



The Messenger

August 2023

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord, Jesus Christ,

I have recently recognized how blessed my family is, receiving much care and support from the congregation, pastors, and others. As a pastor, I have always believed that one of my roles is to provide for the church and congregation. However, I now realize that we have received more than we can give.

As you know, my parents and Lena's parents arrived in Minden in the middle of July. One of our congregation members gave them a ride from the airport in Grand Island and some brought homemade cookies and ice cream for us. They had the opportunity to go on farm tours and admire countless stars at night. The parsonage is spacious enough to accommodate all eight of us together.

My parents and parents-in-law are enjoying Nebraska beef and sweet corn almost every day. They had the chance to visit Pioneer Village and experience how Americans lived in the past. They were also able to actively participate in the church, serving during worship with the offertory song, "Lord, I want to be a Christian." Furthermore, both my dad and Lena's dad had the opportunity to preach during regular Sunday worship.

Moreover, you might be aware that something hit the gas tank under my car while we were returning home around Ogallala. This caused the gas tank to leak, making it impossible to drive the car. Fortunately, my family and parents made it home safely because our friends kindly offered them a ride from Ogallala to North Platte and from North Platte to Minden. They will cherish these precious memories for a long time.

The Church is a unique community. How can the Church grow or be sustained? Of course, Jesus Christ is at the center of it all. As Jesus fills our hearts, we can serve one another. Even though God has the power to solve all problems, He allows some conflicts to persist, hoping that we will love and care for each other. We cannot live alone; God calls us to care for others.

I have indeed enjoyed working with our six confirmation students as they take a deeper step in their faith journey, becoming members of the United Methodist Church. Let us keep them in our prayers as they grow in their understanding of God's love and grace, and as they become strong members of the Church.

As the summer season comes to a close, it's that time of the year again. On August 13, during our Sunday service, we will have a special "Back to School Blessing." Let us come together as a community to ask for God's guidance, protection, and wisdom upon each one of them as they embark on new educational adventures. I hope you will join us in worship and be part of that blessing.

May God's grace and peace be with you all.

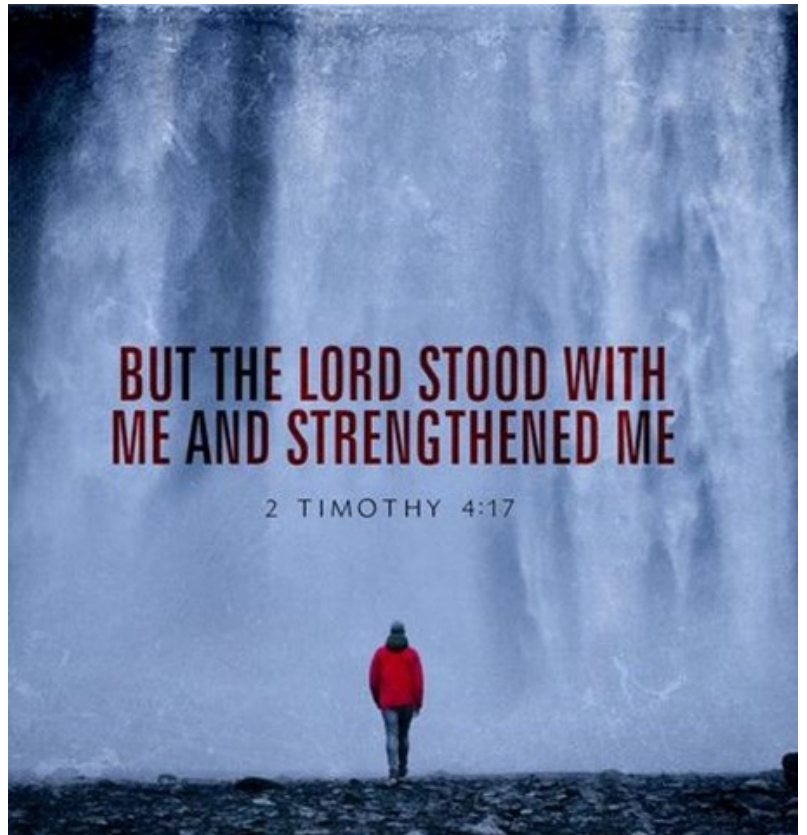
In Christ's Unfailing Love,

Your Pastor Peter Choi

Just Trust His Timing by Joyce Will

Don't worry about it, God won't give you more than you can handle. How many of you have heard these words spoken to you? Where did that statement come from anyway? Hallmark? TV commercial? The Bible? Did God actually say: I will never give you more than you can handle? My friends, that sentiment is just not true. Perhaps it began from well meaning people that read 1 Corinthians 10:13 which happens to be referring to temptation, not suffering: "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out to that you can endure it." So why is it that we say that state-

ment to our friends? I'm pretty sure that we do it with an intent to make them feel better, but does it? The thing is that God doesn't throw things at us or put us in situations that seem impossible. He will never do that! Difficult times come, they are inevitable in our lives. It doesn't matter how much we pray, how much we give to the church or how much we serve; it's simply the nature of the broken world we live in. Like in the Wizard of Oz when Dorothy tells Toto, we're not in Kansas anymore, well friends, we're not in the Garden of Eden anymore either. Life as we know it is never perfect but here's the deal: God doesn't make bad things happen in our lives. So could God intervene when bad things are happening to us? Sure He could, He's God. But know this; He never leaves us to handle those situations on our own. So why does it seem that God allows things to happen to us beyond our ability to handle them? Does He do what He does so that we come to depend more on His presence in our lives? I don't think there is any other time than when we are struggling that we come to God more, that we lean on Him more, that we desire Him more. Maybe He does this to remind us that we truly are dependent on Him. When things are going along just perky, how often do we forget to offer praise and thanksgiving to God, when we think we've got our life handled, all on our own. Our lives are busy; too busy to know that we cannot live without God in our lives, but how often don't we push Him back and believe we can handle everything on our own. Perhaps it's then that God allows us to go through some dark times. Perhaps it's then that we finally realize that God doesn't give those things to happen to us to harm us, but that circumstances just are the way they are.



Jonah 2:2 - "He said "in my distress I called to the Lord." And isn't it then that we double back and run to God? Psalms 18:6 - "In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help." And Psalm 145:18 - "The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth." We were created to need God but the thing is that too many of us believe in our own power; that we can just do life on our own without any need for God some of the time. I don't know about you, but I'd guess that most of us cannot go a day without the strength from God in our lives and in our hearts. God never ever gave us the capacity to handle everything life throws at us nor make us go through life without reasons. My friends, have patience and know in your heart to just trust His timing. Jw♥

Clean out your closets and storage rooms.

Please bring clean and gently used items for the Rummage Sale and put them in Room 103 by Saturday August 12th.

Rummage Sale dates are August 15-17, 2023.



Scripture Readers:

- August 6:** Shirley Fellers
- August 13:** ?
- August 20:** ?
- August 27:** ?

Refreshment Hosts:

- August 6:** Gary & Deb Smidt
- August 13:** ?
- August 20:** ?
- August 27:** The Graham's Family

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

Greeters/Ushers:

- August 6:** ?
- August 13:** ?
- August 20:** ?
- August 27:** ?

August 13: Communion Steward: Shirley Fellers

Communion Servers: Lori Conyers, Nancy Evans, Larry Evans, & ? _____.



August Birthdays and Anniversaries

Anniversaries

- 6—Dan & Ginger Frizane—57 years
- 12—Dave & Jane Craig—45 years
- 12—Tony & Julie Ratka—28 years
- 13—John & Pat Mullin—57 years
- 17—Mike & Lori Conyers—32 years
- 20—Jim & Virginia Madsen—17 years
- 25—Mark & Lori Loseke—22 years

Birthdays

- 3—Pat Mullin
- 4—Mikaela Froid
- 5—Orlan Grams
Melissa Klabunde
Jerzee Smidt
- 6—Marcia Fries
Brooke Greving
Nathan Martin
- 7—Jan Marlatt
- 8—Kevin Smith
- 9—Keven Schutz
- 10—Braylee Kring
- 11—Lena Choi
Corey Smidt
- 15—Jentry Olsen
- 16—Jaxyn Olsen
- 17—Marah Dornhoff
Steve Maulsby
- 20—Terese Smith
- 21—Brad Janda
- 25—Levi Loseke
- 26—Marsha Granger
- 30—Gary Smidt



**Blessing of
Backpacks
August 23 at
10:00am**

Life in Our Church Family...

Take a moment and say a prayer for: Libby Williams, Marjorie Hultquist, Fred Will, Larry Anderson, Merlin Beahm, Kent Verbeck, John Burnham, 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.

August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 9:30am Prayer Time	4	5
6 10am Worship 10th Sunday after Pentecost 11am Adult Sunday School	7	8	9 7pm Finance Meeting	10 9:30am Prayer Time 10am Bible Study	11	12
13 10am Worship Blessing of Backpacks 11th Sunday after Pentecost 11am Adult Sunday School Rummage Sale Set up	14	15 Rummage Sale 9am-7pm	16 Rummage Sale 9am-7pm	17 9:30am Prayer Time 10am Bible Study Rummage Sale 9am-1pm	18	19
20 10am Worship 12th Sunday after Pentecost 11am Adult Sunday School	21 WIC	22	23	24 9:30am Prayer Time 10am Bible Study	25	26
27 10am Worship 13th Sunday after Pentecost 11am Adult Sunday School	28	29	30	31 9:30am Prayer Time 10am Bible Study		





July Financial Report...

General Giving in July	\$17,118
General Fund Giving to Date	\$96,358
General Expenses in July	\$13,086
General Fund Expenses to Date	\$130,005

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

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

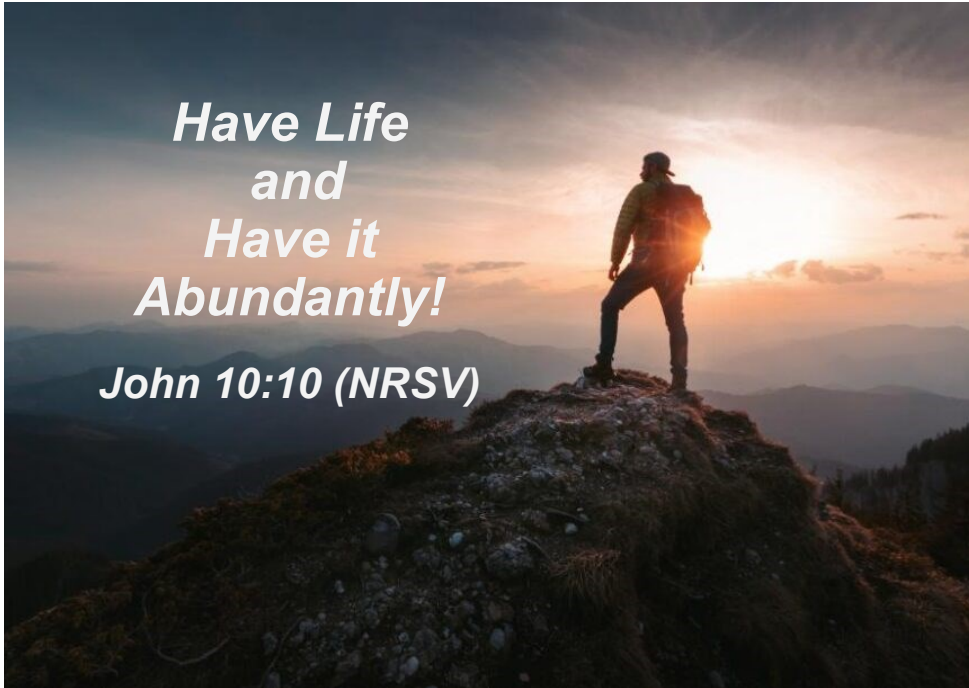
**Sunday
Worship
10:00am**

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–Thursday 8am-Noon

Jeanette Wilkinson,
Prayer Chain: 402-756-0772



*Have Life
and
Have it
Abundantly!*

John 10:10 (NRSV)