

A Publication of The United Methodist Church  
Minden, Nebraska

# The Messenger



December 2021

Dear Church Family,

Advent derives from the Latin *adventus*, which means “coming.” Although Jesus was born about 2,000 years ago, we still anticipate and celebrate the coming of Christ for this season since he comes continually in Word and Spirit. Moreover, we anticipate his final return in victory as his second coming.

Likewise, we look forward to seeing you at the church if you don’t come to the church for a while. Like the father of the prodigal son, I watch the church doors and long for your return every Sunday. I believe it is the right time to return to us as we wait for the coming of Jesus. It is just one month left until the end of this year. I hope you decide to come in this year. Then let us celebrate the birth of Christ with Christmas songs, stories, cantata, lights, and cards.

Gratefully, we have pledges for \$117,930 for 2022, and I expect more pledges to come. Again, thank you for all that you do to make possible the ministry of our church. Your gifts are an act of worship and an investment in opportunities for God to work through us. You will experience the joy that comes from knowing that our gifts honor God and changes lives.

We had a family night on November 17. Education staff had prepared it with hearts. The soup was so delicious! We had fun games and activities to celebrate the harvest. Nevertheless, it was not easy to lead the program because we expected you to join. What is the most important in the festival? Food, games, and activities are not primary. The most prominent part of the festival is the presence of people. You are part of this church family. The church must go forward with hope, and we always have hope because we have Christ Jesus. God is here with each of us. He is omnipresent and omnipotent. Our future is full of hope. God cares and loves us much more than you understand!

See you in worship!

Pastor Peter Choi

### The Birthday Of A King by Joyce Will

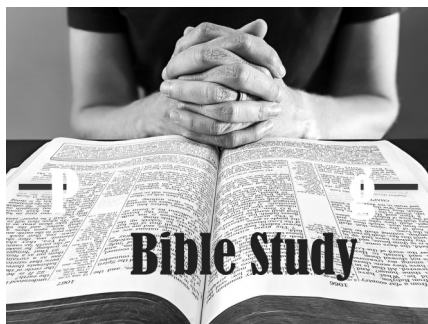
When I was a senior in high school, we had a Christmas program in the high school gym. It was an evening program and our families and friends gathered to hear many wonderful Christmas songs sung to them, performed by many different groups of high school students along with a few soloists. At that time we were allowed to sing sacred as well as secular Christmas songs so we ended up with an enjoyable evening of mixed Christmas music. I was one of the soloists chosen by our vocal music instructor to pick any song I wanted to sing for the program. When my mother learned that I was to sing a solo, she went to her music stash and pulled out a yellowed piece of sheet music titled "The Birthday of A King". I took the sheet music to school, showed my instructor and right away she and my accompanist said "yes, it will be perfect". Somehow, there was an organ brought into the gym that night and while it

was played I sang this sacred song to a huge crowd of friends, family, and fellow students. To this day, I can still remember standing there, singing that beautiful song in a darkened gymnasium with only a spot light on, thinking what an incredible night it must have



been, that night of our dear Savior's birth, with one bright star shining down upon Him. Some said it was beautifully sung and while I appreciated the complements, I knew why so many truly loved that song. While it wasn't a lengthy song with only two short stanzas and a short refrain, the lyrics got right to the point of quickly telling the miraculous yet simple story of Jesus' birth that Christmas night. My friends, our King, the Light of the World, quietly came to us as a newborn baby, born in a humble little village, but with the wondrous appearance of the multitudes of angels that only then gave glory, greatness and grandeur to His birth. Were there garlands of gold and silver,

tinsel of red and green, Christmas trees lit with sparkling lights surrounded by many beautifully wrapped gifts while Christmas music was being played? No, our King's birth was in a barn, where only His mother Mary and His earthly father, Joseph was. He was our King, yet there was no special place for Him to be born, no special clothes for Him to be worn, no splendor of what we associate the Christmas season with. But God gave us so incredibly much that night! From His manger bed, to the path that Jesus led, in His perfect holy way throughout His life, God did this so that we might be saved when He gave us His Son over 2000 years ago. Our Savior was born, so He could die, that we might live. How profound is that? The refrain to this particular song is so beautiful: "Alleluia! O how the angels sang. Alleluia! How it rang! And the sky was bright with a Holy light, 'Twas the Birthday of a King." We were given no greater gift and no greater love than the gift we were given that night, the gift of Jesus. Can't you just imagine that those joyful songs the angels sang were beyond beautiful when they were shouting with joy - Alleluia, our Savior is born. I'd say that was a perfect welcome, all because it was the Birthday of a King. Jw♥



**Bible Study**  
**with Pastor Peter Choi**  
**Every Tuesday at 5:00pm**  
**and**  
**every Thursday at 10:00am**



**Youth Group**  
**First & Third Wednesday**  
**December 1 & 15, 2021**  
**6:00 pm.**  
**Meal and drinks**  
**will be provided.**

**Life in Our Church Families...**

Take a moment and say a prayer for:

Phyllis Finkner

Gary Smidt

Merlin Beahm

Fred Will

Larry Preston (Jeanette Wilkinson's brother)

Jan Hofferber (Kathi Schutz's mother)

Janet & Daughter (Joyce Will's niece)



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.



**Youth Sunday School**  
**9:00 am on Sunday**

**Adult Sunday School**  
**following worship on Sunday**



We received 72 boxes which our church provided. Several were assembled and provided directly by various people, the children put together around 62, and supplies (pencils, writing tablets wash cloths, soap, small toys, combs, stuffed animals, etc.) were purchased and provided by many more church folks. The Methodist women's group from the church supplied \$200 to send the boxes (\$9 per box) to the receiving site in Denver, CO. And every box included a brief tract telling the children of God's love for them and how they could believe and become a child of God by simple faith. Also, they can sign up for a 12 part correspondence course called The Greatest Journey where trained volunteer teachers teach the kids how to faithfully follow Christ (including church attendance) and share Him with others. We will share all this with at least 72 children somewhere in the world! And all in their own language! Again, thanks to all of you who helped in this missions endeavor. The Lord promises results!! (See Isaiah 55:11).

We will be keeping the church locked when no one is here. If you would like a key fob to be able to enter the church when it is locked please contact the office. During the cold winter months please come and use the church to walk and get some exercise.



**Worship with us online if you can't make it in person.  
Facebook.com/mindenumc  
or www.youtube.com  
search: Minden United Methodist Church in Nebraska  
All Bulletins and Newsletters are posted on our website mindenumc.org**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <h1 style="margin: 0;">December 2021</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">HB Happy Birthday HA Happy Anniversary</p> </div>		
<p><b>5</b> 9:00 am Sunday School <b>9:45 am Worship</b> 2nd Sunday of Advent 10:45 am Adult Sunday School</p> <p>5:00pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>7:00pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>7</b> HB Mike Conyers HB Jim Haws</p> <p>5pm Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 pm Girl Scouts</p>
<p><b>12</b> 9:00 am Sunday School <b>9:45 am Worship</b> 3rd Sunday of Advent 10:45 am Adult Sunday School SPRC Meeting following worship</p>	<p><b>13</b> HB Lee Mills</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>5pm Bible Study</p> <p>7:00pm Cub Scouts</p>
<p><b>19</b> 9:00 am Sunday School <b>9:45 am Worship</b> <b>Christmas Cantata</b> 4th Sunday of Advent 10:45 am Adult Sunday School</p>	<p><b>20</b> HB Sheryl Heath</p> <p>7:00pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>21</b> HA William &amp; Becky Barber—8years</p> <p>5pm Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 pm Girl Scouts</p>
<p><b>26</b> 9:00 am Sunday School <b>9:45 am Worship</b> 1st Sunday after Christmas Day 10:45 am Adult Sunday School</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b> HB Emma Grube</p> <p>5pm Bible Study</p>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1</b> HB Mike Boudreau</p> <p>Youth Group 6pm</p>	<p><b>2</b> HB Jensen Rowse</p> <p>10am Bible Study</p> <p>Choir 6:30pm</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> HA Paul &amp; Mindy Heath—11 years HA Kevin &amp; Terese Smith—34 years</p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>9:30am UMW Brunch</p> <p>7:00pm Finance Mtg</p>	<p><b>9</b> HB Kathi Schutz HA Malcom &amp; Nikki Dornhoff—21 years</p> <p>10am Bible Study</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b> HA Tim &amp; Tammy Burke—39 years</p>
<p><b>15</b> HB Chad Fries HB Jennifer Muller</p> <p>Youth Group 6pm</p>	<p><b>16</b> HB Gaylen Hansen</p> <p>10am Bible Study</p> <p>5:00pm Cub Scouts</p> <p>Choir 6:30pm</p>	<p><b>17</b> HB Jonathan Johnson HB Loree Johnson HA Fred &amp; Joyce Will—44 years</p>	<p><b>18</b> HA Doug &amp; Dina Hammer—39 years</p>
<p><b>22</b> HB Sam Martin HB Jade Melroy</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>10am Bible Study</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>7:00pm Christmas Eve Service</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>Christmas Day</b></p>
<p><b>29</b> HB Denny Lange HB Ashtynn Putnam HA Steve &amp; Aleda Younkin—42 years</p>	<p><b>30</b> HB Jodi Boudreau</p> <p>10am Bible Study</p>	<p><b>31</b> HB Joyce Will</p> <p><b>New Year's Eve</b></p>	







**November Financial Report...**

General Giving in November	\$13,162
General Fund Giving to Date	\$147,876
General Expenses in November	\$14,306
General Fund Expenses to Date	\$195,962

(This report does not include the final days in November.)

**Scripture Readers for December & January:**

<b>December 5:</b>	Kathi Schutz
<b>December 12:</b>	Jodi Boudreau
<b>December 19:</b>	Larry Evans
<b>December 26:</b>	
<b>January 2:</b>	
<b>January 9:</b>	Jessie Tunnell
<b>January 16:</b>	Larry Evans
<b>January 23:</b>	Melissa Klabunde
<b>January 30:</b>	Nadine Fahrlander

**Refreshment Hosts for December & January:**

<b>December 5:</b>	Kathi & Keven Schutz
<b>December 12:</b>	Mike & Jodi Boudreau
<b>December 19:</b>	Larry & Nancy Evans
<b>December 26:</b>	
<b>January 2:</b>	Smidt Family
<b>January 9:</b>	Shirley Fellers
<b>January 16:</b>	Larry & Nancy Evans
<b>January 23:</b>	Klabunde Family
<b>January 30:</b>	Dave & Allyson Jameson

Please Call (308) 832-1995 if you can fill one of the open dates or email [managerumcminden@msn.com](mailto:managerumcminden@msn.com).

## **DECEMBER HAPPENINGS**

- December 4      8am-Noon Rotary Pancake Feed at Westminster United Presbyterian Church.  
9:30am Christmas City 5K Fun Run and Little Elves 1/2 mile run at Westminster United Presbyterian Church.  
9am-3pm Vintage Christmas Market Craft Fair at Kearney County Fairgrounds.
- December 5      7:00pm Light of the World pageant on the north and west Kearney county courthouse lawn.  
7:00pm Blessed by the Bells—Multi-Congregational Bell Choir Concert Merryman Performing Arts Center, 225 W 22nd St., Kearney, Ne.
- December 11     9am-Noon Holy Family Church gift wrapping and bake sale at the Minden Opera House.  
11am-2pm Kids Carnival at the Minden Opera House
- December 12     7:00pm Light of the World pageant on the north and west Kearney county courthouse lawn.



## 2021 Vision:

**Overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

**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 NIV)**



### Office Hours:

**Pastor Peter Choi**

**Please call for appointment 201-888-8430**

**Tuesday-Saturday 10:00am to 5:00pm**

**Jaime Sinsel, Office Manager**

**Monday-Thursday 8am-Noon**

**Tony & Julie Ratka, Custodian**

**Joan Fries, Prayer Chain**

Address/Service Requested



**Sunday School 9:00am  
Sunday Worship 9:45am  
Adult Sunday School 10:45am**

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

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