

**United Methodist Church—340 N Newell Ave—Minden, Nebraska**  
**4th Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**10:00 a.m.—February 2, 2025**

**Welcome**

**Opening Songs**                    **“Draw Me Close” #76**  
   **“Today is the Day” #32**

**Call to worship!**

**L:** Come, let us gather in the presence of the Lord, who calls us to walk in faith and live in peace.

**P: We come with open hearts, seeking God's wisdom and guidance.**

**L:** In a world filled with conflict, God calls us to be peacemakers, to love our neighbors, and to seek justice for all.

**P: We come to hear God's Word and learn how to live as instruments of peace.**

**L:** Let us worship the Lord, who leads us on a journey of faith and life.

**P: We open our hearts to God's Word and His call to live faithfully in this world.**

**A: Praise be to God, who guides us in the way of peace and truth. Amen.**

**Silent Prayer of Reflection**

**Prayer of Assurance**

God of grace, we thank You for the quiet moments to reflect on our lives and Your presence with us. Guide our hearts as we continue to grow in faith and help us see the ways You are calling us each day. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Passing the Peace of Christ**

**Children's Sermon**

**Scriptures**

**Kent Verbeck**

**Matthew 5:9 (NIV)**

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

**Romans 13:1-4 (NIV) Submission to Governing Authorities**

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

**Ecclesiastes 3:8 (NIV)**

a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

**L:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

**Message**                    **“War and Peace”**                    **Pastor Peter Choi**

**Happy Birthday to**  
Mark Loseke

**Happy Anniversary to**  
Dick & KayLyn  
McBride—58 years

**Prayer List**  
Nadine Fahrlander  
Marion Johnson  
Lee Mills  
Larry Anderson

**February 2-8, 2025**

**Sunday**

**Monday**

7pm Girl Scouts  
7:15pm Boy Scouts

**Tuesday**

**Wednesday**

3:30pm –5:00pm  
Wednesday School  
6:30pm Youth Group

**Thursday**

**Friday**

**Saturday**

## February 2, 2025

### Announcements

1. Pastor Peter has carefully selected topics for the February sermon series - A Journey through Faith and Life. The next three topics coming up are:

**Feb 9:** How Unbelievers View Jesus

**Feb 16:** The Afterlife

**Feb 23:** The Role of Women in the Church

He is confident this will be a meaningful time for you to engage, reflect, and ask your own questions. You are warmly invited to be part of this impactful journey!

2. Valentine's Day is coming up on February 14! This year, why not make it more meaningful by **expressing your heart through a handwritten note**? Is there someone you've been meaning to thank? A friend you haven't spoken to in a while? A fellow church member who could use some encouragement? Now is the perfect time to reach out with kindness! Cards and envelopes will be available in the church lobby for you. Let's make this Valentine's Day about more than just chocolates and flowers—let's fill it with love, gratitude, and the joy of sharing God's love with one another!

3. There will be an online event for children's ministry leaders via Zoom on Saturday, February 22nd, from 9:30 to 11:00 AM. The program's name is "Little Readers, Big Faith!"

You can join us at the church or access it through a registered link. Please let me know if you are interested in this program.

4. **Lent Season Begins on March 5!** To mark this season, we are looking for 40 people to read 40 devotions from *The Upper Room* over 40 days. If you choose to read a devotion, Pastor Peter will record it, or you can send him a video file. A sign-up sheet will soon be available at the church. If you feel the Holy Spirit is calling you, please sign up.

5. 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.

6. Refreshments will be served in Room 300 following worship.

7. Last week we received offerings of \$4,814.

### Joys & Concerns—Pastoral Prayer

#### Offering

#### Doxology

**"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

**UMH#95**

#### Offertory Prayer

Gracious God, we recognize that everything we have is a gift from You, and we offer back a portion of it as an act of worship and thanksgiving. May these gifts bring hope to the hurting, peace to the troubled, and light to those in darkness. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

#### Holy Communion

**Special Music "One Bread, One Body" #73**

**Closing Song "A Mighty Fortress" #31**

#### Sending Forth

As we go from this place, may we go with hearts full of God's love and peace. May we seek to be instruments of hope and reconciliation in a world that needs both. Go forth, knowing that God's presence goes with you, guiding you in every step of your journey. Live out your faith with courage, love, and justice. Amen.

**Vision statement for 2025: "A Life Centered on Worship" inspired by Romans 12:1**