

Tidings of Peace

December 2014 Newsletter of

Peace Lutheran Church, Deshler, Nebraska

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

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ReTHINK your Christmas.

It's not about the presents.....

It's about the *Gift.*

*O come,
O come,
Emmanuel*



Lets face it, Christmas is a crazy time of year. There's shopping, visiting relatives, giving and attending parties and decorating your house better than the neighbors. Maybe its time to rethink the holiday and get back to the basics. Peace Lutheran Church would like to remind you that it started with a baby in a manger, the first Christmas gift from a loving creator. Join us this December and make Christmas about sharing and helping others! We have so many opportunities available as you'll read in our Newsletter. Rethink *Your* Christmas.

WED. DEC. 17

5:45-7:15 PM - Peace Youth and Congregational Caroling Party

In past years we've caroled to those in the country and had a rather large list in town, and while we'd love to continue visiting those folks, in order to encourage greater participation by youth and families we've decided to shorten our caroling time from 3 hours to approximately one hour - 6:15-7:15 PM with soup and goodies from 5:45-6:15. We'll have a Hay Rack for High School Youth and a Hay Rack for "everyone else" and carol and deliver goodies, within the city limits, to those who've suffered a recent loss or experienced physical or emotional difficulties this year. We'll still need goodies for about 25 stockings and soup to feed the carolers before they head out into the cold! © Fa-la-la-la-la!! Read more about how to get involved on page 4 of this newsletter.

SUN. DEC. 21

- 10:00AM - Sunday School Children's Christmas Program

"Three Wise Men and a Baby" ...directed by Connie Eitzmann & Cindy Mueller

Cookie fellowship following - each S.S. family please bring 1 dozen cookies/bars/rolls

WED. DEC. 24

- 4:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship "The Narrated Nativity"
led by the Youth of Peace

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

THURS. DEC. 25

-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.

WED. DEC. 31

- New Year's Eve - 6:30 PM Worship Service

- NO Service on New Year's Day

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

Yes, this is a long read, but it makes it so real! It's our connection to what we were able to change as a congregation and community from our Christmas Well Giving in 2014! Please take the time to read about these two villages that were given the life giving gift of a well this past summer. 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.

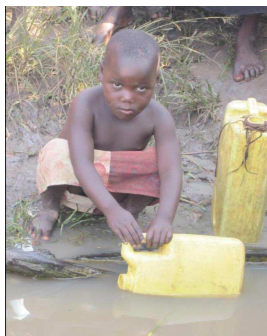
We would like to introduce to you the villages you are restoring with safe water in 2014.

*Village Profile: Bunawale, Uganda
Parish: Bunawale
Sub-County: Budumba
County: Bunyole West
District: Butaleja
Current water source: Open Spring
Population: 9,000 Children; 5,600 Adults*



BUNAWALE VILLAGE is located in the Northeastern Region, Butaleja District in the subcounty of Budumba. The original tribe in this village is Banyole and the main language spoken is Lumyole. This tribe is from the Bantu-speaking peoples which originated in the Congo Forests and entered Uganda through the Lake Victoria Basin. They are particularly well-known for "cursing" other people in response to a disagreement. In addition, they believe it is their god who favors a bountiful yield and during harvest season no member of the community is allowed to eat of the produce before the tribe as a whole has celebrated their god. Each household is required to give a tithe of each crop and failure to do so will result in being declared an outcast.

The current water source of Bunawale is an open spring that is located 3 kilometers from the village and it has been serving this community for over 70 years. The name of the source is "Shabang'ere" and it means "for children." It was, sadly, given to the source after many children perished here. Any open water source ends up with pollutants from the ground carried in to it when the skies open and rain is abundant. Water running over the open earth picks up trash and waste products that pour in to the pond. Algae seen floating on top of this water is poisonous. The source is seasonal, so when the rains stop, there is no water to be found here and villagers must trek further distances in search of water. The location of this spring is in a swampy area away from homes and this poses an immense risk to students fetching water late in the evening after school. In Uganda child rape, kidnapping and sacrifice are on the rise and these innocent children are in grave danger whenever they venture near this source. The sweet people of Bunawale endure the dire consequences of fetching and drinking this contaminated water every day. They have simply never known the benefits of readily accessible clean water.



*Village Profile: Bugola, Uganda
Parish: Bunawale
Sub-County: Budumba
County: Bunyole West
District: Butaleja
Current water source: Seasonal Open Spring
Population: 7,000 Children; 4,500 Adults*

BUGOLA VILLAGE is located in the Northeastern Region, Butaleja District in the subcounty of Budumba. The original tribe in this village is Banyole and they are very protective of their cultural and social traditions, to the point that intermarrying with other tribes is frowned upon. The Banyole are also known for having ancestral powers to "curse by the tongue" and because of this belief, other tribes do not easily interact with them. The demographics of this tribe are split fairly equally between Muslim and Christian and you find equal numbers of churches and mosques when you travel around the District.

The current water source of Bugola is a seasonal open spring that is located 5 kilometers from the village and it has been

...serving this community for over 60 years. The source is called “Nangombe” which means “cow” in the native language and it was after an incident where a cow drowned in this spring that the community settled on this name. Any open water source ends up with pollutants from the ground carried in to it when the skies open and rain is abundant. Water running over the open earth picks up trash and waste products that pour in to the pond. Algae seen floating on top of this water is poisonous. This source is also shared by animals that frequently track in sediment and go to the bathroom in and around it. During the rainy season the spring floods and you cannot locate it. The community must then trek even further distances in search of alternative water. The sweet people of Bugola endure the dire consequences of fetching and drinking this contaminated water every day. They have simply never known the benefits of readily accessible clean water.

The situation for life and health are desperate and often hopeless in the villages of Bugola and Bunawale. 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, clean, life-giving water. Health, safety and abundant life 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 in Bunawale includes 7,000 children and 4,500 adults including the people from the surrounding villages of Mangoma, Mangundo, Tairo and Buhwaya and the precious schoolchildren from Habinga, Bunawale, Kamoncha and Star Light Schools. The number of people impacted by your generosity in Bugola includes 9,000 children and 5,600 adults including the people from the surrounding villages of Nawonya, Tairo “B”, Buhadanya and Nawandyo and the precious schoolchildren from Bunawale, Nawonya, Kamoncha and Bulinda 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 villages of Bugola and Bunawale 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.”

Through our generous donors, local ministry partners, government officials, local drillers and villagers, together, we are impacting the lives of hundreds of thousands of people through the gift of fresh water.

*Thank you for restoring the village of Bunawale, Uganda.
Thank you for restoring the village of Bugola, Uganda.*



Because no one should have to drink dirty water, we are again this year accepting donations to drill another well in Africa. The cost average for one well is \$10,150.00. More than 300 million, nearly half of the people living in Africa, do not have access to clean water. Mainly women and children spend hours each day walking miles to collect contaminated water from unprotected sources including open ponds, livestock water points and polluted ditches. We can make a life-saving impact on an entire community! To date we have received gifts of \$3,364.01 to our Christmas 2014 campaign. We are still awaiting for the specific information on the villages where our 2015 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. *We are blessed to be a blessing!!*