

The Messenger

Underwood Lutheran Church

December, 2018

Pastor Scott Dalen

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

Congregational President – Jessica Hultquist – 402-651-4034
Editor, Secretary – Tonya Mayer – 566-9823
Church Phone # - 566-2257
e-mail address: underwoodlutheran@q.com

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



Wednesday evening Bible Study will meet on the 12th and the 19th. We will NOT meet on the 5th due to a congregational project, nor on the 26th due to the holiday season.

-High School will meet on the 5th and the 19th.

-On Sunday December 9th, the Choraleers will lead worship with their annual Christmas program.

-On Sunday December 16th, worship will be led by the Jr High Confirmation Students, with the message being provided by the Sunday School students.

-Christmas Eve will feature our normal schedule for Candlelight services, beginning at 5pm and 10pm. There will not be worship on Christmas Day.

-If you are interested in helping lead Christmas Eve services, look for a signup sheet in the narthex. We will need people to serve as acolytes, lectors, ushers, greeters, and communion assistants for both services.

-Due to the holiday season, there will NOT be Education on Sunday the 23rd or 30th. Worship will be held at the normal time on these two dates. The office will be closed the week between Christmas and New Years, and Pastor Scott will be on vacation from the 25th through January 1st. Pastor Jon Benson from St John's Lutheran in Council Bluffs will be on call in his absence. Pastor Ben McIntire will join us for worship on the 30th.

-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>



FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK

More and more often, I find myself drawn to the wisdom found in Ecclesiastes chapter 3...for everything there is a season. I'm guessing you're familiar with that passage, how there are times to be born and times to die...times to plant and times to harvest...not to mention times for quite a few other things.

This passage sprang to mind as I was looking at my December calendar page for the purpose of listing the monthly activities and announcements here in the newsletter. And as I look at the page, I see a batch of notes in the upper right hand corner. Notes that remind me of important dates already set for the new year. Dates for weddings, or Synod Assembly and council meetings. Our month to lead worship at Bethany and reminders to start working on Confirmation Robe orders.

I list these things out because getting a calendar for the new year is usually pretty low on my list of priorities until we find ourselves a week or two into December...but keeping the dates listed is important so I don't blank on them when I finally do get around to picking up that new calendar.

Now I bring all this up, because December typically has this funny way of making me reflect on the year that has been. It also makes me wonder about the year that will be, especially in light of a fair amount of "important dates" already established. And I think that these are good things to do. We learn from the past...we hope and we dream and we plan for the future.

And yet, as we are reminded in Ecclesiastes, there's a season for everything...and while taking the time to both look backwards and forwards is important, we also know the importance of being present right here in the moment. That seems to be a theme that I've been bumping into quite frequently as of late. As I sit down to write this article I remember having made a comment along these lines in a recent sermon...that we human beings often struggle to see past whatever it is that is staring us in the face. Granted, that's usually in effect when current events in our lives are stressful or painful or difficult.

But there's a flipside to that as well...and perhaps we find it far too easy in the midst of moments that are worth savoring to let our attention wander off to the next thing on our to-do list, or to get distracted by something else. And in these times I'm reminded of a recent conversation in evening devotions with my family when I ended up quoting Kung Fu Panda of all things.

"The Past is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. But this moment is a gift...maybe that's why we call it Present." Wise words from a Kung Fu master who also happens to be a tortoise.

This is, perhaps, a bit of an odd rambling from me, but I hope that it serves as a reminder to be present in the moment. To enjoy the ones that you are with. To mend fences if they need to be mended. Or to simply appreciate whatever situation you find yourself in. Life is short, and at times life is hard. But it is also very good. Something that I believe our Lord embodied. Just think of how many times we hear of Jesus sitting down with someone. The countless ministry moments that happened over a meal, or even in simple conversation. As we close out one year and move towards a new one, it is my prayer that you will find the joy that life has to offer.

In Christ,
Pastor Scott

Underwood Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes October 10, 2018

Members Present: Jessica Hultquist, Bob Pingel, Roger Hemmingsen, Erik Pedersen, Bill Shelton, Jeff Poggensee, Carol Yeaton, Rhonda Johnson, Lynn Leaders

Others Present:

Absent: Michael Johnson, Linda Merdinger

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by council president, Jessica Hultquist.

Pastor Scott Dalen opened the meeting with prayer.

Financial Matters: The monthly financial reports were presented as provided by Linda prior to her departure. She raised a question as to accounting for the insurance payment for the roof repair project. The council suggested that this be designated by footnoting the income, both in terms of the insurance payment as well as for monthly interest generated by the Edward Jones accounts. Bob moved to approve the minutes along with the amended September report, Jeff seconded; motion carried.

Secretaries Report: Minutes were presented from the September meeting. Bob moved to approve the minutes along with the amended September report, Jeff seconded; motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Scott presented his report for the month including the following.

Facility Issues

-NA

Parish Education Matters

-Adult Bible Study Topic

-Narrative Lectionary (4 year cycle of Biblical Narrative)

Calendar Matters

-Church Basement Rental Jan Ehrens Saturday January 19th, 2019

-Vacation Dec 25th-Jan 1st

-Pr Ben McIntire Tentatively Slated Sunday Dec 30th & Feb 3rd

-Bishop Rodger Prois Will Join Us For Worship Sunday Feb 10th

Congregational Life

-Revisit Hastings-Will Distributions

-Potential 2019 Council Members & Officers/Endowment Committee Members

-Potential For Constitutional Review/Update

Pastoral Acts

-Funeral Richard Geise Sept 17th

-Baptism Callan Teten Sept 30th

-Regular Visitation Schedule

-170 Communed (2 Communion Weeks via Green Slips)

-Sept 16th 79 of 93

-October 7th 91 of 105

Committee Reports:

Operations

Jeff presented the 2019 budget proposal as prepared by the Operations Committee. After discussion, the proposed budget for 2019 is \$176,795. Conversation centered around the need to trim our budget, as the history of our giving over the past several years comes in approximately \$40,000 under our recent budgets.

Property

We have received a proposal for snow removal from Scooby's in Minden. \$150/removal which will include both the parking lot and sidewalks, though usage of salt is extra. Roger also received a bid from Zimmerman's, but the bid was substantially more. Roger will contact Scooby to inquire on the possibility of an "on-call" basis for the winter. Next years mowing is also in flux.

Education

No Report

Life

Directory signup is available online, both on the website as well as on Facebook. Likewise the physical signup will also be available on Sunday's at the church.

Old Business:

We have received notice of the payout for the Hastings Estate. \$90,000 is designated to the Endowment Fund. There is an additional check from the estate in the amount of \$127,500. The will does stipulate that these funds are designated for the Endowment, though the payment itself is merely to the congregation.

Discussion pointed towards the possibility of utilizing a part of this second portion to create a cushion within the general fund while future budgetary changes are planned and implemented due to the current financial situation in the General Fund. Jessica moved that upon receipt of the Hastings Inheritance, the council recommend to the Endowment Committee reallocating \$27,500 into the Interest Holding Account at Edward Jones, Rhonda seconded; motion carried.

New Business:

Harvest Festival will be held on Sunday November 18th. Council will finalize details at the November 14th meeting. The council will provide a main dish, and we will announce having potluck sides.

The Annual Meeting will be held Sunday January 27th following worship.

Next months meeting will be November 14th.

Lynn moved to adjourn, Jeff seconded; motion carried.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Pastor Scott Dalen



Thanks to those who greeted in the month of
November.

Rhonda Johnson and Megan Spencer
Julie Larsen, Joyce Tiarks, Lois Johnson
Kathy Darrington and Analise Letner

WOMEN'S CIRCLE

Telescope Circle - Christmas Party, to be
decided.

Martha Circle - Christmas Party, to be
decided.



If you have signed up to buy gifts for our
adopted families, please remember to drop
off at the church by Sunday, December
2nd. Make sure they are labeled and
wrapped if requested.

Council Meeting

The council meeting will be December 12th
at 7:00 pm.



Poinsettia Announcement

Christmastime is quickly approaching and along
with that comes the decorating of the Church for
all to enjoy! One staple of the past seasons that
we will not have this year are live
poinsettias. Recently, it has come to the
attention of the Church Life Committee and
Council that the Church is just not the ideal
environment for live poinsettias to thrive and the
plants are high-maintenance. In place of the live
plants we have purchased Silk Poinsettia
Arrangements to help decorate the altar. Watch
for these to arrive in the coming weeks!

Offerings....

"Our gifts to God"

	Offerings	Attendance
Oct. 28	\$ 1579.00	132
Nov. 04	\$ 2559.65	134
Nov. 11	\$ 3707.00	113
Nov. 18	\$ 7687.00	102

Message from Seminarian Marietta Nelson-Bittle

Our Adopt-A-Seminarian Marietta Nelson-Bittle shared a brief message of thanks as well as an update of her current educational work.

Thank you so very, very much for your generous scholarship for my education at Wartburg Theological Seminary. I am blessed by your graciousness and willingness to support this endeavor toward becoming a pastor.

I am in my second year of seminary and am currently taking: Hebrew Bible, Lutheran Confessions, Spiritual Practices, Rural Ministry, 21 Century Leadership and Fieldwork (which is community volunteering). I'm especially enjoying Hebrew Bible and all the richness and complexity of the Old Testament stories, as well as Lutheran Confessions. Justification by Faith Alone Through Grace Alone! is the cry of the semester.

I think I reported to you last year that my incoming class at WTS was 77 percent larger than the previous incoming class. This was amazing news at that time, and it still is as we have all but two students from that original group, still in seminary. Here's some even better news: the 2018 incoming class was even larger. My class had 50 students. This year there were 66 first-years! Wonderful news for WTS, for the church and for the world.

Thank you again for your generosity and your kindness. I think of you often and give thanks to God for you.

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 05 The confirmation students will be meeting at the church at 6pm to make Christmas ornaments for the residents of Bethany Lutheran Home. We are asking members of the congregation to join us to work on this project.
- Dec 09 Choraleers Christmas
- Dec 16 Sunday School Christmas Program
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service at 5 and 10 pm.



Worship Participants for December, 2018

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

ORGANISTS	Dec. 02	Nancy Dose	COMMUNION
	Dec. 09	Judy Pingel	
	Dec. 16	Nancy Dose	COMMUNION
	Dec. 23	Judy Pingel	
	Dec. 30	Nancy Dose	
ACOLYTES	Dec. 02	Ava Dalen	COMMUNION
	Dec. 09	Nick Hackett	
	Dec. 16	Elizabeth Hendersen	COMMUNION
	Dec. 23	Rachael Privia	
	Dec. 30	Tenley Roberts	
LECTORS	Dec. 02	Nancy Dose	COMMUNION
	Dec. 09		
	Dec. 16		COMMUNION
	Dec. 23	Nancy Geise	
	Dec. 30	Beth Torneten	
USHERS	Dec. 02	Jeff Poggensee and Mike Shelton	COMMUNION
	Dec. 09	Bill and Libby Shelton	
	Dec. 16	Phil Feller and Bob Pingel	COMMUNION
	Dec. 23	J.W. and Joyce Tiarks	
	Dec. 30	Jay Ackland and Arlon Bertelsen	
GREETERS	Dec. 02	Lea Voss and Courtney Sampson	COMMUNION
	Dec. 09	The Choraleers	
	Dec. 16		COMMUNION
	Dec. 23		
	Dec. 30		
SPECIAL MUSIC	Dec. 02		COMMUNION
	Dec. 09	The Choraleers	
	Dec. 16	The Sunday School Children	COMMUNION
	Dec. 23		
	Dec. 30		

ALTAR GUILD: Nadine Kathy Darrington and Julie Larsen
CARRYING ELEMENTS: Neil and Kathy Darrington
DEACON: Lynn Leaders



December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						12/1
2 9:00 AM Sunday School/Confirmation/Adult Forum 10:15 AM Worship Service/Holy Communion	3	4	5 6:00 PM Community Craft project	6	7	8 Letner Basement Rental
9 9:00 AM Sunday School/Confirmation/Adult Forum 10:15 AM Choraleers Christmas	10	11	12 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Council Meeting	13	14	15
16 9:00 AM Sunday School/Confirmation/Adult Forum 10:15 AM Sunday School/Jr. High Christmas	17	18	19 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM High School Group	20	21	22
23 9:00 AM No Education 10:15 AM Worship Service	24 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service 10:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 Pastor Scott/Vacation	26 Pastor Scott/Vacation	27 Pastor Scott/Vacation	28 Pastor Scott/Vacation	29 Pastor Scott/Vacation
30 Pastor Scott/Vacation 9:00 AM No Education 10:15 AM Worship Service	31 Pastor Scott/Vacation					

Christmas Word Search Puzzle

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

ANGELS
BABY JESUS
BETHLEHEM
CARDS
CAROLS
CHARITY
CHRIST
COOKIES
DECEMBER
DECORATIONS
EGGNOG

GIFTS
HOLIDAY
HOLLY
JINGLE BELLS
JOSEPH
JOY
LIGHTS
LOVE
MANGER
MARY
MERRY

NATIVITY
NIGHT
PRESENTS
SERVICE
SHEPHERDS
SNOWFLAKES
STAR
TREES
TURKEY
WISEMEN

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