

The Messenger

Underwood Lutheran Church

August, 2021

Pastor Scott Dalen

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

Congregational President – Kathy Darrington – 402-639-8543
Editor, Secretary – Tonya Mayer – 712-309-1512
Church Phone # - 566-2257
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No Summer Education– On Line Service @ 8:30 am -Worship Service @ 9:30



-Pastor Scott will be on vacation August 2nd-16th, returning to the office on Tuesday the 17th. Pastor Jon Benson from St John's in Council Bluffs will be on call for pastoral emergencies. CeCe Mickells, Spiritual Director for Bethany Lutheran Home and Pastor Lisa Johnson of St John's will provide pulpit supply on Sunday the 8th and 15th. We will not feature Online Worship these two Sunday's.

-Holy Communion will be celebrated August 1st and 15th.

-7th and 8th grade families. Pastor Scott will host Confirmation Orientation in late August or early September prior to an anticipated class start date of Sunday September 12th (Early Sept is more likely). Please watch for communication from Pastor Scott regarding the schedule. If you have a child in this age group and have not already heard from Pastor Scott regarding the upcoming program, please be in contact with him.

-Anyone interested in joining the ranks of worship volunteers in the roles of 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.

-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.



As I write this, I'm thinking a lot about the feeding of the 5,000 as it is the featured gospel lesson for us on this particular week. Now interestingly enough, this time around the Lectionary shoots us over to John's account. And as I've worked with the text I have, once again, been struck by the various differences that pop up in John's version when we compare it with the other three.

The first difference is the intentionality that Jesus has in the action. While Matthew, Mark, and Luke place this miracle at the end of the day following a long session of Jesus teaching the crowds, John starts the action as soon as Jesus spots the crowds coming his way. The other three gospels tell us that its only at the prodding of the disciples that Jesus even begins to consider feeding the people, and yet in John its all his idea. We see this as he poses the question straight away "Where are we going to buy bread for the people to eat."

At this point, we actually hear 2 of the disciples singled out in the conversation, as opposed to lumping them all in together in the other gospels...but then we really get into the action. All 4 gospels agree that Jesus took the loaves and fish, he gave thanks, and then he broke them...but then we shift into another difference. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all tell us that Jesus handed off the food to the disciples, instructing them to feed the people. But here in John, Jesus handles that himself...Jesus feeds the people directly. Here's Jesus being intentional again...guiding the action, leading the story.

But the disciples aren't left out of the work either. Following this amazing meal, in which every one eats their fill, Jesus then instructs them to gather up what's left. While we don't know what becomes of the 12 baskets of leftovers, we see that it is the disciples who do the gathering.

So what do we take from this? Well, first off I think it serves as a reminder of who is really doing the work of ministry. God lies behind the action, which is empowered by the Holy Spirit. God, the almighty creator of the universe, is still at working drawing our reality forward. BUT, just like the disciples, we are called into the work as well. And I think that's the important take away.

We are the body of Christ, empowered by the Spirit to join with God in the work. Sometimes the work is wonderful and places us in the front and center. Afterall, 3 gospels feature the disciples as the ones handing out this divinely multiplied lunch, and I'm betting that they were enjoying the attention that came with it. But John places them in a secondary role, essentially bussing the tables and boxing up the to-go box of leftovers. Not quite so glamorous.

As I consider this, I'm pondering on the invitation God is giving us forward into this unknown future. As we all try to feel our way into whatever the new normal is going to look like for us in the post-covid world, may we remember that we have all been called into the work. Together we are the body of Christ. May we all keep our eyes open for those opportunities, those Spirit-inspired moments, when we are called to jump in.

In Christ,
Pastor Scott

Underwood Lutheran Church Council

Secretary's Report - July 21,

Members Present: Pastor Scott Dalen, Kathy Darrington, Gary Leaders, JoAnna Mitchell, Chris Privia, Sandy Redshaw, Tracy Schreeves, Diane Stein, and Joyce Tiarks

Also Present: Brett Michael and Jeff Privia, Not Present: Jan Ehrens and Amanda Henderson

Meeting Called to Order: President, Kathy Darrington called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

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

- Working with US Bank to get Amber Chase added as a signer on the Memorial accounts
- Budget tracking close through 6/30/21 on an expense basis
- June 2021 Income Statement showed a net loss of (\$3,811.53)
- Overall cash balance severely affected by down giving in June 2021
- Current update for July - Offering for July 4 and 11 were both low, remaining bills \$2,425.81, current cash position as of July 21, 2021 is \$659.12.
- This information led to a lengthy discussion about budget, expenses, offering, and how to maintain a balance when giving will never match expenses.
- Jeff Privia, representing the Endowment Committee, joined in our discussion.
- **Motion to ask Endowment Committee to move \$20,000 to the general fund to cover current and future monthly expenses:** Kathy Darrington; Seconded: Joyce Tiarks; Motion Carried
- A request was made to invite the Endowment Committee to meet with the Church Council at the next council meeting on August 18th. Council members will prepare questions, that will be provided in advance, for the Endowment Committee.

Motion to approve Financial Report: Tracy Schreeves; Seconded: Chris Privia; Motion Carried

Secretary's Report: After one spelling correction, **Motion to approve Secretary's Report:** Pastor Dalen; Seconded: Diane Stein; Motion Carried

Old Business:

1 - Remodeling Parsonage: The information is with the Endowment Committee.

2 - Sunday School and Report from Education Committee:

- There is a need for a Sunday School Coordinator/Superintendent, a Sunday School Music Leader, and Sunday School teachers. We will be asking for volunteers through the newsletter, website, and Facebook pages.
- Rally Sunday will be September 12th, with reminders going out in July and August
- We are also looking for high school volunteers to help with Sunday School
- When confirmation begins, Education Committee members will help parents facilitate activities and projects for this age group.

3 - Update on the windows in the east storage room: Council received more information about this project and found out that the stained-glass vendor is currently designing the windows and they will be installed at a later date.

4 - Thank you for Kim Madsen as she completes her time as our Faith Formation Coordinator: Kathy purchased gift cards and brought thank you cards to be signed. The celebration date for Kim is yet to be decided.

New Business:

1 - There is some concern about the church flower beds needing to be weeded. Property Committee members will coordinate a cleanup time.

2 - There was a request by the Leaders family asking the church to consider helping with a fundraiser to offset expenses of LaVern staying in Lincoln during Janet's rehab. Since Brian Leaders is currently setting up a Go Fund Me Page, the council would like to help by promoting the Go Fund Me Page and by providing a collection box for cash donations at the church.

3 - Council approved a scrapbooking group to use the church again on a monthly basis.

4 - Council approved use of the church for Carol Yeaton's wedding rehearsal dinner July 30th.

Pastor's Report:

Facility Issues:

- 4-H Club to resume using facility for monthly meetings, approved via email June 30th
- CenturyLink old line for the parsonage bill received, contacted customer service to remove the account July 15th

Parish Education:

- Beginning to plan 21-22 Confirmation calendar/Orientation for families, Reformation History/Small Catechism year
- Rally Sunday Sept. 12th, anticipating moving back to program year Sunday School
- Anticipate that Adult Class and Adult Choir will resume

Calendar Matters:

- Kim's last day July 15th
- Pulpit Supply August 15th provided by Pastor, Lisa Johnson
- September 20 - 21st Iowa Tri-Synod Convocation in Des Moines
- October 31st, Confirmation of Pastor's Godson in Okoboji - Pastor requested a Comp Sunday (non-vacation). **Motion to approve:** Gary Leaders; Seconded: JoAnna Mitchell; Motion Carried

Congregational Life:

- 2022 Council Elections (Going off Council: Kathy, Gary, and Diane)
- 2022 Annual Meeting - recommending Jan. 30th (5th Sunday in January) which meets Constitutional Requirements while also allowing maximum prep-time

Pastoral Acts:

- Baptism Jazlyn Renee McKee - June 20th
- Funeral Wilhelm "Bill" Koenig - July 13th
- Holy Communion July 11th (43) and 18th (45), Bethany Heights June 24th (resuming monthly schedule)

Synodical Work:

- Synod Council July 10th
- Ordination for Pastor Lisa Johnson (St. Johns in Council Bluffs) July 11th

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 18th at 6:30 pm

Adjourn Meeting:

- **Motion to Adjourn:** Pastor Dalen; Seconded: Kathy Darrington; Motion Carried

Notes Submitted: Joyce Tiarks, Secretary

Hello fellow congregation members of Underwood Lutheran Church. As ULC's Treasurer, I would like to give everyone a summary of our current financial position through the first half of 2021. I'm happy to say that the church was successful in weathering the storm of 2020. This was greatly assisted through an SBA PPP loan of \$18,700. The loan was fully forgiven in early 2021, and these funds, along with your financial support, helped us overcome a difficult year without enduring severe financial hardships. Thank you to everyone for your previous and future generosity.

With that, here is a summary of the Underwood Lutheran Church's financials through June 30, 2021:

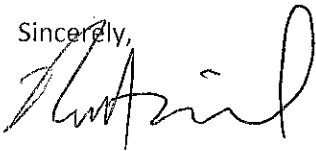
Actual revenue for ULC through 6/30/2021 is \$59,901. This primarily consists of traditional giving (through envelopes) of \$35,579 and Vanco (Online) of \$23,829. Year to date expenses total \$67,050. This yields a year-to-date operating loss of \$7,140. This loss for the year has been able to be absorbed through our cash position through the first half of the year. However, the cash available in the General Operating Fund for ULC is down from \$12,791 as of 12/31/2021 to \$4,961 as of 6/30/2021. Essentially, the cushion offered by the PPP Loan in 2020 has been eliminated.

Underwood Lutheran Church is a staple of the Underwood Community, and we should continue to be that for many years to come. We are blessed to have a sizeable endowment for a church and community of our size. However, we cannot always count on the endowment to "fill holes" as needed. The endowment committee is tasked with being good stewards of this money to allow it to support the church and our benevolence needs for generations to come. Our current "Operating Budget" is just shy of \$155,000/annually in expenses. This does not include our annual budgeted benevolence items and is purely the expenses to continue to operate the church on an annual basis. Based upon our historical giving, the expected giving to the church is projected to be about \$123,000 for 2021. This leaves a deficit of \$32,000 for the year. Our Council has done a tremendous job of managing the budget from an expense side. Historically we often see actual expenses coming in under budget. But the "giving verses expenses" reality is still difficult.

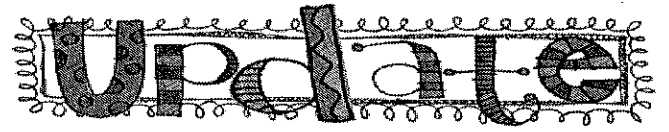
I am asking each of you fellow members to consider any possible increases to your weekly donations or to consider any options to help the church during these times. It won't take much from each of us and a little bit goes a long way. If 50 families give an extra \$10/week for an entire year, this would total \$26,000.

Thank you again and God Bless.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett Michael", written in a cursive style.

Brett Michael
Underwood Lutheran Church Treasurer

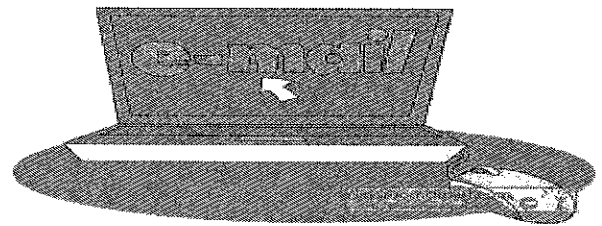


Precautionary Building Status

-Based on current Covid activity within our county, precautionary measures have relaxed within the building. Hand Sanitizer and single-use masks are still available. Sanitizer is still offered for individuals to utilize in advance of receiving Holy Communion.

Masks are recommended for those who are not vaccinated for Covid-19, but are not required.

However, the leadership is continuing to monitor activity, particularly with the increase in activity centered around the Delta-Variant. Please continue to use common sense as collectively, we continue to care for one another.



Please note the following email address changes for both Tonya and Pastor Scott. Tonya's old address will stop being functional in mid-June. Pastor Scott's old address is still functional, but he is changing work correspondence to the new account.

ulcsecretary@metc.net for Tonya
ulcpastor@metc.net for Pastor Scott

Offerings....

"Our gifts to God"

	Offerings	Attendance
June 27	\$ 2169.00	55
July 04	\$ 1304.00	
July 11	\$ 1224.04	50
July 18	\$ 3002.64	51

FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR POSITION

The Congregational Council began the conversation about what might be possible moving forward. Please note that this conversation is in the very beginning stages. With that said, if you are interested in any portion of the listed duties of the Faith Formation Coordinator (Facilitating Sunday School, Junior High Youth Activities, Vacation Bible School), please contact Pastor Scott.

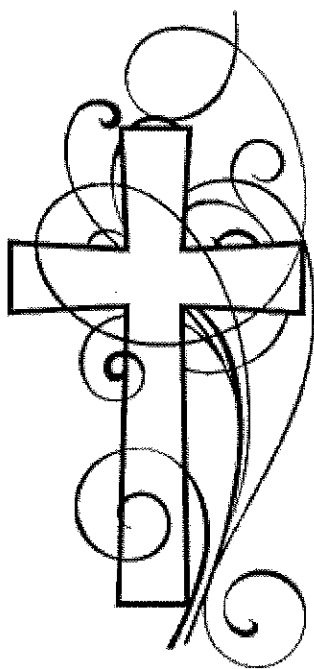


**Rally Sunday
September 12**



-In mid-July, we resumed the schedule of volunteer ushers assisting with Sunday morning Worship. Likewise, we continue to seek volunteer scripture readers on a weekly basis. Finally, the Altar Guild has also resumed activity, centered mainly around the preparation/cleanup of Holy Communion. If you are interested in serving in any of these capacities, please contact the church and we will put you in touch with the proper individual.

Remember, we can't do this without out you.



Sanctuary Audio-Visual Improvement Project

We continue to explore the possibility of a drastic improvement on the audio-visual capabilities within the sanctuary. The main purpose of this project will be to install equipment which will allow digital projection throughout the sanctuary. This will create the opportunity to enhance our worship experience, and help us move away from dependance on printed materials. While this project and possibility is exciting, it is also not cheap. The leadership ultimate hopes to fundraise this project. We have received several bids towards the project, ranging in cost up to \$8500 depending on current resource costs and including contingency funds.

We are also exploring a slightly different option, more directly aimed at realizing the goal of recording/livestreaming our In-Person Worship. This will lead to a more cohesive connection between In-Person and Online worship opportunities. This option, still in the early stages of exploration, will likely prove cheaper than the potential projection project. The leadership of the congregation will continue to explore how best to move forward with these different possibilities.

Through the generosity of several families through existing memorial funds, we already have \$4,500 dedicated to this project. But we will need your help to bring these dreams into reality. Please consider investing in the future of Underwood Lutheran, and contact Pastor Scott with your willingness to pledge towards this project.

Worship Assistant Schedule

Usher Schedule:

Aug 1: Bill and Libby Shelton
Aug 8: Alex and Sonya Schiphoff
Aug 15: Jeff and Tracy Shreeves
Aug 22: J.W. and Joyce Tiarks
Aug 29: Brett Michaels and Mike Shelton
Sep 5th: Neil Darrington and Gary Leaders
Sep 12th: Bob Dose and Dick Miller
Sep 19th: Adam Darrington and Erik Pederson
Sep 26th: Bill and Libby Shelton

Piano/Organist Schedule:

Aug 1st: Judy Pingel
Aug 8th: Nancy Dose
Aug 15th: Arla Claussen
Aug 22nd: Sonya Schiphoff
Aug 29th: Arla Claussen

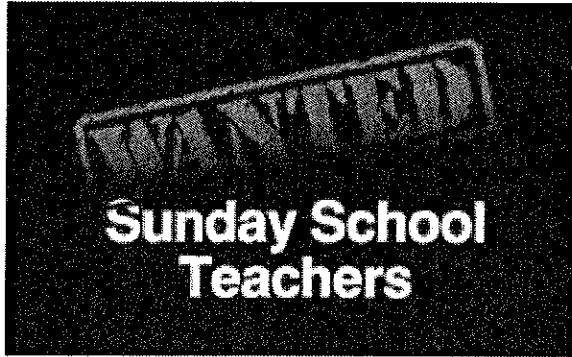
August Deacon: Chris Privia

Bethany Lutheran Home

Is creating a new **General Store** for their residents!

They are asking for **these items**: personal things, i.e. deodorant (men & women), shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, body wash, bar soap, body spray, brushes, combs, lotion, tweezers, hair items (bands, barrettes, etc.), slipper socks (with rubber stripes on bottom), fleece lap blankets, grabbers, snack items (individually wrapped), stress balls, fidget spinners, walker bags, big puzzle books, pens of various colors, and notepads.

All items must be **new**. A **box** is placed inside the entry to Fellowship Hall for our collection. Thank you for your support with this project!



Sunday School Needs Your Help!

The Education Committee is looking for people to help fill several Sunday School positions.

We need people to help with these positions: Sunday School Coordinator, Music Director, Sunday School Teachers. Any of these positions can be shared with another person to alleviate the time commitment.

We would also greatly appreciate help from any high school students who want to volunteer.

If you are interested, please contact a member of the Education Committee: JoAnna Mitchell, Chris Privia, or Joyce Tiarks

August 2021

Calendar

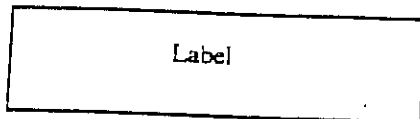
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug 1 8:30 AM Online Service 9:30 AM Worship Service	2 Pastor Scott/Vacation	3 Pastor Scott/Vacation	4 Pastor Scott/Vacation	5 Pastor Scott/Vacation	6 Pastor Scott/Vacation	7 Pastor Scott/Vacation
8 Pastor Scott/Vacation 9:30 AM Worship Service	9 Pastor Scott/Vacation	10 Pastor Scott/Vacation	11 Pastor Scott/Vacation	12 Pastor Scott/Vacation	13 Pastor Scott/Vacation	14 Pastor Scott/Vacation
15 Pastor Scott/Vacation 9:30 AM Worship Service	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 8:30 AM Online Service 9:30 AM Worship Service	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 8:30 AM Online Service 9:30 AM Worship Service	30	31	Sep 1	2	3	4

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