

Joys and Concerns

Prayer List: Gary Smidt, Merlin Beahm, Fred Will, Jan Hofferber-Kathi Schutz's mother, and Larry Preston-Jeanette Wilkinson's brother.

Happy Birthday to Sandra Space, Tyler Nolan, Lynette Beahm, Laurie Clement, Gabe Walmsley, and Marilyn Rasmussen.

Pastoral Prayer—Lord's Prayer

"Doxology United Methodist Hymnal #94
"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Offertory Prayer

With gratitude for all the blessings you have poured into our lives, Lord Jesus, we come bringing these our gifts that they may be used in service to those in need. Bless these gifts and those who have given them, that they may truly be a blessing in your holy name. AMEN.

Closing Hymn "Give Thanks" TFWS#2036

Benediction & Sending Forth

Go in the peace and joy of God, knowing that God is waiting to surprise you with great joy in ways you would never imagine, and remember that through you, God will surprise many with blessings and joys.



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Minden United Methodist Church

Order of Worship
November 21, 2021
Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday

Welcome and Announcements

1. Today is the last Sunday of the annual stewardship campaign. Please memorize this week's Bible verse in your bulletin.

Proverbs 22:9 "The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor".

2. Today is a consecration service. It is a time for us to consider our service to God and our neighbors and reflect upon the good gifts that God has entrusted to us.

Here are some ways to commit

1) Before you leave, please drop off your commitment card in the offering plate.

2) You can mail your commitment card to the church or drop off it at the church office.

3. All are invited to a lunch in the fellowship hall following worship. Please join us as we all celebrate our ministry and share Christian fellowship.

4. Thank you all for donating the Christmas shoeboxes. We collected 62 boxes this year.

5. We appreciate all staff and volunteers who led the harvest festival last Wednesday.

6. Next Sunday Advent season begins! Our church will offer a four-week study you won't want to miss: "The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem." We follow the footsteps of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and others, gaining insight into our own journeys with Christ.

7. Last week we received offerings of \$1,979.16. Thank you for the offerings and prayers.

Call to Worship

L: Come, let us celebrate the goodness of God.

P: God has blessed us with God's great love.

L: Let us come to this time, letting go of our worries.

P: Let us come to this time praising God.

L: Come, now is the time to worship.

P: We come rejoicing, for God is so good to us. AMEN.

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, you delight in giving us the kingdom; priceless treasures hidden in the ordinary. Open our eyes to discover the treasures hidden within each other, and within your Word, and within our lives. Open our hearts to know their value, which comes only from your touch. We pray this in the name of the greatest treasure you have given us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Opening Hymn “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” UMH#694

(This great hymn was written by an Anglican pastor in England to celebrate the harvest season. The author was Henry Alford. But what I want to point out is that only the first verse deals with the actual harvest time of year. After stanza one, the hymn is based on Jesus’ parable of the wheat and the tares (weeds), a time at the beginning of the Kingdom Age at His return to earth, as told in Matthew 13:24. The hymn even explains itself: “All the world is God’s own field...”. This parable is given to teach about the contrast of true believers and followers of Christ, and those who are not genuine but pretend to be. It speaks of the rewards for the former and punishment for the latter. It is a warning to be sure we are true to Him at all times and during all trials. It also refers to the final words of the Bible, a prayer, that the Lord Jesus will soon come and reveal all truth, “even so, come, Lord Jesus”. May God help us to be His genuine fruit, and to show that by naturally bearing the fruits of His spirit as listed in Galatians 5:22-23.)

Children’s Time

Scriptures

Matthew 25:14-30

The Parable of the Bags of Gold

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

“The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

“Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.’

“So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

Message

“Defined by Generosity”

Pastor Peter Choi

Hymn

“Now Thank We All Our God”

UMH#102

(“When we cannot praise men, then we must praise God.” This was the comment made by Rev. Martin Rinkart(1586-1649), a Lutheran pastor in Germany during the terrible and devastating 30 Years War. As is the case it seems with the most bitter wars in history, it was fought over religion, even the Christian religion. In this case, the Catholic south of Germany fought against the Protestant north. There was great bloodshed and suffering on both sides, and like, so many of the innocent, Rinkart was caught in the middle. He served a church in Eilenberg which was a walled city. It was at one point under siege, and full of refugees who fled there for safety. This resulted in terribly overcrowded conditions. The town officials and other pastors left the town for safer areas, leaving Rinkart to care for the suffering and bereaved. As people died of battle wounds, illness, or starvation as the city was under siege, he conducted some 40-50 funerals a day, including that of his wife. Then the town was sacked and huge fines were levied on it. One can see that he “cannot praise men,” but he did praise God during this time of upheaval with this great Thanksgiving hymn: “Now Thank We All Our God With Hearts and Hands and Voices.” How much the more should we sing it in our comfortable setting of freedom, tolerance, and wealth today. Let us remember that ALL blessings come from God.)