

# The Messenger

## Underwood Lutheran Church

May, 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 May 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Council will meet for their regular monthly meeting Wednesday May 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. The date has been changed from the regular 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday evening to accommodate various member's schedules.
- Scrapbooking will be held Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup> will feature our last week of Education for the program year. Sunday School and Adult Class will both come to a close.
- Sunday May 12<sup>th</sup> will feature Senior Recognition and the presentation of Scholarships for our graduating Seniors during worship.
- Sunday May 26<sup>th</sup>, Memorial Weekend, will be the first Sunday on the Summer Worship Schedule. Worship will begin at 9:30am on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Worship remains at 10:15am through Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup>.
- 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



*[Peter said] this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh." Acts 2:16-17*

May 19<sup>th</sup> is the day of Pentecost this year. It is, admittedly, one of my favorite Sundays of the Church year. Its one of the few times when we REALLY zero in on the presence and power and importance of the Holy Spirit, in this case as the Spirit empowers the earliest Church to...well, be the Church.

Within this particular moment, some naysayers toss out an accusation of public intoxication as an explanation for how the divinely empowered disciples start speaking different languages (yet another of my favorite "WHAT?!?!" moments of scripture), and Peter kicks off a rather lengthy sermon by quoting Joel. This serves as an OLD reminder (think Old Testament-Old) that God has long planned to empower EVERYONE. Cuz, "all flesh" means everyone right?

Now I'm perhaps making a bit of a jump here, but I don't think its out of line. The indication that God intends for all flesh to be empowered by the Spirit seems to indicate that God intends all flesh (aka once again...everyone) to be part of the Church...aka the Body of Christ.

Over the course of the past few months, I have been increasingly aware of those voices that we don't always hear from...and those people that aren't always represented or brought to the forefront. This needling in the back of my mind has come from several different directions...and I can't help but think that that pesky Holy Spirit might just be behind it.

For starters, I'm thinking about our young people. We have a vibrant Sunday School program here at the church, and we are blessed with many young families. But it was pointed out at our Annual Meeting this year that we've got a pretty good gap in opportunity for our young people once they get passed Confirmation. Likewise, that also carries into available opportunities for our young adults (late teens-20's and 30s). And then as I consider that group, I'm also remembering a podcast that I heard recently that spoke about adult singles, and the tendency for churches to default focus to married couples. And then there was a panel including 2 high schoolers at Synod Assembly that really got me thinking about it.

I could easily stretch that list out farther...but these are some of the demographics most pressing in my mind right now.

And so, I pose a question...how might we as Underwood Lutheran better serve...or better yet EMPOWER these various groups and individuals to be the church now. Maybe we need to start by listening to them. Its my intention to spend this upcoming summer season doing just that.

Be watching for opportunities and invitations to engage with this. If you fall in one of those groups, I'd love to talk with you and hear your thoughts and hopes and dreams for the Church. Feel free to reach out to me and we'll set something up.

Because at this point, admittedly, I don't know what I don't know. But I'm curious to find out.

In Christ

Pastor Scott

## Underwood Lutheran Church Council - March 17, 2024 Meeting

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

Absent: Brett Michaels (Treasurer)

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

Courtney called the meeting to order at 11:18.

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

### 3. **Financial Report**-Brett (absent)...Courtney facilitated

Erik moved to approve the financial report, seconded by Analise. Motion approved

### 4. **Secretary Report**

-Approval of February Minutes

Courtney moved to approve the secretary's report, seconded by Ben. Motion approved

### 5. **Pastors report**

#### Facility Issues

-Lawn Mowing For the Season, possibly members of the 4H Club

-Spring Check Up Appt with AirServ Wednesday March 27<sup>th</sup>, Parsonage and Church

-No heat this morning (3/17/24) on north end in the basement...resolved on 3/19/24

#### Parish Education

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

-Celebration on Maundy Thursday with Short Communion Service

-Compiling Information for Confirmation Robe Order

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

#### Calendar Matters

-Vacation August 19<sup>th</sup>-September 1<sup>st</sup>

-Pulpit Supply Pending

-This accounts for 3 of 4 annual vacation weeks

-Family Camp in early August is unlikely, but will be slated as Continuing Ed if it occurs

-Communion Servers

-Maundy Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm (Analise)

-Easter Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:15am (Courtney, Jay, or Amber)

-Confirmation Students will Serve at 7:30am

-New Member Class Pending for April 10<sup>th</sup>

-Several Individuals Have Expressed Interest

-Potential Date for New Member Welcome April 21<sup>st</sup>

#### Congregational Life

-Gerald Martin Memorial Funds (\$5,800)

-Family has granted freedom to use at leadership's discretion

-Waiting for Arrival of the Check/Funds

-Potential Usage: Chair Project, Door Resurfacing, Sanctuary Technology

-Registration Complete for Western Iowa Synod Assembly (April 19-20 in Council Bluffs)

-\$225 registration fee only, no hotel required due to location

-Notice from Post Office Regarding Cancellation of Bulk Mailing Permit in '22

-Per Post Master, Nothing to Be Concerned About

## Pastoral Acts

### -Holy Communion

- February 18<sup>th</sup> 71 of 81
- March 3<sup>rd</sup> 69 of 73
- Bethany Heights Feb 29<sup>th</sup>
- Shut in Visits

## 6. **Committee Reports**

### a. **Operations** (Brett & Pastor)

- nothing to report at this time

### b. **Life** (Jay, Erik & Amber)

- overview printed and passed out to indicate what Life Committee does throughout the year
- How can we (council and congregation) help and support our own church family?
  - possibly a meal for families in need
  - maybe get a sign-up going again for treats after the service
- Cake for confirmation, 1 sheet with 90 slices

### c. **Education** (Analise, Becky Pedersen & Amber)

- last day of education is May 5<sup>th</sup>
- seems to be a lot of waste in materials
- possibly put them in the church bags, hold and sort for the future, order less

### d. **Property** (Ben & Courtney)

- lots of vacuuming necessary
- spraying bugs inside and outside, boxelder bugs are significant...going to call and check on prices
- downspout on north end of the building blew off in the wind

### e. **Endowment** (Erik)

- met with new person in Edward Jones, 2/3 of funds are through Edward Jones
- funds have really come back after a down market year

## 7. **Old Business**

- Upholstery/Replacement of Choir/Conference Room Chairs
  - If ordered through Uline, we will need to be able to unload the semi
  - delivered to Courtney's and use 51503 zip code to save on shipping
  - Erik moved to approve the ordering of chairs from Uline, seconded by Pastor. Motion approved.
- Youth Group Inquiry Update
  - nothing new at this point
- 2024 Communion Assistant Schedule
  - i. April - Analise
  - ii. May - Amber
  - iii. June - Courtney
  - iv. July - Amber
  - v. August - Erik

## 8. **New Business**

- a. Life Committee ideas (see above)
- b. 4H members are interested in mowing this summer - Will put in contact with Kathy Darrington
- c. fertilizing and spraying (taken care of)
- d. spring cleanup will also be done by 4H Club
- e. Next meeting date: April 17, 2024 at 6:00

## 9. **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn by Pastor, seconded by Analise. Motion approved.

## Western Iowa Synod Assembly Recap

The Western Iowa Synod held its annual assembly in Council Bluffs April 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. The Synod Assembly functions in the same way as our congregational Annual Meeting. It serves as the business meeting in which applicable action is taken for the synod to operate through the year. But it also serves as a time for individuals from around the synod to gather together for fellowship, worship, education, and encouragement.

The business side of the Assembly included the passing of the Synod's updated budget both for the remainder of 2024, as well as projections for 2025. These projections of the year to come will be updated when the synod meets again next year. Additionally, the synod also approved updates to a document called Compensation and Care Guidelines, which provides guidance to congregational leadership in considering compensation for their staff including ministers. Finally, the Assembly held elections for the year for various committees, officers, and the Synod Council. Pastor Scott was once again elected to serve on the Synod Council, filling out a 1-year opening at the end of an existing term. This term will expire at the 2025 synod Assembly.

In addition to the business of the Assembly, delegates heard from representatives of ELCA Churchwide, Portico (our denominations Benefits provider), and a panel discussion including 2 very insightful high school students from within our Synod. The Synod Endowment Committee (on which Pastor Scott also serves) presented 3 first-call pastors with checks aimed at easing their Student Loan Debt.

The final portion of the Assembly is the annual address of the Bishop. Bishop Lorna Halaas offered an insightful look into the challenges and the joys that the Synod Staff/Office deals with throughout the year. She offered a challenge for the Western Iowa Synod to be honest and aware of the challenges that the church faces within the world, and how we might rise to meet those challenges. Bishop Lorna also shared the reality of her call as Bishop, as she enters into the final year of her term, which expires at the 2025 Assembly. Though Bishop Lorna would be eligible for reelection, she has decided that she will not stand for reelection. The Synod will therefore be electing a new Bishop next year. Bishop Lorna challenged the Synod to be praying for whoever that person will be, that God will raise up and equip the next individual called to the office of Bishop.

ASSEMBLY  
2024



# WATERLIFE JOURNAL

2024 SYNOD ASSEMBLY SPECIAL EDITION

Two days, two places,  
remembering blessings,  
celebrating strengths,  
dreaming possibilities...



2024 WESTERN IOWA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

**Stir Us  
Up To Be**  
BRAVE - AUTHENTIC - FREE  
DISRUPTIVE - DISCIPLES

## We are the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - ELCA

One of the largest Christian denominations in the United States. We have 3.3 million members with 8,900 worshipping communities.

We believe –

Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not of your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so no one can boast.”

Living Lutheran –

Luke 10:27 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.”

We engage the Bible as the written Word of God.

We understand the authors of the Biblical canon to be inspired by the Holy Spirit. The words themselves are not dictated by God. We approach the texts with curiosity, believing it is holy work to wrestle with the text.

We celebrate and value diversity -

Because all people are created in the image of God, we celebrate people in all their diversity as good.

We use expansive language for God - Scripture speaks of God as verbs, nouns, inanimate objects, and as forces of nature. As people of faith we continue to understand the mystery of God in a variety of ways not limited to male terms.

We are church together-

“For God so loved the world.” John 3:16 God’s love and gift of grace to all humanity is what unites us. We respond to God’s love by living what Jesus demonstrated, working for justice and bringing healing, compassion, and love to all the world.

Congregations and synods share pulpits and sacraments with the Episcopal Church, the Moravians, Presbyterians, the United Church of Christ, the Reformed Church, and the Methodists.

We also are also good neighbors with Catholic, Muslim, Jewish, and other faith groups.

We are the Western Iowa Synod - ELCA

115 congregations, building relationships and living our baptismal promises.

**We are God’s love made real.**



Hosts of Iowa Synod Assembly  
Curtis Schaefer  
Damon Hopkins



Community Meal  
with Council Bluffs  
Residents



Offering for  
Youth Travel &  
Iowa Pig Project



Worship  
Team



Alyssa Schade, Austin Meyer, Evan Mott, Jaidyn Orozco,  
Kail Townsend, Maddie Pressler, Paige Vose, Sara  
Kalamaja, Joan Ebersold, Laura Nelson, Noah Elder,  
Damon Hopkins, Risty Bryce, Jackie Reinders

Every gender, every race, all are covered by God’s grace.



*Stir us up  
to be...*

**BISHOP LORNA HALAAS**



We have heard powerful proclamation of God's Love Made Real at this year's assembly. We have witnessed youth and young adults sharing their faith in brave, authentic, disruptive ways. We can focus on what we don't have. Or we can invest our energy in welcoming and appreciating the youth in our midst, encouraging them to lead along side of us, trusting them to shape the church that will proclaim the message of love and grace today and tomorrow. They have learned from us and bring new life to an age old truth that has guided the Church throughout history: God loves us more than we can ever realize or understand. Listen to what the Spirit is saying through them.

Noah Elder told us about pie as we considered the sweet call of the Spirit to rostered ministry. Is God calling you?



Rev. Debra McKnight, the founding pastor of Urban Abbey stirred us up to be aware of the Spirit moving and ministering in our communities.

Iain Chester, Executive Director of Innovation, ELCA, shared a greeting from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and updated us on shared ministries.

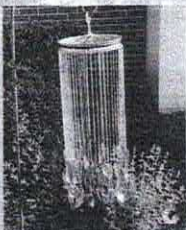


Aaron Shoppa, Ian Hertenstein, Tucker Haitz and Eric Haitz shared their experiences with the ELCA Youth Leadership Summit.



Paul Erbes from Morningside University spoke on Opportunities for Stewardship at the Assembly Pre-Session.

Vicar Paige McGrath preached at worship, stirring us to recognize that disruption brings new life.



Living God, you speak and your Spirit moves, stirring up change, bringing disruption, and transformation....creating a world out of chaos, bringing life to dry bones, life giving water and resurrection to the dead. Nourish us with your presence and stir us up to be brave, authentic, free, disruptive, disciples proclaiming the power of your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



# Scrapbooking is... A Work of Heart

Come be creative with us!  
Saturdays

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 March 31st  
YTD General Giving: \$34,538.66  
YTD Actual Expenses: \$34,819.25  
YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$36,771.30

Monthly Goal-\$12,257.08  
Weekly Goal-\$2,828.55  
(Operational \$2,601.63, Benevolence \$226.93)  
Regular Giving Through April 14th: \$40,008.23  
Weekly Average Giving: \$2,667.21

## Offerings....

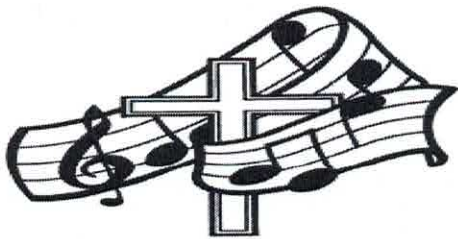
### "Our gifts to God"

	Offerings	Attendance
March 31	\$ 4520.19	120
		101
April 07	\$ 1831.78	70
April 14	\$ 3637.79	60
April 21	\$ 1970.73	117

# 2024

You're Invited:

Everyone is invited to celebrate Ava Dalen's  
Graduation on Saturday May 18th at 500  
Eagle Lane in Underwood, from 1:00-  
5:00pm. In the case of inclement weather,  
the party will be held at the Church.



Thank you for to the following for providing  
Special music in April.  
Sunday School Children  
Choraleers

happy  
mother's  
day



# Worship Participants for May, 2024

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

Piano/Organist	May 05	Sonya Schiphoff
	May 12	Arla Clausen
	May 19	Nancy Dose
	May 26	Judy Pingel
Acolytes	May 05	TBD
	May 12	TBD
	May 19	TBD
	May 26	TBD
Lectors	May 05	Kristie McKee
	May 12	Jay Ackland
	May 19	Amber Chase
	May 26	Nancy Dose
Ushers	May 05	Bob Pingel and Tony Chase
	May 12	JW and Joyce Tiarks
	May 19	Brett Michael and Mike Shelton
	May 26	Arlon Bertelsen and Jay Ackland

ALTAR GUILD: Sonya Schiphoff and Becky Pedersen  
DEACON: Amber Chase



# May 2024

## Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Apr 28 9 AM Education 10:15 AM Worship Service	29	30	May 1	2	3	4
5 9 AM Last Day of Education 10:15 AM Worship Service	6	7	8	9	10	11 10 AM Scrapbooking
12 10:15 AM Senior Recognition 10:15 AM Worship Service	13	14	15	16	17	18 10 AM Dalen Basement
19 10:15 AM Worship Service	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 9:30 AM Worship Service	27	28	29 6 PM Council Meeting	30	31	Jun 1