

The Messenger

Underwood Lutheran Church

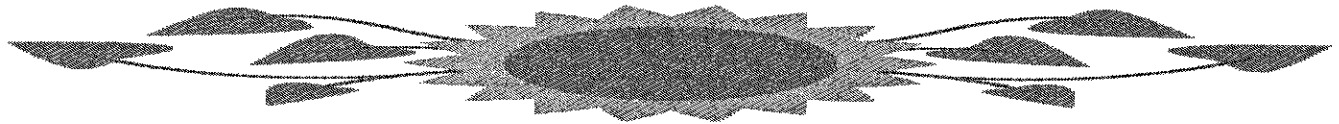
August, 2019

Pastor Scott Dalen

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

Congregational President – Carol Yeaton
Editor, Secretary – Tonya Mayer – 712-309-1512
Church Phone # - 566-2257
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No Summer Education
WORSHIP SERVICE @9:30 AM



-Our final Summer Free Movie night is scheduled for Friday August 9th. The movie will begin approximately 9:00pm. Bring along a chair or blanket. If weather is an issue the event will move inside. Refreshments are provided.

-Pastor Scott will be on vacation beginning Monday July 29th-Sunday August 11th. Pastor Ben McIntire and Bethany Spiritual Coordinator CeCe Mickells will provide pulpit supply in his absence. Pastor Scott will also be attending a Continuing Education event in Des Moines from Monday August 12th-Thursday the 15th. Pastor Chuck Meyer of St Paul Lutheran in Treynor will be on call for emergencies.

-Sunday August 25th will feature our second worship on the lawn. This will be a regular worship service beginning at the regular time. Feel free to bring along a lawn chair. If weather is a concern, worship will be held in the sanctuary.

-Pastor Scott will NOT be holding Confirmation Orientation this year. Information regarding the upcoming year's program will be made available electronically for Confirmation families. Please direct any questions you might have to Pastor Scott.

-The final Sunday on the Summer Worship Schedule will be September 1st, which is Labor Day Weekend. The Program Year Schedule will resume on September 8th, which is also Rally Sunday.

-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 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>



In Matthew 6:25 Jesus tells us "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?" Then following some elaboration and comparisons with the birds of the air and the grass in the field, he reminds us of something very similar in verse 34. "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."

I can't help but think that there is a general sense of anxiety in the air. Almost every time I have a conversation with someone, I start to hear this sense in what they are saying. Sometimes it is close to the surface, sometimes it seems to be simmering under the surface. I don't know where this is coming from, but I believe that it is there for many of us. Truth be told, its likely there for all of us if we're honest.

When we consider the possible sources of stress and anxiety...its probably safe to say that finances are a common cause. Interestingly enough, the scriptures seem to be on top of this anxiety-causing situation. Did you know that Jesus talks more about financial matters than he talks about Heaven and Hell? Depending on the source we site, somewhere between 11 and 16 of the roughly 40 parables of Jesus are aimed in this direction. Approximately 1 out every 10 verses from the gospels tackle the subject.

Its almost like God knew we'd be concerned about it. Weird...or maybe not.

We're certainly not immune from financial-related anxiety catching us as a congregation either. If you've been at our past couple of Annual Meetings, or if you've been watching the weekly financial updates in the bulletin, or catching the financial reports in the newsletter, you know that we've been struggling to meet our proposed budgetary amounts for the past several years. I don't share this to be judgmental...that's just our reality.

But that being said, I'm actually writing today with an update that, in my opinion anyway, is something we should find encouraging. 2018 was a hard year for church finances. I don't know just why that is, but it was true here in Underwood. And as a member of the Synod Council, I can report that we also saw a nearly identical situation at the Synod level.

Knowing that reality, the Operations committee along with the Council, not to mention the Endowment Committee, have been working to try and turn things around. We've tried to make wise financial decisions in order to faithfully steward the gifts that our congregation has received. We also tried to encourage ways to make giving more accessible through electronic means.

And there is good news as we compare 2019 with 2018. The numbers I'm about to list encompass the first half of each year, Jan 1st-June 30th.

General Giving:

2018-\$59,558.02 2019-\$70,410.04 \$10,852.02 Increase, 18.2% over 2018

Total Expenses: \$69,737.18

Proposed Budget YTD: \$87,680.00

So what does this tell us? Yes, when we compare our giving to the proposed budget for the year, we are bringing in approximately 80% of what's needed. But when we compare our giving to our actual expenses through the first half of the year, we see that we are operating in the Black. Likewise, if giving continues in the back half of 2019 at the same rate as the front half, we are on track for our largest year of general giving in ULC's history.

Thank you all. You have continued to dig deep to support the ministry of this place. I'm also grateful for the work of leadership who have been very diligent in their work and decisions, in order to keep our expenses under control.

If we take the words of Jesus into account, I believe we find truth in the promise that God is taking care of today...and again I thank you for your continued generous support of the ministry here at ULC. Jesus also reminds us that, even though we don't need to worry about tomorrow in the midst of today, that tomorrow is still coming. And with that I want to humbly ask for your continued support of our shared ministry as we move through the remainder of this summer season and into the fall.

In Christ,
Pastor Scott

Underwood Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
June 19, 2019

Carol Yeaton, Linda Merdinger, Pastor Dalen, Jessica Hultquist, Diane Stein, Kathy Darrington, Rhonda Johnson, Erik Pedersen, and Jeff Poggensee

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 – pastor led group in devotion and prayer

Financial Reports were reviewed and discussed. Note – Mid AmErikan audits usage quarterly and adjusts billing accordingly. Erik moved to approve Kathy Seconded. The motion carried.

Discussed Synod benevolence – the church has committed to giving \$5000 in 2019. Pastor moved to pay half of our commitment by paying \$1250 to Synod benevolence in July and again in August. Rhonda seconded. The motion carried.

Secretary's Report from the May 15nd meeting were reviewed. Diane moved to approve the minutes – Erik Seconded. The motion carried.

Reviewed pastors report (see attached).

Committee Reports:

Operations: Met on 6/19 to discuss "Omaha Gives" and other opportunities. The committee is wanting to create a logo that could be used on the website and stationary. Requested info on other payment options from Vanco:

Mobile phone app. Members would be able to send money from their phones. There would be a \$5 per month charge to church

Mobile KIOSK. This would be fairly expensive \$1500 to purchase and \$15 per month charge to the church. The committee will look at option to use an IPAD with Apple Pay

We will continue to encourage online giving via bulletin

Next meeting Aug 21st at 6:00 PM

Education: VBS is setup – looking for meal volunteers for consolers.

Pastor and Kim looking at revamping high school program.

Property: no report

Life: Beginning to work on worship on the lawn. Tentative dates of July 28th and again on August 25th.

Endowment: – no report.

Old Business:

Church directory – phone listing incorrect. Looking to hand out the directory and acknowledge the errors and ask for corrections.

New Business:

Basement leakage problem will need to be addressed.

Discussed using memorial moneys toward parsonage maintenance.

Pastor moved to adjourn. Erik seconded 2nd. Closed with the Lords Prayer.

Next meeting is July 17th 7:00 PM

Pastor's Council Report/Items for Discussion 6-19-19

Facility Issues

- Back door has been shutting quite forcibly for past month or so (closing mechanism?)
- Parsonage:
 - Replaced Leaky Kitchen Faucet
 - Issues with Washing Machine, Part Ordered this week

Parish Education

Calendar Matters

- Synod Staff Change Events
 - Reception for Bishop Prois: Sunday June 23rd 3-5pm in Storm Lake
 - Reception for Departing Synod Staff: Thursday June 27th 4-6pm in Storm Lake
 - Installation of Bishop-Elect Halaas: Saturday August 17th 1:30pm in Sioux City
- Pulpit Supply August 4th Pr Ben McIntire
- Opening Session of Moses Project (Cont Ed program) in Des Moines August 12th-15th
 - Immediately after my return from Vacation
 - 2 remaining On-Campus sessions January 6-8 and May 11-12
- Fall Theological Convocation (Synod Event) Sept 22nd-24th in Des Moines

Congregational Life

- Jr High camp trip was successful, Students and Staff shared experience in worship June 16th
- Worship on the Lawn?

Pastoral Acts

- Bethany Heights Communion Service May 30th, Will also lead June 27th
- Covered Emergency Pastoral Contact for Pr Jean in Missouri Valley Week of May 20th
- Began Pre-Marital Counseling with Couple in Prep for September Wedding
- Regular Visitation Schedule
- 283 Communed (3 regular communion weeks, via green slips)
 - May 19th 131 of 185
 - June 2nd 75 of 90
 - June 16th 77 of 82



Thanks to those who greeted in the month of July.

Joyce Nelson and Cathy Novotny
Dave and Linda Jennings
Bob and Nancy Dose
Roger and Colleen Torneten



Telescope Circle – Will not meet in August.

Martha Circle – Will meet on in August for a lunch meeting.



Council Meeting

The council meeting will be August 21st at 7:00 pm.



Our new church directories have arrived and are available. The Life Committee will continue distributing them on Sunday mornings. However, it has come to our attention that some (though not all) of the phone numbers listed for individuals/families is incorrect. When you receive your copy of the directory, please take the time to check your information and let the committee member know if yours is incorrect. We are planning steps to alleviate this issue.

Offerings....

“Our gifts to God”

	Offerings	Attendance
June 23	\$ 1768.37	63
June 30	\$ 1250.76	74
July 07	\$ 1619.63	79
July 14	\$ 3002.81	91
July 21	\$ 1876.04	51

Worship Participants for August, 2019

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

ORGANISTS	Aug. 04	Nancy Dose	COMMUNION
	Aug. 11	Sonya Schiphoff	
	Aug. 18	Arla Clausen	COMMUNION
	Aug. 25	Judy Pingel	
ACOLYTES	Aug. 04	Danny Stein	COMMUNION
	Aug. 11	Colin VanTilburg	
	Aug. 18	Jadynn McDonald	COMMUNION
	Aug. 25	Quinten Wollan	
LECTORS	Aug. 04	Beth Torneten	COMMUNION
	Aug. 11	Courtney Sampson	
	Aug. 18	Jessica Hultquist	COMMUNION
	Aug. 25	Jay Ackland	
USHERS	Aug. 04	Alex and Sonya Schiphoff	COMMUNION
	Aug. 11	Jim and Nadine Trede	
	Aug. 18	Jeff and Tracy Shreeves	COMMUNION
	Aug. 25	Lewis Curtis and Jeremy Hultquist	
GREETERS	Aug. 04	Jim and Nadine Trede	COMMUNION
	Aug. 11	Carol and Arlon Bertelsen	
	Aug. 18		COMMUNION
	Aug. 25		
SPECIAL MUSIC	Aug. 04		COMMUNION
	Aug. 11		
	Aug. 18		COMMUNION
	Aug. 25		

ALTAR GUILD: Carol Bertelsen and Becky Pedersen
CARRYING ELEMENTS: Arlon and Carol Bertelsen
DEACON: Lynn Leaders



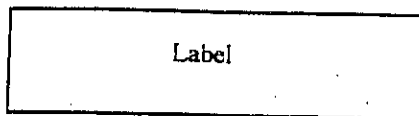
August 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				8/1 Pastor Scott/Vacation	2 Pastor Scott/Vacation	3 Pastor Scott/Vacation
4 Pastor Scott/Vacation 9:30 AM Worship Service/Holy Communion	5 Pastor Scott/Vacation	6 Pastor Scott/Vacation	7 Pastor Scott/Vacation	8 Pastor Scott/Vacation	9 Pastor Scott/Vacation	10 Pastor Scott/Vacation
11 Pastor Scott/Vacation 9:30 AM Worship Service	12 Pastor Scott/Cont. Ed. in Des Moines	13 Pastor Scott/Cont. Ed. in Des Moines	14 Pastor Scott/Cont. Ed. in Des Moines	15 Pastor Scott/Cont. Ed. in Des Moines	16	17 10:00 AM Scrapbooking
18 9:30 AM Worship Service/Holy Communion	19	20	21 6:00 PM Operations Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Council Meeting	22	23	24
25 9:30 AM Outdoor Worship	26	27	28	29	30	31

"THE MESSENGER"
UNDERWOOD LUTHERAN CHURCH
P.O. BOX 9
Underwood, IA 51576-0009



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