

Joys and Concerns

Happy Birthday to Sheryl Heath, Sam Martin, and Jade Melroy.

Happy Anniversary to Doug & Diana Hammer—40 years.

Prayer List: Marge Madsen, Larry Anderson, Merlin Beahm, and Lori Conyer's Father.

Pastoral Prayer—Lord's Prayer

Offertory Music

“Doxology “We Give Thee But Thine Own”

Offertory Prayer

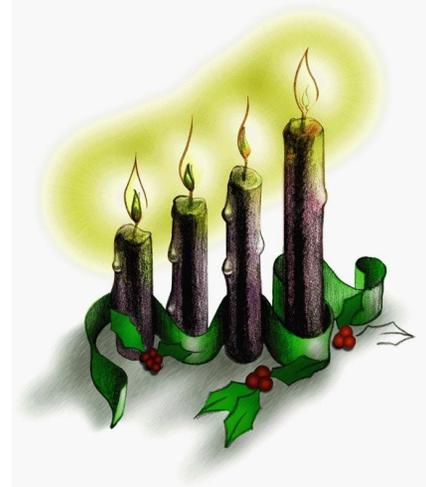
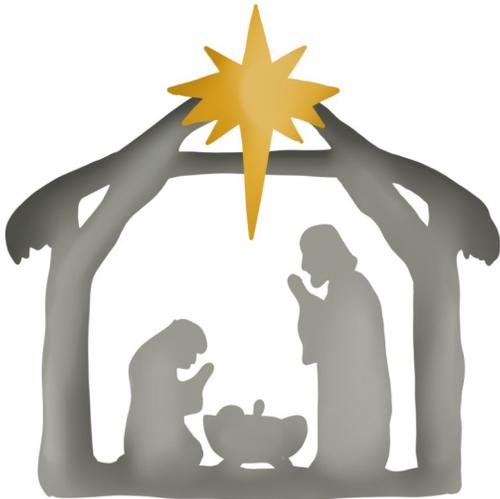
Blessed God, we stand before you as your people, offering to you what we can in anticipation of your coming again to earth. You give us much, and we give you little. Yet you are gracious to bless what we give. Please accept these small gifts and transform them into the work of your reign on this earth as we make ready for the newborn Christ. Amen.

Christmas Program—see insert

Benediction

Place your trust in God, for God is with you. Listen carefully for God's loving whisper this time--the words will give you healing and hope. Go in peace, and may God's peace always be with you. AMEN.

Sending Forth



**United
Methodist
Church
Minden,
Nebraska
10:00 a.m.**

**December 18, 2022
4th Sunday of Advent
Order of Worship**

Welcome and Announcements

1. Following the worship, we will take group pictures in front of the sanctuary. We will post the photos on Facebook and the church website and hang them in the church.
2. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be on December 24, 7:00 pm. We invite all people to this exceptional service. And we also have worship on December 25, 10:00 am. Join us to worship on Jesus's birthday.
3. The Bible study, *Threading the Bible: New Testament*, will begin in January 2023. If you want to take the class, please contact the church office.
4. Our church leaders for 2023 will be recognized and blessed during the worship on January 15. We invite all church leaders to attend this special worship.
5. We are going to start a 12 week confirmation class in February 2023. If your child is interested in the class, please get in touch with the church office.
6. Sign up sheets for communion, ushers, scripture, and refreshments, snacks and meals are going to be passed around and then posted on the west bulletin board.
7. Last week we received offerings of \$2,237. Thank you for the offerings and prayers.



Lighting of the 4th Advent Candle: Love
“Love Came Down at Christmas” UMH#242

Call to Worship

L: We are always looking for evidence that God is with us.

P: That sign is in the One to come--the One that God is sending.

L: We want to know for sure that everything is in God’s care.

P: And so we cry to the heavens in our distress. Our cries are heard! God is responding in love and hope.

L: Let us come before God with expectant hearts and spirits!

P: Let us be ready to receive the blessed gift of the Savior. AMEN.

Opening Prayer

Loving God, let worship begin in gratitude for your unconditional love. We love because you first loved us. Love begins and ends with you. And as we celebrate the love of Advent, we anticipate the love-made-flesh in Jesus. This love is beyond imagination, beyond limits, and beyond the realm of fear and control. Christian love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Challenge our small understanding of love today as we fix our eyes on Jesus in worship. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Opening Hymn

“The First Noel”

UMH#245

Passing the Peace of Christ

Children’s Time

Scriptures

Jodi Boudreau

Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV)

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

Message

“Emmanuel, God is with us!”

by

Pastor Peter Choi