

The Messenger

Underwood Lutheran Church

February, 2020

Pastor Scott Dalen

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

Congregational President –
Editor, Secretary – Tonya Mayer – 712-309-1512
Church Phone # - 566-2257
e-mail address: underwoodlutheran@q.com

Education @ 9:00 am

Worship Service @ 10:15 am



-The season of Lent kicks off on Wednesday February 26th with Ash Wednesday, and in the following weeks we will gather together for our Wednesday evening Lenten activities. Pastor Scott is seeking individuals willing to share stories of ways that God has been active in their lives. If you have never shared your story with our congregation, please consider doing so. And if you've shared before but God has been up to something new in your life since then, consider sharing once again.

-The regional High School Musical Group FaithSound will join us for worship on Sunday February 23rd.

-Reminder that Church Council Meetings are now slated for the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:00pm, unless otherwise noted.

-Pastor Scott will be gone for a Synod Council visioning retreat Feb 21st-22nd. He will be available by phone or email.

-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.



Over the past several years, we have included a Remembrance of Baptism during worship on Baptism of Our Lord Sunday. I was a bit shocked and disappointed a few weeks back when I realized that I had scheduled vacation on that particular Sunday. And so I begrudgingly skipped over it this year. Honestly its one of my favorite moments that we share together. Sure the children bless each other and their families, and together we offer a quick baptismal blessing whenever there is a Baptism in worship...but we missed this intentional action of getting up out of our seats to actively remember the promises God has made upon us as individuals.

That said, I came across this article in the January issue of Living Lutheran, and I believe it encapsulates the importance of this practice of baptismal remembrance. The article is written by Pr Kari van Wakeren.

Recently, it was my son's baptismal anniversary. As a pastor, you may expect that we light the baptismal candle every year and make a big deal of marking this occasion. But often it slips in as a secondary though, which was the case this year.

His baptismal anniversary fell in the middle of the week amid homework, meal preparation and scheduled activities, so I was relieved that I at least remembered to say, "Today's your baptismal anniversary, buddy!" while we were eating supper.

My mom happened to be visiting and told my son, "Your mom can put the sign of the cross on your forehead." He wasn't quite as enthusiastic. "She does that every night," he said, and continued eating.

This made me chuckle, as well as reflect. On one hand, his baptismal anniversary is significant, but I also want him and his sister to know that their baptism is a daily reality. That's why, although there are many things that I lose track of as a parent and many ways I fall short every day, I try to remember to bless each of our kids when I tuck them in at night. "God made you special and we love you very much," I say as I mark the sign of the cross on their foreheads.

It's not much, but what I want my kids to learn through this simple bedtime ritual is that God is with them and loves them—no matter what. As their parent, I'd love to be able to protect them from cruelty and harm. Despite this natural inclination, I know how impossible that is.

That's why what I really want is for them to have tools to handle the yuck and much of life when it happens. The way I see it, that's what the blessing of baptism offers. The promise of our baptism reminds us that God has claimed us as God's own and is with us every day. It reminds us of who we are and where our worth is found. Regardless of the words we use or how often we do so, whenever we remind ourselves (and ourselves) of this promise, it's well worth it.

Like Pr Kari, my wife and I have a long history of giving our kids a simple blessing at night. As they've grown older, these blessings have altered a bit...but the practice of a brief connection at the end of the day serves as a reminder for them that they are loved and claimed. May this simple truth be one that we all hold onto as we move into this new year.

*In Christ,
Pastor Scott*

**Underwood Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2019**

Carol Yeaton, Linda Merdinger, Pastor Dalen, Diane Stein, Kathy Darrington, Lynn Leaders, Bill Shelton, Chris Privia, Gary Leaders, Erik Pedersen and Jeff Poggensee

Carol called the meeting was called to order at 7:00

Pastor led group in devotion and prayer.

Financial Reports: The treasures reports were reviewed. Lynn moved to approve the treasures report. Chris Seconded. The motion was approved.

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

Pastors report (see attached)

Committee Reports:

Operations: No Report

Education: No Report

Property: Thrashers will begin work in January.

Life: Working on membership list. Started on an activities calendar, council will review.

Endowment: Edward Jones CD rolled over into 4 mutual funds. Money market account has sufficient funds to cover water proofing expenses.

Memorial Fund: No Report

Old Business:

Jan Ehrens has requested to use church on Dec 28th. Kathy moved to approve Diane Seconded the motion carried.

Discussed meal for annual meeting.

Kathy – Potato soup

Jessica – Vegetable Tray

Chris – Chicken Noodle soup

Erik – Broccoli Cheese soup

Jeff – Dessert

Bill - Crackers

Carol – Bread

Gary – Chips

Lynn - Dessert

Diane – Chili soup

New Business:

Please have reports into Tonya by Jan 11th.

Pastor moved to adjourn. Kathy seconded. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is Jan 22nd at 6:00 PM

Pastor's Report/Items for Discussion 12-18-19

Facility Issues

- Parsonage Basement Finish Work Following Thrasher in January
- Can Property Work with Jeremy to Make Sure This is covered

Parish Education

- Considering Leading Financial Peace University Class (Dave Ramsey)
- Jeremy Lafrentz has expressed interest helping to lead this possibility

Calendar Matters

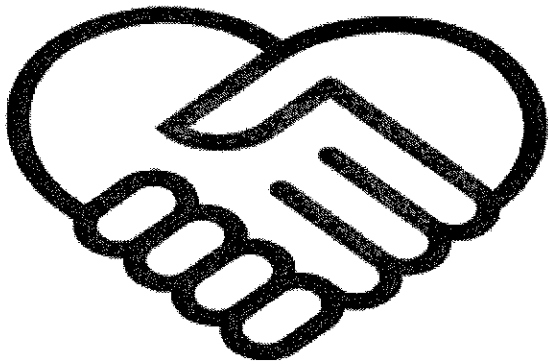
- Council in January, Vacation Over the 15th
- Should We Move the Meeting?
- May, Assigned Month For Bethany Lutheran Home Sunday Services
- I have also taken on the typical role of leading monthly Communion for the Heights

Congregation Life

- Brett Michael has agreed to take on the role of Treasurer
- Other Potential Council Member Replacements?

Pastoral Acts

- Regular Visitation Schedule
- 161 Communed (2 Communion Weeks via green slips)
- Dec 1st 58 of 69
- Dec 15th 103 of 157



Thanks to those who greeted in the month of
January.

Jeff and Tracy Shreeves
Michael and Melissa Johnson
Carol Yeaton

4th Qtr Budgeted Income: \$ 44,023.75

4th Qtr Actual Income: \$ 57,189.77

4th Qtr Actual Expenses: \$ 47,917.19



Telescope Circle – Will meet at 1:30 pm on
February 13th.

Martha Circle – Will meet on February 14th
at 2:00 pm.

Council Meeting

The council meeting will be February 19th
at 7:00 pm.



Offerings....

“Our gifts to God”

	Offerings	Attendance
Dec. 29	\$ 3838.92	55
Jan. 05	\$ 2225.00	105
Jan. 12	\$ 2064.59	90
Jan. 19	\$ 2984.63	89

Lenten Dinners

This year Ash Wednesday is on February
26th. Last year's Women's Executive Board
will be hosting the kickoff of the Lenten
Dinners and Services. We will be providing
a Taco Bar and desserts. Please come and
join us for great food and fellowship!

Everyone is welcome! The dinners will
begin at 6:00 and the Services begin at 7:00.

March 4th – Martha Circle

March 11th – Telescope Circle

March 18th – Confirmation Class

March 25th – Sunday School Teachers

April 1st – Church Council

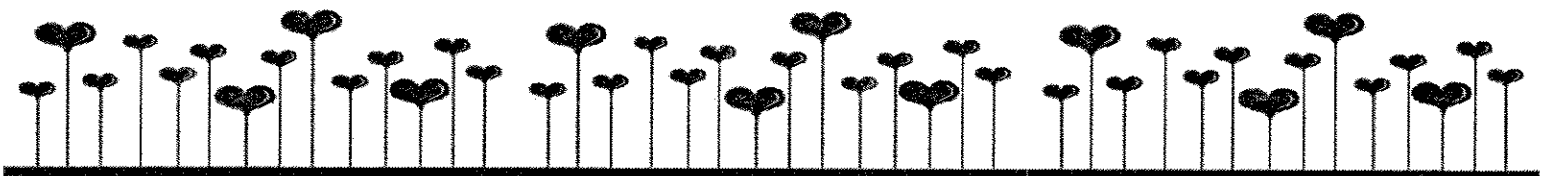
Please mark these dates on your calendars
and come and enjoy!

Worship Participants for February, 2020

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

ORGANISTS	Feb. 02	Judy Pingel	COMMUNION
	Feb. 09	Nancy Dose	
	Feb. 16	Judy Pingel	COMMUNION
	Feb. 23	Nancy Dose	
ACOLYTES	Feb. 02	Colin VanTilburg	COMMUNION
	Feb. 09	Johnathan Harold	
	Feb. 16	Ava Dalen	COMMUNION
	Feb. 23	Nick Hackett	
LECTORS	Feb. 02	Jeremy Hultquist	COMMUNION
	Feb. 09	Emma Wulff	
	Feb. 16	Weta Butterfield	COMMUNION
	Feb. 23	Payton Leaders	
USHERS	Feb. 02	Jeff Poggensee and Mike Shelton	COMMUNION
	Feb. 09	Bill and Libby Shelton	
	Feb. 16	Alex and Sonya Schiphoff	COMMUNION
	Feb. 23	Jim and Nadine Trede	
GREETERS	Feb. 02	Arlon and Carol Bertelsen	COMMUNION
	Feb. 09	Analise Letner & Kathy Darrington	
	Feb. 16	Bob and Judy Pingel	COMMUNION
	Feb. 23	James and Marlene Merdinger	
SPECIAL MUSIC	Feb. 02		COMMUNION
	Feb. 09		
	Feb. 16		COMMUNION
	Feb. 23		

ALTAR GUILD: Rhonda Johnson and Jackie Masker
CARRYING ELEMENTS: Dave and Linda Jennings
DEACON:



February 2020

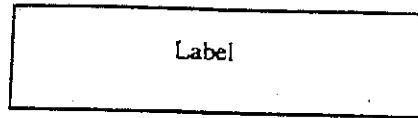
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						2/1
2 9:00 AM Education 10:15 AM Worship Service/Holy Communion	3	4	5	6	7	8 10:00 AM Scrapbooki ng
9 9:00 AM Education 10:15 AM Worship Service	10	11	12	13 1:30 PM Telescope Circle	14 2:00 PM Martha Circle	15
16 9:00 AM Education 10:15 AM Worship Service/Holy Communion	17	18	19 7:00 PM Council Meeting	20	21	22
23 9:00 AM Education 10:15 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Faith Sound/Leads Worship	24	25	26 6:00 PM Lent Dinner 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	27	28	29

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