



Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for greetings, gifts, and goodwill shared with me and my family this Christmas season. Thank you to all who helped celebrate the wonderful gift of Jesus.

**The 2014 LCMC Days of Prayer** will be January 7 to 9. LCMC has called us to join in prayer over these three days. I have scheduled three prayer times (morning, noon hour, and evening) on each of those three days. We will meet in the sanctuary for a half hour of silent prayer and shared prayer. Of course, folks are welcome to stay longer.

Each of the three days will have its own theme. Tuesday is confession, seeking God's grace to free us from the sins of our past. Wednesday is petition, seeking God's grace to meet the present needs of our community and our world. Thursday is invitation, seeking God's future for our congregation, community, and world.

I encourage everyone to participate in these days of prayer in some way. As God's people there is nothing we do that has any lasting value without it being grounded in prayer. God invites and commands our prayers so that God may use our prayers for good in our lives and in our world. There will be a prayer guide with resources for us to use in our praying whether we are praying at our prayer gatherings or at home.

I need some help. Peace Lutheran Church has four ministry teams that assist the Church Council and me in the ministry of Peace. Each year we seek volunteers to serve on these four ministry teams for the coming year. Each of the teams focuses on a part of our ministry and

seeks to make it better. Would you consider serving on one of these teams for 2014?

#### **Worship and Evangelism Team**

Goal: To invite people to worship and to make worship more meaningful for all.

Projects:

publish community invitations to worship, decide on a theme for Lenten services, consider suggestion to improve our worship, plan special worship events, renovate the dorsal curtain behind the altar, develop a welcome packet for visitors, etc.

#### **Membership and Friendship Team**

Goal: To deepen a sense of belonging and community among our members.

Projects:

organize fellowship events, send birthday greetings to members in 2014, update the church photo directory, welcome new members, reach out to inactive members, etc.

#### **Discipleship and Education Team**

Goal: To strengthen our educational ministry to children, youth, and adults.

Projects:

support and improve our Sunday School, support and improve our youth ministry, support and improve our preschool, etc.

#### **Ministry and Mission Team**

Goal: To involve more people in serving Christ by serving the needs of world.

Projects:

set priorities for Peace mission giving, encourage support of Peace mission partners, recruit volunteers to serve at Peace, decide on a Mission Festival guest, etc.

Each team will meet in January and February and then once after Lent. Then the teams will meet three times in August, September, and October or November. We will usually meet on Wednesday evenings.

Yours in Christ, *Phil Nielsen*