

The Messenger

Underwood Lutheran Church

February, 2021

Pastor Scott Dalen

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

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No Education - Worship Service @ 8:00 am on line – 9:30 am Indoor Worship



- February will see the return to in-person education for Sunday School and Confirmation. As of this publication, we do not yet know the exact date. Please stay tuned to communication for the start date.
- When in-person education resumes, we will shift back to our normal program-year schedule on Sundays, with Education at 9am and Worship at 10:15am. Again, we will do our best to communicate this change in advance.
- Wednesday February 17th is Ash Wednesday, which begins the season of Lent. While Covid restrictions dictate that we will not hold our normal Lenten meals on Wednesday evenings, we are planning on Worship opportunities. We are currently planning on Online Worship going live at 6pm, with In-Person Worship at 7pm. However, we will also be open to changes to this approach as we get into the season and see what works and what doesn't.
- A reminder as we continue with In-person worship that Council members will be covering the various assisting roles (Usher, Readers, Etc) for the time being. We will communicate changes to this approach as they occur.
- 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.



There are more personality tests out there than anyone probably cares to think about. I've taken my share of them over the years in order to *"learn more about myself."* But the one that has probably been the most revealing one is called Strengthsfinder. I've actually done it twice over the years with pretty much the same results.

Now when you take the Strengthsfinder assessment, the result spits out your top 5 strengths. 5 traits (out of 30 or more) that are the most dominant in your personality. One of mine is Adaptability, the ability to shift easily given the circumstances. While Adaptability has been a great help in ministry, it has been particularly important since March and the onset of Covid.

But I'll be honest. I'm getting tired of having to be adaptable. Or maybe the better way of saying it, being flexible...and maybe, just maybe, you are too.

Just before I sat down to write this article, one of our members stopped in. We sat and chatted, having to speak more loudly than usual to hear one another through our masks. And one of the things that we were chatting about was the upcoming schedule. As I'm writing this, we are on the verge of resuming in-person worship, and a week away from a hybrid approach to an in-person/online Annual Meeting. I'm also mulling over what will be the best way to approach our mid-week Lenten activity this year. Resuming some aspects of Education is pending.

But, that's all dependent on Covid numbers continuing to be favorable. Right now, things look pretty good. But as this individual and I chatted, he said "But who knows...something could happen two weeks from now and everything we've got planned might go right out the window." And I nodded and said "Yep, that's what we saw happen back in November wasn't it?" And he nodded, and then he said "But you'd think by this point, everyone pretty much knows that right?"

Let me be clear, I'm hopeful. Things are looking up. As I crossed the parking lot for the first time this week to kick off my work week, I recognized a positive sensibility that I haven't felt in almost a year. And it is my hope and prayer that these encouraging trends that we are seeing here in late January are going to continue. But we just don't know and so we have to be prepared to change things up if the need arises once more.

And that's frustrating isn't it? This ongoing sense of not knowing if what we're doing or expecting or planning today is still going to apply in another month, or in another week, or even tomorrow.

But as I write that I hear a voice in the back of my head saying "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own." (Jesus in Matthew 6:34a). A good reminder that we have no control over what is coming towards us in the unknown future. And then I'm reminded of how Jesus continues in the second half of that verse. "Today's trouble is enough for today."

This world is not perfect. And in this life we have troubles. And so, together let us do our best to deal with the reality that we are facing right now in this moment, acknowledging the good stuff along with the hard stuff. And we'll do the same thing again tomorrow...and the day after that...and the day after that...

In Christ,
Pastor Scott

Offerings....

"Our gifts to God"

	Offerings	Attendance
Dec. 27	\$ 2878.63	
Jan. 03	\$ 2191.94	
Jan. 10	\$ 1921.88	
Jan. 17	\$ 2953.67	

THANK YOU!

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The Life Committee wanted to thank everyone for donating to the food drive. We had an impressive amount of items donated!!

Jay and I delivered the items to the Neola/Minden food bank and they were so very thankful.

We may do another one this summer watch the newsletter for details.

Happy Birthday

Celebrating 90 years on February 13th.

Happy Birthday, Alice Sorensen!



MA231051H www.lifetokanopi.com

Building Closure Status

As of this publication, we have resumed limited in-person activity within the building including worship and small-scale meetings, with Sunday School and Confirmation classes expected to resume by the end of February. We will continue to follow our safety guidelines including masking, distancing, and hand sanitizer.

We will also continue to monitor Covid infection rates within the county. If rates continue to remain favorable, especially as vaccines continue to be administered, leadership is hopeful that we will not need to return to an Online-Only status.



February 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	2/1	2	3	4	5	6
7 8:00 AM On Line Service 9:30 AM Worship Service/Holy Communion	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 8:00 AM On Line Service 9:30 AM Worship Service	15	16	17 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	18	19	20
21 8:00 AM On Line Service 9:30 AM Worship Service/Holy Communion	22	23	24 7:00 PM Lenten Service	25	26	27
28 8:00 AM On Line Service 9:30 AM Worship Service						



WINTER WORD SEARCH

FIND THE WORDS!



A Y G X D V Q O S O O L H R R S C A R F
 Q L J A N U A R Y X J O Y R M R T G D T
 X D X J Q X G M S S N O W F L A K E U Q
 E I W T G Q I N B T G J C Y C G T T I M
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BOOTS
 COLD
 FREEZING
 HAT
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 DECEMBER
 FROST
 ICE
 SHOVEL
 SNOWANGEL
 SNOWMAN

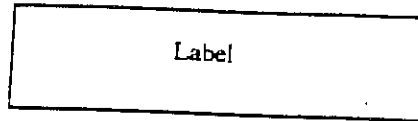
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