



The Messenger

January 2023

New Year's greetings to you in God's grace and peace.



I hope everything turns out for the best in 2023. And nothing is impossible in God's hands throughout the whole year. My family headed toward the Denver Airport to visit my aunt's home in NJ following the Christmas service. The flight was scheduled at about 7:00 pm but was delayed four times since the aircraft needed more maintenance. We finally boarded the flight at 10:30 pm, and the flight arrived at 4:30 am in Newark. We got to our aunt's home at about 5:30 am. We couldn't sleep through the whole night. We were tired but glad to meet our aunt and two cousins. I couldn't sleep until 9:00 am because it was excessively lovely to talk to them.

Serving the people and community is not easy. We need extra time and devotion. We may not often taste the fruits of the ministry, even though we serve enthusiastically. We feel frustrated and weary if the sheep don't listen to the shepherd. But here is the good news! If we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we rejoice always and give thanks in all circumstances. It doesn't matter what situation we encounter. We don't grow weary because the Lord will renew our strength.

Our vision for 2023 is Have Life and Have It Abundantly. The vision comes from John: 10:10. Jesus came to this world in order to give life. The story doesn't end with life. He wants our life abundantly. The water Jesus gives will never be thirsty because he provides living water abundantly. Jesus doesn't want us to remain just Christians. He wants us to become abundant Christians. And we never have disappointments with our situation. We always rejoice because Jesus gives us abundantly.

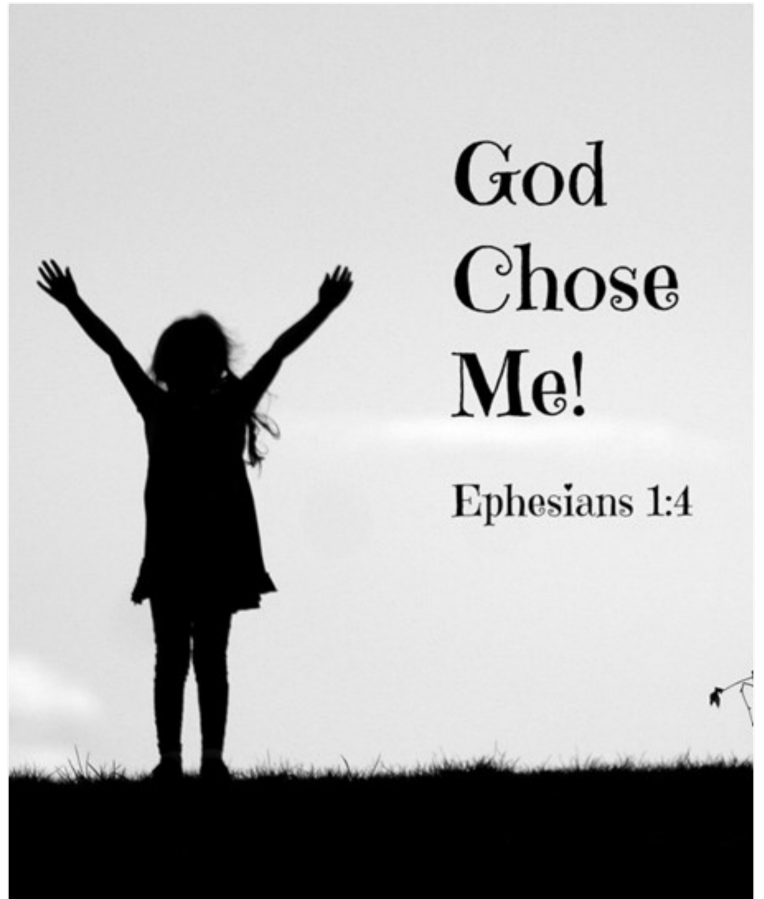
We have been challenged through the pandemic. We have been striving for the growth of the church in 2022. Gratefully, God blessed us with good people. We have new people. The Youth Group and the Children's group are settling into normalcy. I am so glad about the Bible study group. I am very thrilled with the church leaders of 2023. We will work hard, but we feel tireless because we believe the Lord blesses us abundantly.

Let us walk together to establish the beautiful kingdom of God through our church ministry. Then we may feel the greatest joy Jesus can give. And I look forward to that day.

Happy New Year!
Your Pastor Peter Choi

God Will Always Choose You! by Joyce Will

As we begin another new year this January 2023, we know for sure that one promise is clear that we find time and again in the Bible that never changes; God chooses to be with us, no matter where our circumstances take us. One such assurance is found in Deuteronomy 31:8 - "God goes with us and before us, and He will never leave us." When I was a little girl I could care less about playing outdoor games; but I did love to ride my bicycle or jump with my jump rope that was so fun. But running was a different story altogether. Any game that had running in it was a disaster for me. I was the slowest one and so of course I was chosen last when teams were formed. While I knew that I didn't have much of an ability to run and play those sorts of games, it was still hard to be chosen last. So I often would feel like an outsider. I'd look at the kids that could run fast and wonder why I wasn't made to be like them. While it made my self-esteem plummet whenever our school teachers had us gather for a running event, I didn't have a choice, everyone had to participate. Fast forward to junior high school, and thankfully we didn't have recess anymore, but I blossomed in a totally different way - in my music. I was chosen to be the accompanist for a high school choir when I was in the 7th grade and I was in heaven. I loved to play the piano and oh how the music was so beautiful when the choirs sang at school. On to high school, and for a short time I continued to play the piano for various things, but I soon began a time of singing. My most dear vocal music instructor noticed that timid, shy and quiet young lady that I was, really did have a talent that God gave to me and she encouraged and nurtured me to grow that talent every year I was in high school. While I was still excluded from many activities because I was so quiet and shy and with that I continued to be an outsider, God graced me with a small circle of wonderful friends, many of whom I am still friends with to this day, many of whom I met from church, Sunday School and youth groups. A young pastor and his wife, who became my long-time wonderful friends, who at that time helped me to see that God saw the deepest and most special parts of myself, and He knew me thoroughly and completely and that He loved me more that I could



even begin to comprehend or imagine. The thing is that Jesus was an outsider so many times throughout His life. Think of all the times we've read in the Bible where He was called names, made fun of, told to leave. Exactly things that we go through at some time in our lives. My friends, He knows. Jesus knows exactly how we feel, He knows exactly what our hearts feel, and He will always be our friend. People will always let us down. That's just life. But here's the thing - God will never, ever, never leave you. As long as we have breath in our lungs, we have a purpose and a God who envelopes us with His arms of love, grace and mercy. Isaiah 54:10 tells us - "'Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,' says the Lord, who has compassion on you." God created you just as you are and He has a purpose and a plan for how He wants to use you - just as you are. What others think of you and what you think of yourself will never compare to how God thinks of you. My friends, no matter what stage in life you are in, while others may not choose you, know in your hearts that God will always, always, choose you. ♥Jw

Scripture Readers for January:

January 1: Tony Ratka
January 8: Nadine Fahrlander
January 15: Melissa Klabunde
January 22: Marah Dornhoff
January 29: Julie Ratka

Refreshment Hosts for January:

January 1: Gary & Deb Smidt
January 8: Tunnell Family
January 15: Klabunde Family
January 22: Jason Smidt Family
January 29: Tony & Julie Ratka

Greeters/Ushers for January:

January 1:
January 8: Tunnell Family & Amy & Brodie Kring Family
January 15: Klabunde Family
January 22:
January 29:

January 8: Communion Steward:

Communion Servers:

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

Birthdays

- 2—Steven Fries
- 3—Dick McBride
Rita Smith
- 5—Steven Favinger
- 6—Edna Carlson
- 10—Loneta Nolan
- 11—Nikki Dornhoff
- 17—Pastor Peter Choi
- 18—Kim Snavelly
- 19—Jack Hultquist
Alison Lovin
- 20—Jim Madsen
- 21—Zach Klabunde
- 24—Makenna Dornhoff
- 25—Ian Sinsel
- 29—Dudley Scharff



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Anniversaries

- 7—Mike & Jodi Boudreau— 34 years
- 8—Pastor Peter & Lena Choi—12 years

Reminders

- *Let Pastor or the office know if you would like to join the confirmation class beginning in February 2023.**
- *Youth Group: January 18, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. Meal and drinks will be provided.**
- *Youth Church School: Every Wednesday 3:30-5:00 p.m.**

Life in Our Church Family...

Take a moment and say a prayer for: Marge, Madsen, 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 Jeanette Wilkinson at 402-756-0772.

December Financial Report...

General Giving in December	\$22,051.00
General Fund Giving to Date	\$195,632.00
General Expenses in December	\$12,191.93
General Fund Expenses to Date	\$202,40.87
(This report does not include the final days in December.)	

January 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>10am Worship with Communion</p> <p>Epiphany of the Lord</p> <p>11am Adult Sunday School</p>	2	3	4	5 Prayer Time 9:30am	6	7
<p>8</p> <p>10am Worship</p> <p>Baptism of the Lord</p> <p>11am Adult Sunday School</p>	9 Boy Scouts 7pm	10 Cub Scouts 7pm	11 Kid's Church School 3:30pm Finance Meeting 7pm	12 Prayer Time 9:30am	13 Mobile Food Pantry	14
<p>15</p> <p>10am Worship</p> <p>2nd Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>11am Adult Sunday School</p>	16	17 Girl Scouts 6:30pm	18 Kid's Church School 3:30pm Youth Group 6:30pm	19 Prayer Time 9:30am	20	21
<p>22</p> <p>10am Worship</p> <p>3rd Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>11am Adult Sunday School</p> <p>Boy Scouts 6pm</p>	23 Boys Scouts 7pm	24 Cub Scouts 7pm	25 Kid's Church School 3:30pm	26 Prayer Time 9:30am Bible Study 10am Bible Study 5pm	27	28
<p>29</p> <p>10am Worship</p> <p>4th Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>11am Adult Sunday School</p>	30	31				





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

**Sunday
Worship
10:00am**

**Kid's
Church
School
Wednesdays
3:30pm**

**Youth Group
January 18
6:30pm**

**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**

**Jeanette Wilkinson,
Prayer Chain: 402-756-0772**

*2023 Vision: "Have Life,
and Have It Abundantly."*

John 10:10 (NRSV)



*"Have **life**,
and have it
abundantly!"*

John 10:10, NRSV