

The Messenger

December 2019

Greetings, Minden UMC

We may often experience unexpected weather in Nebraska. Today feels like winter even for the season of fall, but tomorrow I will feel the warm wind and sunshine. Although we plan for a better life, our lives are in continuation of incompleteness and imperfection. There is only one thing we can rely on Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.

For the time of the Advent season, we anticipate the birth of Jesus with hope, faith, joy, prayer and penance. Simultaneously we expect the return of Jesus at the Second Coming. Jesus promised that he would come, when his time comes. No one knows when Jesus will come. He will unexpectedly come to this world. Therefore, we always wakes up and prepare his second coming.

Our church also has to keep awake for 2020 with a great strategy. We set our vision for 2020; "Extend Hospitality to Strangers (Romans 12:13)." Our church should always open the doors to everyone. Although we failed to increase the average church attendance to 90 in 2019, we don't get frustrated.

I cannot tell everything in this letter for the reason of space. I would like to share with you a few things. 1) We have organized the Hospitality team with good team members for 2020. They will reach out to inactive members and new comers. They will take care of anniversaries and birthdays of our congregation. They will set up a more comfortable setting, when people visit the church. 2) We have organized the worship team to strengthen and beautify our worship service. 3) We will implement the Discipleship Program in September 2020 to strengthen our Christian leadership. 4) We will have a ONE PLUS ONE SERVICE. Our Congregation will bring at least one friend for this special service. 5) We will have the FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY service for our current church building on the first Sunday of May. We will display church related pictures and documents. If possible, we want to invite previous pastors. 6) We will have the Performance and Art night again in 2020 before Thanksgiving.

I am already excited for 2020. Let us walk forward all together with a new vision: "Extend Hospitality to Strangers" (Romans 12:13). If you decide to keep awake our church, we can make the 2020 year great. Please hold my hands and walk for the glory of God.

Pastor Peter Choi

Vision: The Lord will renew and strengthen us like eagles.

"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."
Isaiah 40:31

Office Hours:

Pastor Peter Choi

Please call for appointment 201-888-8430

Tuesday-Saturday 9:30am to 5:00pm

Jaime Sinsel, Office Manager

Monday –Friday 8am-Noon

Pastor	Peter Choi
Office Manager	Jaime Sinsel
Custodian	Tony & Julie Ratka
Prayer Chain	Joan Fries

Address/Service Requested



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

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
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Hope Was Born by Joyce Will

Mary - just a child herself. It is estimated that she was somewhere around 14 years of age. Lived with her family in a small town of Nazareth. And like most girls, she hoped to be married one day and raise a family. Joseph - a grown man. From Nazareth he was a skilled carpenter. Mary was single but engaged to Joseph and then boom! She finds out from an angel appearing to her that she is pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Place yourself in that sweet girl's shoes for a moment - where was her hope in this situation she suddenly found herself to be in? Then there's Joseph - the man who planned to have Mary as his wife - but when he found out that she was having a baby other than his, boom! He no longer wanted anything to do with her - where was his hope in this mixed up life he was suddenly a part of? Fast forward a bit as Mary and Joseph travel with a donkey, on the long, hilly and dusty roads to Bethlehem - Mary goes into labor but they cannot find any place to stay, boom! So where was their hope when it seemed like every time they knocked on a door, they were told "No, no room!" Their hope, my friends, was in God - in His plan - for them and ultimately for us. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" - Romans 15:13. The first candle of the advent wreath is the candle of hope and it is this candle of hope that serves as a reminder of the hope we have in the coming of our Lord which began at His birth. If you will, picture in your mind, the angel visiting Mary. With no real idea of what she was getting herself into but with no hesitation, Mary said yes to God's plan, not only for that moment in time, but for God's plan for all of us. Let's not forget about Joseph. Picture in your mind, when the angel came to him in his dream, it was only then that he accepted this promise of God and was obedient to God's plan. Think of the trust and hope both he and Mary had in God. Not only can we use the time of Advent to remember the beautiful and miraculous story of Jesus' birth, we also are reminded of the hope we have in our salvation when He comes again. "But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, says my soul, therefore I will hope in the Lord" - Lamentations 3:21-24. Hope is quite an amazing thing, really. It gives us a reason many times to keep going. Of course there are many times throughout our lives when we become so discouraged, so defeated, so heartbroken that we wonder where that hope has hidden. But the hope we have in our hearts, the hope that came to us through Jesus at His birth was God's plan for us. Jesus' birth is not a fairy tale or a legend - it's the real deal, my friends. God sent His one and His only Son to us - Jesus - the hope of the world! When we believe in Him, we will not perish, we will have eternal life! That time when our body takes its last breath, when our body ends this life at whatever



Performance & Art Night 2019



Kids Night Out



Consecration Sunday



Children's Time



All Saints Sunday

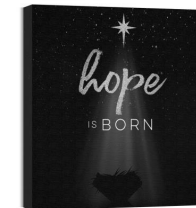


Christmas Boxes



Acolytes

age, God assures us that through Jesus we will live and that we'll "live" like we've never before known or can even fathom what our heavenly home will be like. Our lives then and there will be complete. "And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you" - Psalms 39:7. This bitty newborn, this baby boy, born amongst the animals in a dirty smelly stable, was named Jesus. He was named Jesus because God, through His angels, told both Mary and Joseph that "you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins". Called the Son of God, Prince of Peace, Emmanuel, the Promised One - He grew up and taught right from wrong, good from evil, told parables, performed miracles, was followed by many but rejected too. Mary - oh how she loved her baby boy at His birth, she was filled with so much hope for Him. As He began His ministry, she followed Him, she listened to His teachings, she served Him, and she loved Him, oh how she loved Him. She was filled with hope for Him at His birth, and even in her despair and such profoundly intense sorrow when she was present at His death, her hope was renewed when on Easter morning, she was with the group that found that He was no longer there but that He had risen so that we, my friends, can have eternal life. Our hope was born on Christmas long, long ago when a baby named Jesus, would come to restore our hope again and again and again. I love thinking about that starry night when Mary looked in her newborn's eyes, watching our Hope come to life, right there in that stable in Bethlehem. Keep that hope in your hearts, my friends. Jw♥



Life in Our Church Families...

Please call the office when you know of any illness, hospitalization, new babies, marriages, joyous or sad news among your friends or family members.


If you or your family has a prayer request you would like to put on the Prayer Chain call Joan Fries at 402-756-0257.



The Grocery cart is back. Keep filling it to help those in need through out the holidays. Some items of need are hygiene products, laundry detergent, dish soap, and toilet paper.

December 2019

Happy Birthday! Members and Friends

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 am Sunday School 9:30 Prayer Time 9:45 am Worship Adult SS after Worship Joyful Walking Begins	2 7pm Cub Scouts	3 6:30pm Girl Scouts	4 6pm Choir Practice	5	6	7
8 9:00 am Sunday School 9:30 Prayer Time 9:45 am Worship Adult SS after Worship	9 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm Cub Scouts	10	11 Noon UMW Luncheon 6pm Choir Practice 7pm SPRC meeting	12	13	14
15 9:00 am Sunday School 9:30 Prayer Time 9:45 am Worship/Cantata and Children's Christmas Program Adult SS after Worship 1:30 Christmas Cantata at Bethany Home	16 8:30am-4:00pmWIC	17 6:30pm Girl Scouts	18	19	20	21
22 9:00 am Sunday School 9:30 Prayer Time 9:45 am Worship Adult SS after Worship	23	24 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day Office Closed 	26	27	28
29 9:00 am Sunday School 9:30 Prayer Time 9:45 am Worship Adult SS after Worship	30	31				

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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!

12/4	Paul & Mindy Heath	8 years
12/4	Kevin & Terese Smith	31 years
12/8	Bob & Cindy Peterson	45 years
12/9	Malcom & Nikki Dornhoff	18 years
12/11	Tim & Tammy Burke	36 years
12/17	Fred & Joyce Will	41 years
12/19	Ross & Carol Wright	64 years
12/21	William & Becky Barber	5 years
12/29	Steve & Aleda Younkin	39 years

November Financial Report...

General Giving in November:	\$11,179.00
General Fund Giving to Date:	\$150,248.92
General Expenses in November:	\$12,745.95
General Fund Expenses to Date:	\$177,150.34

This report does not include the final days in November

Greeters and Ushers for December...

December 1:	Tony & Julie Ratka
December 8:	Fred & Joyce Will
December 15:	Jack Hultquist
December 22:	
December 24:	
December 29:	Fred & Joyce Will

Scripture Readers for December...

December 1:	Julie Ratka
December 8:	
December 15:	
December 22:	
December 29:	Kay Lyn McBride

Refreshment Hosts for December...

December 1:	Tony & Julie Ratka
December 8:	Lyra Johnson
December 15:	Marjorie & Joe Hultquist
December 22:	
December 29:	Gary & Deb Smidt

(Please call 832-1995 or email managerumcminden@msn.com if you are available for any of the open dates)

Acolytes for December...

December 1:
December 8:
December 15:
December 22:
December 29: