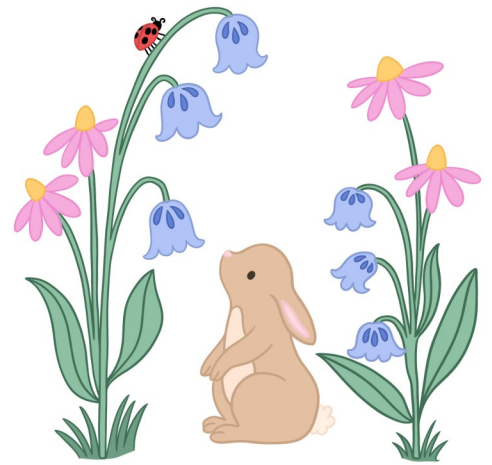


THE MESSENGER

April 2026

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



Greetings Members and Friends of MUMC,

As we turn the page into April, we enter one of the most sacred and hope-filled seasons of our faith: Easter. After walking the Lenten journey together, we arrive at the empty tomb, where grief is met with joy, despair gives way to hope, and death is overcome by life. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is not simply an event we remember; it is a reality we are invited to live into each and every day.

This month, we have much to celebrate as a church family. On Easter Sunday, we welcomed our Confirmation students as they publicly professed their faith and became full members of the church. This was a powerful moment not only for them, but for all of us. It is a reminder of the vows we have made—to support one another with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness—and a call to continue nurturing faith across generations. Thank you for all who were present as we celebrated their commitment and I pray we continue to surround them with love and encouragement.

We are also blessed to welcome a guest preacher, Jen Gibbs from United Campus Ministry at UNK. Her presence connects us to the wider work of the Church, particularly among young adults navigating faith in a transformative season of life. I hope you will join us in extending a warm welcome and in hearing the ways God is moving beyond our walls.

Following Easter, we will begin a new sermon series titled *Encountering the Risen Christ*. During the 40 days after the resurrection, Jesus appears to his disciples and others in deeply personal and transformative ways. These encounters are filled with questions, doubt, recognition, restoration, and calling. Together, we will explore these stories and consider how the risen Christ continues to meet us in our uncertainty, in our grief, in our ordinary moments and calls us forward into new life.

Easter is not the end of the story; it is the beginning of a new way of living. As resurrection people, we are invited to embody hope, to practice grace, and to bear witness to the living Christ in all that we do.

May this season renew your spirit, deepen your faith, and remind you that new life is always possible in Christ.

**Grace and peace,
Pastor Kayla**

April 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2 Holy Thursday Prayer Time 1:30pm	3 Good Friday	4 Holy Saturday
5 10:00am Worship Easter Day Confirmation Sunday 	6 7:00pm Girl Scouts	7	8 9:30am United Women in Faith 6:30pm Youth Group	9 Prayer Time 1:30pm	10	11
12 10:00am Worship with guest preacher Jen Gibbs 2nd Sunday of Easter	13 8am-4pm WIC 7:00pm Boy Scouts	14	15 6:30pm Leadership Board	16 Prayer Time 1:30pm	17 Mobile Food Pantry	18
19 10:00am Worship 3rd Sunday of Easter	20 7:00pm Girl Scouts	21	22 6:30pm Youth Group	23 Prayer Time 1:30pm	24	25
26 10:00am Worship 4th Sunday of Easter	27	28	29	30 Prayer Time 1:30pm		

April Birthdays

- 2—Tammy Burke
- 3—Joan Fries
- 4—Madeline Kring
- 7—John Albers
- 9—Douglas Grams
- 13—Valerie Kauk
- 15—Phyllis Burnham
- 15—Bailee Fries
- 18—Lyra Johnson
- 20—Jeanette Wilkinson
- 25—Joyce Bender
- 25—Riley Ratka
- 29—Cade Craig



April Anniversaries

- 27—Keller & Erin Koch—2 years
- 29—Doug & Shirley Fellers—26 years



- Val Kauk
- Gabby Froid
- Brenda Oltean
- Rod Duffey
- Orlan Grams
- Chad Fries

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.

March 2026 Financial Report...

General Giving in March	\$22,565
General Fund Giving to Date	\$39,875
General Expenses in March	\$22,297
General Fund Expenses to Date	\$53,700

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





Sunday
April 12, 2026

University of Nebraska at Kearney



United Campus Ministry at UNK walks alongside college students as they grow in faith, ask big questions, and discern God's call. During worship a Free Will Offering will be received to support UCM.

You are invited to give as you feel led.



GUEST PREACHER
Pastor Jen Gibbs

Jesus offers
Real Rest

The world offers temporary relief.
Jesus offers true rest for the soul.

Rest in Christ means:

- Letting go of the weight you were never meant to carry
- Trusting God with tomorrow's worries
- Finding peace in His presence today

Confirmation Photographs



We are looking for a group photo from confirmation classes in 1962, 1965, 1967, 1980, 1987, 1988, 1992, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2005, and 2006. If you have questions on who was in the class or if you have the photo and would be willing to share them please email them to managerumcminden@msn.com or bring them by the office.

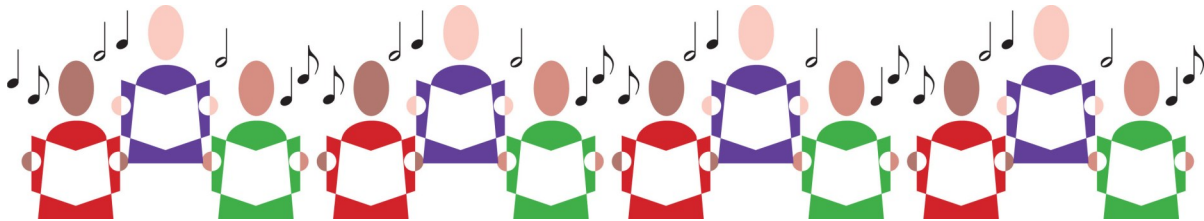
Please Call (308) 832-1995 if you can fill one of the open dates or email managerumcminden@msn.com.

Scripture Reader & Call to Worship:

April 5: Laci Loseke
 April 12: Kayla Mangrich
 April 19: Marilyn Rasmussen
 April 26: Kaylyn McBride

Refreshment Hosts:

April 5:
 April 12:
 April 19:
 April 26:



Great Plains Annual Conference Choir for the 2026 Ordination Service

At the request of our Bishop, a Conference Choir is being formed to offer music during this sacred service, and we are reaching out to singers and choirs in the Kearney area to take part in this meaningful occasion.

Annual Conference will gather May 27–30 at the Younes Center in Kearney, Nebraska, and the Ordination Service will be held on Saturday morning, May 30. This service stands at the heart of our shared life as a conference—a holy moment when we celebrate God's call and the Church's response. Our theme, "Serve Joyfully," finds beautiful expression in song. What more fitting way to serve than by offering your voice in praise and helping lead God's people in worship?

A rehearsal will be held on Thursday, May 28, at 6:30 p.m. (location details forthcoming), and again on Saturday morning, May 30 at 9:30 a.m. Though the time commitment is brief, the experience promises to be musically enriching and spiritually meaningful.

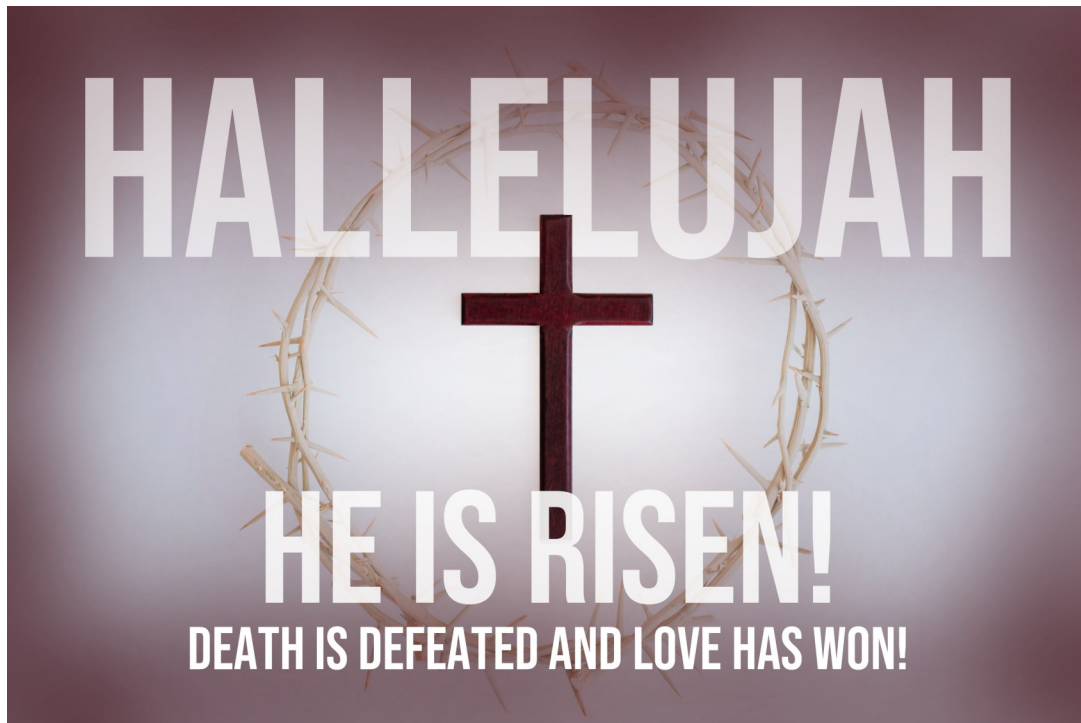
If you would like more information about this opportunity or have any questions, please contact me directly – sara@fumclawrence.org; (785)691-5341. I will be providing more information as the music and logistics are finalized. Please let me know via email by -Tuesday, March 30, if you plan on singing. If possible for everyone, we will wear robes, so please include in your response whether or not you have access to a choir robe.

Sara Wentz, Annual Conference Choir Director

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



Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
April 8 & 22 @ 6:30pm Youth Group



Church Contact Info:
308-832-1995
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