



# THE MESSENGER

## December 2025

*A Publication of The United Methodist Church  
340 N Newell Ave, Minden, NE 68959*

Greetings Members and Friends of MUMC,

This is my favorite time of the year! I love driving around at night to see Christmas lights shining on homes, listening to Christmas music on the radio, making special cookies and candies, and decorating my home with the ornaments and treasures that keep my family close to my heart. Even though these are commercial signs of the season, there always seems to be something more, something I can't quite name but absolutely feel. Maybe you sense it too: the expectation, the anticipation, the mystery of what is to come as a new year approaches. Something in all of us leans forward during Advent.

As we enter this sacred season, we find ourselves at a familiar place in the Christian year; a place shaped by hope, love, joy and peace. We are waiting once again for Christ's birth, a story that has knit together believers across centuries. Though we know the story well, it still asks us: Will you hear it again with new ears? Will you welcome it again with an open heart?

This year, our Advent journey is paired with a beloved story many of us treasure: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. Just as Lucy pushed aside the coats and stepped through the wardrobe into a world she never expected, we too are being invited to step into the season with wonder.

Each week will follow a theme, mirrored both in Scripture and in Narnia:

**Hope** – The Wardrobe (Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 24:36-44) Like Lucy's first steps into Narnia, hope often begins with simply being willing to enter.

**Love** – The Witch (Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-12) True love unmask false promises and transforms us, far deeper than Turkish Delight ever could.

**Joy** – Father Christmas (Isaiah 35:1-10; Matthew 11:2-11) Joy arrives as a sign that winter is melting and God is on the move.

**Peace** – The Empty Chair (Isaiah 40:1-8, 28-30) Peace often enters the spaces where we wait, remember, and long for restoration.

**Christmas Eve** – The Lion (Isaiah 9:2-7) Light breaks into darkness. The Lion appears. Christ is born.

Sometimes this season brings uproar and busyness, our own personal bedlam. Yet the beauty of Christmas is that God steps directly into our mess. Bethlehem itself was noisy, crowded, political, and chaotic, and still Christmas broke through. My prayer is that God's grace will plant deep within you a spirit of hope, love, joy, and peace, enabling you to find Bethlehem in the midst of whatever your December holds.

As we prepare for Christmas, how are you preparing your heart to welcome Christ again this year? May you find Narnian wonder and Bethlehem's promise everywhere you go.

Peace & Blessings,

Pastor Kayla



# December 2025

Sun                  Mon      Tue                  Wed                  Thu                  Fri                  Sat

	1 7pm Girl Scouts	2	3 3:30pm-5pm Wednesday School 6:30pm Youth Group	4 Prayer Time	5	6
7 10:00am Worship 2nd Sunday of Advent 11:15am Confirmation	8 8am-4pm WIC 7pm Boy Scouts	9	10 9:30am United Women in Faith 3:30pm-5pm Wednesday School 6pm Finance Meeting	11 Prayer Time	12	13
14 10:00am Worship 3rd Sunday of Advent 11:15am Confirmation	15	16	17 3:30pm-5pm Wednesday School 6:30pm Youth Group	18 Prayer Time	19	20
21 10:00am Worship 4th Sunday of Advent 11:15am Confirmation	22	23	24 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day	26	27
28 10:00am Worship 1st Sunday after Christmas 11:15am Confirmation	29	30	31			





### December Birthdays

- 1—Mike Boudreau
- 2—Jensen Rowse
- 3—Peter Smith
- 7—Mike Conyers
- 9—Kathi Schutz
- 13—Lee Mills
- 15—Chad Fries
- 22—Erin Koch
- 22—Same Martin
- 22—Jade Melroy
- 30—Jodi Boudreau
- 31—Joyce Will

### December Anniversaries

- 4—Kevin & Terese Smith—38 years
- 9—Malcom & Nikki Dornhoff—25 years
- 11—Tim & Tammy Burke—43 years
- 17—Fred & Joyce Will—48 years
- 18—Doug & Diana Hammer—43 years



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

Take a moment and say a prayer for Family & Friends of Dick McBride, Rod Duffey, Alyssa Kahle, Chad Fries, and all others that need God's comfort.



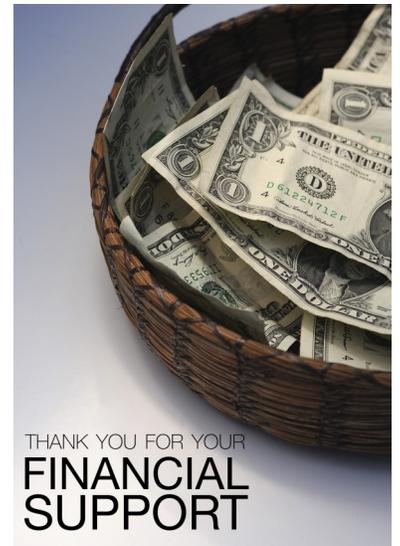
Please call the office when you know of any illness, hospitalization, new babies, marriages, joyous or sad news among your friends or family members.

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 2025 Financial Report...

General Giving in November	\$15,739
General Fund Giving to Date	\$160,258
General Expenses in November	\$15,313
General Fund Expenses to Date	\$180,567

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



**Christmas Eve Service  
7pm**

### Dignity, Honesty, Humility, and Mercy Four Pillars of Faithful Leadership

**An evening with Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde**

**Thursday, Dec 11th, 7 pm at the Mike and Josie Harper Auditorium (Omaha)**

The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde, Bishop of Washington (DC), will give a keynote address on Thursday, December 11. This event is hosted by the Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska and its Balancing the Scales and Racial Reconciliation & Sacred Ground Ministries. There will be a chance for audience Q&A from pre-registered questions and audience participation that evening.

Bishop Budde is a best-selling author with over a decade of experience as the bishop of the Episcopal Church's diocese around our nation's capital, and she will convene a diverse audience for reflections and conversation on these four pillars, and how they serve to establish faithful leadership and discipleship. The event is free and open to the public at Creighton University's Mike and Josie Harper Auditorium (602 N 20th Street, Omaha, NE 68178), with registration on a first-come, first-serve basis.

<https://alliance.wufoo.com/forms/z111khtr0q7tx97/>

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

**Scripture Readers:**

- December 7: KayLyn McBride
- December 14: Kylea Strasburg
- December 21: Kent Verbeck
- December 28: ?

**Refreshment Hosts:**

- December 7: KayLyn McBride
- December 14: Lyra Johnson
- December 21: The Loseke's
- December 28: Sandy Johnson

**December 7:**

Communion Steward: Shirley Fellers  
 Servers: Lori Conyers, Shirley Fellers,  
 Jaime Sinsel and ?\_\_\_\_\_.

**December 14:**

Communion Steward: ?\_\_\_\_\_  
 Servers: ?\_\_\_\_\_, ?\_\_\_\_\_, ?\_\_\_\_\_ and ?\_\_\_\_\_.

**December 21:**

Communion Steward: ?\_\_\_\_\_  
 Servers: ?\_\_\_\_\_, ?\_\_\_\_\_, ?\_\_\_\_\_ and ?\_\_\_\_\_.

**December 24:**

Communion Steward: Dave & Jane Craig  
 Servers: ?\_\_\_\_\_, ?\_\_\_\_\_, ?\_\_\_\_\_ and ?\_\_\_\_\_.



Below is a pledge card for 2026.

Please mail it or bring it to the church. You may also put it in the offering plate on Sunday. This pledge card helps us with budgeting every year.

There are also cards available at the church.



*Minden United Methodist Church*

*2026 Estimate of Giving*

I/We estimate that giving to our congregation will be:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Weekly \$\_\_\_\_\_ Monthly \$\_\_\_\_\_ Annually

*For an annual total of \$\_\_\_\_\_ in 2026.*

*(Choose the time increment that is most convenient for you.)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for Your Financial Support of our Church's Ministries*

*(This estimate may be revised or cancelled at any time.)*

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



**Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.**  
**11:15am Sunday - Confirmation**  
**Wednesday School 3:30pm-5:00pm**  
**December 3 & 17 @ 6:30pm Youth Group**

**Church Contact Info:**  
**308-832-1995**  
**managerumcminden@msn.com**  
**Mindenumc.org**

**Pastor Kayla Mangrich**  
**(815) 303-4808**  
**kmangrich@greatplainsumc.org**

**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**

