



The Messenger

February 2023

Dear Minden UMC,

Jesus says, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). This passage makes my life abundant because Jesus came here to give me a new life, and within him, my life is abundant.

Then some may wonder how Jesus makes us abundant. That is not the way we've been blessed in this world. I found some examples online. "Blessed are the ruthless, for they are wealthy," "And blessed are the wealthy, for they have lots of stuff." "Blessed are the college-educated, for they get the good jobs."

However, when we see the stories of the Bible, the answer is clear. When Jesus called the first four disciples, they left their fishing nets and boats immediately. Because they were the heads of their household, it was not easy for them to let them down. Nevertheless, they left their fishing nets immediately because they saw a vision in Jesus' words and touched their hearts with anticipation.

I am sure we can experience Jesus deeply once we decide to let down what we hold. Jesus said to Simon, "Take the boat into deep water and put your nets in the water to catch some fish (Luke 5:4-11)" Simon knew it would not be a good idea to let down the nets deeper. He was an expert at fishing. But Simon obeyed the words of Jesus because Simon trusted Jesus, even though he didn't know who Jesus was at that time. Then he was not able to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

The Lenten season begins February 22 this year and lasts forty days. Lent is a time of repentance, fasting, and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. Again it is a time to let down what we have. He fills our hearts with the love of Christ.

Brothers and sisters in Christ! Let him fill our hearts with his grace and love. Then you will have a new life, and your life will be more abundant. That's the way God creates and uses us.

We have four ways to be blessed this year. First, be confident that Jesus Christ works through the ministry. Rely on how he blesses us through ministry. The primary way to rely on this is prayer. Let us pray for one soul this year. Let the soul return to the Lord. That was Jesus' commandment before he left the world. Second, Jesus is the Bread of Life. He came here to feed us. Family shares food every day. We are the church family. Food sharing is one of the most significant ways we share our life. Third, let us focus on the mission. We are called to share the gospel until the end of the world. And I am thinking of a mission trip next year. Both youth and adults should consider a mission trip. Fourth, we are part of the Minden community. We have to consider people in the community. Last year we served the school district. This year, we will have a time of recognition for the police officers and fire-fighters.

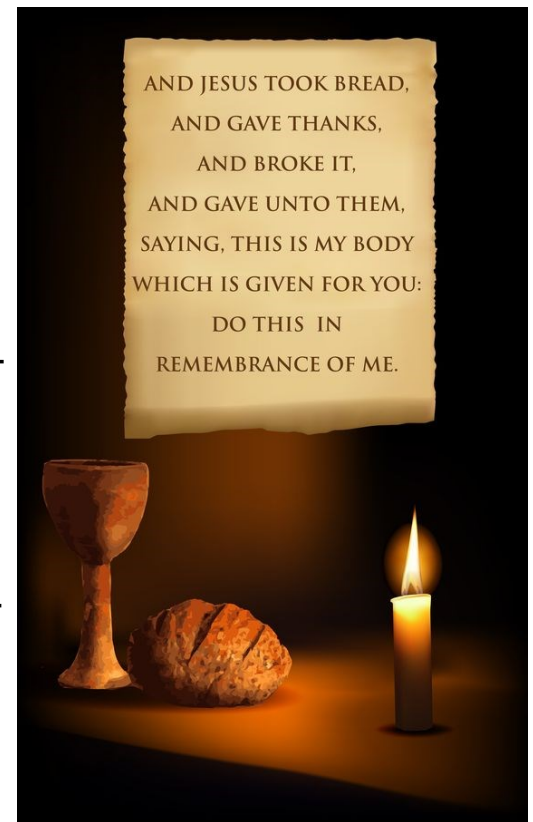
Gracefully, our church is growing. We have new people. We have more young people. I am confident that we will go forward with anticipation and hope. Please continue to pray for the church leaders. In doing this the Holy Spirit will bless us abundantly. Amen.

Blessings,

Your Pastor Peter Choi

Communion Is A Celebration by Joyce Will

I had a really close friend during my high school years. We were often seen together; where one of us went, the other was sure to be there too. I often went places with her and her family as well and it was rare that we didn't do something together. We were more or less "joined at the hip" so the saying goes. Because we went together almost everywhere, church was in the lineup of the "to go" places too. While I knew other faiths had differing rituals and their Sunday morning service was a bit different than what I was used to in our Methodist church, I was never more surprised than when I was with her one morning at church when they served communion. Right before the communion began, she whispered to me that I couldn't join them. WHAT? Yup, that's right; I couldn't partake of communion in her church because I wasn't of the same faith as her church. As a teenager, most things just don't surprise you, but for me - this was something that made me pretty unsettled. If I recall correctly, I didn't return to church with her much after that Sunday simply because I just couldn't abide by that rule in their faith. Communion as we know it is celebrated in Christian churches around the world, but friends, it's so much more than a mid-sermon snack of grape juice and yummy bread. Remember that communion was instated by Jesus Himself; it isn't a ritual that was just thought up by differing churches. We can read about The Lord's Supper (another name for Communion) in the Bible in Matthew, Mark and Luke. Matthew 26:26-28 states: "While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat; this is my body.' Then he took a cup and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins'." I remember always looking forward to communion when I was a kiddo. While I was young, I didn't entirely grasp the entire meaning of it, but I knew that it was a special time and I clearly remember when we left our pews in our Upland Methodist church, walked to the front of the church, knelt down and the pastor of the church would give us the bread and the juice. I was so energized by it, that usually after we returned home from church and had our big Sunday noon meal, I would grab a slice of white bread and find some juice in our refrigerator, then take them into my bedroom where I set up my dolls so that I could serve them communion. Back then, we didn't have the sacrament very often; it seemed like it was quarterly maybe and then of course on the special Christian holidays. During my high school years, I was a substitute organist for one of the churches here in town, and to my surprise, they had communion every Sunday, which they allowed me to participate in. I like that our Methodist church has communion the first Sunday of every month. It's always a special day for me and I love to know that because of my taking of communion on those



Sunday's, I tend to feel just a little closer to Jesus. So what exactly is the purpose of communion? Jesus told us: "Do this . . . in remembrance of me" (1Corinthians 11:25). When we walk up the long aisle to the front of our church to take communion, we are remembering Jesus' sacrifice on that cross He was nailed to. The bread and juice are visible reminders of His love for each of us so that we can live spiritually through Jesus. It's also a chance to bring ourselves before the Lord and partake in the life He has given us through His death and resurrection. I also love that our faith allows everyone to partake of this blessed ritual; the table is not the Methodist church's table, but it is an open table, open to everyone of every walk of life and of every faith. We are all sinners no matter if we are from the Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Evangelical Free, Christian, Catholic, or Baptist churches; each faith has their own reasons for the way they administer The Lord's Supper and that's entirely okay. It makes no difference to God what faith we are affiliated with; what does matter is that communion is a powerful way to remember Christ Jesus' sacrifice and to show our love and devotion to Him. My friends, through the love we have with our Lord and fellowship we have with Him, Holy Communion truly is a celebration and a time of great thanksgiving. Jw♥

Scripture Readers for February:

February 5: Jodi Boudreau
February 12: Madeline Kring
February 19: Jessie Tunnell
February 26: Lori Conyers

Refreshment Hosts for February:

February 5:
February 12:
February 19: Tunnell Family
February 26:

Greeters/Ushers for February:

February 5:
February 12:
February 19: Tunnell Family
February 26:

February 5: Communion Steward: Shirley Fellers

Communion Servers: Lori Conyers, Shirley Fellers, Mike & Jodi Boudreau.

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

Birthdays

- 4—Mark Loseke
- 6—Dale Space
- 10—Kara Suchsland
Mick Jameson
John Mullin
- 15—Lee Ann Lux
Nicholas Pearson
- 17—Jean Liebers
- 21—Jeff Hanson
- 22—James Wilkinson
- 24—Merlin Beahm
- 25—Clark Bauer
Ed Rowse
- 26—Jim Lynn



**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS
& ANNIVERSARIES**

Anniversaries

- 4—Dick & Kay Lyn McBride—56 years
- 16—Jason & Jaime Sinsel—16 years
- 17—Donlyn & Sandra Space—49 years
- 23—Bill & Kathy Hunter—54 years

Life in Our Church Family...

Take a moment and say a prayer for: Marge Madsen, Larry Anderson, 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.

Reminders

Youth Group: February 1 & 15, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
Meal and drinks will be provided.

Youth Church School: Every Wednesday 3:30-5:00 p.m,
except February 8th because of early school release.

Confirmation Class will begin February 15 at 5:30pm.

February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Kid's Church School 3:30pm Youth Group 6:30pm	2 Prayers Time 9:30am	3	4
5	6	7 Girl Scouts 6:30pm	8 UMW 9:30am Finance Mtg 7pm	9 Prayers Time 9:30am	10	11 Boy Scout Babysitting Fundraiser 4-10:30pm
12	13 WIC Boy Scouts 7pm	14  Cub Scouts 7pm	15 Kid's Church School 3:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm Youth Group 6:30pm Ad Council 7pm	16 Prayers Time 9:30am	17	18
19	20	21 Girl Scouts 6:30pm	22 Kid's Church School 3:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm	23 Prayers Time 9:30am	24	25
26 Manifold Dance Recital 2pm	27 Boy Scouts 7pm	28 Cub Scouts 7pm				



January Financial Report...

General Giving in January	\$10,507
General Fund Giving to Date	\$10,507
General Expenses in January	\$1,062
General Fund Expenses to Date	\$1,062

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



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

**Sunday
Worship
10:00am**

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

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

