

# The Messenger

## Underwood Lutheran Church

### April, 2018

Pastor Scott Dalen

Underwood Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 9 – 10 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ave.  
Underwood, IA 51576

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SUNDY SCHOOL-CONFIRMATION-ADULT BIBLE STUDY @ 9:00 AM  
WORSHIP SERVICE @10:15 AM



- High School will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup>. We will be back to our normal meeting time of 7:00pm.
  - Confirmation Class resumes following Lent/Holy Week. We will meet for class on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> studying Holy Communion. This will conclude classwork for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will meet for class/Confirmation practice on Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> and Confirmation Sunday will be the 29<sup>th</sup>.
  - The adult Catechism study will resume on the 11<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Likewise, we will focus on Holy Communion for 2 weeks before concluding this area of study. Pastor Scott is exploring options for our next topic of study.
  - Interested in becoming a member of Underwood Lutheran? Pastor Scott will be teaching a new member class on Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. New members will be accepted into the congregation in early May.
  - Many individuals have expressed an interest in a presentation based on Pastor Scott's time in the Holy Land in March. A presentation is in the works in the near future. Stay tuned for further information about dates/times.
  - We are online. Visit our webpage at <http://www.underwoodlutheran.org/> Find information on current ministry opportunities and worship times.
- Look for us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/UnderwoodLutheranChurch> Be sure to "Like" the page for updates about what's happening at ULC.
- Pastor Scott's weekly sermons are available on his blog at <http://thecollarandorangehat.wordpress.com/> Pastor Scott posts his sermons in both text and audio format each week. Look for his posts to be highlighted on Facebook as well as the church website.
- Pastor Scott also posts a weekly gospel discussion video, called Sermon Braindump at <http://www.youtube.com/user/sanchodaleone>

I sit down to write this article just a couple days after returning from the Holy Land, and I find my mind in an odd combination of moving really slow and leisurely (likely due to extreme fatigue and jetlag), while at the same time utterly buzzing with everything that I saw and experienced. And one of the locations that we visited keeps popping up in my memory, along with a song that I think most of you will recognize.

Zacchaeus was a wee little man, and a wee little man was he. He climbed up in a sycamore tree for the Lord he wanted to see. And as the savior passed that way he said “Zacchaeus, you come down, for I’m going to your house today.” This familiar story is found in Luke 19. As Jesus is nearing the city of Jerusalem for his final week of life (something we just celebrated during Holy Week), he passes through the very old community of Jericho, which is quite close to Jerusalem. Here Jesus illustrates an important point. Regardless of Zacchaeus’ background and reputation, he is still a beloved child of God. He is still an individual created lovingly by the Lord, and as such is an individual worthy of dignity and respect.

This was a theme that I witnessed in the Holy Land in mighty ways. A theme that can be best defined as co-existence. Our tour guide Salim was very fond of calling the Holy Land “the land of the 3 monotheistic religions.” Namely, Christianity Judaism and Islam...the three world religions who express 1 God. Granted, all three have drastically different takes on this one deity...and yet all three share the same “homeland.”

And yet, differences went deeper than this. Another statement that I heard from Salim was “Hebrew is a language, Jew is a religion, Israel is a country.” He seemed to be saying that each of us have many different factors that define us, and yet none of these factors are all encompassing of our entire lives. I bring all of this up to highlight the vast differences in people and cultures that coexist, almost on top of one another, and certainly in very close proximity throughout the Holy Land. In particular, this is true in and around the holy city of Jerusalem.

Now this is not to say that there is not tension there. Of course there is. Differences abound, and yet, time after time, moment after moment we saw people who were simply living out their lives alongside one another.

Now I bring all of this up because I want to continue building on the question of “Who are we?” Last month I wrote about the importance of showing one another love and respect, particularly within a culture that seems to be more divided than ever. And yet there is hope. If three different religions can manage to share holy spaces out of respect and dignity for one another, may we do our best to do the same. May we continue to remind ourselves that regardless of the background or viewpoints of “the other,” we are all made lovingly by the Lord, each bearing the divine image of the one who made us all in the first place.

It is my hope and prayer that as we move into the future, our congregation will continue to be a place where we seek to build up the life of the individual, of any and all individuals, simply because we see that they are a person of divine worth. This is how we will create change in the world, and more specifically, within the community that we share. By continually striving to make a difference in the lives of individuals.

In Christ,

Pastor Scott

## Underwood Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes February 7, 2018

**Members present:** Pastor Scott Dalen, Jessica Hultquist, Michael Johnson, Bob Pingel, Jeff Poggensee, Erik Pedersen, Lynn Leaders, Rhonda Johnson, and Bill Shelton.

**Others Present:** Linda Merdinger

**Absent:** Roger Hemmingsen, Carol Yeaton

NOTE: On January 21, 2018 as closure to the Annual Congregational Meeting, the Council held a brief session including the new members: Erik Pedersen, Lynn Leaders, Rhonda Johnson, and Bill Shelton. Nominations of Jessica Hultquist for President, Jeff Poggensee for Vice President, and Michael Johnson for Council Secretary were all approved. Each will represent these roles starting with the February 7, 2018 meeting.

The meeting was called to order by council president, Jessica Hultquist.

Devotions were led by Pastor Scott Dalen.

Council Installation will be Sunday, February 18.

**Secretary's Report:** Moved by Pastor and seconded by Bob Pingel to approve the 1/10/18 council meeting minutes. Motion carried.

**Financial Reports:** Linda Merdinger presented the financial reports and explained formatting well. Moved by Jeff Poggensee and seconded by Bill Shelton to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

Approved basement rental for Rohatsch family (Bridal shower).

### **Pastor's Report:**

1. Facility Issues:
  - a. Ceiling fans in Narthex (East unit starting to rattle at higher speeds)
2. Parish Education Matters:
  - a. Adult Small Catechism study on hiatus during Lent.
  - b. Confirmation shifts to Easter/Holy Week prep
3. Calendar Matters:
  - a. Pastor Paula Lawhead is confirmed for Pulpit Supply March 18<sup>th</sup> (During Israel trip)
  - b. Israel travel dates have shifted slightly
    - i. Saturday March 10<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday March 20<sup>th</sup>
    - ii. I will miss March council meeting. Will prep written report
  - c. Vacation week of May 21-27. (Memorial Weekend) Pulpit Supply not determined.
4. Congregational Life:
  - a. Completed and submitted annual parochial reports to Synod and Churchwide.
  - b. Discussed time to award seminarian support direct to seminary on behalf of Marietta Nelson-Bittle in the fall would be the best.
5. Pastoral Acts:
  - a. Regular visitation schedule
  - b. 182 Communed (2 weeks via green slips)
    - i. Jan 21<sup>st</sup> 93 of 121
    - ii. Feb 4<sup>th</sup> 89 of 104

- c. Funeral preparation/presiding for Michael Doiel 1-27-18
- d. Funeral preparation/presiding for Bernice Mace 2-1-18
- e. Pre-marital counseling with couple

New members and chairs assigned to committees.

Jeff Poggensee – Operations  
Rhonda Johnson – Education  
Roger Hemmingson – Property  
Michael Johnson - Life

Michael Johnson moved to appoint Bob Pingel to serve as council representative on Endowment Committee. Seconded by Erik Peterson. Motion carried.

Judy Pingel has given notice to resign from the Endowment Committee.

**Committee Reports:**

1. No reports this month.

**Old Business:**

Special congregational meeting minutes need to be approved still at next congregational meeting.

**New Business:**

Assigned food items for Council's Lenten Supper March 7.

Jeff – chicken  
Bill - rolls  
Pastor – chips  
Rhonda – lettuce and dressing  
All – desserts

Deacon schedule finalized for 2018.

Moved by Erik Peterson to roll farm account into a ~~9-month CD~~ two 90 day CDs. Seconded by Pastor. Motion carried. (Motion amended unanimously at March 14 council meeting.)

The next council meeting will be held March 14, 2018 after Lent service.

Moved by Pastor and seconded by Lynn Leaders to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

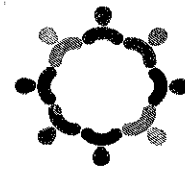
Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Johnson  
Underwood Lutheran Church Council Secretary



Thanks to those who greeted in the month of March.

Dave and Linda Jennings  
 Roger and Sue Hemmingsen  
 Bob and Nancy Dose

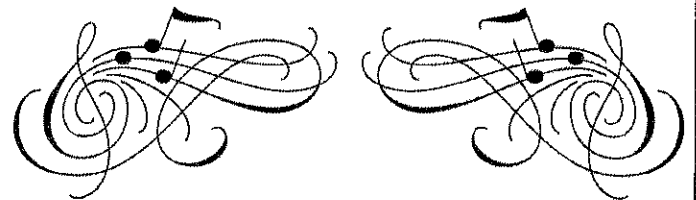
Jessica, Jeremy, Quentin and Tenly Hultquist



## WOMEN'S CIRCLE

Telescope Circle will meet April 12th at 1:30 pm with Alice Sorensen as Hostess.

Martha Circle will meet on April 13th at 2:00 pm with Carol Bertelsen as your hostess.



## Special Music

Sunday School Children  
 Choraleers

## Council Meeting

The council meeting will be April 11th at 7:30 pm.



## Offerings....

*"Our gifts to God"*

	Offerings	Attendance
Feb. 25	\$ 1369.00	89
Mar. 04	\$ 2790.65	115
Mar. 11	\$ 1331.00	73
Mar. 18	\$ 3273.00	72

# Wanted:

One amazing human being

Strong in heart, generous in spirit.

Love kids? Think their faith is important? So do we. Underwood Lutheran is seeking an individual to work part-time in coordinating aspects of Sunday School, Jr High, and Vacation Bible School. You can find a full job-description on our website: [underwoodlutheran.org](http://underwoodlutheran.org)

# Worship Participants for April, 2018

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

ORGANISTS	April 01	Nancy Dose	COMMUNION
	April 08	Judy Pingel	
	April 15	Nancy Dose	COMMUNION
	April 22	Judy Pingel	
	April 29	Nancy Dose	
ACOLYTES	April 01	Jadynn McDonald	COMMUNION
	April 08	Quentin Wollan	
	April 15	Hannah Wulff	COMMUNION
	April 22	Jack Dalen	
	April 29	Ellie Hackett	
LECTORS	April 01	Tonya Mayer	COMMUNION
	April 08	Richard Miller	
	April 15	Carol Urban	COMMUNION
	April 22	Jeremy Hultquist	
	April 29	Emma Wulff	
USHERS	April 01	Lewis Curtis and Jeremy Hultquist	COMMUNION
	April 08	Neila nd Adam Darrington	
	April 15	Dick Miller and Phil Feller	COMMUNION
	April 22	Jeff Poggensee and Mike Shelton	
	April 29	Bill and Libby Shelton	
GREETERS	April 01	Easter Services	COMMUNION
	April 08	Brandy May and Joellen Darrington	
	April 15	Arlon and Carol Bertelsen	COMMUNION
	April 22	James and Marlene Merdinger	
	April 29		
SPECIAL MUSIC	April 01	Choraleers	COMMUNION
	April 08		
	April 15		COMMUNION
	April 22		
	April 29		

ALTAR GUILD: Christine Privia and Laura Tennigkeit  
CARRYING ELEMENTS: Phil and Sandy Feller  
DEACON: Jeff Poggensee





**April 2018**

**Volunteer and Spiritual Life Tea**- "Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." – Margaret Mead. We are proud of our Volunteers, Sponsoring Congregations, Pastors and Secretaries. We want to say thank you to you. Whether you've served as a Key Lady; led worship; helped out with Bingo, a Birthday Party or the Auxiliary; baked a pie, cake or have helped out at the Ice Cream Social; whether you've contributed or helped at the Salad Luncheon; whether you have provided volunteer time visiting Residents and Tenants or helping with an Activity; or whether you have supported us through contributions or prayers or anything else; we want to recognize and thank you. Please join us as we recognize our volunteers on **Sunday, April 15th at 2:00 p.m. at Bethany Lutheran Home, 7 Elliott Street**. Join us for an afternoon of fun, fellowship and entertainment as we say thank you for what you have done for Bethany Lutheran Home and Bethany Heights. We look forward to seeing you on April 15th.

**Auxiliary Meeting and Bake Sale** -Please note that the April meeting of the Bethany Auxiliary will be held on **April 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.** This will be the quarterly meeting and bake sale. This year the bake sale will be held at both Bethany Lutheran Home and Bethany Heights. Individuals are encouraged to donate baked good items for the sale. (Items packaged in smaller quantities are always appreciated by the Residents and Tenants). Please do not price your items. Thank you for your support of this fundraiser.

**Update from Bethany Spiritual Life/Chaplain Discussion**-We would like to express our appreciation to everyone who attended the "Coffee and Conversations" on March 11<sup>th</sup> as well as those unable to attend, but shared their thoughts. We had representation from 8 of our 14 sponsoring congregations, including Congregation Members, Delegates, Bethany Auxiliary, Pastors and Board Members. We had a great discussion and will be sharing the information in more detail with the Bethany Board and our sponsoring congregations in the coming few weeks. If you have any thoughts you would like to share, please feel free to contact Diane Carlon at 712-329-5451 or you can e-mail her at [carlon@blhs.care](mailto:carlon@blhs.care). Due to the length of the material shared and the discussion information, we are unable to include it all in the newsletter. Please be watching for more information in your church or feel free to contact us. \*\*Our thanks to Emanuel Lutheran for allowing us to host the gathering at their church. We greatly appreciate it.

**Omaha Gives! (and Council Bluffs too) coming May 23rd**- Bethany Lutheran Home and Bethany Heights will once again be participating in the Omaha Gives program this year. Omaha/Pottawattamie County's 6th annual 24-hour charitable challenge is set for May 23, 2018. The on-line giving begins at midnight with a minimum \$10 donation and hourly drawings and prizes to make your donations go further. In 2017, nearly 19,000 individuals came together to support nonprofits with gifts of \$10 or more through [omahagives.org](http://omahagives.org). Last year this generosity resulted in 923 nonprofits in Douglas, Sarpy and Pottawattamie counties receiving more than \$7.8 million in donations and prizes during the event. Bethany Lutheran Home was a recipient of giving dollars as well as additional challenge dollar support. More information will be coming. Please mark your calendar and consider supporting Bethany through this giving challenge May 23rd. Thank you.

**RESPITE CARE NOW AVAILABLE AT BETHANY HEIGHTS-** We are pleased to announce the addition of Respite Care at Bethany Heights. Respite Care offers caregivers/family members a short-term break while their senior loved one is cared for in a safe, secure, senior community setting. For more information about the program or to set up a visit, please contact Paula Fandry at 712-328-8228.

**Bethany Heights Apartments Available-** Bethany Heights Senior Living Community has several apartments available for seniors. Do you know someone or perhaps even you, who would enjoy the benefits of living in a senior community? Maybe someone interested in living independently or having the benefits of an assisted living community? Bethany Heights offers both independent and assisted living services in apartments ranging in sizes from a Studio to Two Bedroom/Two bathroom. As an individual's needs increase, services are delivered directly to your apartment. Something unique to the area. We'd love for you to schedule a visit. Small pets are welcome. Some Long Term Care Insurance Policies are eligible for use at Bethany Heights. For more information or to set up a visit please contact Paula Fandry at Bethany Heights 712-328-8228.

**Employment Opportunities at Bethany-** Bethany currently has several positions available. For more information, please visit [www.indeed.com](http://www.indeed.com) or contact our HR Director, Debbie Butcher at 712-328-9500.



April 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4/1 7:30 AM Sunrise Service 10:15 AM Worship Service/Holy Communion	2	3	4 7:00 PM High School Group	5	6	7
8 9:00 AM Sunday School/Confirmation? Adult Forum 10:15 AM Worship Service	9	10	11 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Council Meeting	12 1:30 PM Telescope Circle	13 2:00 PM Martha Circle	14 10:00 AM Scrapbooking
15 9:00 AM Sunday School/Confirmation/Adult Forum 10:15 AM Worship Service / Holy Communion	16	17	18 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM High School Group	19	20	21
22 9:00 AM Sunday School/Adult Forum 10:15 AM Worship Service	23	24	25 7:00 PM New Member Class	26	27	28
29 9:00 AM Sunday School/Adult Forum 10:15 AM Worship Service/Confirmation Sunday	30					

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