

December 2024



The Messenger

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

Recently, I took my kids to Walmart, and we came across Advent calendars in the toy section. These calendars offer daily surprises during Advent to delight children, building excitement day by day. If the world can rejoice like this, what does the coming and birth of Jesus mean to you? Is your heart filled with joy and celebration?

At church, the birth of Jesus is an incredibly significant event that transforms the entire world. But have you ever wondered exactly what has changed? To explore this, I have prepared a new sermon series for this Advent season titled **“Gift Exchange”**.

Over the course of four Sundays and our Christmas Eve service, we will reflect together on what truly changed through the coming of Christ. We will explore five transformative themes:

- **Week 1 (Dec 1): Despair for Hope | Psalm 121:1-8**
- **Week 2 (Dec 8): Anxiety for Peace | John 14:27**
- **Week 3 (Dec 15): Sorrow for Joy | Psalm 30**
- **Week 4 (Dec 22): Fear for Love | 1 John 4:7-19**
- **Christmas Eve (Dec 24): Darkness for Light | Isaiah 9:2-7**

Life in this world is not easy. We are often surrounded by despair, anxiety, sorrow, fear, and darkness. Yet, the birth of Jesus Christ changes everything—He turns our despair into hope, our anxiety into peace, our sorrow into joy, our fear into love, and our darkness into light. How can we not rejoice?

We are also excited to announce our Christmas program, titled **“New Star”**, featuring performances by our Wednesday School Kids and Youth Group. This special event celebrates the birth of Jesus, and the children and youth have been working hard to prepare for it. We warmly invite everyone to join us and enjoy this joyful time together **during the worship on December 15!**

As we journey through this Advent season together, may our hearts be filled with the transformative gifts that Christ brings into our lives. Let us celebrate this season with deep gratitude and renewed faith, sharing the hope, peace, joy, love, and light of Christ with one another and with the world.

Blessings to you and your family this Advent and Christmas season. I look forward to seeing you all at our services and celebrations this month!

In Christ's Unfailing Love,

Your Pastor Peter Choi

December 2024

Sun

Mon




Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>1 10:00am Worship 1st Sunday of Advent 11:00am Adult Sunday School</p>	<p>2 7pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 3:30-5pm Wednesday School 5pm Education Mtg 6:30pm Youth Group</p>	<p>5 9:30am Prayer Time</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 10:00am Worship 2nd Sunday of Advent 11:00am Adult Sunday School 5:30pm Youth Group Caroling (see note pg 4)</p>	<p>9 8am-4pm WIC 7pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 9:30am United Women in Faith 3:30-5:00pm Wednesday School</p>	<p>12 9:30am Prayer Time</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 10:00am Worship 3rd Sunday of Advent Children's Christmas Program 11:00am Adult Sunday School</p>	<p>16 7pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 3:30-5pm Wednesday School 6:30pm Youth Group</p>	<p>19 9:30am Prayer Time</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 10:00am Worship 4th Sunday of Advent 11:00am Adult Sunday School</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service </p>	<p>25 Christmas</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 10:00am Worship 1st Sunday after Christmas Day 11:00am Adult Sunday School</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 </p>				

Scripture Readers:

December 1: Leanna Warner
 December 8: Kent Verbeck
 December 15: Lori Conyers
 December 22: Kent Verbeck
 December 29: Leanna Warner

Greeters/Ushers:

December 1: ?
 December 8: ?
 December 15: ?
 December 22: ?
 December 29: ?

Refreshment Hosts:

December 1: ?
 December 8: Lyra Johnson
 December 15: The Grahams
 December 22: Gary & Deb Smidt
 December 29: ?

December 1:

Communion Steward: Shirley Fellers
 Servers: Karli Havens, Shirley Fellers,
 ? _____ ? _____.

December 24:

Communion Steward: _____
 Servers: ? _____, ? _____, ? _____
 ? _____.

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

Life in Our Church Family...

Take a moment and say a prayer for:

Nadine Fahrlander, Lee Mills, Dan & Ginger Frizane,
 Joe & Marjorie Hultquist, and Larry Anderson.

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.

November Financial Report...

General Giving in November	\$15,857
General Fund Giving to Date	\$149,528
General Expenses in November	\$13,171
General Fund Expenses to Date	\$174,745

(This report does not include the final days in November)



Budget of Expenses for 2025: \$205,159.00

Pledges received for 2025: \$95,000.00

DECEMBER

December 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—Erin Koch
- 22—Sam Martin
- 22—Jade Melroy
- 30—Jodi Boudreau
- 31—Langston White
- 31—Joyce Will

December Anniversaries

- 4—Kevin & Terese Smith
- 9—Malcom & Nikki Dornhoff
- 17—Fred & Joyce Will
- 18—Doug & Diana Hammer

Youth Group
Dec. 4 & 18 at 6:30pm

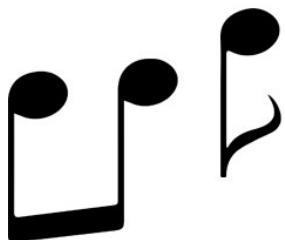
Sunday, December 8th at 5:30pm
the Youth Group will be meeting at the E-Free church to do some Christmas Caroling followed by a meal. The youth are asked to bring a soup or sandwich to share.

Wednesday School
will meet every
Wednesday after
school until **5:00pm.**

We would like to send a big thank you to the finance committee for organizing and serving the consecration lunch.

A BIG
Thanks!

Thank you to everyone who donated a filled shoe box. We collected 28 filled boxes for "Operation Christmas Child".



All are invited to the Minden Community Christmas Choir Performance Sunday, December 8th at 5:00pm at the Westminster Presbyterian Church. Soup Supper for Missions to follow in the fellowship hall. Free will donation.



Pastor Peter's Reflection on the Order and Fellowship Event

I attended the Order and Fellowship gathering from October 28-30 at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas.

Above all, it was a joy to attend worship there without any sense of pressure. I learned a lot, and most importantly, I gained courage for ministry. The time spent connecting with other pastors, sharing experiences, and encouraging one another gave me renewed strength and inspiration for ministry.

At the Order and Fellowship event, the plenary speaker, Dr. Ashley Boggan, shared insights on the history of the church, particularly Wesleyan theology. It was a powerful reminder that even in uncertain times, there is hope for our future.

Additionally, I had the opportunity to participate in a Q&A session with Rev. Adam Hamilton, Senior Pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection. This conversation made me reflect on the importance of having a clear vision for our church, especially in the context of our own situation, and developing specific strategies to follow that vision.



One of the questions that was raised during the event was: *What does it mean to be "Methodist?"* Dr. Boggan answered, *"A Methodist is one who risks all to spread the love of God to those who need it most."*

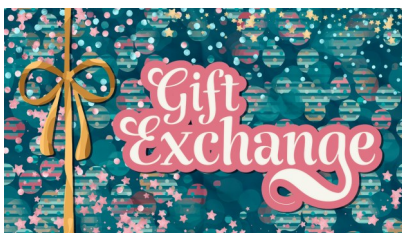
This made me reflect on an important question: Is it always right to remain silent for the sake of peace? In Matthew 10:34, Jesus says, *"Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword."* Sometimes, if God requires it, I believe it is necessary to throw a stone into the calm waters.

As we look toward 2025, I believe what we need is not silence but a bold proclamation.





This Christmas and Advent season, I'll be sharing a sermon series titled "Gift Exchange." Life often burdens us with difficult experiences like despair, anxiety, sorrow, darkness, and a sense of meaninglessness. Yet, in the midst of it all, God offers us precious, life-giving gifts—hope, peace, joy, love, light, and purpose. As we prepare for gift exchanges with friends and family this Advent season, we will reflect on the gifts given by the greatest giver of all and explore how we can receive and embrace these gifts, even in the most challenging times. I hope everyone will join us and share in this meaningful time together.



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



Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

Kid's Church School every Wednesday
3:30pm-5:00pm



Church Contact Information: Church office: 308-832-1995—managerumcminden@msn.com
Mindenumc.org

Pastor Peter Choi—201-888-8430, Please call or text for appointment or
email peterchoiminden@gmail.com

Jaime Sinsel, Office Manager—308-830-2867, Mon-Wed 8am-Noon, Thurs. 8-10:30am

Jeanette Wilkinson, Prayer Chain—402-756-0772

Randy Nolan, Custodian—308-830-3973