



# The Messenger

November 2023

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ,

It feels like just the day before yesterday that autumn began, and already we've heard that the temperature has dropped to 32 degrees, with news of snow on the way. Looking at the empty farmland, it's clear that we are getting ready for winter. I pray that you stay warm and healthy in this transitional season.

November is often associated with the theme of gratefulness, and we are currently conducting a four-week sermon series on the topic of gratitude. Sometimes, we forget just how blessed our lives are, especially in this culture that can often focus on the negative. Even the everyday, routine aspects of our lives can hold great value if we take the time to appreciate them. If you look closely at your surroundings, you'll find many reasons to be grateful. What we have should never be taken for granted; someone has made sacrifices for our well-being.

I've been reflecting on our church, and it's true that we sometimes forget just how grateful we should be for its presence in our lives. We tend to take our church for granted because it's always been here, a constant in our community. However, it's crucial to remember that our church has thrived for over one hundred years not by chance, but through the unwavering prayers and dedication of our congregation. Hard work and selflessness have kept our ministry going, come together for worship, and help those in need.

The church is not just a physical structure; it's a living body composed of the faith, hope, and love of its members. As we move forward, let's never forget the profound debt of gratitude we owe to those who have come before us and those who continue to support our church today.

Let me conclude my words with Colossians 3:15-17. "Be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Yours in Christ's love,

Peter Choi

Pastor, Minden United Methodist Church



## Thankful, Grateful And Way Beyond Blessed! by Joyce Will

And so it is that we've come to almost the end of another year, when during this month it seems like we find the words thankful, grateful and blessed maybe more so than any other time of the year. November has the Thanksgiving holiday in it and what once was tradition to gather with extended family for a huge Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings doesn't seem to happen much anymore. While I'm sure there are still some families that have big gatherings, for the most part, Thanksgiving is more or less pushed to the side so everyone can hurry up and prepare for Christmas. Of course Christmas is a most special time for Christians and secular society too, but even by late summer you begin to see the Christmas decor set out in the stores for everyone to get a head start on their decorating. When our son was young, he loved Christmas; so



**Give thanks to the Lord,  
for He is good;  
*His love endures forever.***  
PSALMS 118:1

much so that he was the one who wanted to leap over Thanksgiving and go right to the Christmas holiday. He'd always want to have us put up the Christmas tree and he was always told, "no, first we have Thanksgiving, then we can start preparing for Christmas." I'm so thankful that God created the four different seasons of the year and while each is special, my most favorite season is Autumn. The world is painted with such vivid colors when the leaves on the trees turn beautiful colors, when the pumpkins grow so big that some can hardly be carried, when the farmers are out in the harvest fields, when early mornings can be just a little frosty but the afternoons warm up to allow us to shed our extra warm shirts and coats, when the roasting of marshmallows by bonfires is a little sweeter. God planned all of this for us and how grateful are we to be living in the season of Thanksgiving once again. Maybe He created this time of year so that we actually could be thankful for all that He gives us, day in and day out. While we should be thanking Him daily for all that He gives us no matter what season we are in, how

often our lives get so busy that we simply neglect to offer praise and thanksgiving to the One who gave us so very much. Isaiah 40:8 tells us: "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." And in Genesis 8:22: "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." And from one of my most favorite passages in the Bible, Ecclesiastes 3:1: "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." Let's make a point to feel the blessings we have been given; let's offer praise and thanksgiving all of the 30 days of November (advent this year doesn't begin until December 3). Relish not only the beauty of the season but every blessing we have received throughout this year. God is good. God is faithful. God is steadfast love. Let us embrace this season with faith and hope so that our hearts overflow with warmth and joy. My friends, no matter what season we are in, know in your hearts that we are deeply thankful, incredibly grateful and way beyond blessed. Jw♥

# Saturday November 4th, 9am-1pm Fall Bazaar at Faith United Church

203 Garfield Street, Gibbon, NE.

The Sew 'N Sews will have yummy cinnamon rolls, baked goods, canned goods and homemade pies and gift baskets.

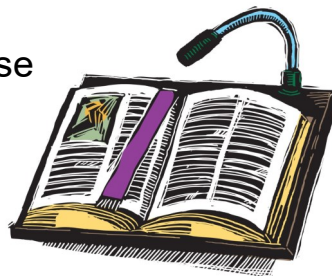
They will serve soups and cabbage sandwiches.

## Community Event

Volunteers are needed that would be willing to be part of a committee to help put together a law enforcement appreciation/meet and greet event in January 2024. If you are interested in helping out in some capacity please contact Ashley Gerry at [ashleygerrybakedgoods@gmail.com](mailto:ashleygerrybakedgoods@gmail.com).

### Scripture Readers:

- November 5: Ed Rowse
- November 12: ?
- November 19: ?
- November 26: ?



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

### Refreshment Hosts:

- November 5: ?
- November 12: Consecration Meal
- November 19: ?
- November 26: ?

*Refreshment Hosts Needed*



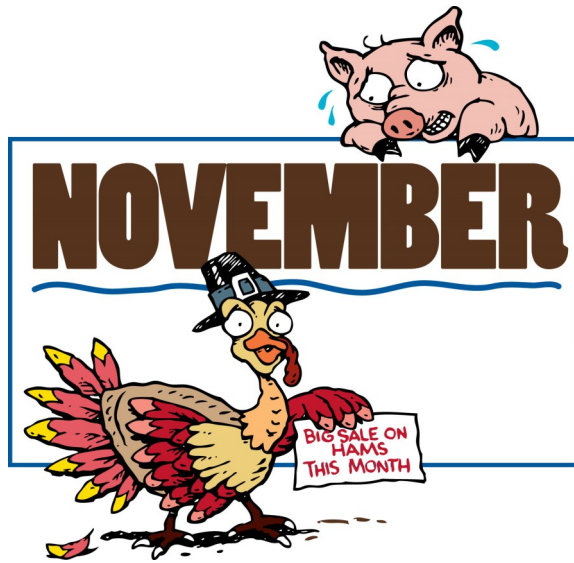
Welcome to Worship

### Greeters/Ushers:

- November 5: ?
- November 12: ?
- November 19: ?
- November 26: ?

November 5: Communion Steward: Shirley Fellers

Servers: Lori Conyers, Shirley Fellers, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.



**Youth Group  
November  
8th & 22nd  
6:30pm**

**Life in Our Church Family...**

Take a moment and say a prayer for:

Pray for healing and comfort for Joe Hultquist, Marjorie Hultquist, Peggy Rasmussen, Larry Anderson, Merlin Beahm, Kent Verbeck, Michelle Erickson and Jan Hofferber (Kathi's mother) also for Dorleene (Hava) Bausch lives near Tiberias, Israel.

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.

**Birthdays**



- 2—Dave Jameson
- 3—Kim Melroy
- 4—Linda Duffey
- 6—Michala Olsen
- 8—Kelli Suchsland
- 8—Fran Lange
- 8—Jason Sinsel
- 9—Todd Suchsland
- 9—Stacy Sinsel
- 9—Lonnie Granger
- 11—Linda Montgomery
- 11—Kim Pearson
- 13—Michelle Scharff
- 13—Zander Sinsel
- 15—Kay Lyn McBride
- 15—Paul Heath
- 17—Megan Conyers
- 17—Kelly Mills
- 18—Jason Smidt
- 20—Jean Scharff
- 24—Tyler Nolan
- 24—Sandra Space
- 25—Lynette Beahm
- 25—Laurie Clement
- 27—Marilyn Rasmussen
- 29—Diana Hammer

# November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 All Saint's Day  3:30pm Kid's Church School	2  9:30am Prayer Time	3	4
5 10am Worship All Saint's Sunday 23rd Sunday after Pentecost 11am Adult Sunday School	6  7pm Girl Scouts	7  7pm Girl Scouts	8  9:30am UMW 3:30pm Kid's Church School 6:30pm Youth Group 7pm Finance Mtg	9  9:30am Prayer Time	10	11  
12 10am Worship Consecration Sunday 24th Sunday after Pentecost 11am Adult Sunday School	13  7pm Boy Scouts	14  7pm Cub Scouts	15  3:30pm Kid's Church School	16  9:30am Prayer Time	17	18
19 10am Worship 25th Sunday after Pentecost 11am Adult Sunday School	20 WIC  7pm Girl Scouts	21  7pm Girl Scouts	22  6:30pm Youth Group	23 Happy Thanksgiving  	24	25
26 10am Worship Christ the King/ Reign of Christ 11am Adult Sunday School	27  7pm Boy Scouts	28  7pm Cub Scouts	29  3:30pm Kid's Church School	30  9:30am Prayer Time		





**October Financial Report...**

General Giving in October	\$12,968
General Fund Giving to Date	\$134,233
General Expenses in October	\$5,567
General Fund Expenses to Date	\$168,182
(This report does not include the final days in October)	

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

**Sunday Worship 10am**  
**Kid's Church School**  
**every Wednesday 3:30pm**

**Consecration Sunday—November 12, 2023**  
**Worship 10:00 a.m. & meal to follow**

**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**

