

The Messenger

Underwood Lutheran Church

July, 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
e-mail address: underwoodlutheran@q.com

No Summer Education-- On Line Service @ 8:30 am -Worship Service @ 9:30



-Dates for VBS have shifted to July 6th-9th. This is the same week as previously reported, but shifted a day to accommodate for the 4th of July Celebration in Underwood.

-Sunday July 4th will feature Online Worship, but we will not meet for In-Person Worship at 9:30am at the Church. However, we will participate in a Community Worship Service at UMBA at 9:00am. Pastor Scott will lead this Worship along with Elder Vicki Grote from the Community of Christ Church.

-Holy Communion will be celebrated at In-Person Worship on July 11th and 18th.

-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 me 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.



There are various examples within the New Testament in which we hear of the faithful giving and financial support of different faith communities. The Book of Acts tells us how the earliest church held everything in common and distributed funds to everyone according to their needs. Different moments in Paul's letters speak of the financial support given and offered by one faith community to be taken and utilized by a different community.

These different scriptural moments serve as reminders of the call to generosity that we have all received. Of course, there are many different ways in which we are generous, giving of our time and talents and treasures. Likewise, the church or faith community isn't the only recipient of these gifts either. We are called to support many different things in our lives.

But it is important to consider the ways that we support the ongoing ministry of Underwood Lutheran. And to that end, I want to offer a bit of a snapshot of our ongoing giving and financial support as we find ourselves at the halfway point of 2021. Within this snapshot, I'll offer a few comparisons with the same period of 2020. Note that the information that I am sharing is current as of the 3rd Sunday of June.

Total Giving, January 1st-3rd Sunday of June:

2020: \$57,688.61 2021: \$57,779.53 Increase of \$90.92 YTD

Online Giving Through Vanco:

2020: \$22,206.89 (38% of total) 2021: \$23,780.48 (41% of total) Increase of \$1,573.59 YTD

Income Verses Expenses, January 1st-May 31st:

\$52,156.46 (inc) verses \$55,538.97 (exp)

It is worth noting that our expenses also include the 1st quarter's worth of Congregational Benevolence, in which we have supported other ministries and organizations outside our own. I also anticipate that we will continue with the second quarter's benevolence as well. Finally, our cash on hand remains favorable, with over \$11,000 available in our general fund.

This is all positive information. Currently we are on track to meet, if not exceed, our giving for 2020. Another favorable point is the historical upswing in giving through the fall season as the new program year begins again. We did not have this opportunity in 2020 due to Covid-restrictions. Leadership is optimistic that our total giving and support for 2021 will outpace what we saw in 2020.

We are also still grateful for the benefit of the PPP program in 2020. Much of our cash on hand is still available thanks to the over \$17,000 that ULC received through this program last year. However, we will not see a similar gift this year. Many things have come together in the last 15 months, enabling us to be sitting in a decent financial position. It is my prayer that through your continued generosity and support, which manifests itself in many different ways both through as well as outside your financial support, the ministry of ULC will continue to move forward into the future through the back half of 2021. May God continue to bless our mutual ministry in this place, as well as the ways that our community supports the ministry outside our 4 walls.

Thank you all.

In Christ,

Pastor Scott

Underwood Lutheran Church Council

Secretary's Report - May 19, 2021

In Person and Zoom Format:

Members Present: Pastor Scott Dalen, Kathy Darrington, Jan Ehrens, Amanda Henderson, Gary Leaders, JoAnna Mitchell, Chris Privia, Sandy Redshaw, Tracy Shreeves, Diane Stein, and Joyce Tiarks

Meeting Called to Order: President, Kathy Darrington, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Financial Report: Treasurer Notes were provided by Brett Michael, and provided the following information:

- Changes will need to be made for signers to Memorial Accounts.
- Treasurer is posting the weekly offerings (deposits) effective on the date of the applicable church service.
- Overall cash balance continues to remain adequate now.
- Treasurer plans to complete a summary report monthly, to be included in the Bulletin. This will provide a way to keep the congregation informed with a snapshot of our financial position.

Motion to approve Financial Report: Chris Privia, Seconded: Amanda Henderson; Motion carried

Secretary's Report: Motion to approve Secretary's Report: Pastor, Seconded: Tracy Shreeves; Motion Carried

Old/New Business:

1 - Covid and Congregation Practices:

- After lengthy discussions the Council made the following recommendations:
 - 1 - Keep spacing with the pews
 - 2 - Masks optional, but encourage those not vaccinated to wear a mask
 - 3 - Singing returns
 - 4 - Summer services inside (with possible planned outdoor services)

Motion to approve these recommendations: Tracy Shreeves, Seconded: Joyce Tiarks; Motion carried (10 in favor - 1 opposed)

2 - Remodeling of Parsonage Kitchen:

- Endowment Committee has indicated that there are funds available to remodel the parsonage kitchen and 2 bathrooms.
- The Endowment Committee is working with Pastor to obtain bids
- The Property Committee will be working with the Endowment Committee and Pastor as the project moves forward
- The oven in the parsonage stopped working, so a new oven was purchased from Nebraska Furniture Mart and delivered on May 19th

Pastor's Report:

1 - Facility Issues:

- CenturyLink service will be cut off at the end of the current billing cycle, June 14th
- Update from Vital Signs:
 - Current panels no longer available for replacement
 - They are working to provide information about alternate options

2 - Parish Education:

- Confirmation lessons concluded May 2nd, all four 7th graders passed
- Council needs to start thinking about fall education and what it will look like if we have not yet hired a coordinator
- Vacation Bible School will be July 6th - 9th, with no preschool option this year. There will be fewer staff members.

3 - Calendar Matters:

- June 6th worship will include a pre-recorded service and an in-person service provided by Deacon Lisa Johnson. Kathy Darrington will usher.
- June communion will be on June 13th and 20th

4 - Congregational Life:

- Arla is willing to provide music once a month, we will continue with prerecorded music for remaining weeks, and will continue to search for musicians.
- Pastor opened discussion on a Future Sabbatical; what it might look like and a possible time frame. Pastor knows many people who have taken them and knows this will be a big conversation. Sabbaticals are meant to re-energize, re-focus, and renew leaders.
- We need to find a person to serve as the Memorial Fund Treasurer. Brett Michael is on the Memorial Fund account.

4 - Pastoral Acts:

- Resuming limited visitation schedule, following various facility guidelines
- Graveside service for Justin Kinney, May 15th

5 - Synodical Work:

- Synod Council Retreat at Lutheran Lakeside May 1st
- Pastor elected to the Executive Committee once again this year

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 16th at 6:00 pm

Adjourn Meeting:

- Motion to adjourn: Pastor, Seconded: Diane; Motion carried

Note Submitted: Joyce Tiarks, Secretary

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:

July 4th: N/A

July 11: Neil Darrington and Gary Leaders

July 18: Bob Dose and Dick Miller

July 25: Adam Darrington and Erik Pederson

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 Micheals and Mike Shelton

Piano/Organist Schedule:

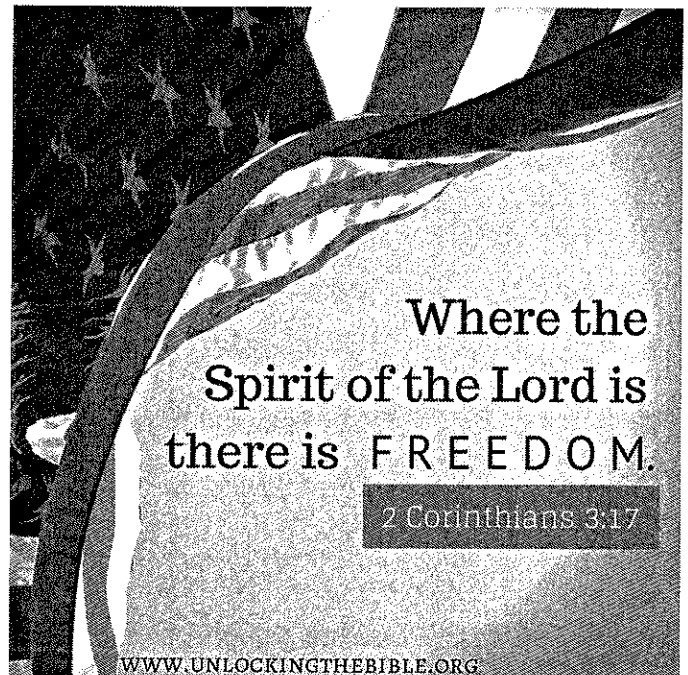
July 4th: N/A

July 11th: Arla Claussen

July 18th: Nancy Dose

July 25th: Sonya Schiphoff

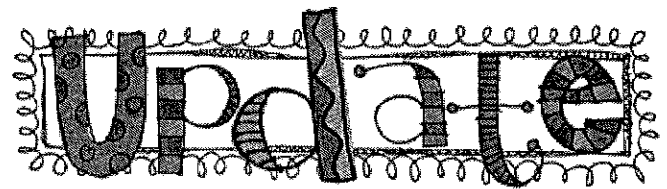
July Deacon: Tracy Shreeves



Offerings....

"Our gifts to God"

	Offerings	Attendance
May 23	\$1752.29	55
May 30	\$2464.02	36
June 06	\$1309.35	16
June 13	\$2404.04	56
June 20	\$1294.35	42



Precautionary Building Status

At the June Council meeting, the decision was made to continue relaxing precautionary guidelines within the building and worship.

-Masking continues to be optional, but is encouraged for any individuals who are not vaccinated.

-Singing in worship has completely resumed, including live musicians providing organ/piano music to accompany hymns.

-Seating is now longer limited to every-other-pew in the sanctuary. While we still recommend spacing when possible, we are not limiting the capacity within the sanctuary.

-We are no longer tracking attendance for the purpose of contact tracing. However, we still ask that if you have been to church and do develop Covid, that you inform the church so an announcement can be shared.

-Hand Sanitizer is still available in the building. Communion Servers utilize Sanitizer before the distribution, and ushers have Sanitizer available if individuals wish to utilize it prior to receiving Communion.

Essentially, we have reached the point where individuals need to use common sense. We are providing limited safety measures, should they be needed. But local Covid-19 activity has reached the level where the council is confident that the precautionary measures which we have utilized during the various stages of the pandemic are no longer necessary.

Faith Formation Coordinator Position

Council/Leadership is in the process of searching for an individual to fill this role as we move towards the Fall and resuming of what we all hope to be more of a normal Program Year. The position consists of approximately 10-15 hours per week.

Primary duties of the position include:

- Recruit and equip leaders for Sunday School and Jr. High ministries
- Organize and implement Sunday morning educational opportunities (Preschool-6th grade)
- Coordinate Vacation Bible School with Synod Bible Camp staff
- Facilitate Jr. High youth group activities
- Communication of opportunities to congregation/community in written, spoken, online formats

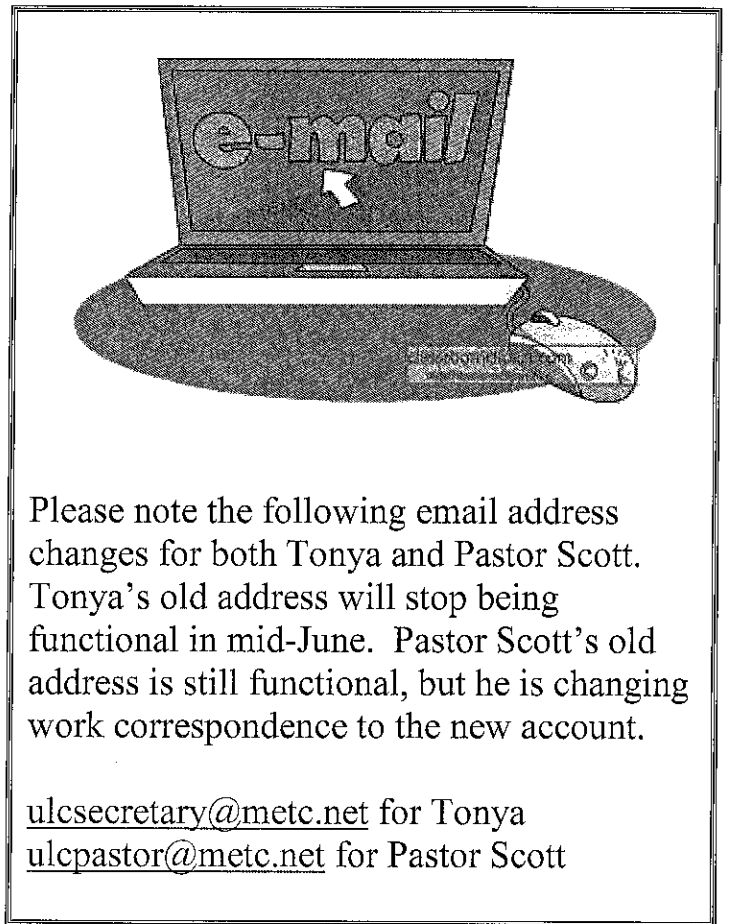
Please Contact Pastor Scott for more information or if interested.



-Beginning on July 11th, we will be resuming the volunteer Usher approach. Weekly Usher duty schedule will be shared in the newsletter, featuring the current and following month. You'll find the schedule for July and August in this month's edition, with August and September available next month, and so on. If you would like to be added to this list and have not been on it before, please contact either Kathy or Pastor Scott.

-We continue to utilize a sign-up volunteer schedule for scripture readers in worship. This is available at the church, or contact Pastor Scott if you'd like to volunteer.

-We also hope to resume Altar Guild duties soon. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the Altar Guild, please contact the church, or either Joellen Darrington or Julie Larsen. Duties for the Altar Guild mainly include preparation/cleanup for Holy Communion, though occasionally updating the Paraments (Colored drapes) with the various Church Seasons in the sanctuary is another task.



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



July 2021

 Calendar

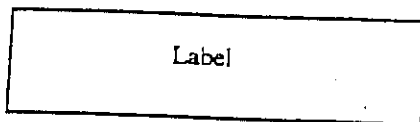
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jun 27 8:30 AM Online Service 9:30 AM Worship Service	28	29	30	Jul 1	2	3
4 9 AM Community Worship	5	6 VBS	7 VBS	8 VBS	9 VBS	10
11 8:30 AM Online Service 9:30 AM Worship Service	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 8:30 AM Online Service 9:30 AM Worship Service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

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