

# The Messenger

## Underwood Lutheran Church

**April, 2024**

**Pastor Scott Dalen**

Underwood Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 9 – 10 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ave.

Congregational President – Courtney Sampson – 402-350-0583  
Editor, Secretary – Tonya Driver – 712-309-1512

Underwood, IA 51576

Church Phone # - 566-2257

e-mail address: [ulcsecretary@metc.net](mailto:ulcsecretary@metc.net)

Education @ 9:00 am

Worship Service@ 10:15 am

-Holy Communion will be celebrated April 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

-Council will meet for their regular monthly meeting Wednesday April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Following the conclusion of the season of Lent, they are returning to their normal schedule of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

-Scrapbooking will be held Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup>.

-Following Easter Sunday on March 31<sup>st</sup>, Education will resume with Sunday School and Adult Education on Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup>.

-Pastor Scott will hold a New Member Class on Wednesday April 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Please contact Pastor Scott if you are interested. The date for receiving the new members into the congregation is tentatively set for Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup>.

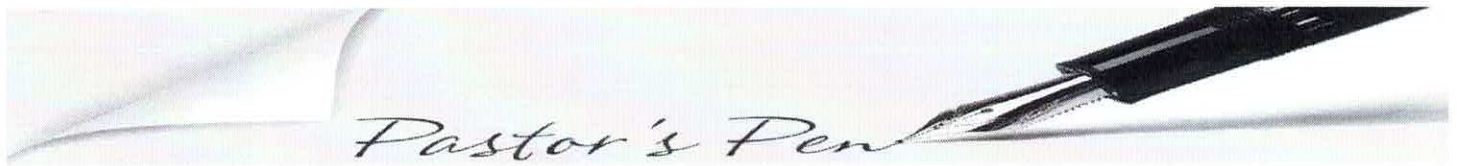
-The Western Iowa Synod Assembly will be Friday April 19<sup>th</sup> through Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup>. The event will be held at two different venues in Council Bluffs. Pastor Scott will represent the Congregation at assembly, and he will be available via phone in the case of emergencies.

-Following Easter Sunday on March 31<sup>st</sup>, regular classwork for Confirmation is concluded for the year. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade students have completed their work and will resume in September. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students will have their last session with Pastor Scott on Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> in preparation for Confirmation Sunday.

-Confirmation Sunday is April 28<sup>th</sup>, and will be a celebration for our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students.

-Anyone interested in joining the ranks of worship volunteers in the roles of Greeter, Usher, Reader, or Altar Guild? These important roles help the weekend worship services operate smoothly. Please contact Pastor Scott for more information or to volunteer. Also, if you are already on the rotational lists, please make sure that Tonya has your contact information. We are exploring ways to easily communicate reminders for individuals when their Sunday is approaching.

-Local individuals are invited to connect with us on Facebook in our group page "Underwood Lutheran Church Community." Facebook groups are designed to encourage interaction in a more accessible way than a regular page. You can find the group and join the group by visiting the church Facebook page and clicking on the blue button marked "Visit Group" found right under the main picture. Note that this Facebook group is private, and is intended only for individuals in and directly around the Underwood community. Individuals from outside our community are free to follow the public ULC Facebook page



*Then Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him "Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven times." Matthew 18:21-22*

This is an odd little passage. While its aimed at the idea of forgiveness within the body of Christ, I think the underlying theme is reconciliation. I've reflected on this idea before, that one of the "Goals" within the Christ-Event is to make reconciliation possible. It may not always happen...but Jesus makes it possible.

Now reconciliation takes on a lot of forms, but one mental image that comes to mind is meeting in the middle. Finding common ground and starting from there. And then my pop-culture obsessed mind starts playing the old Diamond Rio song "I'd start walking your way, you'd start walking mine. We'd meet in the middle 'neath that old Georgia Pine."

Compromise. Common Ground. Meeting in the Middle.

I feel like this should be a no-brainer...but shouldn't these common ideas be a given? Let's be adults here. Absolutely anything that involves more than 1 person involves this sort of thing. Now here's my question. Collectively, how are we doing on that front these days?

In January's article, I reflected on the call of Christ for us to love one another, and I hinted pretty heavily that this is something we should be considering as we move into an election year...which seems to get more and more contentious in our nation every time. And now, in the 24-hour period leading up to me sitting down and writing this article, something happened that's got me thinking about it again.

I received a message from an individual that is helping collect signatures in order to get someone on the ballot for one of our local races. The individual and the race in question aren't important. But when I got the message, I had to stop and think about it. Admittedly, I don't really know the potential candidate very well, but I do know that they lean the opposite side of the political spectrum from me.

But as I considered the request, I realized that this is an individual who is willing to step into a role serving the public. Because at its heart...isn't that what elections are really about? Maybe it's a little easier to see that (or to believe it) at the small local level rather than on the national stage. But shouldn't it be true regardless of the level we're talking about?

And so, with that in mind, I added my name to the list of signatures they need to be on the ballot.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment instructs us to not bear false witness against our neighbor, and in the Small Catechism, Martin Luther reminds us that we are to come to the defense of our neighbor, "speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light."

For too long I fear each of us has gone along with the divisive nature of partisanship...and I've seen too many bumper stickers, flags, political ads, and everything else under the sun that seeks to demonize and dehumanize. And Lord knows I've been involved in plenty of conversations that have done the exact same thing. I'll include myself in this whole deal too.

But...is it possible for us to look at this WHOLE deal as an opportunity to for reconciliation? Can we, as followers of Christ, actually live out our day to lives, carry on conversations, or take action that might serve as an example of ways to turn down the heat?

I started this article with verses about forgiveness...and while that is probably applicable...I find myself hoping for some honest and heartfelt effort for reconciliation in this whole deal. What do you think folks?

Is it time that we all start actively trying to meet in the middle?

In Christ

Pastor Scott

## Underwood Lutheran Church Council - February 11, 2024

### Meeting

Present: Erik Pedersen, Jay Ackland, Amber Chase, Pastor Scott Dalen, Courtney Sampson, Ben Harold, Analise Letner

Absent - Brett Michaels (Treasurer)

#### 1. **Call to Order**

Pastor Scott called the meeting to order and opened with a prayer.

#### 2. **Devo (skipped due to Sunday Schedule)**

#### 3. **Financial Report-Brett**

Courtney moved to approve the financial report, seconded by Pastor Scott. Motion approved

#### 4. **Secretary Report**

-Approval of January Minutes and Annual Meeting Minutes

-Include Email Approval of January Financial Report via email January 23<sup>rd</sup>

Pastor Scott moved to approve the secretary's report, seconded by Jay. Motion approved

#### 5. **Pastors report**

##### Facility Issues

NA

##### Parish Education

-Confirmation classwork finished Feb 11<sup>th</sup>      -Will move into Holy Week Prep Feb 25<sup>th</sup>

-Confirmation Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup>

-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Communion Class-March 12<sup>th</sup>

-Milestone Celebration/Communion Service on Maundy Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>

##### Calendar Matters

-CeCe Mickells Confirmed for Pulpit Supply Feb 18<sup>th</sup>

-Bill Shelton will be point person, also spearheading Video Recording 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>

-Ash Wednesday is the 14<sup>th</sup>, 2 Communion Assistants Needed

-Western Iowa Synod Director of Evangelical Mission (DEM) Eric Haitz, Feb 25<sup>th</sup>

-Joining us for Worship

-We are planning a dialogue sermon, similar to Bishop Lorna's last visit

##### Congregational Life

-Annual Parochial Report submitted to Churchwide Jan 25<sup>th</sup>

##### Pastoral Acts

-Holy Communion

-January 21<sup>st</sup> 49 of 66

-February 4<sup>th</sup> 63 of 72

-Bethany Heights January 18<sup>th</sup>

-Normal Shut in Visits

-Baptism Charlee Fisher January 21<sup>st</sup>

-Janet Hedegaard to the auditing committee

Pastor Scott moved to approve appointing Janet Hedegaard to the auditing committee, seconded by Amber. Motion approved

## 6. Committee Reports

### a. Operations (Brett & Pastor)

-nothing at this point

### b. Life (Jay & Erik)

-assign the whole year so everyone has a responsibility

### c. Education (open)

-confirmation class wrapped up today

-holy week work (confirmation is April 28<sup>th</sup>)

-last week of Sunday school not determined (assuming it may be May 5<sup>th</sup>)

### d. Property (Ben & Courtney)

-multiple people trained to use the AED

-would love to have a list of people who are willing to be AED trained

-pastor got some updates on the church's front doors

### e. Endowment (open)

-nothing at this point

## 7. Old Business

### a. Lent Meal Details, March 6<sup>th</sup>, dinner starts at 6:00

-fried chicken \$55 for 48 pieces X 2 = \$110 divided by 7 people

-corn macaroni - Analise

-chips & cookies - Pastor

-side and dessert - Erik

-cheesy potatoes & fluffy salad - Jay

-cheesy potatoes and dessert - Courtney

-brownies - Ben

-? - Amber

## 8. New Business

### a. Upholstery/Replacement of Choir/Conference Room Chairs

-Jay found one place in Omaha that could do it, he needs to send a picture and number

-Pastor also has a contact in Harlan

-Amber mentioned a place in Woodbine

-do we have money or do we need to fundraise for this?

-Pastor, Jay and Amber will price check and Courtney will price new ones

### b. Youth Group Inquiry

-has been on pastor's radar

-possibility of combining with other churches in the area, Minden has a possible group that rotates

**c. 2024 Communion Assistant Schedule**

-We say: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

-Pastor - If a child reaches out for it, I will give it. Check for approval from parents.

**d. Committee Assignments**

-Operations (budget or insurance changes) - Pastor, Brett

-Life (events that go on - social) - Jay, Erik, Amber

-Education (Sunday school & confirmation) - Analise, Amber

-Property (if something breaks or light bulb goes out) - Ben, Courtney

-Endowment (separate group and 1 person from council needs to be on it) - Erik

Pastor Scott moved to approve Erik as Endowment committee member, seconded by Jay.

Motion approved

**e. Selection of Officers (Pres, Vice, Secretary, Endowment Rep)**

President: Courtney

-weather cancelation

-frustrations/complaints

-set an agenda & lead meeting

-chair the annual meeting

Vice: Erik

-back up to the president

Secretary: Analise

-type up all the notes of the meetings

Endowment Rep: Erik

Pastor Scott moved to approve these positions, seconded by Jay. Motion approved

**f. March Meeting Date (still in Lent) and Regular Monthly Schedule**

March 17<sup>th</sup> after church

April 17<sup>th</sup> 6:00 on the third Wednesday of each month

**9. Adjourn**

-motion to adjourn by pastor and seconded by Analise

# Scrapbooking is... A Work of Heart

Come be creative with us!  
Saturdays

April 13  
May 11

10:00 am to ???

\$10.00 per person

Questions: Call Sandy Redshaw  
712-566-9574 or 712-310-2151  
After 6 PM

As of February 29th:  
YTD Regular Giving-\$20,686.40  
YTD Actual Expenses-\$20,711.86  
YTD Budgeted Expenses-\$25,514.20

Monthly Goal-\$12,257.08  
Weekly Goal-\$2,828.55  
(Operational \$2,601.63, Benevolence \$226.93)  
Regular Giving Through March 13th-\$25,412.50  
Weekly Average Giving-\$2,541.25

## Offerings....

*"Our gifts to God"*

	Offerings	Attendance
Feb. 18	\$ 3364.34	81
Feb. 21 -Lent	\$ 299.00	38
Feb. 25	\$ 1774.00	54
Feb. 28 -Lent	\$ 399.00	52
Mar. 03	\$ 2360.16	73
Mar. 06-Lent	\$ 377.00	46
Mar.10	\$ 3264.94	98
Mar.13-Lent	\$ 224.00	39
Mar.17	\$ 3884.54	101
Mar.20-Lent	\$ 195.00	29
Mar.24	\$ 1227.43	94
Mar.29	\$ 299.00	85



# Worship Participants for April, 2024

If you are unable to participate as scheduled, please call the office-566-2257

Piano/Organist	April 07	Nancy Dose
	April 14	Arla Clausen
	April 21	Judy Pingel
	April 28	Sonya Schiphoff
Acolytes	April 07	Regan Sealock
	April 14	Jason Thomas
	April 21	Leighton Wood
	April 28	Jace Blum
Lectors	April 07	Judy Pingel
	April 14	Brett Michael
	April 21	Lea Voss
	April 28	Cheri Wulff
Ushers	April 07	James and Marlene Merdinger
	April 14	Greg and Sandy Redshaw
	April 21	Jeff and Tracy Shreeves
	April 28	LaVern Leaders and Lynn Leaders

ALTAR GUILD: Christine Privia and Laura Tennigkeit  
DEACON: Analise Letner



# April 2024

## Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mar 31 7:30 AM Worship Service/5 9 AM No Education 10:15 AM Worship Service/	Apr 1	2	3	4	5	6
7 9 AM Education 10:15 AM Worship Service/	8	9	10	11	12	13 10 AM Scrapbooking
14 9 AM Education 10:15 AM Worship Service	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 9 AM Education 10:15 AM Worship Service/	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 9 AM Education 10:15 AM Worship Service	29	30	May 1	2	3	4