

The Messenger

Underwood Lutheran Church

April, 2020

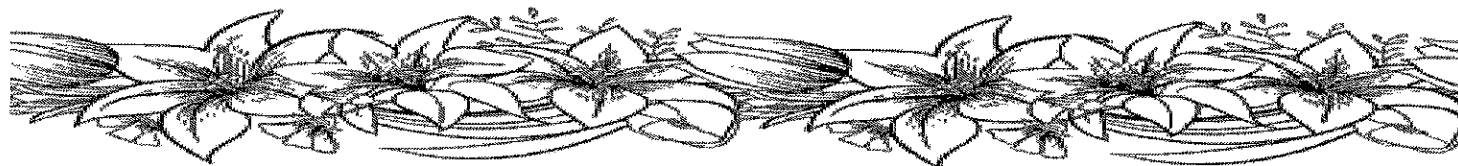
Pastor Scott Dalen

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

Congregational President – Diane Stein - 402-290-3090
Editor, Secretary – Tonya Mayer – 712-309-1512
Church Phone # - 566-2257
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Education @ 9:00 am

Worship Service @ 10:15 am



-Now more than ever, our online presence is a vital aspect of our congregational community and ministry. In the reality of social distancing, isolation, and quarantine in the face of the Corona-Virus, our online connections are a huge blessing...even if they may not be perfect. Therefore, we've included the monthly reminders about our online community presence, but have not included the normal monthly announcements in this section, as we don't yet know if there will be any activity at the church through the month of April.

-We've expanded our options for online interaction on Facebook. The church now hosts a group called "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.

-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 also produces a weekly podcast based on the scripture for the week, entitled The Rambling Rev. The audio from his sermons is also featured. Search for his podcast on Spotify, Google Play Music, or iTunes.



(March 20th, 2020)

Dear Underwood Lutheran Church Community,

To each of you, regardless of your “membership status,” if you are reading this letter you are part of our community. As I write this, we are only a few days into the reality of social distancing and Corona-Virus related shut downs. We are trying to adjust and together we’re probably all wondering if the word “normal” even applies in our current reality.

First of all, let’s remember the WHY behind this. We are doing all this in order to care for one another. We are doing this to look out for the vulnerable among us, to try and protect those who circumstances will make it very hard for them to recover from this illness should they contract it. This is why we as the leadership of ULC are in full support of following the recommendations of the government and health organizations to remain closed until this crisis has passed. So here is what that means...

ULC’s Closure:

- We are slated to be closed through April 14th. It is certainly possible this date will be extended.
- This means NO public gatherings...worship, education, meals, circle, choir practice, etc. If it requires more than one person, we are NOT having it.

Church Office/Mail/Etc:

- The church office IS open during my normal weekly schedule, Tuesday-Friday. My proximity to the church as well as the normal lack of foot traffic allows me to still be present in the building.
- We are still getting mail, so things such as offering envelopes and/or Scholarship Applications (Due April 1st) can be mailed to the church OR dropped off.
- If you call and there’s no answer, leave a message like normal. I’ll get back to you.

Communication:

- Digital/Online Communication will be key. Updates are posted regularly on the website.
- Likewise the church Facebook page is EXTREMELY active during this time.
- The answering machine is also up to date with the current schedule, and will be updated with any changes.
- Watch the church sign if you drive by.

Worship:

- It is my plan during the shutdown that online worship opportunities will continue to happen. I’m experimenting with various aspects of livestreams through Facebook and pre-recorded videos posted to Youtube, which are then linked through the website and Facebook.
- This will continue to evolve through the coming weeks as we figure out what works and what doesn’t.
- I anticipate that any worship that would normally happen, will happen online. This will include our Midweeks on Wednesdays, regular Sunday mornings, and will also include Holy Week services.

Offering/Giving:

- Please do your best to continue your regular giving if you are able. We want to keep things going as smoothly as possible through this crisis.

-Envelopes/Checks can be dropped in the office or sent via mail.

-Vanco, our online giving platform, is now more vital than ever. There is a link on our website "Donate Online." This link takes you to Vanco. Likewise, I have produced a "how-to" video to help you establish a profile and start to use Vanco. If you need further help, contact me in the office.

On The Personal Side:

Logistics aside, what does this really mean for us? I'll be blunt, this sucks and I hate it. It continues to be my great joy to serve as your pastor, and to live life with you...to minister to you in times of hurt and pain...to check on you when there is sickness or suffering...and most importantly to gather together and share the joy of our presence in worship. And it is incredibly hard to not be able to do these things.

I have cried many tears in the past week. I have shouted many things at the universe. I have felt both incredibly silly and full of laughter almost immediately followed up by extreme sadness or frustration. I'm guessing you have too. Maybe you feel the tension that "I should be doing something," or "I think I need to do more." Maybe you feel like you are utterly ill-prepared to cope with this situation and you are beating yourself up over all of this.

Let be 100% clear...are you listening?

IT IS OKAY TO NOT BE OKAY!

This is not normal, and we are all under WAY more stress and anxiety than we have ever experienced. There is no manual for any of it. So if you need permission to feel whatever you are feeling, PERMISSION GRANTED! If you need to cry, cry. If you need to fume, fume. If you need to laugh, laugh.

If you need to play a really random heavy metal cover of the theme song to Reading Rainbow and full on rage dance in your kitchen...then play a really random heavy metal cover of the theme song of Reading Rainbow and full on rage dance in your kitchen. Wait, is that just me? *Yes if you are wondering I TOTALLY did that a couple days ago...and it felt amazing.*

Everyone is taking this one moment at a time, and yes we sometimes freak out. And that's okay. This is why we need to use every possible means to stay in contact with one another while we are isolated from each other (a sentence that feel like an oxymoron, but hopefully you get my gist).

But remember through everything that is to come, the promise that we are given...the hope that we find in a passage that you've heard from me time and time again. Romans 8:38-39. *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Nothing in all creation...not even the Corona-Virus.

Take care of yourselves my friends. I love you all.

Pastor Scott

**Underwood Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2020**

Present: Pastor Dalen, Diane Stein, Kathy Darrington, Erik Pedersen, Lynn Leaders, Brett Michael, Tracy Shreeves, Joyce Tiarks, Gary Leaders, Bill Shelton, and guests Nadine Trede and Linda Merdinger.

Not Present: Chris Privia

Diane called the meeting was called to order at 6:00.

Pastor led group in devotion and prayer.

Financial Reports: Together Linda and Brett presented the treasurer's update. Brett has now been added to the accounts as a signatory as of Feb 19th. Due to the transition, Linda is still assisting with Treasurers duties. Due to this transition, Brett has not had the capability of printing the reports for January. The council will approve the January report along with February at our next meeting.

Linda presented corrections to the 2019 financial report along with the 2020 budget breakdown. Tracy moved to approve corrections to the financial report from the Annual meeting, Erik seconded; motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the January meeting were reviewed. Pastor moved to approve the report, Kathy seconded. The motion carried.

Pastors report (see attached)

Committee Reports: (new assignments)

Operations: Diane, Tracy

No report

Education: Joyce, Bill

No report

Property: Lynn

Bill updated regarding conversations around finish work in the church basement once the parsonage project is completed. There is drywall rework, not to mention the unfinished block walls.

Additionally, we have discovered that the Thrasher sump pumps do not have available electricity, and so we will need to have an electrician run line to the pumps.

Lynn will get bids for these projects.

Life: Erik, Chris, Kathy

We discussed the update with the project cleaning the membership role. (See Pastor's report)

Endowment: Gary, Brett and Pastor per Bylaws

Gary and Pastor met recently to discuss the need for more specific management of the Endowment, both in terms of regular meetings, as well as dedicated work towards annual disbursements.

Old Business:

New Business:

-Nadine Trede has been working with various individuals/families who represent both designated and undesignated memorial funds. She is presenting a bid to address 3 new windows in the storage room on the Northeast corner of the church. The bid is from Midwest Glass for \$5,165. There are \$5,187 of undesignated funds in the Memorial fund.

Additionally, Nadine has a bid for putting stained glass into the window sockets as well. She has a bid from Dick Brown, who has extensive experience in producing stained glass, for a \$5,000 max. She has that available from the designated funds for Richard Geise, Elsie Ehrens, Helen Van Riper, and Sandy Feller totaling at least \$5,211. (Helen's funds are still pending and will add to the available designated total).

-Lynn moved to approve both bids as presented, with undesignated memorial funds covering the window replacement and designated funds covering the stained-glass project, Tracy seconded; motion carried.

-Council Secretary: Bill is willing to take on the role of secretary for the year, Lynn moved to approve Bill, Tracy second; motion carried.

-Parking Lot Striping: The stripes are worn off. Lynn will get bids on repainting the lines.

-It has been 3 years since the entry way doors were refinished. Tracy will contact the previous party to get a bid.

Kathy moved to adjourn. Joyce seconded. The motion carried.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is March 15th following worship, moved from the normal date to accommodate Lenten midweek activities.

Faithfully submitted:

Pastor Scott Dalen, acting in place of identified Secretary

Pastor's Report/Items for Discussion 2-19-20

Facility Issues

- Nadine and Memorial Fund Project
- Update On Parsonage Projects

Parish Education

- Confirmation Classwork Wraps Feb 23rd, Moving into Holy Week prep after that

Calendar Matters

- FaithSound. Lose undesignated offerings for Feb 23rd given to them
 - Envelops/Checks written to the church will be received as normal
- Vacation May 25th-31st (Week after Memorial Day)
 - CeCe Mickells confirmed for Pulpit Supply

Congregational Life

- Annual Parochial Reports Submitted 1-29-20
- Appointment of Synod Assembly Delegates/Final Council Member?
- Removal of Geneva Schmielau from Membership
 - Death on January 19th
 - Still on roles but long disassociated with ULC
- Membership Role Update
 - Identified Individuals/Families Who Fall Outside the 5 Year Window
 - Reached out via mailing (2-12-20) with response date of 3-15-20
 - Will present updated list for statistical adjustment in March

Pastoral Acts

- Commendation/Family Blessing For Jennings Family Feb 2nd
- Funeral Service for Helen Van Riper Feb 10th (former member)
- Ongoing Monthly Communion Service for Bethany Heights
 - I have taken on the regular monthly role
- Regular Visitation Schedule
- 152 Communed (2 Communion Weeks Via Green Slips)
 - Feb 2nd 82 of 105
 - Feb 16th 70 of 85

Synodical Work

- Executive Committee Meeting, Remote Access Feb 4th
- Ordination of Pastor James Rut in Council Bluffs, Feb 9th
- Visited with St Paul/Treynor's Council, Feb 19th
- Preparing for Council Visioning Retreat 21-22nd



Thanks to those who greeted in the month of March.

J.W.& Joyce Tiarks, Julie Larsen, Lyle Rodenburg

Bob and Nancy Dose

And to the following who had wanted to greet.

Voss, Sampson and Harding Families
Roger and Colleen Torneten

Offerings....

"Our gifts to God"

	Offerings	Attendance
Feb. 23	\$ 2484.01	153
March 01	\$ 2716.99	95
March 08	\$ 1675.36	109
March 15	\$ 2535.05	69

4th Qtr Budgeted Income: \$ 44,023.75

4th Qtr Actual Income: \$ 57,189.77

4th Qtr Actual Expenses: \$ 47,917.19

Council Meeting

The council meeting will be March 15th, following Worship service.



Thank you for to the following for providing special music in March.

Choraleers

Women's Circle



Due to the closure of the church and No Public gatherings until at least April 14th, the Women's Circles will not be meeting.

Worship Participants for April, 2020

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

ORGANISTS

April 19	Judy Pingel	COMMUNION
April 26	Nancy Dose	

ACOLYTES

April 19	Nick Hackett	COMMUNION
April 26	Elizabeth Hendersen	

LECTORS

April 19	Brian Leaders	COMMUNION
April 26	Gary Leaders	

USHERS

April 19	Gary Leaders and Mark Torneten	COMMUNION
April 26	LaVern Leaders and Lynn Leaders	

GREETERS

April 19		COMMUNION
April 26	Brett & Colleen Michael, Ethan, Parish	

SPECIAL MUSIC

April 19		COMMUNION
April 26		

ALTAR GUILD: Christine Privia and Laura Tennigkeit
CARRYING ELEMENTS: Nancy Geise and Carol Yeaton
DEACON: Bill Shelton



Easter Sunrise Surprise

He is not here; he has risen! Luke 24:6a (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 24:1-12 (NIV).



Y L X Y P K W G P R X I F L W
D B A R H V N E S P I C E S K
P W V S L I P U E F Z S Z U T
A R W A N U S V T K Q A E F N
G D O R C K T Z O W T J O N A
Y R O L T Q O K M B O D Y L Z
G M O W L D N E B S S T B Q J
Y D B U G E E V N R T H K E Z
W L Z O N Q D U L T W H J M T
F O I Q W D J U F O E R X S C
R R M V R E M E M B E R R S I
J D I E I U D P R E C I E P K
G F E G N N N B D D F C G D O
O D D A H S G C Q A A I X I V
L A T F D T M P J F Y Z T F L

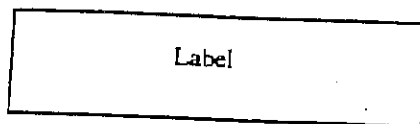
living	tomb	rolled	risen	dead
women	first	spices	away	bowed
faces	stone	entered	ground	remember
morning	week	body	fright	day

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