



In past generations, Christians were encouraged to be good church members. That was all the church asked of people. But today, in a world that is increasingly secularized, Christians need to learn to think and to act like missionaries. Each one of us, the moment we came to faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, became a missionary, Christ's ambassadors to the world. Churches that are alive and growing are those that get personally involved in Jesus' Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations.

Peace Lutheran Church has had a long history of being committed to God's mission in the world. We have been strong supporters of mission work through the American Lutheran Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are continuing that strong mission engagement as part of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ.

Each month we designate the first \$3000 of our Sunday offerings to a particular mission cause. This month our mission grant will support a Lutheran missionary through World Mission Prayer League, which is an independent Lutheran organization that supports frontier missionaries sharing the gospel all around the world. In addition, each month 46 members of our congregation send \$10 each through an automatic funds transfer for hunger relief projects through Lutheran World Relief.

Our partners in Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ challenge us to rediscover and renew our commitment to the Great Commission of Christ. I have been amazed to discover all of the people, congregations, and organizations doing mission work around the world. Congregations are building personal connections with mission work all around

the world. Christians have formed all kinds of mission organizations to respond to God's call to meet specific needs in the world in ways that denominations were too limited to respond.

Last month we enjoyed presentations from Lindsey Mueller about her 6 weeks of service in Uganda and from Ryne Dlouhy about his 2 weeks of service in Romania. We have a fund set aside to support more members of our congregation on future mission trips. The more personal connections we make as a congregation with mission work around the world, the stronger we will be in our mission here at home.

This month we will be hosting "The Harvest Connection", a seminar on world mission. The seminar is a ministry of an organization called "Awakening Lutherans to World Mission". Our speaker will be Pastor Bill Moberly who also serves as the director of the East European Mission Network (EEMN). EEMN supports the planting and renewal of churches in the countries once dominated by the Soviet Union.

I would like to encourage you all to take part in the Harvest Connections Seminar. Pastor Moberly will inspire us with a new vision for our own participation in the Great Commission. The future renewal and growth of the Church will come from congregations getting more deeply connected and involved in God's powerful mission to reach the people of this hurting and confused world.

Can a small church in a small town in rural Nebraska really make a difference in the world for the sake of the Kingdom of God? A village called Raraka in Uganda thinks so. They are looking forward to the well that our Christmas gifts will drill for them so that they can have accessible and healthy drinking water. Children in a village in Uganda will think we make a big difference because our September offering will help to build a new school room for them. The folks at Oaks Indian Mission, at Blue Valley Community Action, and Royal Family Kids Camp think we make a huge difference in the lives of children. The question is whether or not we believe that God can use us.

Yours in Christ, *Phil Nielsen*

## *Our Christmas Wish.....Our Christmas Well*



Peace Lutheran Church is drilling another well for Christmas. We have a generous donation of \$5000 to match gifts toward our goal of \$10,150 to drill a well in eastern Uganda in a village called Raraka "B"(pronounced ruh-RAW-kuh).

The current water source is an open pond filled with murky, bacteria-ridden, debris-filled water that is located over 2 miles from the village. When Pastor Hillary Malo, Hope 4 Kids Water Project Manager, first visited the water source he noticed fresh cow manure in the water that the villagers considered safe to drink, thus indicating this source is also shared by animals. The water level of this pond varies depending on the season. When it is rainy, the water runs down the slopes nearby collecting human and animal waste,

as well as decomposed organisms, as it fills up the pond. If it is the dry season, the pond contains no water and villagers must trek another 2 miles to Kenya. Scabies and typhoid are among the diseases that run rampant in this area from drinking this desecrated water. Health Centers are over 6 kilometers away and treatment is too expensive for these villagers who live in these remote areas with little or no income. Because they have no alternative, many affected people thus die at a tender age, robbing this village of their precious children and their future leaders.

However, daily life, difficult as it is in and around the village of Raraka "B" is about to change for the better with Peace's gift of a borehole. This deep well will provide fresh, pure water for these villagers and their surrounding community. Health, safety and long life will no longer be a dream for the families of this village. It will be a reality. And fear of sickness, with help far away and no money to pay for it will be greatly reduced when the source of so many illnesses is replaced with water that is safe to drink.



The number of people impacted by your generosity includes 5,500 children and 3,900 adults who will have access to clean, untainted water readily available to them year-round. Many people from the surrounding villages of Sole "A", Raraka "A", Kareu and Western Kenya, as well as the precious schoolchildren from Buteba Primary, Kayoro Secondary and Brain Trust Primary will also benefit from abundant, unpolluted drinking water.