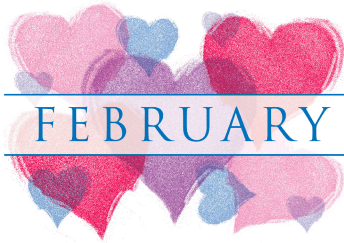


# *Tidings of Peace*

February 2014 Newsletter of  
Peace Lutheran Church, Deshler, Nebraska

Office Hours 8:30-3:30 Monday & Friday  
8:30 - 5:30 Tuesday & Wednesday (Closed Thursday) ♦  
♦ Phones: Office: 402-365-7746 ♦ Preschool/Parish Hall: 402-365-7855 ♦  
♦ Phillip Nielsen, Pastor ♦ Marla Maschmann, Office Administrator ♦  
♦ Brendan Schardt, President ♦ Kristi Duensing, Youth ♦  
♦ Diane Beikmann, Preschool ♦  
♦ E-Mail: [peacephil@gmail.com](mailto:peacephil@gmail.com) or [maschmannmarla@gmail.com](mailto:maschmannmarla@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.peacedeshler.info](http://www.peacedeshler.info)

## February Highlights...



**Sunday, February 9**

**Annual ♥ Valentine's ♥ Pancakes, Eggs &  
Sausage**

**Serving 11:30 - 1:00 PM - Peace Parish Hall**

Funds raised are used to support children attending church camp. \$1000.00  
Matching Funds from Peace Lutheran's "Choice Dollars Program" with  
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

**Sunday, February 16**

**Benefit Meal for Ron & Carol Mammen**

**Serving 11:30 - 1:00 PM - Thayer County Activity Center**

Ron Mammen was injured in a car accident on October 3, 2013, and has now moved to Parkview Haven. He is a member of Peace Lutheran Church and volunteers are organizing a benefit for his family. Menu: Spaghetti, Salads & Desserts. Please sign-up on the church bulletin board to provide salads and desserts and to help with the benefit.

**Saturday, February 15, 2014 at 6:30 PM**

**A Mission Talk: St. Luke's Theological College in South Sudan**

Matthew Riak was a lost boy from Sudan who came to the United States from a refugee camp in Kenya. He earned master's degrees in Christian Education and Theology and has served as a pastor to Sudanese congregations in North Carolina and Michigan. But he longed to serve the people back in Sudan. Matthew had a vision for establishing a Bible Institute in South Sudan.

In 2011 when South Sudan became independent, Pastor Riak asked Pastor Frank Rothfuss for help in realizing his vision. In a very short time God provided all that was needed to begin the school and in 2013 St. Luke's Theological College completed its first year of classes with 94 students. With the recent outbreak of fighting in South Sudan, the school is currently shut down and is dealing with the humanitarian needs of local refugees.

Matthew Riak is a Lutheran pastor in both LCMC and the NALC and is sent through the World Mission Prayer League as a missionary to South Sudan and principal of St. Luke's Theological College.

Pastor Frank Rothfuss is a Lutheran pastor who has taught at St. Luke's and who is leading the United States support of this new mission work. He will be speaking in Nebraska and is making a stop at Peace Lutheran Church on Saturday, February 15. Please join us at 6:30 PM to hear the story of what God has been doing in South Sudan.



Dear Friends in Christ,

I enjoyed three events in January. First, our LCMC Days of Prayer was a rich experience for me. I found that the more I prayed during those three days, the more my prayers flowed. I certainly need to do something like that more often. One thing I did was pray through the membership directory seeking Gods Holy Spirit to guide my praying for each one of you.

Second, Lindsey Mueller inspired me with her passion for her children in Uganda. What a privilege to have a missionary from our congregation through whom we can touch lives in such powerful ways. I look forward to developing our ministry in Uganda through our partnership with Lindsey and COTN.

Third, our annual congregational meeting was a great way to reflect on what we have accomplished and what we hope to do in the years ahead. I love the Church and I love Peace Lutheran Church in particular. So I enjoy getting together and talking about God's call for our mission in the year ahead.

We live in challenging times. Lots of people believe in God. Although the number of atheists is growing, still by far the majority believe in God. However, there are large numbers of "God-believers" who want nothing to do with the Church. They may or may not be on a membership roll at some Church somewhere, but they really don't feel any need for the Church. They believe in God. They just don't believe that God would use the Church to speak to the world. And they certainly don't believe God would use the Church to speak to them.

They believe that God speaks to them better through creation. They can experience the glory of God more clearly through a sunrise than through a worship service. They can experience the presence of God in the night sky more powerfully than through Bible study.

And that most certainly may be true. I suspect that one of the reasons there are more atheists today is because so many people are cut off from the witness of creation. They spend too much time indoors, in artificial environments, and in front of electronic screens.

Creation does a better job than the Church of speaking of God's power and divine majesty. Romans 1:20 says, "Ever since the creation of the world, God's eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things God has made."

Romans 1:20 is a good reason to go camping or to send our children to Christian camps like Carol Joy Holling, Covenant Cedars, or Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp. That is why the Men of Peace raise funds at their Valentines Pancake Dinner every year to send children to camp.

However, although creation does a better job than the Church in bearing witness to the power and majesty of God, creation does not do such a great job of communicating God's love and mercy. Creation's law is the survival of the fittest. There is no mercy, grace, or salvation there. When it comes to speaking of God's love, the Church does a much better job than creation because the Church is the only one telling the story of Jesus. John 1:17 says: "The Law was given through Moses. Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

The Church is the only one sharing the story of God's love and grace in Jesus. The church may not always do a good job of telling that story, but there is nobody else telling the story of Jesus for children, for those who've never heard, and for those who know it best who are hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.

Some have been turned off by the Church. Modern American culture has branded Christians as "haters", and unfortunately the Church has not done enough to dispel that label.

The funny thing is that Christians are called judgmental by people who claim the right to judge us, and haters by people who feel free to hate us. Recently a member of Peace was told, "I don't go to church anymore. The Church is full of hypocrites." How should we respond to such a hurtful statement? Maybe one response is to admit that such a charge hurts. Another response is to seek clarification. "Are you saying all church people, including me, are hypocrites? Do you mean a majority are hypocrites? What percentage do you judge to be hypocrites?" Perhaps the best response is to say, "It seems you have been hurt by the Church. As a member of Jesus' Church, I am so sorry. Do you want to talk about it?"

And when someone says, "I can worship God better without the Church", I want to say, "I have always found it much easier to worship with the Church than on my own. Can you tell me how you have been able to worship better on your own?"

Why do I need the Church? Because when left to creation, I miss hearing the promises of God's grace. And when left to myself, I always end up worshiping a god who tells me just what I want to hear. I am grateful for God's gift of the Church and for all of you in particular. Thanks for being the Church for me, for each other, for our community, and for the world.

Yours in Christ, *Phil Nielsen*



## Weekend Worship Schedule...

---

6:30 PM each  
Saturday Evening  
10:00 AM each  
Sunday Morning

Sunday School will  
begin at 8:45 a.m.  
in the fellowship hall

Children's Board Books  
are available in a basket  
in the overflow for use  
during worship.

---

### **FEB. 2 - Epiphany 4**

Sermon "Real Blessings" (Matthew 5)  
Holy Communion  
"Souper Bowl of Caring" Sunday Offering for Food Pantry

### **FEB. 9 - Transfiguration**

Sermon "Salt and Light" (Matthew 5)  
Peace Choir

### **FEB. 16 - Epiphany 6**

Feb. 15 Saturday Night - South Sudan Mission Talk  
Sermon "Sin Boldly?" (Matthew 5)  
Holy Communion

### **FEB. 23 - Epiphany 7**

Sermon "Radical Righteousness" (Matthew 5)

# Signs of Love

## Prayers For February

### Bring your healing & comfort to...

Please  
Pray  
for...



Bonnie Thompson ~ Larry Holtzen ~ Beverly Pitts ~ Mary Newman ~ Ervin Fangmeyer ~ Ron Mammen ~ Daphne Smith ~ Diane Bartling ~ Jamie Koch (Kathy Taylor's niece) ~ Wyatt Collins (Anthony & Kristopher Collins brother) ~ Nancy Vossler (Chandra Hillman's Aunt) ~ Jackie Schaeffer (Jan Maschmann's sister) ~ Jen Barbar (friend of Dawn Draeger) ~ Marie Nielsen (Phil Nielsen's mother) ~ Marjorie Eiseman (Kathy Buckles' mom) ~ Opal Cochran (Kathy Buckles' grandmother) ~ Brenda Still (friend of the Roths & Webers) ~ Winston Cline (young son of family friends of Eric & Miranda Isernhagen) ~ Caleb Lindhorst (friend of Jessie Nielsen's) ~ Lee Hoops (Janice Reinke's brother) ~ Vernita Lipker (Gloria Eickman's mother) ~ Donita Johnson (Don & Mary Stelling's daughter)

**Serving in the military:** Jacob Wroughton (Merlyn & Lorena Pohlmann's grandson) serving in Okinawa, Japan ~ Thomas Williams (Leora Freitag's grandson & Lonny & Jan' Freitag's nephew) serving in the Marines in Afghanistan

### We hold in sincere sympathy and prayer...

...the family and friends of Lottie Hoffmeyer who passed away on Wednesday, December 18, 2013. Her funeral services were held at Peace Lutheran Church on Saturday, December 21, 2013.

...Mary Newman, her family and friends, at the death of her brother, Roy Hampton.

...Linda Fangmeyer, her family and friends, at the death of her brother, Allen Hissong, of Hebron, on Wednesday, December 25, 2013. Services were held at the United Methodist Church, Hebron, on Saturday, December 28, 2013.

### Summer Camp 2014

The Men of Peace are hosting their Annual Valentine Pancake, Sausage, and Egg Dinner this month to raise funds to send young people from Peace to Church camp this summer. They usually provide at least a \$100 scholarship to each camper and any additional funds that are needed so that no family from Peace can say that lack of funds prevented their child from going to camp.

A week at a summer church camp is often an experience that people remember for the rest of their lives. It is an opportunity to get into God's creation and away from our usual routines to experience Christian community in a powerful way. We encourage all families to send their children to summer camp at least once. Confirmation students can fulfill some of their confirmation requirements by going to camp.

Youth at Peace have enjoyed the camping experience at three different camps.

**Carol Joy Holling** at Ashland has a high ropes course, zip lines, Co-Op learning games, and horses.

**Covenant Cedars** at Hordville has lively worship, an engaging speaker, climbing tower and zip line, water slide and water inflatables.

**Okoboji** at Milford, Iowa, has a great worship band, cool drama, cooler weather, and lake activities. Okoboji is a great camp but it is six hours away.

Camp is always more fun if you can share it with friends. So here are the weeks we recommend for youth from Peace in grades 6 to 8:

Carol Joy Holling Ranch Camp – July 13 to 18.

Covenant Cedars Camp – July 6 to 11.

Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp – July 6 to 11.

There are other weeks available. There are also camps for children of all ages from 1<sup>st</sup> grade to senior high. Okoboji also features great weeks of family camping. Registration forms are available in the church office. There are discounts for registrations before March 14. And remember: there is funding available to make camp affordable for everyone.

# Worship, Education and Stewardship

## for Dec. 2013 / Jan. 2014

### Worship Attendance

Dec. 22	298 + 12 = 316
Dec. 24	5:00 = 280+ / 7:00 = 125
Dec. 25	106
Dec. 29	167 + 10 = 177
Dec. 31	48
Jan. 5	127 + 15 = 142
Jan. 12	197 + 13 = 210
Jan. 19	173 + 25 = 198

(Compared to one year ago)

349
426
135
174 + 10 = 184
82
179 + 15 = 194
172 + 16 = 188
187 + 20 = 207

Our January Mission Support of \$3000.00 is for LCMC. \$1500.00 of our Mission Support each month is designated to our missionary, Lindsey Mueller.

### Stewardship

	Gen. Budget	
Dec. 22	\$4494.00	(+\$75 Ranchers / \$167 HPC/LBT / +\$1600 Well / +\$100 Lindsey Mueller Sponsorship
Dec. 24		(+\$1580.46 Hope Pregnancy Center & Lutheran Bible Translators +\$1909.44 Well)
Dec. 25		(+\$1053.25 HPC/LBT / +\$500 Well / +\$40 Building Fund)
Dec. 29	\$1455.55	(+\$110 HPC/LBT / +\$310 Well)
Dec. 31	\$240.75	(+\$50 HPC/LBT / +\$1700 Well / +\$100 Lindsey / +\$6000 Endowment Fund
Jan. 5	\$4049.28	(+\$200 HPC/LBT / +\$600 Well)
Jan. 12	\$4941.44	(+\$500 Lindsey / +\$500 Well)
Jan. 19	\$2254.10	(+\$100 Well)

### Education January S. S. Offering to Lutheran Family Services

Dec. 22	81	\$39.00
Jan. 5	44	\$48.50
Jan. 12	86	\$100.02
Jan. 19	76	\$109.50

### Sunday School Offerings 2014

Peace Sunday School offerings will be helping children in various ways. In January, March, and May our offerings will go to Heifer International to provide farm animals and training for families in need. Here is what we hope to purchase with our offerings:

1. a flock of chicks (\$20)
2. a flock of geese (\$20)
3. a hive of bees (\$30)
4. a trio of rabbits (\$60)
5. a goat (\$120)
6. a pig (\$120)
7. a sheep (\$120)
8. a llama (\$150)
9. a water buffalo (\$250)
10. a cow (\$500)

In January we purchased 1-5 with one more Sunday to go.

Our February Offering will go to Compassion International to rescue children from poverty in Jesus' name.

Our April offering will go to support Royal Family Kids Camp for children in Nebraska who have experienced neglect or abuse.

## Youth of Peace...

Thank you, thank you to everyone who contributed to our annual fund raiser meal! This year our funds will go for our trip to Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in South Dakota this summer. We raised \$700.00 with \$1000.00 additional funding from the Peace Lutheran Thrivent Choice Dollars Program. We are already receiving information from Youth Works as to the type of work we will be doing. We feel so grateful for your support! And special thanks to those Thrivent members who designate their "choice dollars" to Peace Lutheran Church. Blessings! Kristi Duensing, Youth Director

**Thank You** to those who have donated to our Christmas wells. **We received gifts of \$21,678.00!** Enough for 2 wells that will change the lives of two entire villages! Imagine their joy! *God bless all of you for your generosity!!!!*

# P

## ease Happenings...



### Happy February Birthday to...

*Special birthday this month is Cork Renz, who will be 80 on February 25. Happy Birthday!! Please let Marla know if a birthday/anniversary date is incorrect or missing. It helps insure that the church records are accurate. Thanks!!*

Feb. 3	Tiffany Beam	Feb. 15	Kyle Dlouhy	Feb. 24	Cheryl Tatro
Feb. 4	Levi Nelson	Feb. 16	Dorothy Renz	Feb. 25	Cork Renz
Feb. 6	Konner Ostdiek	Feb. 16	Matthew Reinke		Taylor Reinke
Feb. 7	McKylie Smith		Gracie Miller	Feb. 26	Melissa Powers
Feb. 8	Leah Krotz	Feb. 17	Carolyn Riley		Brad Schultz
	Jon Yoachim	Feb. 18	Amy Birkel		Brandon Corey
Feb. 11	Jason Reinke		Leah Nelson	Feb. 27	Kim Pace
Feb. 12	Irene Fintel		Aaron Buckles		Paige Turan
	Anthony Collins	Feb. 19	Ragan Pohlmann		Anthony Hillman
Feb. 13	Jaide Miller	Feb. 21	JoAnn Ehlers	Feb. 28	Jason Hintz
Feb. 14	Terri Olsen	Feb. 22	Ryan Brandt		Josh Mosier
				Feb. 29	Jan Freitag

*(Special note will be made of these birthday milestones - 75, 80, 85, 90 and over.)*



### Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary to Roger & Rachel Hoffmeyer on February 9!!!!

Feb. 9, 1964	Roger & Rachel Hoffmeyer	Feb. 16, 2002	Bay & Onna Robinson
Feb. 14, 1981	Mike & Yvonne Hoops	Feb. 20, 1988	Tom & Paula Dahl
Feb. 14, 1987	Wayne & Marty Pohlmann	Feb. 27, 1987	Kirk & Michelle Culler
Feb. 14, 2005	Jon & Kathy Marquart	Feb. 28, 1965	Fred & Ardith Maschmann
Feb. 15, 2003	Bryce & Betty Mammen		

### Congratulations & God's Blessings...

...to Brandon and Hailey (Isernhagen) Gehle at the birth of their first child, a daughter, Kailyn Jane Gehle. She was born on Tuesday, January 7, 2014 at 5:01 p.m. at Thayer County Health Services in Hebron, Nebraska, weighing 9 lbs. 1 oz. and was 22 inches long. Congratulations also to grandparents Brian and Heidi Isernhagen and Monte and Rita Gehle and great-grandparents, Mike and Mary Isernhagen and Diane Bartling and the late Stanley Bartling.

...to Cody and Cassie (Meyer) Cahill who were united in marriage at Peace Lutheran Church on Saturday, January 18, 2014.

### Address Changes...

Nathan Mueller	Joyce Zucker
1215 Arapahoe St Apt 308	Meadowlark Heights
Lincoln NE 68502-4546	PO Box 667
	Deshler NE 68340

Welcome to  
New Member  
Leora Freitag!!



# Thank You....



## THANK YOU RECEIVED...

Thank you for the wonderful fruit bowl I received for co-leading the Christmas Program. It was delicious and enjoyed by all at our house. I feel so lucky to lead your children. They are so much fun to work with. They are great kids. It is a blessed part of my Christmas and I thank you for sharing your kids with us for a few weeks to prepare for the program. We could not do it without parents help. Thanks also for coming up with the cheerleading skirts and costumes we needed for the program. Thanks to the teachers who helped us in so many ways. We couldn't have done it without your help. You were always there when we needed you.

Once again, THANK YOU THANK YOU!! GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

*Connie Eitzmann*

## THANK YOU TO the following individuals for their involvement with the Children's Christmas Program...

...Kim Roth, Michelle Schardt, DeAnn Nielsen for their assistance at all the practices.



...Dawn Buckles & Connie Eitzmann for working with the 3-4-5 year olds and Kindergarten classes.

...Bill Mize and Nate Brandt for operating the sound board (on top of running all the wires and speakers)

...Isaac Nielsen for running the computer.

...Pastor Phil, who gets everything together!!

...Scott Eitzmann for building and painting the boxes for the stage.

...and special thanks to Connie Eitzmann and Cindy Mueller for directing the program. What a blessing they are to us, as they do this job with such joy in their hearts it's evident that they love to help the children tell the story!

## THANK YOU to the following individuals who helped with the Youth Christmas Eve Service...

We were so pleased to be able to present 2 Christmas Eve Services this year. I was so excited when we completed the first service and said "YES! We get to do it again!" My heart is full of pride and thanks for all those who participated. Special thanks to Pastor Phil, Marla Maschmann, Brad Schultz, Brian Isernhagen, Bob Fayle, Stuart Reinke, Leah Krotz, Nate Brandt, Bill Mize, DeAnn Nielsen, Jae Fintel and the college kids who also helped us out; Stacey, Hannah, Cassandra, Jessie, Cody, McKenzie and Brody. Next year we will have 2 services again as the church cannot hold all of us! What a good problem to have! ~ *Kristi Duensing*

**THANK YOU** to these volunteers who helped assemble the Church Annual Report: Rose Brettmann, Harlan Schnakenberg, Darlene Hess, Rachel Hoffmeyer, Sondra Ehlers, Louisa Fintel, Don & Mary Stelling & Pastor Phil It's a great relief knowing I can always count on someone showing up each and every time we assemble something. It doesn't always work for everyone, which is good or we'd be running into each other!© We seem to always have enough to get the job done and have a good time too. Thanks again for your help!! ~ Marla

**THANK YOU** to Chris Olsen for the donation of a new computer in the church office. But more than that, so vital to getting a new computer was the time he took off to transfer all the information, install programs, printers, network configuration, etc..... I appreciated his time and skills so much!!

Thanks again ! ~ Marla

**QUILT TYING** for the new year will begin on January 27, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome! Needs for the coming year are: Sweatshirts, t-shirts, material, flannel, polyester, cotton slacks (prefer dark colors), polyester slacks (dark), sheets, blankets, new spools of thread in any color.  
~ *Louisa Fintel*

# Preschool News...



The preschoolers have started going through the alphabet with the help of The Letter People. For every letter we learn, a character poster is hung in our Circle Room with that letter and a unique characteristic. Ms. A helped us learn the "a" sound by sneezing "aaaa'choo!" Mr. B loved to collect beautiful buttons, and Mr. C wore a colossal cap. When learning C, the children enjoyed Cap Day, where we all wore caps to school. Mr. D did dazzling dances, and Ms. E had exciting exercise energy. The Letter People are a fun way for us to remember the letters and the sounds they make.

The children just finished a unit on Nursery Rhymes. Every day during this theme, we learned a new rhyme from Mother Goose. How many do you recall? The ones we learned were "The Three Little Kittens," "Hickory Dickory Dock," "Jack Be Nimble," "The Queen of Hearts," and "Hey Diddle Diddle." Each rhyme presented interesting opportunities for games and learning tools. For "The Three Little Kittens," the children were able to match mittens and learn about the concept of pairs. When we studied "Hickory Dickory Dock," we were able to study clocks and use the tone chimes to make our clocks strike the hour. For "The Queen of Hearts," the children traced hearts and pretended to bake heart-shaped tarts. When we learned "Hey Diddle Diddle," the children jumped next to the floor number line and tried to see how far they could jump-over the moon picture? At the conclusion of our nursery rhyme unit, the children helped with a group journal about their favorite. Lainey liked "The Three Little Kittens," Logan liked "Jack Be Nimble," and Johnathan chose "Hey Diddle Diddle." Ryver, Chloe, Landyn, Abigail, Sadie, and Brooklynn all selected "The Queen of Hearts" as their favorite.

Our Jesus Time lessons have been on some of Jesus' miracles. We have heard about the healing of the paralyzed man, raising Jairus' daughter from the dead, and how He restored sight to the blind man. The children particularly enjoyed acting out the story of Jairus.

February will bring us many more exciting letters and events, including our Valentine's Party, February 14th.

*Diane Beikmann, Director*



**2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16**