

Tidings of Peace

December 2016 Newsletter of

Peace Lutheran Church, Deshler, Nebraska

Office Hours: 9:00 AM Monday - Thursday (Closed Friday) ♦

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

♦ Pastor Rich Stevenson ♦

♦ Marla Maschmann, Office Administrator ♦ David Weber, President ♦

Kristi Duensing, Youth ♦ Dee Jalas, Preschool ♦

♦ E-Mail: peaceoffice.deshler@gmail.com

Website: www.peacedeshler.info

Christmas
JOY

THE GIFT OF...
HOPE when fear is crushing in
LOVE that changes our hearts
JOY that brings laughter and life
PEACE even in the midst of pain
May this season be one that celebrates the
life-changing gifts of Christmas.
Praise we the Lord in Heaven on high!"

BEHOLD,
I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS OF
GREAT JOY

Trees trimmed with twinkling lights, festive parties, and bright packages wrapped in shiny paper, they all put a smile on our faces at Christmas. But the availability of true and lasting JOY, no matter what life brings, is the real reason we celebrate the season. Come join us at Peace Lutheran Church to discover the GOOD NEWS of Christmas that will bring JOY to the rest of your year! That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown!

SUN. DEC. 11

4:00 PM - Peace Youth and Congregational Caroling Party

Hop on a Hay Rack and join us as we sing Christmas carols and deliver about 25 Christmas Stockings filled with goodies. See page 2 for details.

SUN. DEC. 18

10:00 AM - "It's All About that Baby"

Sunday School Christmas Program

Cookie fellowship following - Each Sunday School family bring one dozen cookies for fellowship following the program

SAT. DEC. 24

4:30 PM-Christmas Eve Candlelight led by the Youth of Peace

6:30 PM-Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship led by Pastor Rich

SUN. DEC. 25

NO Sunday School

10:00 AM - Christmas Day Worship

Christmas Day Service of Carols with Holy Communion

Christmas Dinner - 12:00 Noon - *Join friends for a meal in the Peace Lutheran Parish Hall on Christmas Day! Details are on page 2 of this newsletter.*

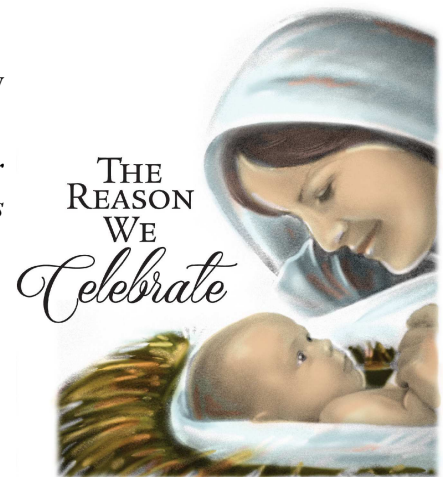
SAT. DEC. 31

6:30 PM - New Year's Eve Service

SUN. JAN. 1

NO Sunday School

10:00 AM - New Year's Day Worship



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

Last year Peace sent a check to Water 4 Kids International for \$18,117.05. This was enough to drill one specific well for \$10,150 and then the remaining amount was combined with other monies for a well, but no specific demographics were given to us. This is the information we received about the actual specific well that was drilled on June 26, 2016 at Kimbukuti, Uganda. If you gave your gifts in honor of someone, share this letter with them in their Christmas card this year. Water.....seems a simple necessity to us, but it's everything to them.

Dear Friends of Peace Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your determined dedication and open heart to restoring villages around the world with the gift of safe water! With your support, together, we'll be able to save thousands of lives from dysentery and other preventable diseases, all due from the contaminated water they currently drink.

Here is an overview of the village that your church is impacting in Eastern Uganda. The name of this village is Kimbukuti (pronounced keem-boo-koo-TEE) and is located in the Busoga Region, Bugiri District in the subcounty of Budhaya. Many different tribes have migrated to this village due to the fertile land surrounding it, including the Adhola, Iteso, Bagisu, Samia and Banyole. Although this brings many different cultures and traditions together, the custom is for these tribes to follow the societal norms of the Basoga tribe. Despite intermarriages, these tribes live together in harmony as a result of this practice. An example of a ritual that is practiced by all tribes is the requirement that women kneel down when greeting men. Failure to do so is disobedience of the highest order and is not tolerated. Typical staple food for the Basoga is sweet potatoes and groundnut paste. For the purpose of generating income, these communities concentrate on farming corn and beans.

The current water source of Kimbukuti is a swamp located 3 kilometers from the village. Any open water source ends up with contaminants from the ground over-flow. Water running over the ground includes trash and waste products. These contaminants flow into the open water source. Animals share this source and they trek in sediment and often go to the bathroom when they are drinking. Water-borne diseases such as diarrhea and dysentery claim many lives each year because the villagers can't afford to purchase the medications needed to cure their diseases. Children often swim in this bacteria-ridden water. Additionally, many of them have even lost their lives to drowning incidences.

Villagers collect the dirty water by walking over a piece of wood. When the wood is wet, it is treacherously slippery and many children have fallen off and perished. Elderly people must be assisted in order to safely cross. When the swamp dries up, they must trek even further in search of water that is equally foul. This community has no other option than to drink this contaminated, disease-ridden water and endure the consequences that come with it. The sweet people of Kimbukuti have simply never known the benefits of readily accessible clean water.

The situation for life and health are desperate and often leave the Kimbukuti villagers hopeless and full of despair. But the lives of these precious villagers will soon be radically changed for the better with your gift of a borehole. This deep well will provide fresh, pure water for these villagers and their surrounding community. They will simply have to pump a small handle on their new well to receive clear, life-saving water. Health and safety will no longer be a dream for the families of this village. They will be a reality. Sparkling, untainted water will be readily available to them year-round. The number of people impacted by your generosity includes 4,000 children and 3,200 adults including the people from the surrounding villages of Vuvutwa, Masaba, Madowa and Budde and the precious children from Kimasa and Buwolya Muslim, Kitodha and Namihinya schools. Access to clean water will enhance the growth of every child in this area thereby helping build up a nation and our world at large.

Thank you for bringing this unsurpassed gift of healthy, wholesome water to the village of Kimbukuti and its surrounding community. The people of this society, particularly the children, will be blessed with abundant life and hope for generations to come. Pastor Hillary Malo sums up the thankful hearts of villagers everywhere as he prays, "Let the favor and blessings of Almighty God be upon you for making a difference in the Kingdom of God."

Because no one should have to drink dirty water, we are again this year accepting donations to drill another well in Africa. The average cost for one well is \$10,150. To date we have received gifts of \$1000 to our Christmas 2016 campaign. We are still waiting for the specific information on the villages where our 2017 well could be. **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.

