

The Messenger

Underwood Lutheran Church

April, 2021

Pastor Scott Dalen

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

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Education @ 9:00 am – Worship Service @ 10:15am



- April 1st, Maundy Thursday, will feature a Facebook Livestream of the Communion Service for our 5th Graders and their families in celebration of Communion Instruction/First Communion. The Livestream will begin at 7:00pm.
 - April 2nd, Good Friday, will feature our normal Service of Tenebrae. It will be available both Online at 6:30pm and In-person at 7:00pm.
 - Easter Sunday is April 4th. All Worship services will feature the same general order of worship and format. Online worship will go live at approximately 8:45am. In-person worship options are available at 7:30am, 9:00am, and 10:15am. Due to spacing restrictions, we are limited each service to 60 people. Please RSVP with Pastor Scott by email or contacting the church office. *(Note that as of this publication, the 10:15 service is already full)*
 - There will NOT be Education on Easter Sunday.
 - Pastor Scott will be on vacation Monday April 19th-Monday April 26th. Worship on the 25th will be limited to a pre-recorded Online option. There will NOT be in-person worship on the 25th.
 - April is ULC's month to provide worship opportunities for Bethany Lutheran Home in Council Bluffs. Due to Bethany's ongoing Covid precautions, we will not be doing so in person. You will notice greetings being offered to Bethany Residents during the opening portion of each Sunday's Online Worship Video.
 - 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.
 - Online Communication continues to be our best option for sharing important information. 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.



"So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid." Mark 16:8. The actual ending of Mark's Gospel.

Its April. Lawns have a pretty distinct greenish tint. Most of the trees have swollen buds, and I've even spotted a few with that wonderful faint whisp of leafy color that I call green mist. The weather, for the most part, has been warmer. The snow is gone. Birds are louder. Squirrels and rabbits are more active.

Spring might not be to the point of what we'd call "Full bloom" just yet, but as I write this at the tail end of March, we're awful close. Signs of new life are all around us and we don't have look very hard to see or hear them.

Under normal conditions, April is one of my months of the year as we move out of the gloom of January and February. With rare and short-lived exceptions winter weather feels like its in the rearview mirror. Nature is waking up for another season. We know that the farmers and the fields will soon be back in full swing. The program year here at church is moving towards its conclusion as we think about summer. Its usually just...nice. Usually.

Let's rewind a year. My April 2020 article was written mid-march, and highlighted our initial precautionary measures in the opening moments of Covid's impact here in SW Iowa. The shock of everything was still pretty new...and at that point...the general expectation was still that quarantine would last a few weeks at most. Then things extended for the first time, and caught our first major church holiday of Easter...and we all know that was a hard pill to swallow.

I can remember many times in those early days of thinking "This will be over soon. It can't last that long." I thought that after a few weeks of hassle, we'd get the thumbs up that the threat had been contained and we could go back to normal...and I remember thinking how wonderful it was going to be, after a time apart, that we would all gather back in the sanctuary...and it would be just like nothing had happened...and we'd all laugh, maybe even applaud together...and we'd be back to normal.

But reality has been different hasn't it? And as we move into another spring season, and another Easter, things haven't gone back to normal...and honestly, its unlikely that they ever will. The last year has been an utter disruption. Now I know I've said this before, but we need to keep hearing it. We need to recognize that some things just aren't going to be like they were. And that's a painful, perhaps even troubling thing to begin to admit to ourselves and to one another.

I think the women at the tomb were experiencing something similar. Mark ends with them scared and confused and running from the new reality that they have just come face to face with. But what they failed to recognize in that exact moment were the signs of new life that were around them. The tomb is empty. The proclamation has been made that Jesus is alive.

The reality of new life in Christ is one that we share, and I believe that God is bringing us into this new chapter. Even if its scary. Even if its uncomfortable. Even if we don't like how it feels right now. I imagine the women at the tomb, and the disciples waiting back at the house, they probably didn't like how it felt in that moment either.

But let us remember the truth of the gospel that we profess, even if we find ourselves in the midst of asking questions of God because of our ongoing circumstances. We have a God who has somehow created new life out of death. And I believe this is the truth that we must all cling to, as we look for those signs of new life which are all around us.

Now maybe this message feels somewhat open ended...Mark's gospel does too. But that wasn't the end of the larger story. Likewise, this is not the end of our story either. Let's keep our eyes open for those signs of the new life that God is inviting us into.

In Christ,

Pastor Scott

Underwood Lutheran Church Council
Secretary's Report - February 10, 2021

Zoom Format:

Members Present: Pastor Scott Dalen, Kathy Darrington, Jan Ehrens, Amanda Henderson, JoAnna Mitchell, Chris Privia, Sandy Redshaw, Tarcy Shreeves, Diane Stein, and Joyce Tiarks,
Also Present: Brett Michael, **Not Present:** Gary Leaders

Meeting Called to Order: President, Kathy Darrington called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Financial Report: Treasurer, Brett Michael presented the Financial Report including the following notes:

- PPP Loan Forgiveness has been completed. 941's were amended for Q1, Q2, & Q3 of 2020 to reflect Pastor's W2 income. Full PPP loan forgiveness was granted by the SBA on 2-5-2021 and loan has been paid off. This will be reflected in the February 2021 Financials (Balance Sheet & Income Statement)
- Income Statement for January shows a small profit but this doesn't reflect the Portico Bill for January 2021. This will result in a net loss of approximately \$1400 for January.
- Our overall cash balance is fairly strong at this moment. This is due to the receipt of the Endowment Funds to pay benevolence items. Some of these items were already paid so this replenished the operating account a bit. There is an excess of \$3,743.35 that can still be distributed to use up the funds for 2020. The Scholarship committee also only awarded \$2750 in scholarships in 2020. We budgeted \$3000 for that so that \$250 remains as well. I have one more scholarship check that will be sent out this week.

Motion to approve: Diane Stein, Seconded: Chris Privia; Motion Carried

Secretary's Report: Secretary Notes for two meetings were presented, (January 13, 2021 and February 3, 2021). There was one correction for the January 13 minutes; to correct the date listed on the minutes.

Motion to approve both: Pastor Dalen, Seconded: Joyce Tiarks; Motion Carried

Pastor's Report:

1 - Facility Issues:

- Pastor recommended that the Operations Committee pursue a possible change to Marne Elk Horn Internet/Phone service for the church. The parsonage has already made the switch and found the service to be stronger and more reliable.
- Pastor provided information on possibly moving forward with technology improvements for the Sanctuary. Jeff Privia acquired information from LightBox Systems on possible needs and costs. Pastor recommended that we continue to gather information, to look for additional bids, and to explore what equipment will best serve our congregation.
- Pastor provided us with the first bid for technology updates proposed for the Sanctuary. The bid came in at \$6,579.34. He informed us that there was some good news to help with the financing for this project. Memorial funds of \$3000 and \$1500 are available to help with the cost.

2 - Parish Education:

- Pastor informed the council that Kim Madsen has given notice that she will be resigning her position as Youth Coordinator, at the end of summer, following the conclusion of VBS. Pastor will start the communication process and we will begin to look for a replacement.

3 - Congregational Life:

- There was discussion about resuming live music during worship. It was decided to continue with pre-recorded music at this time. The council will review this monthly.
- As we look ahead the council will continue to discuss music with this information in mind:
 - Both Judy and Nancy are ready to retire their positions as organist, with the possibility of occasionally subbing
 - Arla and Sonya are willing to sub also
 - We will be looking at providing more pre-recorded music during worship
 - Arla does anticipate/hope to resume Adult Choir in the fall

4 - Calendar Matters:

- Pastor is registered for Western Iowa Synod Assembly - Virtual Format (April 9th-10th)

5 - Pastoral Acts:

- Submitted Congregational Parochial Reports to ELCA, Feb 2nd
- Submitted Congregational Synod Mission Support Intent Form to Synod Office, Feb 2nd
- Baptismal Service for Carter Flemming, Feb 7th

6 - Synodical Work:

- Synod Council Meeting, January 16th
- Executive Committee Meeting, Feb 4th

Committee Updates:

- Council discussed the various church committees and the expectations for those committees. Each council member will be asked to join a committee.

Old/New Business:

- Pastor gave a reminder about upcoming worship assistance:
 - Feb 7th - Diane and Jan
 - Feb 14th - Tracy
 - Feb 17th - Kathy and JoAnna
 - Feb 21st - Kathy and Joyce
 - Feb 28th - Sandy
- Next Meeting: **Wednesday, March 17th (7:00 PM), ZOOM format**

Adjourn Meeting:

- Motion to adjourn: Chris Privia, Seconded: Diane Stein; Motion Carried

Notes Submitted: Joyce Tiarks, Secretary

Offerings....

"Our gifts to God"

	Offerings	Attendance
Feb. 21	\$ 1263.98	
Feb. 28	\$ 4475.59	59
Mar.07	\$ 2036.65	52
Mar. 14	\$ 2306.67	41
Mar. 21	\$ 5533.98	48



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Building Closure Status

As of this publication, in-person activities within the building are continuing. While we are still utilizing precautionary measures such as usage of hand sanitizer, masking, and distancing, leadership is optimistic. With the continued distribution of Covid vaccines and current trends in covid infection statistics, it is unlikely that we will need to return to an online-only status moving forward.

As we move through the closing portion of the program year, we are looking forward towards the summer season as well as the new program year which will begin in September. While we are unable to predict the future, it is likely that we will explore outdoor worship options once again this summer. Likewise, we are hopeful to see the return of Adult Education Class and the Choraleers in the fall.

Faith Formation Coordinator Position

Council/Leadership is in the process of searching for an individual to fill this role as we move towards the Fall and resuming of what we all hope to be more of a normal Program Year. The position consists of approximately 10-15 hours per week.

Primary duties of the position include:

- Recruit and equip leaders for Sunday School and Jr. High ministries**
- Organize and implement Sunday morning educational opportunities (Preschool-6th grade)**
- Coordinate Vacation Bible School with Synod Bible Camp staff**
- Facilitate Jr. High youth group activities**
- Communication of opportunities to congregation/community in written, spoken, online formats**

Please Contact Pastor Scott for more information or if interested.

Easter Word Search Puzzle

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

betrayal
 church
 crucifixion
 disciples
 Eastertide
 Easter Triduum
 empty tomb
 fasting
 Good Friday

Holy Week
 Jesus Christ
 Judas Iscariot
 Last Supper
 Lent
 Mary Magdalene
 Mary, Mother of God
 Maundy Thursday
 Pasch

Passion of Christ
 Passover
 penance
 Pentecost Sunday
 prayer
 redemption
 religious holiday
 resurrection
 springtime

April 2021

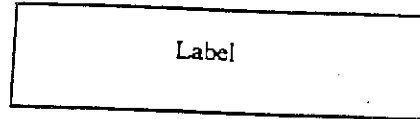
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				4/1 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service/Live on Facebook	2 7:00 PM Good Friday Service	3
4 7:30 AM Worship Service/Holy Communion 8:45 AM On line Worship 9:00 AM Worship Service/Holy Communion 10:15 AM Worship Service/Holy Communion	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 9:00 AM Education 10:15 AM Worship Service	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 9:00 AM Education 10:15 AM Worship Service/Holy Communion	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 9:00 AM Education 10:15 AM Worship Service	26	27	28	29	30	

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