



The Messenger



December 2022

Dear Church Family,

I greet you in the name of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I love traveling, especially to new places with family. Preparing itself for me is the starting point of travel, which is one of my favorite parts. I am even pleased to be concerned about where we should go and what I should bring. I try to put down all my work but focus on family while traveling.

Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, which means coming, arrival, or presence. We wait for Jesus' coming for 28 days of Advent. Then we celebrate his birth on Christmas day. He is not an ordinary person but our savior. He came to this world to heal our broken relationship with God. He offered us forgiveness and salvation.

We need to prepare for the way of the Lord sincerely. Preparing for Christmas is meaningful because it is time to focus on Christ. I love the tradition of the Advent wreath. We add one more light each Sunday. And that reminds me of the words of hope, love, peace, and joy that Jesus gives us through his incarnation. On Christmas eve, we light all five candles. And the time of waiting will finally be over.

I assume many of us are doing something good for Jesus' birth. Some put beautiful lights inside and outside the home. On December 18, our kids, youth, bell choir, and more will celebrate his birth with music, poems, bells, and skit drama. Some personally have special devotion time. Some write Christmas cards. In whatever you do, please don't forget the meaning of his birth to us. He came to the world for you and me.

The world is not like Jesus' love. The gap between the rich and the poor becomes more expansive. Tons of people are suffering from war, persecution, and starvation. With inflation, our lives are hard-hearted. Advent is also the time to consider others. If each of us helps the needy, our world will be much brighter. If we speak out about the injustice of the world, we can smile at each other. We all know that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. And he wants us to make a better world. Let us walk together for the kingdom of God.

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).”

Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus. Amen!

In Christ, Your Pastor Peter Choi

Their First Encounter With Jesus Might Be Through You by Joyce Will

In the secular world, many will say that the Christmas season is the most wonderful time of the year. And as Christians we would have to agree that the Advent season is indeed a wonderful time of the year but also a really blessed time of the year for their church family. And while Christmas and/or Advent is a really special time of year, what about Easter? Think about this, folks. If there was no Christmas, we would never have an Easter, right? If there was no Holy birth, there would have never been a death on a cross and a resurrection; think of that for a few moments When I was a nurse, I loved taking care of the newborns. I was always so blessed to attend their births and to care for them and their new family; it was such a special time. I have no doubt that it was a special time at the birthing of Jesus, but without a clean place nor any nurses or midwives or doctors, nor family nearby, just Mary and Joseph and some barn animals to celebrate their newborn's birth. But then who has ever had the most brilliant star ever to appear, hang in the sky directly over where He was born; now I'd say that was awfully special, wouldn't you? Not only was there the most brightest star that had ever shown in the sky, He had a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, because He was born.

Just wow! While most people know of their anticipated newborn somewhere close to nine months before he or she is born, Jesus' anticipated birth was prophesied many years before He was born. In Isaiah 7:14 we read this: "Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign; The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." This Scripture not only tells us the manner in which He will be born, but also to one of the names given to Christ Jesus - Immanuel, which means God with us. My friends, this was written over 700 years before Jesus was born!



So as Christians, God expects us to be His hands and feet so that by an example we can show others God's love and compassion and so much more; what better time than Advent to start doing that in our daily lives. *Love the unlovely. It's so easy to show and give love to those that are kind and show the same love and kindness back to us. But there are those that you just feel you couldn't possibly show love to. My friends, God

didn't tell us to pick and choose who to love, no He commanded each of us to "love each other as I have loved you" (John 15:12). When you show an unworldly love - a love that is sacrificial and without limits or conditions - others can't help but see Jesus in you. *Forgive freely. Colossians 3:13 tells us: "as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive." It is difficult to do, but let go of that burden of bitterness and resentment and just forgive and when you do, others will see Jesus in you. *Display joy. John 15:11 tells us: "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that

your joy may be complete." Yes life will be hard at times, but God gave us life abundantly. How can we not be overflowing with joy when we have that in our hearts and by showing that joy, it is for certain a way that other's can see Jesus in us. *Show compassion, empathy, grace and mercy. Let's not have a critical spirit where we judge others. God tells us in Micah 6:8 that we are "to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." In this new year that will soon be upon us, as we think back to this miraculous, most blessed and most beautiful time of our year, when God gave everyone of us a Christmas gift, not wrapped in beautiful paper and bows but in swaddling clothes; really take time to change and become more like Jesus. Be willing to put others before yourself, seek wisdom from scripture, and truly care how you interact with all people that you come across in life; radiate God's love with others. It is then by your example, when we allow people to see the Lord through us, that is when their first encounter with Jesus might just be through you.

Jw♥



**Youth Group: December 7 & 21 at 6:30 p.m.
Meal and drinks will be provided.**

Life in Our Church Families...

Take a moment and say a prayer for: Larry Anderson, Lori Conyer's father, Merlin Beahm, and Jan Hofferber (Kathi Schutz's mother).

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 Church School
Every Wednesday
3:30-5:00 p.m.



1st Sunday of Advent: HOPE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
 <div data-bbox="287 577 1131 657" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> HB Happy Birthday HA Happy Anniversary </div>		
4 10:00 am Worship 2nd Sunday of Advent 11am Adult Sunday School	5 Boy Scouts 7pm	6 Girl Scouts 6:30pm
11 10:00 am Worship 3rd Sunday of Advent 11am Adult Sunday School Boy Scout Soup Lunch at Windmill 11:00-1:00	12 WIC	13 HB—Lee Mills
18 10:00 am Worship Christmas Program 4th Sunday of Advent 11am Adult Sunday School Cub Scouts 3pm	19 Boy Scouts 7pm	20 Girl Scouts 6:30pm HB—Sherly Heath
25 10:00 am Worship 11am Adult Sunday School 	26	27

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>1</p> <p>9:30am Prayer Time</p> <p>HB—Mike Boudreau</p>	<p>2</p> <p>HB—Jensen Rowse</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Youth Church School 3:30pm</p> <p>Youth Group 6:30pm</p> <p>HB—Mike Conyers</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:30am Prayer Time</p>	<p>9</p> <p>HB—Kathi Schutz</p> <p>Boy Scouts 5pm</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>14</p> <p>9:30am UMW</p> <p>Youth Church School 3:30pm</p> <p>Finance Mtg 7pm</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:30am Prayer Time</p> <p>HB—Chad Fries</p> <p>HB—Jennifer Muller</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>HB—Jonathan Johnson</p> <p>HB—Loree Johnson</p>
<p>21 Youth School 3:30pm</p> <p>Youth Group 6:30pm</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>9:30am Prayer Time</p> <p>HB—Sam Martin</p> <p>HB—Jade Melroy</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>Christmas Eve Service 7pm</p>
<p>28</p> <p>HB—Emma Grube</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:30am Prayer Time</p> <p>HB—Denny Lange</p>	<p>30</p> <p>HB—Jodi Boudreau</p>	<p>31</p>  <p>Welcome 2023!</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p> <p>HB—Joyce Will</p>





November Financial Report...

General Giving in November	\$34,160
General Fund Giving to Date	\$173,581
General Expenses in November	\$14,640
General Fund Expenses to Date	\$190,020

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

Scripture Readers for December:

December 4: Shirley Fellers

December 11: Jane Craig

December 18: Jodi Boudreau

December 24: Youth Group

December 25:

Refreshment Hosts for December:

December 4: Joyce Bender &
Linda Duffey

December 11: Gary & Deb Smidt

December 18: Martin Family

December 24: Youth Group

December 25:

Greeters/Ushers for December:

December 4:

Joyce Bender &

December 11:

Dave & Jane Craig

December 18:

Mike & Jodi Boudreau

December 24:

Youth Group

December 25:

December 4: Communion Steward: Shirley Fellers

Communion Servers:

December 24: Communion Steward:

Communion Servers:

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

CHRISTMAS



Sunday, December 18, during worship we are having a Christmas program presented by members of our congregation. If you are able to share a reading, play a song, sing a song, etc. Please contact the church to be added to the program. We will post a rehearsal date when the program is closer. You are welcome to come practice at the church as often as you like.

PROGRAM



Our Prayer Wall is located on the bulletin board inside the east entrance. Please put all your requests here for us to help you pray about. Every Thursday at 9:30am you are welcome to join us in the prayer room for prayer time.

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

**Sunday
Worship
10:00am**

**Christmas Eve
Service
7:00pm**



2022 Vision:

Expand Our Boundaries Through the Word of God.

Church Information:
Church office: 308-832-1995
Parsonage: 308-832-2215

Pastor Peter Choi:
201-888-8430
Please call or text for
appointment or email
peterchoiminden@gmail.com

Jaime Sinsel, Office Manager:
308-830-2867
managerumcminden@msn.com
Monday–Friday 8am–Noon

Joan Fries,
Prayer Chain: 402-756-0257

