



The Messenger

December 2023

Dear Members and Friends of the United Methodist Church in Minden,

As we enter the joyous season of Advent, our hearts are filled with anticipation and gratitude for the many blessings that surround us. **It is with great excitement that I extend a warm invitation to each and every one of you for our Homecoming Sunday with a Christmas program on December 17.**

Homecoming Sunday is a special occasion for our church family to come together, reconnect, and celebrate the sense of belonging that makes our church community so vibrant. Whether you've been a part of our congregation for years or have recently joined us, we welcome you with open arms. This is an opportunity to embrace the spirit of unity and fellowship that defines our church family.

The Christmas Program promises to be a beautiful and heartwarming experience for all. It is a time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, share in the joy of the season, and rejoice in the birth of our Savior. Our youth and children have been working diligently to bring you a program that will uplift your spirits and deepen your connection to the Christmas story.

We extend a special invitation to those who may have been away for a while. Your presence will add to the warmth and joy of our celebration. Join us as we come together to worship, share laughter and stories, and create lasting memories.

I also share the four-week sermon series with Christmas Eve, "Behold a Savior is Born." You will be guided by the story of the birth of our Savior, reminding us of the hope, joy, and love that Christ brings into our lives. This is an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the Christmas narrative and to draw inspiration for our own spiritual journeys.

We look forward to your presence on Homecoming Sunday, Advent Sundays, and Christmas Eve as we celebrate the birth of our Savior and rejoice in the love that unites us all. Mark your calendars for this special season and join us for a memorable Homecoming Sunday and Christmas Program. Together, let us make this a season of love, unity, and celebration.

In His love and grace,

Peter Choi, Pastor, United Methodist Church, Minden, NE



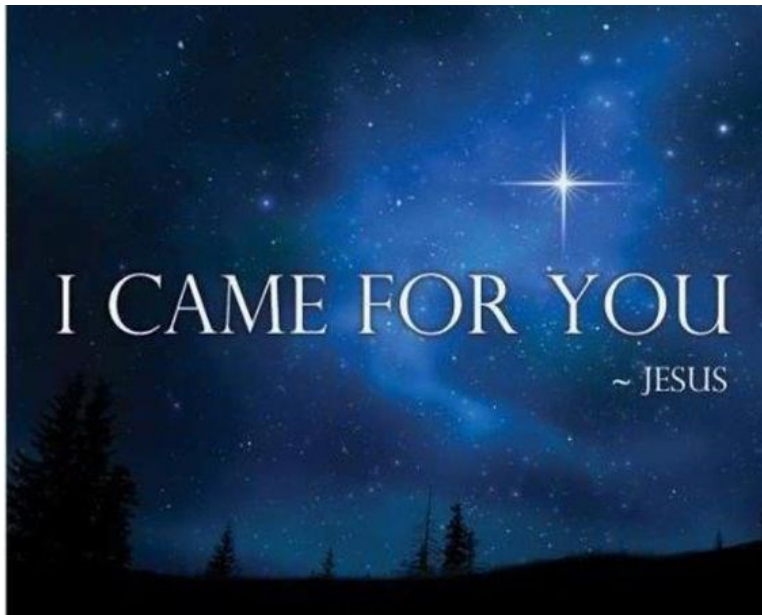
December 17 at 10am

CHURCH HOMECOMING

Not Magic But A Miracle by Joyce Will

Christmas season in the eyes of many people, especially children, would consider it to be a magical time. The twinkling lights almost everywhere you turn, the new toys and gadgets that always seem to come out during the season. Store displays are such that children can't help but look at them in awe and with hope that maybe they will be lucky enough to get whatever is on display. Christmas gifts that are often so beautifully wrapped in colorful Christmas paper, bows and other things that make them so desired. The beautiful music played almost everywhere you go. Then we come to the Christmas story, the genuine reason we celebrate Christmas. And where did it all start? Jesus' birth was in fact prophesied years and years before His actual birth. Magic or a miracle? I'll let you decide. Then there's Mary. Not a lot is known about Jesus' mother, but what we do know is that she lived with her peasant family at Nazareth, she was of the Jewish faith, she was a young teenager and while her exact age is not known, historians believe she was between 12 to 14 years old, and she was single but engaged to Joseph. Why was this particular peasant girl chosen by God? In His wisdom, God chose Mary out of all other girls to be the human mother of the world's Savior; He knew her heart and soul well. When she was told of God's plan for Jesus by an angel, it was her trust and faith that caused her heart to know what was about to happen was not magic, but truly a miracle and how blessed she was. While she was at peace with what was happening to her, I'm sure she was just a bit unsure how she would be received by the community she lived in, not to mention the man whom she was engaged to. In Mary's culture, her age wasn't a problem, but her unwed pregnancy definitely was. You see, unwed mothers back then were often shamed and sometimes even killed violently by stoning. But Mary showed great courage by accepting God's call and knew in her heart that she was a part of this wonderful plan that God was unfolding. And Joseph, as you can imagine, he was quite troubled by Mary's pregnancy so he intended to end their engagement in a way that was faithful to the law but did not expose Mary to public disgrace. For Joseph to accept this that was happening to Mary, God sent an angel to visit Joseph in a dream to tell him the

truth. Matthew 1:20-21 tells us about this: "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." Just as Mary accepted this miracle, Joseph also started to believe in this miracle. We know the rest of the story, right? We know Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem, there was no room to birth the newborn except in a cave-like barn, there was the brightest star ever to exist directly above that place at the time of His birth, and eventually they had visitors be they Wiseman with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. So here's the deal my friends, one can say it is magical, but in reality, Jesus'



conception was a most special and most unique miracle to ever happen on this earth. For many people, miracles are hard to understand, hard to imagine that they really do happen and are so extraordinary that you are in awe of the happening so much so that you are speechless. God loved us so much, that He gave us the sweetest gift of a newborn baby, so that when we have faith to believe not only this miraculous Christmas story but all of Jesus' teachings, we will have eternal life. My friends, believe! Believe with all your heart that God gave each and every one of us the most miraculous gift, most beloved gift we could ever desire; He gave us Jesus. Not magic, but a tremendous miracle. **Jw♥**

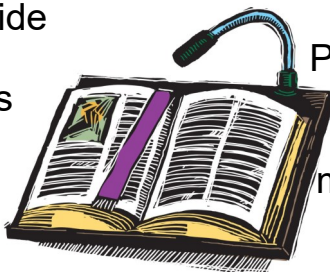


Community Event

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 asleygerrybakedgoods@gmail.com.

Scripture Readers:

- December 3: KayLyn McBride
- December 10: Dawn Moyer
- December 17: Shirley Fellers
- December 24: ?
- December 31: ?



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

Refreshment Hosts:

- December 3: KayLyn McBride
- December 10: Lyra Johnson
- December 17: Gary & Deb Smidt
- December 24: ?
- December 31: ?

Refreshment Hosts Needed



Greeters/Ushers:

- December 3: ?
- December 10: ?
- December 17: ?
- December 24: ?
- December 31: ?

December 3: Communion Steward: Shirley Fellers

Servers: Lori Conyers, Shirley Fellers, Dave Jameson, Allyson Jameson.

December 24: Communion Steward: Dave & Jane Craig

Servers: Dave Craig, Jane Craig, ? _____, ? _____.



Anniversaries

- 4—Kevin & Terese Smith—36 years
- 9—Malcom & Nikki Dornhoff—23 years
- 17—Fred & Joyce Will—46 years
- 18—Doug & Diana Hammer—41 years
- 29—Steve & Aleda Younkin—44 years

Birthdays



- 1—Mike Boudreau
- 2—Jensen Rowse
- 7—Mike Conyers
- 9—Kathi Schutz
- 13—Lee Mills
- 15—Chad Fries
- 15—Jennifer Muller
- 17—Loree Johnson
- 22—Sam Martin
- 22—Jade Melroy
- 29—Denny Lange
- 30—Jodi Boudreau
- 31—Joyce Will

Life in Our Church Family...

Take a moment and say a prayer for:

Friends and Family of Joyce Jameson,
 Friends and Family of Jim Lynn,
 Dan Frizane, Ginger Frizane, 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 who
 lives near Tiberias, Israel.

Please call the office when you know of any
 illness, hospitalization, new babies, marriages, joy-
 ous or sad news among your friends or family mem-
 bers.

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.

**Youth Group
 December
 6 & 13
 6:30pm**



December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10:00am Worship 1st Sunday of Advent 11:00am Adult Sunday School	4 Girl Scouts 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm	5 Girl Scouts 7pm	6 3:30pm Kid's Church School 6:30pm Youth Group	7 9:30am Prayer Time	8	9
10 10:00am Worship 2nd Sunday of Advent 11:00am Adult Sunday School	11 WIC	12 Cub Scouts 7pm	13 9:30am UMW Christmas Brunch 3:30pm Kid's Church School 6:30pm Youth Group	14 9:30am Prayer Time	15	16
17 10:00am Worship Homecoming Sunday Christmas Program 3rd Sunday of Advent 11:00am Adult Sunday School	18 Girl Scouts 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm	19 Girl Scouts 7pm	20 3:30pm Kid's Church School	21 9:30am Prayer Time	22	23
24 10:00am Worship 4th Sunday of Advent 11:00am Adult Sunday School 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service	25 	26	27	28 9:30am Prayer Time	29	30
31 10:00am Worship 1st Sunday After Christmas 11:00am Adult Sunday School New Year's Eve						





November Financial Report...

General Giving in November	\$13,215.50
General Fund Giving to Date	\$149,984.63
General Expenses in November	\$16,440.93
General Fund Expenses to Date	\$192,721.97
(This report does not include the final days in November)	

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

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



Christmas Eve Service at 7:00pm



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)