

# The Messenger



December 2020

Minden UMC Brothers and Sisters,

Wow, time flies like an arrow, and it is already December. It has been nine months since the pandemic starts. These days, I feel like riding a roller coaster. Our church has made a decision again to stop in-person worship for the highest COVID risk level. One of the words I have heard the most this year is probably "DELAYED" or "CANCELLED." Whatever we try to do, it does not go smoothly for the strong impact of Covid-19.

This advent season is unlike any we have seen before. The United Methodist Women already decorated the altar as we wait for the birth of Jesus. I love seeing hundreds of glowing lights on the Christmas tree but sadly we are not putting the tree up this year for safety reasons. It is going to be difficult to celebrate Advent and Christmas as we have in the past.

Sometimes we may feel frustrated when it does not go well or when things do not go our way! These days, many of us probably feel frustrated. Frustration usually comes with anger, irritability, stress, resentment, depression, or a spiral downward. Because frustration comes with uncertainty and life is full of frustration you are not alone in feeling this way. What we need is to have the capability to be able to manage frustration. I believe the essential remedy is to hold HOPE in life.

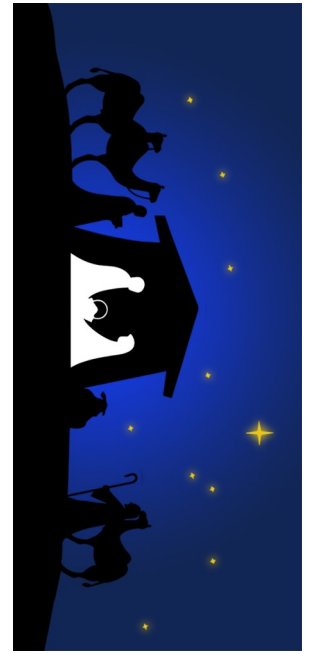
I strongly encourage you to have HOPE, regardless of what your circumstance is. This is because the Almighty God is on us. God is right here with us, and with each of us. He has unlimited power. He is omnipresent and omnipotent. The Emmanuel, Jesus, never fails. Our future is full of hope in Jesus Christ. He cares and loves us much more than you understand!

That is the reason we go forward, although we experience failure. Yes, we have a vision in Christ Jesus. We are going to read the Gospel of Luke from December 1 to December 24. I am looking forward to listening to what God says to us through encountering the life of Jesus. His birth, life, suffering, death, resurrection, and his second coming are hope for all of us. There is no exception in his love. This is good news for all of us.

I want to share one of my favorite passages, "So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them (Matthew 6:31-32)."

Pastor. Peter Choi

**Vision:**  
**Extend Hospitality  
to Strangers**  
"Share with the Lord's people who  
are in need. Practice Hospitality."  
(Romans 12:13)



**Office Hours:**  
**Pastor Peter Choi**  
Please call for appointment 201-888-8430  
Tuesday-Saturday 10:00am to 5:00pm  
**Jaime Sinsel, Office Manager**  
Monday-Friday 8am-Noon  
**Tony & Julie Ratka, Custodian**  
**Joan Fries, Prayer Chain**

Address/Service Requested



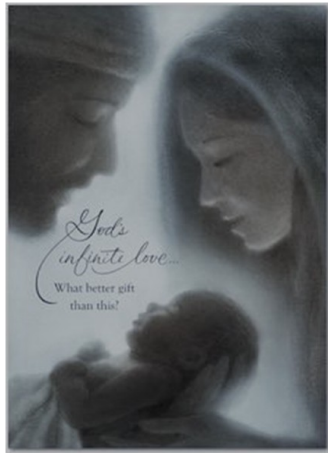
**Worship Time**  
**9:45 AM**

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  
Office: managerrumcminden@msn.com

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### That Silent Night, That Holy Night by Joyce Will

Christmas. How often do we really miss out on the true meaning of Christmas? I mean, businesses begin displaying their items for this Holy season months before December and for what? So they can gain more income for the year? Or are they just wanting to start celebrating the season 5-6 months early because it holds so much promise, so much glory? Maybe, maybe not. The season of Advent is to be a time when we look forward to celebrating our Dear Saviors Birth. We bring out the many treasured decorations stored away during the year, and once again adorn our churches, our homes and our towns to look like Christmas. We see candles, wreathes, holly, mistletoe, Christmas trees, Advent wreathes, Nativity sets, angels, stars, reds and greens, gold and silver and sparkles of all kinds. Many make this season into a kind of majestic wonderland filled with beautiful music and great tasting foods that we don't usually have at any other time of the year. All of this elation, for the humble birth of a baby boy, born over 2000 years ago, in a manger, in the presence of farm animals. His birth was foretold hundreds of years before it actually took place. We know that several places in the Old Testament there is mention of this magnificent event. I like Isaiah 9:6 the very best: "For unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder. These will be his royal titles: Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Big titles for a newborn. Isaiah 7:14 tells us even more: "The Lord himself will choose the sign - a child shall be born to a virgin! And she shall call him Immanuel, meaning God is with us." Two powerful scriptures that not only said this baby would be born, but that He would have titles fit for someone as important as a king, and lastly that His name would mean God With Us. I don't know about you, but I get shivers when I really stop and think about all of this.



Mary and Joseph hadn't even been born yet, and here people predicted hundreds of years earlier, that a baby would be born who would change the entire world. Yet how did He come? He was born to a carpenter and to a teenager from the town of Nazareth - no signs of nobility there. He was born after Mary and Joseph trod miles and miles away from home, only to be turned away again and again when Joseph asked for a place to stay for Mary who was about to give birth to her baby. "No, no room" was the words he heard time and again - no signs of graciousness there. Then, on that silent night, that most holy night, Mary and Joseph were placed in a shed where farm animals lived, to give birth to their first baby - no signs of posh elegance there. No, my friends, our Lord and Savior, our King of Kings, our Prince of Peace, our Wonderful Counselor, our Immanuel, was born quietly in the night, cared for only by Mary and Joseph as they wrapped their newborn in clothes of material to keep Him warm as the brightest, the most brilliant star that ever was, appeared in the dark sky above them. God's way of telling the entire world that our lives would never ever be the same. God's way of sending His Son to us, for us. Jesus was our gift of Christmas two thousand twenty years ago. Amongst all of our glitter and sparkle during this season, won't you take some time to stop and quietly ponder in your heart, what an absolutely tremendous gift each of us was given on that silent night, that holy night. Jw♥





... there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7, KJV

### Advent

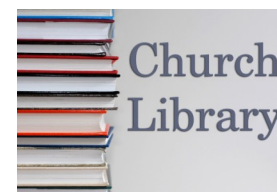
During the Season of Advent we as a congregation are going to read the book of Luke together, yet apart. Each day at a time that works best for you set aside a few minutes to read a chapter of Luke beginning December 1st and finishing December 24th.

**NO UNITED METHODIST WOMEN MEETING IN DECEMBER**



### Life in Our Church Families...

Take a moment and say a prayer for Brad Lange, Carolyn Hendrickson, Marjorie Hultquist, Virginia Madsen, Maxine Grams, Lori Conyers's parents, Christy, Jeff Schutz, and Julie Ratka's Aunt. We send our condolences to the family and friends of Lon Mills. Pray for all those who need God's guidance. 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 and you would like to put on the Prayer Chain call Joan Fries at 402-756-0257.



The Library is open to anyone wanting to borrow a book. Please come any time and find a new book to read. We have many titles to choose from and would like them to be used.



**Communion will be served December 6th by the west entrance from 10:45-11:15.**

### Cards for Sale

There are some cards for sale in the fellowship area behind the sanctuary if anyone is in need for an occasion (birthday, wedding, baby, get well, sympathy, etc.). The money goes towards missions.



- 1—Mike Boudreau
- 2—Jensen Rowse
- 7—Mike Conyers
- 7—Jim Haws
- 9—Kathi Schutz
- 13—Cray Stubbs
- 15—Chad Fries
- 15—Jennifer Muller
- 16—Gaylen Hansen
- 16—Jentry Olsen
- 17—Johathan Johnson
- 17—Loree Johnson
- 20—Sheryl Heath
- 22—Sam Martin
- 22—Jade Melroy
- 28—Emma Grube
- 29—Denny Lange
- 29—Ashtynn Putnam
- 30—Jodi Boudreau
- 31—Joyce Will

# December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> <b>6:30</b> <b>Girl Scouts</b>	<b>2</b> 3:30-5:00 <b>Sunday School</b> <b>6:00pm</b> <b>Confirmation</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6 9:45 am Worship</b> <b>10:45-11:15 Drive up</b> <b>Communion</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>7:00pm</b> <b>Girl Scouts</b>	<b>9</b> <b>3:30-5:00 Sunday School</b> <b>6:00pm Confirmation</b> <b>7:00pm Finance mtg</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13 9:45 am Worship</b> <b>Confirmation Sunday</b>	<b>14</b> <b>7:00pm</b> <b>Cub Scouts</b> <b>&amp; Boy Scouts</b>	<b>15</b> <b>6:30pm</b> <b>Girl Scouts</b>	<b>16</b> 3:30-5:00 <b>Sunday School</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <b>9:45 am Worship</b>	<b>21</b>  <b>FIRST DAY OF WINTER</b>	<b>22</b> <b>7:00pm</b> <b>Girl Scouts</b>	<b>23</b> No <b>Sunday School</b>	<b>24</b> <b>7pm Christmas</b> <b>Eve Service</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>Merry</b> <b>CHRISTMAS</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <b>9:45 am Worship</b> <b>in person and online</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		



- December 4  
Paul & Mindy Heath  
10 years
- Kevin & Terese Smith  
33 years
- December 9  
Malcom & Nicole  
Dornhoff  
20 years
- December 11  
Tim & Tamara Burke  
38 years
- December 17  
Fred & Joyce Will  
43 years
- December 21  
William & Becky Barber  
7 years
- December 29  
Steve & Aleda Younkin  
41 years

### Minden Food Pantry Donations

The Pantry is located in The Closet at 341 E 4th Street. The hours are Tuesday 10-5 and Wednesday 9-4. Please call if you want to make sure they are open before going 832-1221.

We would like to encourage you at this time to take your food donations directly to the closet. There are still many people in need, but since we are not having in person worship we feel it would be best to take them to the Closet directly.



Worship  
with us  
from

HOME

**Online Service Information**  
facebook.com/mindenumc  
www.youtube.com  
search: Minden United Methodist  
Church in Nebraska  
\*\*\*  
mindenumc.org

### November Financial Report...

General Giving in November	\$9,458
General Fund Giving to Date	\$147,422
General Expenses in November	\$10,669
General Fund Expenses to Date	\$177,246
(This report does not include the final days in November.)	