

The Messenger

Underwood Lutheran Church

July, 2020

Pastor Scott Dalen

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

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SUMMER SCHEDULE – No Education - Worship Service @ 9:30 am



-An ongoing reminder that as we exercise ongoing caution in the face of COVID-19, the majority of our communication will continue to be digital. Information will be shared through the Church Website and Facebook.

-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. 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.

-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.



FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK

Dear ULC Community.

I'm writing this article in mid-June in order to have it ready for the production of the July Newsletter, simply because of the way the weekends and the calendar falls this year. Because of this, the church council has not yet met and made an official ruling on the state of closure within the building as we move into July.

With that in mind, please remember that the information I'm sharing here is not yet official. Any changes and/or official rulings made by the council will continue to be shared when/as they happen. However, what I am sharing is my sense and expectation at this particular point.

Our current state, which includes the building remaining closed for activity, ongoing worship videos being available online, and outdoor worship held on the lawn as often as the Sunday-morning weather cooperates, will **LIKELY** (not yet officially but likely) last right on through the summer months. A couple week's in, it feels like we are starting to get a handle on this approach. While it, admittedly, still doesn't feel quite right, it does feel like we are beginning to find a routine.

Let me say, once again, how grateful I have been for the flexibility and the feedback that I've received from you as the community of ULC as we continue to exercise caution. I have several colleagues who cannot say the same.

Now all that being said, I've had quite a few conversations with different individuals in recent days in which we've expressed a general sense of frustration. I can't speak for anyone else, but as I've reflected on my frustration, it seems to be centered around a general lack of control. I don't know what to expect. I can't plan long term. I don't know if or when or how we'll be able to resume our programming this fall. Things that generally we'd

take for granted or wouldn't give a second thought are completely different. All of this is a tough pill to swallow, because things just don't feel right. And even our inability to articulate just what feels wrong is, in itself, part of the underlying problem.

As I've shared in these various conversations, they inevitably come around to the continuous need to seek out our hope and strength from our faith in God...and while I do believe that, there are moments when that hope can be hard to see...and I find myself uttering the lament found in the opening verses of Psalm 13.

"How long O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?" (verses 1-2)

I appreciate this lament, because it speaks to a hopeless nature that sometimes we find ourselves in. Perhaps this lasts for a moment, or for a day, or a week, or longer. And its honest...that's what I appreciate so much about it. The psalmist, in whatever situation was actually occurring, seems to be saying "I can't take this anymore Lord...why won't you do something about it? I need you and it feels like you aren't showing up!"

But the Psalm doesn't end there...and a couple of verses later we hear the following:

"But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because the Lord has dealt bountiful with me." (verses 5-6)

Beloved people of God. I'm weary. I get the sense that you are too. I'm not going to tell you to just get over it, because I think we're all grieving something. I can't quite put my finger on what we're grieving, but I think we are. And the thing about grief, whatever the source, it demands to be felt. So let yourself feel it. But in the midst of it, remember the promise that God will never abandon you, even in the moments when it doesn't feel like it.

In Christ,
Pastor Scott

Underwood Lutheran Church Council Meeting 6-10-20

Meeting held via Zoom conference call

Members Present: Pastor Scott Dalen, Joyce Tiarks, Lynn Leaders, Erik Pedersen, Gary Leaders, Chris Privia, Diane Stein, Treasurer Brett Michael, Tracy Shreeves, Kathy Darrington

Not Present: Bill Shelton

President Diane Stein called the meeting to order.

Treasurer Brett Michael presented the financial report/update. He spoke with Omahagives following a distribution of funds in the amount of \$272.62. This amount reflects the funds donated in April minus the processing fee. The remaining funds which were donated on the actual day will still be distributed.

Brett has recognized that the church credit card has accrued a rewards balance of approximately \$400.

The PPE period of utilizing the funds has now been extended through the end of the year. Therefore, the excess funds that would have gone beyond our available payroll (Approx \$1450) will now be able to be utilized prior the end of the grace period. All is looking good in that regard.

We discussed the ongoing Property projects and the overarching \$50,000 budget. Brett reports that we'll have approximately \$3,700 left in the project budget. Pastor Scott brought up the subject of the tree removal. We had never gotten bids on the potential for removal. Pastor Scott will attempt to get in touch with vendors on this subject and report back.

Lynn moved to approve the Financial Report, Joyce second. Motion carried.

Secretaries report. We have not yet received the minutes from the last meeting on May 20th, and so will approve those at the next meeting.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Scott presented his report.

Facility Issues

Door refinishing, Basement painting, Parsonage concrete are all in process.

Pastor brought up the question of monthly cleaning by Merry Maids, as the church is showing signs of non-use/cleaning over the course of the past 3 months. After discussion about these feasibility, Pastor Scott made a motion that we should contact Merry Maids to explore this possibility, and if they would be willing to come in monthly at the same or similar rate/cleaning event, to move in that direction, Chris seconded; motion carried. Pastor Scott will contact Merry Maids on this action.

Calendar Matters

Pastor Scott is slated for vacation July 30th-August 12th, and is considering how to handle pulpit supply during the 2 Sundays of his absence. No action was taken, but Pastor Scott asked the Council to keep this under consideration as we move through the next two months.

Pastor Scott also reported that the Redshaw Family has inquired about their tentative church rental on August 1st for a graduation party. Council discussed this, both in terms of the Redshaw's specific date, as well as generally in terms of building usage. Council agreed that at this point, we are unable to state one way or the other if the building will be open for usage. However, we also feel that if the building is

still closed to congregational activity, then we should not allow rental situations. Pastor will communicate this with the Redshaw family and will recommend that they have a backup plan in the event that the church building remains closed through August.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Council took time to discuss the first outdoor worship service which was held on June 7th. We discussed what worked/didn't work in terms of the various logistics of the service. Pastor also reflected on the service from his perspective, sharing his thoughts for potential changes.

Council decided to make two official alterations to our previously stated cautionary measures regarding spoken liturgy and collection of offering.

Pastor Scott made a motion to allow spoken liturgy in the outdoor setting, and to establish a collection point for offering, which can be utilized before or after the service. Tracy seconded the motion; motion carried. Offering will not be collected as a portion of worship, but having a receiving point where individuals can drop off their offering while physically on the premises is agreeable.

Additionally, Pastor Scott will produce an electronic version of the liturgy which will be posted on Facebook and the Website for the purpose of download, so that attendees can follow along. We will not yet begin printing bulletins, but will provide the electronic resource.

Diane moved to adjourn the meeting, Pastor Scott seconded; motion carried.

Our next meeting will be held via zoom Wednesday June 24th at 6:00pm, and we will review our plans for July.

Meeting adjourned.

Offerings....

"Our gifts to God"

	Offerings	Attendance
May 24	\$ 1302.58	
May 31	\$ 2105.37	
June 07	\$ 1262.33	40
June 14	\$ 2760.40	51

4th Qtr Budgeted Income: \$ 44,023.75

4th Qtr Actual Income: \$ 57,189.77

4th Qtr Actual Expenses: \$ 47,917.19



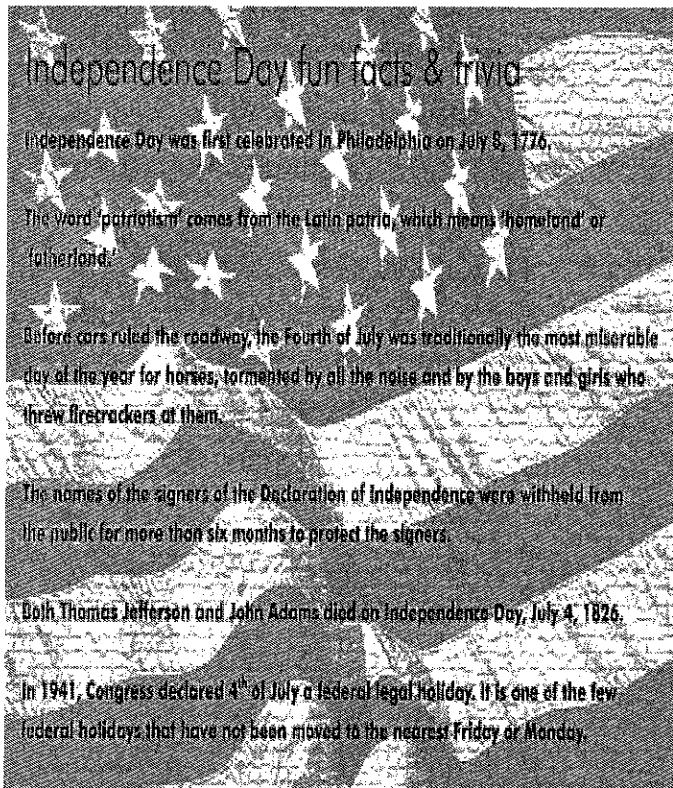
**BRING YOUR BEST RED,
WHITE AND BLUE DÉCOR AND
SHOW BETHANY SOME LOVE!**

Since visitations are still restricted we would like to invite anyone and everyone to participate in a patriotic car parade!

**FRIDAY, JULY 3
MEET AT THE PARKING
LOT OF EMMANUEL
CHURCH
12:45 PM
2444 N BROADWAY**

Feel free to bring chalk cannons, glitter cannons or anything else that will make a wonderful safe addition to the parade. If you would like to get out of your cars to wave you may do so, but keep with social distancing regulations please. If you would like to bring treats for the staff please make sure they are pre-packaged.

Thank you!



WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED TO BETHANY RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS DURING COVID-19

Send Notes and Cards!

Write notes and cards to the residents and community members for their birthdays, special occasions and generic cards with words of encouragement!

Norma Vorthmann will be coordinating please contact her at:
njoyvorthmann@gmail.com

Record Yourself Reading, Singing or Playing an Instrument!

Grab your phone and record yourself reading, singing or playing an instrument! Send the video clip to Amanda at:
richardson@blhs.care
She will share it on the closed circuit television channel Bethany has!

FaceTime and Phone Calls!

Are you wanting to reconnect with a special friend at the Home or Heights? Give them a call on FaceTime or on the phone. Wendy at the Home can assist and Amber at the Heights is available. Please call 712-328-9500 (Wendy) or 712-328-8228 (Amber) to schedule your time!

We are also encouraging becoming a pen pal! Ask Amanda for more details!

Art Matters!

Grab some window paint head over to the Home and Heights to draw messages and pictures on the windows! This can be done as a group or individually. We also like to see yard signs! This can be a fun way to show the whole community we are here! In addition you can grab some chalk and "Chalk the Walk!" Leave fun messages for staff and residents to see!

Anything goes! We would love to see what you come up with to stay connected to Bethany and the residents/community members! Please reach out to Norma Vorthmann or Nancy Ruffcorn with questions or suggestions!

July 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			7/1	2	3	4
5 8:00 AM Online Service 9:30 AM Outdoor Service/Holy Communion	6	7	8 Please note - On communion Sundays please bring your own bread and wine/juice to commune with. All outdoor services will be weather permitting.	9	10	11
12 8:00 AM Online Service 9:30 AM Outdoor Service	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 8:00 AM Online Service 9:30 AM Outdoor Service/Holy Communion	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 8:00 AM Online Service 9:30 AM Outdoor Service	27	28	29	30	31 All Activities still cancelled	

4th of July Word Search

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

Independence
Freedom
Parade
Patriotic
Liberty
July
Summer

Declaration
Picnic
Celebration
Holiday
British
Stars
Music

Flag
Fireworks
America
Philadelphia
Colonies
Stripes



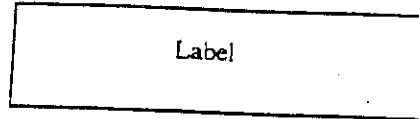
JinxyKids.com

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