

# The Messenger

## Underwood Lutheran Church

June, 2021

Pastor Scott Dalen

Underwood Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 9 – 10 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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](mailto:underwoodlutheran@q.com)

Education @ 9:00 am – Worship Service @ 10:15am



- Sunday May 30<sup>th</sup>, Memorial Weekend, will be the first Sunday on the Summer Schedule, with Online at 8:30am and In-Person moving to 9:30am. In-person will remain at 9:30am through Labor Day Weekend.
  - Pastor Scott will be on vacation Wednesday June 2<sup>nd</sup>-Wednesday June 9<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Jon Benson will be on call for emergencies in his absence.
  - Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup> will NOT feature Online Worship, but we WILL hold In-Person worship in Pastor Scott's absence. Deacon Lisa Johnson of St John's Lutheran in Council Bluffs will provide Pulpit Supply, and we will feature live music on this Sunday. However, Holy Communion will be moved to the second Sunday of June to accommodate.
  - Holy Communion will be celebrated at In-Person Worship on June 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - VBS is scheduled for July 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. Once again, the program will be led by Ingham-Okoboji Camp Staff, and coordination will be led by Kim. However, due to limitations, we will NOT offer the Pre-school option which has been present in past years. Students need to have completed Kindergarten to be eligible. Volunteers are needed to help with the program. Please contact Kim for more information.
  - 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.



*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us (Hebrews 12:1)*

Over the years, I have developed a bit of a love/hate relationship with social media, and Facebook in particular. While there are wonderful aspects of the social media site, several of which have been extremely helpful in building and maintaining online ministry and community this past year, as a whole we tend to see a lot more negativity and divisiveness as we scroll and scroll.

But, as I mentioned, there are still some good things. One of them is the time hop. This feature shows you pictures or postings from the same date in a past year. More often than not, when I see the daily time hop, it brings up a good memory.

Just a couple days before I sat down to write this article, my time hop jumped back 8 years to my Seminary Graduation, when I received my Master's Degree, and was on the verge of beginning my call here at Underwood. Facebook showed me a picture of that day. I was standing there in my regalia with my arm around my Grandma Mimi, the last of my 4 grandparents, and the only one who was still alive to see me graduate. Likewise, she was there at my ordination a month or so later.

That was a wonderful memory. But it was also bittersweet, because we lost Grandma Mimi this past year. It was simply her time, as the ravages of mental decline finally took her from this life...and here in early June, members of my extended family will gather in Phoenix where she will be buried next to Grandpa.

As I ponder on her loss, I'm also aware that she is not the only one in my orbit. My family lost my uncle to Covid late last summer. My wife's family lost two of her aunts. Likewise, here at ULC, there are several long-time stalwart members who completed their earthly journey. Pondering on this puts me in mind of All Saints Sunday, coming up in November, when we honor the memory of those who have gone on before us into the fulfillment of God's promise made real through Christ.

This is what the author of the letter to the Hebrews is referring to when we hear about the great cloud of witnesses that surround us. As fellow members of the body of Christ, united by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are all a part of that same cloud of witnesses. We are joined together with all Christ-followers across time. This includes the earliest disciples, everything through the past 2000 years, those still alive today, and all those who will come along after us. We are all witnesses to what God is up to in the world.

This is a theme that has been present in quite a few assigned scripture lessons and sermons in the past month or so, that invitation to follow the prodding and the empowerment given to us by the Holy Spirit to share what we have seen and experienced. That assurance that somehow our story becomes part of God's greater story.

Truly the church is ever changing as people come and go. We have recently accepted new members into our congregation for the first time in nearly 2 years. Likewise, we are aware of the way the body grows and changes with every baptism, just as it changes with every funeral. This is the nature of life, that somehow it carries on even through the midst of ongoing changes. I pray that it is an encouragement to know that you are a vital part of something that is bigger than all of us as we all collectively look to follow God into whatever lies out there in the unknown future...faithfully running that race which lies before us.

In Christ,  
Pastor Scott

## Underwood Lutheran Church Council

### Secretary's Report - April 14, 2021

#### **In Person and Zoom Format:**

**Members Present:** Pastor Scott Dalen, Kathy Darrington, Amanda Henderson, JoAnna Mitchell, Chris Privia, Sandy Redshaw, Tracy Shreeves, Gary Leaders, Jan Ehrens, and Diane Stein Not Present: Joyce Tiarks Also Present: Brett Michael

**Meeting Called to Order:** President, Kathy Darrington, called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

**Financial Report:** Treasurer, Brett Michael, presented the Financial Report including the following notes:

Kathy is being added to the church accounts at U.S. Bank.

The budget was for the month was relatively normal. Only property insurance was higher than expected. We need to research this to make sure our coverage is adequate.

The funds from the Endowment Committee that can be used toward future benevolence or other items as approved by Council is \$1,668.35.

Now that we are through one quarter, Brett will put together some quarterly information from the budget for the next newsletter.

**Motion** to approve Financial Report: Tracy Shreeves, Seconded: Gary Leaders; Motion Carried

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

#### **Pastor's Report:**

##### **1- Facility Issues**

Pastor is working on finding out a cost on fixing the sign. He has reached out to Vital Signs.

The inspection on the elevator is done.

Marne Elkhorn will be hooked up in approximately two weeks. Both Pastor and Tonya's email will be changing.

##### **2. - Parish Education**

5<sup>th</sup> grade communion instruction and first communion have been completed.

Both Confirmation and Sunday School will end on May 9.

May 2 a representative from Ingham will be here.

### **3. Congregational life**

Pastor will be on vacation the second week in June.

We are in need of a new memorial fund treasurer to take the place of Jeff Poggensee and are looking for someone to fill the position.

Pastor has been asked to serve another year on Synod Council and has agreed.

### **New Business**

#### Committee Assignments:

Property Committee: Jan Ehrens, Sandy Redshaw

Operations Committee: Diane Stein, Tracy Shreeves

Education Committee: Joanna Mitchell, Joyce Tiarks, Chris Privia

Life Committee: Kathy Darrington, Amanda Henderson

Endowment Committee – Gary Leaders

Spring Clean Up – Saturday, April 24 – 9:00 for council members

#### COVID Precautions –

Communion – Continue with current precautions

Hymnals – Will be used again

Spacing in congregation – Continue with current precautions

Contact tracing – Continue recording family names

Flow of service – Will add readers

Singing – We revisited the topic of singing and will continue with our current precautions. We will discuss the topic each month. We do need to find a new organist for our congregation when singing does resume.

Outdoor service will begin May 30. Online service will be at 8:30 and in person will be at 9:30.

Pulpit Supply – Pastor will find the replacement to give the sermon, but would like to put together small crews from the congregation to help with the service. He will provide instructions.

Pastor will email council to schedule worship assistance for May.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, May 19 at 6:00

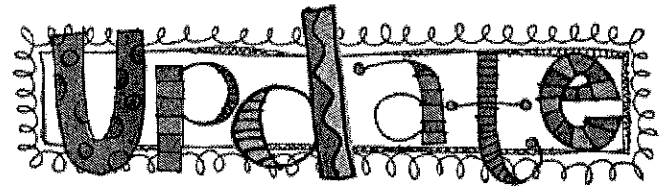
**Adjourn Meeting:** Motion made by Pastor Dalen, Seconded: Jan Ehrens Motion Carried

**Notes Submitted:** Chris Privia, Substitute Secretary

## Offerings....

*"Our gifts to God"*

	Offerings	Attendance
April 25	\$ 720.97	
May 02	\$ 2754.00	50
May 09	\$ 1264.35	50
May 16	\$ 3196.04	66



## Precautionary Building Status

At the May Council meeting, the decision was made to relax certain precautionary guidelines within the building and worship. Details include the following:

- Masking is now Optional. You are not required to wear a mask. HOWEVER, CDC guidelines recommend that if you are not fully vaccinated, you should still wear a mask. Likewise, we recommend that non-vaccinated individuals continue to mask when in the building.
- Singing in worship has resumed. Lyrics will be provided for weeks featuring canned music, and hymnals/hymns will be utilized on weeks featuring live music.
- We are NOT planning on Outdoor Worship through the Summer months. This is a reversal of the previous plan.
- Seating/Distancing measures are still in effect as we utilize every-other pew. Especially as we are now singing, the extra distance between groups is still an advisable measure.
- Hand sanitizer will still be available in the building, and usage is recommended.

## 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**

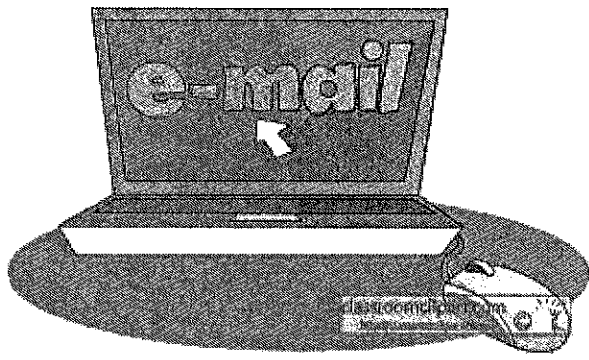
**Please Contact Pastor Scott for more information or if interested.**



-We are reinstating the practice of volunteer Lectors (Scripture Readers) during worship. With the time that has elapsed during Covid, we are asking for individuals to sign up rather than simply restarting the old list.

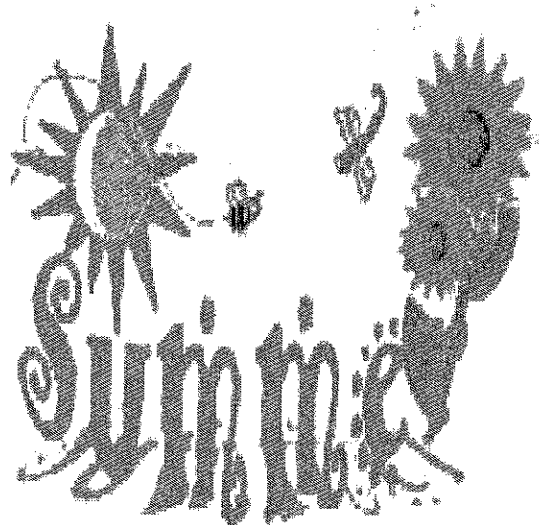
-We will soon be resuming the practice of Volunteer Ushers. Kathy Darrington will be contacting individuals from our old Usher Schedule List to inquire about their willingness to resume ushering duties. If you would like to be added to this list and have not been on it before, please contact either Kathy or Pastor Scott.

-We are looking for an individual willing to serve as Memorial Fund Treasurer. This is an important position, separate from the regular finances of the congregation, but is fairly easy to handle. Please contact Pastor Scott if you are interested in serving the congregation in this fashion.



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](mailto:ulcsecretary@metc.net) for Tonya  
[ulcpastor@metc.net](mailto:ulcpastor@metc.net) for Pastor Scott



# June 2021

## Calendar

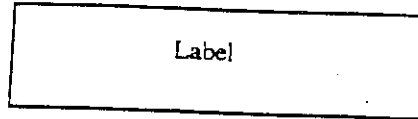
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 30	31	Jun 1	2 Pastor Scott/Vacation	3 Pastor Scott/Vacation	4 Pastor Scott/Vacation	5 Pastor Scott/Vacation
6 Pastor Scott/Vacation 9:30 AM Worship Service	7 Pastor Scott/Vacation	8 Pastor Scott/Vacation	9 Pastor Scott/Vacation	10	11	12
13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

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