

**Message**      “Pregnancy and Birth”      **Pastor Peter Choi**

**Joys and Concerns**

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

Happy Birthday to Mike Conyers and Kathi Schutz.

Happy Anniversary to Paul & Mindy Heath—12 years,  
Kevin & Terese Smith—35 years, and  
Malcom & Nikki Dornhoff—22 years

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Offertory Music**

“Doxology      “We Give Thee But Thine Own”

**Offertory Prayer**

We thank you, Holy One, for all your good gifts, especially the gifts of prophecy, promise, and calls for preparation. As a thankful response to these gifts, we offer our belief, our commitments, and our money, that we may hasten the time when no one will hurt or destroy on all God’s holy mountain.

**Holy Communion**

**Special Music by Lena Choi**  
“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”

**Closing Song**      “O Come All Ye Faithful”

**Benediction**

Prepare for the coming of the Lord! Make way in your hearts for love! Get rid of all anger and fear, for God is about to bring incredible light to the world! Go in peace and confidence as witnesses to God’s love. AMEN



**United Methodist Church**  
**Minden, Nebraska**



**Welcome and Announcements**

1. Today, the second Sunday of Advent season. It is also an exceptional time as we anticipate the nativity of Jesus at Christmas. Pastor Peter preaches an Advent sermon series, “Prepare the Way for the Lord and it will be continued for three weeks. Don’t miss this opportunity to prepare the way of the Lord during this advent.
2. During worship on December 18, we are going to have a Christmas program. Please mark your calendars for this special program. We will also take a church group picture on December 18.
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. We are going to start a confirmation class in February 2023. And the class will be for 12 weeks. If your kids are interested in the class, please get in touch with the church office.
5. There will be Children’s Wednesday program at 3:30 pm and youth program at 6:30 pm. We will practice for the Christmas program.
6. Last week we received offerings of \$3,072. Thank you for the offerings and prayers.

**Lighting of the 2nd Advent Candle: Peace**  
**“Like a Child” TFWs#2092 verse 2**

**Call to Worship**

L: Get ready, people of God! The time of hope and peace is at hand.

**P: We are called to action rather than reaction.**

L: Open your hearts to God’s word and God’s will.

**P: Help us to be workers for God rather than observers.**

L: Come, draw near to God in faith.

**P: Let us prepare our hearts to receive the wondrous gifts of God. AMEN.**

**Opening Prayer**

Patient and loving God, we so easily launch ourselves in preparation for the secular festival of giving and parties and the swirl of social events; but we forget that the true preparation is the readiness of our hearts to receive you. Help us look again at our lives and turn them around so that they may be in tune with your will. We ask this in Jesus’ Name, AMEN.



**Silent Prayer of Confession**

**Opening Songs “Mary’s Little Boy Child”  
“Go Tell It on the Mountain”**

**Passing the Peace of Christ**

**Children’s Time**

**Scriptures**

**Shirley Fellers**

**Luke 1:57-64, 67, 76-79 (NIV)**

When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.” They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.”

Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.” Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God.

His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**P: Thanks be to God.**