



**United Methodist Church
340 N Newell Ave,
Minden, Nebraska
4th Sunday of Advent
10:00 a.m.
December 22, 2024**



Prelude

Glen Haselbarth

Video

Welcome and Announcements

1. The Christmas Eve Service will be on December 24th at 7 PM. We encourage you to invite those around you so we can all come together to sing carols and celebrate the birth of Jesus.
2. As we begin the new year, we warmly invite you to join us for our New Year's Worship Service on **Sunday, January 5, 2025**. Just as new wine is poured into new wineskins, this will be a time to come before God with renewed hearts, dedicating ourselves to Him as we step forward into the year ahead.
3. In February 2025, Pastor Peter will begin a new sermon series titled **Living the Questions: A Journey through Faith and Life**. As Christians, we often wrestle with balancing our faith and the realities of daily life. This four-week series will explore questions that many of us wonder about but find difficult to answer. For more details, please check the church newsletter, where you'll find a list of potential topics for this series. If there's a particular topic that interests you, please feel free to contact the church.
4. We encourage you to consider volunteering as a scripture reader, greeter, communion server, or refreshment host. If you feel called to serve our church and ministry, please add your name to the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary.
5. Refreshments will be served in Room 300 following worship.
6. Last week we received offerings of \$2,535.

Fourth Sunday in Advent: Love **The Smidt Family**
"O Little Town of Bethlehem" UMH#230 vs. 1

Call to worship!

L: In a world craving connection, we gather to celebrate love.

P: **For love comes from God, and God is love.**

L: Love one another, my friends.

P: **For God is love in us.**

L: There is no fear in love, for perfect love casts out fear.

P: **We are called to love everyone, for God is love in us.**

L: Let us worship the God who is love and live as a people of love,

P: **We worship and thank the One who loved us first.**

Happy Birthday to

Erin Koch
Sam Martin
Jade Melroy

Prayer List

Nadine Fahrlander
Lee Mills
Joe Hultquist
Larry Anderson

December 22-28, 2024

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

**7pm Christmas Eve
Service**

Wednesday

Merry Christmas!!

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

**Vision for 2024:
All things work
together for good.
(Romans 8:28)**

Opening Prayer

God, we see your face when love appears. God, we see your face when love is shown by words and actions. Help us to be love to all, even those that we find difficult to love. Help us to love, for when we love you are present. Help us to live in love no matter what and in so doing to live into your presence. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession

The Apostles' Creed (Ecumenical Version)

UMH#882

Opening Hymn

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

UMH#220

Passing the Peace of Christ

Children's Time

Scripture Reading

1 John 4:7-19 (NIV) God's Love and Ours

Kent Verbeck

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **P: Thanks be to God.**

Special Music

"Christmas Medley"

Bell Choir

Message

"Fear for Love"

Pastor Peter Choi

Hymn

"Sing We Now of Christmas"

UMH#237

Joys & Concerns—Pastoral Prayer—The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Doxology "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH#94

Offertory Prayer

Loving God, you give generously of your love and Spirit. Receive these gifts of our hearts and bless them to share your love with our community, we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn

"Joy to the World"

UMH#246

Sending Forth

As we go from this place, may we carry the light of Christ's love into the world. Let us share His peace, spread His joy, and love all those we encounter. May the grace of God guide us, and may His love empower us to live as His faithful disciples. Go in peace, knowing that God's love goes with you, now and always. Amen.

Postlude

Glen Haselbarth