

The Messenger

December 2018

Sing A Joyful Song! By Joyce Will

Isn't the Christmas season, the time of Advent, a wonderful time of the year? Despite its hustle and bustle, despite its commercialism, despite its overwhelming need in kiddos to have long lists of wants, it is a wonderful time of the year. Most importantly, it is when the entire world celebrates our Savior's quiet meek birth in a barn in Bethlehem.

While I would venture to guess that many don't know the true meaning of why Christmas is celebrated, there are millions of others who do. Hearing the myriad of Christmas music during the season, makes my heart smile, doesn't it yours? I mean, almost everywhere you turn, Christmas music is being played. Stores have music piped over their speakers, radio stations frequently play holiday songs, and in churches everywhere, Advent season is a time of rejoicing the birth of someone that is sometimes forgotten. Forgotten in the hustle and bustle, forgotten in the commercialism, forgotten in the lives of many people around the world.

While Christmas music is frequently secular and some of that music is fun, my most vivid remembrance of what Christmas is all about came when I was just a wee little one, a member of the nursery class at the Upland Methodist Church. For our Sunday School Christmas program our Sunday School teacher made a birthday cake - an angel food cake no less - lightly frosted it and put a bunch of candles on it. With most of the lights out in the sanctuary, our group of wee ones gathered around a small table where that special birthday cake sat, while we sang Happy Birthday to Jesus. I remember thinking that was just the best thing we could have done, was sing Happy Birthday to Jesus! It made my heart smile.

Did you know that the Bible speaks to us over and over again about singing and praising God with our songs? Psalms 105:2 - "Sing to him, sing praise to him" and Ephesians 5: 19 - " Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord" and Psalms 100:2 - "Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs". Music and singing is a great expression of joy for the Lord not only during the Advent season but all year long.

Continued on the next page...

Minden United Methodist Church

*Purpose: To provide a place for people
to grow in faith and to become
disciples of Jesus Christ.*

*Vision: Change lives, know God,
serve with joy and grace.*

Office Hours:

Pastor Peter: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,
Friday and Saturday 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM
Monday Pastor Peter will not be in the office.

Aleda Younkin: Office Manager
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday:
8:30-12:00 PM—1:00 –3:00 PM
Friday: 8:30 AM-11:30 AM

Pastor: Peter Choi
Office Manager: Aleda Younkin
Minden Custodian: Debra Overleese
Prayer Chain: Kay Lyn McBride

United Methodist Church
340 N. Newell Ave
Minden, NE 68959-2415

Church Office: (308) 832-1995
Pastor's Cell: 201-888-8430
Parsonage: (308) 832-2215
Email: peterchoiminden@gmail.com
Office: managerumcminden@msn.com

Address Service Requested

Worship Time:
9:45 AM
9:00 AM
Sunday School:

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Minden, NE 68959
Permit #25

One of my favorite Christmas carols is "Silent Night" - a peaceful and quiet song written many years ago, but still evokes a sense of what Christmas is all about, about an infant so tender and mild who sleeps in heavenly peace who is a Son of God who gives us redeeming grace. While that message should be shouted from the rooftops, it is quietly and beautifully sung by many, played by many, and heard in many churches throughout the world during the season. While driving home one day during the holiday season, I heard a song that not only made my heart smile, it made my eyes start to drip so much so that I had to scramble to locate a tissue so I could see to drive. It was incredibly beautiful and struck a place in me that just had me praising God, right there in the car, no less! "Hallelujah" by Darlene Zschech and the words are: "He is here. The Savior has been born. The One we've waited for, surrounded by our praises. He is here. The promise of the King. To You our lives we bring, let Your glory be revealed. Joy to the world. Peace to all who love Him. The Savior has been born and all of Heaven smiles. Glory to God. We bring an offering to You. Join with all the angels singing. Hallelujah." Another simple, quiet, peaceful, beautiful song about the true meaning of the Advent season. Some people are really great singers and even if we aren't—that doesn't keep us from belting out a song of joy when we are happy and filled with the Spirit of God. The Lord provided us songs to express our feelings. So go out and sing a joyful song this wonderful Christmas season, and spread the word that Jesus, the newborn babe, is who we celebrate at Christmas ♥

Our church was super busy in November, as you can see by the many pictures in our Messenger. Yet, at the same time, our church has been alive with many people and we have been growing with Jesus Christ. About 30 kids played at the Friday Night Kid's Night Out along with eight confirmation students who passionately learned about a Christian life. Our sanctuary was nice and warm with 19 candles on All Saints Day, and UMW decorated our church for the season of Christmas. We thank you for the Christmas Shoe Boxes2', Thanksgiving Day dinner, the Bell Choir, the Cantata Choir, the roof construction, the Sunday school teachers, the lights in the hallway and the pledges for 2019, and your prayers.

I hope you enjoy this Christmas season with hope, generosity and your warm hands. Especially, thank you to Joyce Will for sharing your precious experience in this Christmas season. Your experience deeply touches our hearts and reminds us to consider what the meaning of Christmas is.

Peter Choi



Our beautiful Church



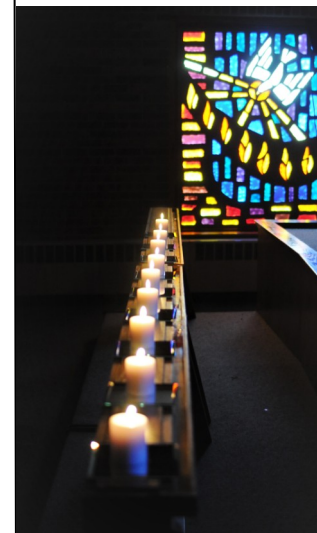
Decorated for the Advent Season



Kid's Night Out



Kid's Night Out



All Saints Sunday



Confirmation Class

Packing boxes for Shoebox Christmas Gifts



Dear Friends of the Minden United Methodist Church,

It has been a great journey. We have watched the Donovans come to understand what it means to take risks so that they can depend on God. In the words of Re, they realized the joy of giving God their finest rather than their “stinky sheep,” because true generosity is more than just pulling out the checkbook.

When Jesus said, “Whoever loses his life for My sake will find it,” He was talking about giving your time, your treasure, your talent, your comfort, your space, and your thoughts – giving every part of your life by seeking to use them for Him. *Living Generously* isn’t just a financial commitment; it is a commitment of your whole life.

Here at Minden United Methodist Church, we want to be faithful stewards of all that God has given us. We want to empower you to use all of your resources to show your love for Christ, because He loved you with everything He had first. I hope you have been as impacted as I have.

A very special thank you to Dave and Jane Craig for preparing the wonderful Celebration Luncheon, it was delicious!

REMINDER: all Financial gifts to the church must be received no later than December 27th to be credited for this year.



Celebration Luncheon



Bell Choir



UMW November Meeting



The Inter-Church Ministries...

is collecting food for the Minden Food Pantry. Please leave your non-perishable food items in the shopping cart in the lobby. The Food Pantry is in special need of laundry soap, dish soap, toilet paper, paper towels, cooking oil, sugar and shampoo.



Thank You for Giving...

As we move into the last month of 2018, the Church wants to thank all the people who have faithfully supported the church throughout the year. It's been a challenging and exciting year, but faithful givers will see us through.

We want to thank all those who pledged to support the church in 2019. There is no life-touching ministry without you.

And we want to encourage those who pledged for 2018 to honor that pledge, if you haven't already.

NOTE: All gifts for 2018 need to be in the church office no later than Dec. 27th.

New Web Page and Face Book Page....

We are so excited we have our new web page for the church up and going. We will be posting a lot of pictures of events happening at our church. If you would rather not have your or your child's picture posted on Facebook please let the office know immediately and we will try very hard to keep your picture from being posted.



The Christmas Cantata...

“The Glory of Christmas, Celebrating Christ’s Birth”

will be performed by members of the Minden United Methodist Church Choir on Sunday, December 2nd during the Worship Hour.



This year’s Children’s Christmas Program

will be held on

December 23rd, 2018

during the Worship Service at 9:45 am.

December 2018



Minden & Upland Members and Friends

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship & Christmas Cantata Adult SS after Worship 1:00 pm Confirmation	3 7:00 pm Cub Scouts	4 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	5 6:00 pm Mom's United 7:00 pm Bell Choir	6	7	8
9 9:00 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship Adult SS after Worship 1:00 pm Confirmation	10	11 7:00 pm Finance Mtg.	12 Noon UMW Luncheon 7:00 pm Bell Choir	13	14	15
16 9:00 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship Adult SS after Worship 1:00 pm Confirmation 2:00 pm Boy Scouts	17 8:00 am-4:00 pm WIC	18	19 6:00 pm Mom's United	20	21 6:00 pm Boy Scout Lock-In	22
23 9:00 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship & SS Children's Program Adult SS after Worship No Confirmation	24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas Office Closed	26	27 Last day to make Contributions for 2018	28	29
30 NO Sunday School 9:45 am Worship Adult SS after Worship 1:00 pm Confirmation	31					

1 st Mike Boudreau	17 th Loree Johnson
2 nd Jensen Rowse	18 th Jalyn Binder
3 rd Peter Smith	20 th Phil Fahrlander
7 th Jim Haws	Sheryl Heath
Danni Schuster	22 nd Sam Martin
8 th Jamin Grass	Jade Melroy
12 th Jace Binder	23 rd Brian Linder
13 th Cray Stubbs	28 th Emma Grube
15 th Chad Fries	29 th Denny Lange
Jennifer Muller	Ashtynn Putnam
16 th Gaylen Hansen	30 th Jodi Boudreau
17 th Jonathan Johnson	31 st Joyce Will

Life in Our Church Families...

Hospital List: Elger Grams
 Please let Pastor Peter or the Church office know if you know of someone in the hospital so we can add them to our prayer list.

Greeters & Ushers For December ...

- Dec. 2nd: Paul & Mindy Heath & Family
Sheri Heath
- Dec. 9th: Tony & Julie Ratka
Todd & Kelli Suchsland & Family
- Dec. 16th: Gordon & Linda Amstuz
Mike & Jodi Boudreau & Family
- Dec. 23rd: Mark & Melissa Klabunde & Family
Bobbie Heitman & Loneta Nolan
- Dec. 30th: Jarvis & Claire Kring & Family



If you or your family has a prayer request you would like to put on the Prayer Chain call:
 Kay Lyn McBride at 832-2654.

Financial Report For November...

General Giving in November:	\$ 12,685
General Fund Giving to Date:	\$ 149,799
General Expenses in November:	\$ 13,175
General Fund Expenses to Date:	\$ 166,722



Christmas Eve Service
December 24th...
 Service will be held
 at 7:00 pm

Scripture Readers For December...	Refreshment Hosts For December...
Dec. 2 nd : Joyce Will Dec. 9 th : Julie Ratka Dec. 16 th : Jodi Boudreau Dec. 23 rd : Joyce Will Dec. 30 th : Joyce Will	Dec. 2 nd : Jason & Corey Smidt Dec. 9 th : Tony & Julie Ratka Dec. 16 th : Gary & Deb Smidt Dec. 23 rd : Tony & Julie Ratka Dec. 30 th :