

The Messenger

April 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
I like April this year for three reasons. **First, at last, the cold winter is gone and warm spring is coming.** My heart was sad when the congregation could not come to the church due to the strong wind and blizzards on weekends. Now those do not affect us anymore but it is the time to enjoy that the flowers bloom and warm breeze blows. **Second, Easter day is coming.** The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is always good to us. The death did not stop Jesus' resurrection but the hope in our life is overflowing with Jesus Christ. Whenever the congregation is sick, my heart is sad and hurt. We have a hope and move forward because we know God's promise, the eternal life. Furthermore, the Easter day will be more meaningful with the Lenten season. Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. I am so glad that the congregation actively participates in writing the gospel of Matthew and Mark. With this activity, I hope that we reaffirm our faith and remember what Jesus did for us. **Third, we start our youth ministry on April 7.** The youth group is very important to form the body of Christ in Minden UMC. I am very excited to sing along with Christian songs, pray together, and see the spiritual energy of vitalization with them. **Pastor Peter Choi**

Bunnies, Chicks and New Dresses - Really?

After a cold and drab winter season, we are more than ready for spring to bring us warmer days, for the grass to turn green and to see the world God created for us soon to be bursting with newness. But there's another season on our calendars, our Christian calendar, that started when Lent began on Ash Wednesday when we started to prepare for Easter by returning to the Lord our God and staying there, by a time of reflection, repentance, and by seeking the Lord. A time when we can be filled with joy, offer compassion and kindness and love to others, and do what glorifies God. Our gracious God is the One that brings that newness after the gray of winter and makes it easier to understand the promise of new life and renewed hope that Easter brings to us through the resurrection of Jesus. Easter is a time of great joy and renewal and as Christians, we realize that Easter Sunday is the most important day of the calendar year. That is a significant aspect of Christianity my friends, with the resurrection of Christ and the new life we have in Him. In John 11:25 we hear this - "Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live." Isn't it just incredible that He makes everything new, just for us! So how did bunnies, chicks and new dresses become viewed by some as traditions of this season? There's no story in the Bible about a long-eared, cotton-tailed

Minden United Methodist Church

Vision: The Lord will renew and

strengthen us like eagles,

Isaiah 40:31

"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Office Hours:

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

Aleda Younkin: Office Manager

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday:

8:30 AM-12:00 PM—1:00 –3:00 PM

Friday: 8:30 AM-11:30 AM

Pastor
Office Manager
Custodian
Prayer Chain

Peter Choi
Aleda Younkin
Debra Overleese
Joan Fries

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

Address Service Requested

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

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

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creature known as the Easter Bunny or those cute yellow fluffy chicks or the ever present ritual of new clothing for Easter Sunday. Neither is there a passage about young children painting eggs or hunting for baskets overflowing with scrumptious Easter goodies. Then why are these traditions so ingrained in our lives when we think of Easter? And what do they have to do with the resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning? What once was dead is now coming to life, when Easter shows us that beauty of new life.

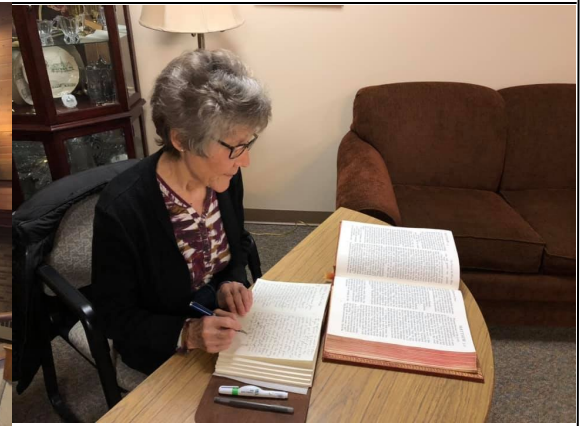
As a child, I recall how excited my Sunday School friends and I were for Easter. Our Sunday School teachers taught us for weeks during Lent about the resurrection story. And while we somewhat grasped the greatness of Jesus rising from His grave, at the time we were even more excited to all go shopping for that new Easter outfit! Some of you may remember the song, "Easter Parade" where the song talks about the Easter bonnet. A fun secular song, but I do remember many Easter bonnets/hats on many Easter Sunday mornings of years ago and I remember the church bursting at its seams when all the pews were filled with people dressed up in their best and maybe even an orchid corsage or two, another rite of Easter. Whether we are young or old or somewhere in between, there is joyful anticipation to this new season after going through a long winter. Often considered one of the most beautiful seasons, spring brings about a natural feeling of renewal. The season's themes of rebirth as flowers bloom and animals are born and it is because of those that we are reminded of the innocence, beauty and newness that exists in our world when Easter arrives. What does the Bible say about this time of year? Scripture talks of this special season of spring in Song of Solomon 2:11-13: "For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. Spring flowers are in blossom all over. The whole world's a choir and singing! Spring warblers are filling the forest with sweet arpeggios. Lilacs are exuberantly purple and perfumed, and cherry trees fragrant with blossoms." That paints a beautiful picture in our minds of what spring offers for us. Bunnies, chicks and new dresses, even though they do not hold much significance, are really examples that offer us a small glimpse of renewal, rebirth, and new beginnings in this Easter season.

Easter is the most joyous and celebrative seasons of the Christian year. We celebrate the good news that in Christ's death and resurrection we, and all creation, are continually being made new by God's love and saving grace. He is ready to give us a new beginning and always ready to give us another chance when we mess up. Romans 6:4 tells us ". . . just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in the newness of life." No matter what we face today, what we've been through, or what uncertainties tomorrow may hold, Christ is our Hope. He conquered death and He makes all things new.

This is a beautiful time of the year but then every season has its beauty and its blessings. Bunnies, chicks, and new dresses - really? Yes! These and all of the newness of spring symbolize new life and rebirth - when nature comes back to life which is the picture of Jesus rising from the dead. And on Easter morning, decked out in our finest, after enjoying a chocolate Easter egg or two, we will come together to shout our praises - Easter egg or two, we will come together to shout our praises - Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! **By Joyce Will♥**



Marah Dornhoff reading Scripture



Writing the Gospels of Matthew and Mark



Preparing for Lent



Kid's Night Out!





75670 Road 417, Cozad, NE 69130
308-784-2808 | comeca@greatplainsumc.org

Camp Comeca and Retreat Center is a place to relax, refresh and restore. If you are looking for an adult-friendly space to host your program, look no further. Comeca's space is ideal for adult and youth retreats. With three different lodging styles to choose from and 10 different indoor meeting areas, Comeca is just the right fit for your needs. In addition to retreats, Comeca offers a wide range of summer camps and other programs for children. Visit Camp Comeca's [website](#) and follow the camp on [Facebook](#).

Pick up your copy of the camp schedules! They fill up fast so register soon. There are discounts available and if you are members of the church the United Methodist Women will help pay for a percentage of the fee. You can also visit.

www.campcomeca.org, www.campfontanelle.org, www.campnorwesca.org



Mother's Day Roses:

The Mission Committee will be selling roses for Mother's Day before and after the Worship service on April 28th and May 5th.

This is your opportunity to buy roses in Honor of or in Memory of your Mother or Grandmother or any other special woman in your life. Then any woman honored with a rose may pick up her rose after Worship Service on Mother's Day, May 12th.



Spring Clean-Up...

Help the Trustee's spruce up the church and the parsonage on Sat., May 4th. We'll begin at 9:00 am and work until the list is complete. Projects will include any general cleaning that needs to be done inside and outside. Please bring rags, hand held vacuums, Liquid Gold and Pledge and any other cleaning items we might need. We will need rakes and garbage cans to put the trash in. Come help as long as you can.

All help will be greatly appreciated.

Great Plains Flood Relief...

The Great Plains Disaster Response fund is currently accepting donations, as the clean-up is going to be expensive, and recovery will require so much. Donations can be made through the Conference Website, on the first page you will see a box entitled "Great Plains Flood Relief." You may also submit checks to the Great Plains Conference Office, indicating on the memo line "Account 975/420101," and mail to the office at PO Box 4187, Topeka, KS 66604.

Remember Your Childhood Sunday School Days!

You may have good memories from when you attended Sunday school during your childhood. You are probably familiar with these songs, "Jesus Loves Me" and "Deep and Wide." You may miss some of those children's activities. Our church will go back to the time of your Sunday School days for the time of Worship Service on April 28th. We will have a fun and meaningful time with you, your children and grandchildren. Jesus said in Matthew 18:3, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE...

Easter is nearly here. April 14th is Palm Sunday, and our choir will present our seasonal cantata: "The Lamb, Redemption's Price is Paid." We owe a very special thanks to Dan Frizane for offering his musical skill to help us do this.

On April 18th we will gather in remembrance on Maundy Thursday at 7 pm to celebrate and share the Lord's Supper together.

On Friday, April 19th at 7 pm we will gather for a Good Friday Service. During this service we will include a service at the cross in which we can nail our sins and failures to the cross in faith that Jesus has paid our debts in full.

We will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, Easter Sunday, April 21st at 9:45. This is an important time of year in the life of the Church and we look forward to sharing these very meaningful services with the members of our congregation.



The church has decided to have the first meeting of the youth, after the worship service on April 7th. The Youth Group is necessary for the youth and the Minden UMC. I want to share with you why the youth group is so important.

First, if the youth has a strong personal relationship with Jesus during the time of youth, they will find the right ways through the role of the sanctification. Also the youth group helps them to experience Jesus in a personal and deeper way. **Second**, the youth group seeks enhancement and maturity of morality, ethics, and socialization in Christ. **Third**, the Youth group is an important part of Minden UMC to form the body of Christ. **Fourth**, the Youth group will be fun and meaningful with the pastor and teachers.

Please bring your 6th grade to 12th youth to the this meeting. Without your youth, we cannot do anything. Thank you, Pastor Peter

April 2019



Members and Friends of Minden and Upland

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday														
	1 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Cub Scouts	2 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	3 11:45 am Lenten Lunches 6:00 Choir Practice 6:00 pm Mom's United 7:00 pm Bell Choir	4	5	6														
7 9:00 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship Adult SS after Worship Youth Mtg. after Worship 4:30 pm Cub Scouts	8 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	9 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Finance Mtg.	10 9:00 am UMW General 11:45 am Lenten Lunches 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Bell Choir	11	12	13														
14 Palm Sunday 9:00 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship & Easter Cantata Adult SS after Worship	15 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	16 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	17 6:00 pm Mom's United 7:00 pm Bell Choir	18 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service	19 7:00 pm Good Friday Service	20														
21 Easter Sunday 9:00 am Sunday School 9:45 am Minden Worship Adult SS after Worship	22 8:30 am -4:00 pm WIC 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	23 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	24 7:00 pm Ad. Council Mtg. 7:00 pm Bell Choir	25	26	27														
28 Children's Sunday 9:00 am Sunday School 9:45 am Minden Worship Adult SS after Worship	29 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	30 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	If you or your family has a prayer request you would like put on the Prayer Chain for prayers please call Joan Fries at 1-402-756-0257.			Greeters and Ushers for April...														
March Financial Report...		Life in Our Church Families...		Refreshment Hosts for April...		Scripture Readers for April...														
General Giving in March: \$11,216 General Fund Giving to Date : \$44,301 General Expenses in March: \$19,791 General Fund Expenses to Date: \$51,370 <i>This report does not include the final Sunday in March.</i>		Hospitalizations: Elger Grams, Phyllis Finkner, Bill Johnson Please call the office when you know of any illness or hospitalization among your friends or family members. Thank you.		April 7 th : The Heath Family April 14 th : Larry & Nancy Evans April: 21 st : Gary & Deb Smidt April 28 th : The Loseke Family		April 7 th : Marilyn Rasmussen April 14 th : Joyce Will April: 21 st : Joyce Will April 28 th : Lynette Beahm														
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