: 3km</i>
<i>Water Source: Open pond</i>	<i>Catchment Area: 4 villages</i>

ACHILET BUTEBA VILLAGE is in eastern Uganda. The people of Achilet Buteba endure numerous tragedies. Each day, mainly children, women, and young girls must walk 3 kilometers, one way to a dirty and contaminated open pond. At the pond, Mangeni Boniface shared the horrible experiences that they have endured as a result of this water. They suffer from typhoid and intestinal parasites that plague their water source. Due to the distance to a medical clinic and the cost of medication, far too few can make the journey and cover the expense of treatment. Families are left without hope to save their loved ones. This water, meant to bring life to those they love, instead inflicts sickness and death.

When rains stop and the pond no longer yields water, these villagers must journey even farther in search of equally deadly water, merely as an attempt to survive. The great distance villagers are required to cover takes an enormous amount of time and carrying a jerrican filled with water all the way back home is physically taxing. This burden is generally put-upon school children, especially girls, who miss far too much schooling in search of water for their families. Not being afforded an education, these girls will be wed at a young age, becoming mothers while still being children themselves. Sadly, the vicious cycle of poverty is perpetuated.

Your gift of a borehole (well) will not only bring LIFE to the people of Achilet Buteba, but also to their neighbors from Amonikakinei, Agata, Busabi villages and the young pupils of Achilet Nursery School. So many people, in so many ways, will thrive through your life-saving gift of safe, clean water! May the peace of God be upon you and your loved ones. Thank you for this gift of LIFE!

A Big Thank You To Our Volunteers...

- ... to Yvonne Hoops, Jan Freitag, Becky Mize and Kristi Duensing who are in charge of Operation Christmas Child here at Peace. We dedicated several boxes at the worship service on November 8 and then they delivered all the boxes to the drop-off site. This project takes an awareness for bargains, supplies and ideas 'year round and we thank them all for taking the time to make it such a success here at Peace. What a blessing to be a small part of this huge worldwide project!
- ...to Merlyn and Lorena Pohlmann & Marla Maschmann for creating the beautiful Thanksgiving display behind the altar, reminding all of us to "Give Thanks". Also, thank you to Merlyn and Lorena and Chandra Hillman for taking the decorations down before Advent began.
- ...to Becky Mize for all her help at the church taking care of running off bulletins and preparing the Media Shout service while I continued to work from home during my quarantine. ~ Marla Maschmann
- ...to Earl Hillman, Eric Isernhagen and Paul Meyer 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!
- ...to Nate Brandt, Roger Bohling, LeRoy & Linda Fangmeyer, Eric Isernhagen, Glenn & Joan Kirchhoff, Mary Miller, Bill Mize, Jami O'Neal & Traegan Sieber for putting up the Christmas tree in the sanctuary and the outdoor nativity scene.
- ...to Earl and Chandra Hillman, Wayne and Cindy Mueller, and Glen and Marla Maschmann for putting up the Christmas garland and lights.
- ...This past year has not been normal for newsletter assembly and we thank those individuals who offered to help at one time or another during this pandemic: Joan Kirchhoff, Laurie Koester, Sondra Ehlers, Mary Miller, Traegan Sieber, Julia Pohlmann, Merlyn and Lorena Pohlmann. 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. Because of health concerns many of our past volunteers need to remain distanced and we do miss you and times shared with goodies and friendship.
- ...to Bill Mize for all the time spent during this pandemic making it possible to share our church services via Facebook, a totally new venture for Peace. And thank you to all who watch for your patience and graciousness as things don't always go as planned. Thanks also to Jami O'Neal and Amy Love for operating the camera if needed. If this is something you'd be interested in helping with we could certainly use more camera operators, as it's difficult for Bill if he's also running sound or participating in the Praise Team. Please contact him to inquire.
- ...to so many of you who help with the projects that the Women of Peace provide. We started off the year with a couple of fun sewing and blanket tying days, I believe in February. We had good attendance and a good time and we look forward to the day when we can meet again to sew and tie and share in friendship while creating these beautiful quilts for 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.
- ...to Connie Eitzmann and Cindy Mueller for all the preparation work and time they put into planning and rehearsing for what they hoped to be a video of our Sunday School Children's Christmas program. Once again, the upswing in COVID-19 cases and quarantines cancelled this planned event, and we feel their disappointment as we were looking forward to this special Christmas presentation. Thank you so much for trying so hard to make it happen, and we know you'll get a chance to share your talents at Christmastime again.
- ...to the Roth family for caring for the flowers gardens and preparing them for winter. Especially the new landscaping with little pine trees they did around the bird bath by the YOP house. And the hostas between the parsonage garage and church grew nicely this summer.
- ...to Earl Hillman, Glen, Marla and Betsy Maschmann for the nice job they do mowing the 3 Peace 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 when requested.
- ...to the Property Committee of LeRoy Fangmeyer, Earl Hillman and Roger Bohling who are always at our beck and call, able to fix anything! They've done so many odd jobs this past year that I can't begin to list them. Just like any property you own, there is always a lot of upkeep and we thank them for their willingness to be "on the job".
- ...to Connie Drohman for faithfully checking the AED on a monthly basis as the batteries all needed replacing recently.
- ...to Linda Fangmeyer, who as Altar Guild Chairperson, gives of her time in so many ways to always see that the Altar and Sanctuary are ready for worship each Sunday. It's something many of us take for granted and sometimes her work goes unnoticed - but we'd certainly notice if it wasn't ready ☺, so for your work behind the scenes we are very grateful.