

# The Messenger

## Underwood Lutheran Church

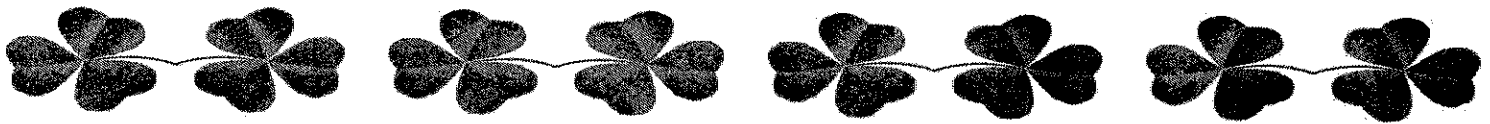
### March, 2019

Pastor Scott Dalen

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

Congregational President – Carol Yeaton  
Editor, Secretary – Tonya Mayer – 566-9823  
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SUNDY SCHOOL-CONFIRMATION-ADULT BIBLE STUDY 9:00 am  
WORSHIP SERVICE @10:15 AM



- Adult Bible Study will be on hold through the season of Lent. Following the celebration of Easter in late April, we will resume our conversations.
  - High School will meet on the 20<sup>th</sup>. We will not meet on the 6<sup>th</sup> due to Ash Wednesday activities.
  - Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Each week will feature a community meal beginning at 6pm, with worship starting at 7pm. Ash Wednesday will feature Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes. In the following weeks, worship will be shorter, once again featuring Holden Evening prayer. Any regular Wednesday evening activity will begin promptly following the evening's worship service.
  - Dan Antoine, Program Director for Ingham/Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp, will join us for Worship on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup>. The Camp wishes to say thank you for our participation in their Beyond Campaign which concluded last year.
  - Worship on March 17<sup>th</sup> will be led by FaithSong, a high school gospel choir consisting of students from around our region, including 2 students from Underwood.
  - This June, Pastor Scott and Kim Madsen will be taking a large group of our Junior High Students to Bible Camp in Colorado. 7 students will be going. The group is fund-raising to assist in travel costs to/from the camp. Please consider supporting this wonderful opportunity in the faith of our young people. Contact Pastor Scott if you have questions, or feel led to donate towards the trip.
  - Marietta Nelson-Bittle, our Adopt-a-Seminarian, has reached a new milestone in her pastoral education. Marietta was recently installed as Pastoral Intern at the congregation she is serving in Washington. Her pastoral internship will last for approximately 18 months as she continues with her classwork through Wartburg seminary. Keep Marietta in your prayers as she continues her work towards ordination.
  - 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 posts his sermons in both text and audio format each week. Look for his posts to be highlighted on Facebook as well as the church website.
- Pastor Scott also posts a weekly gospel discussion video, called Sermon Braindump at <http://www.youtube.com/user/sanchodaleone>



*In late January, approximately 50 members of Underwood Lutheran gathered together for the Annual Meeting of the congregation. One of the questions posed, both within the Annual Report, as well as the general sense at the meeting was looking forward into the unknown future. In light of this, I have a sense that many within our congregation, not to mention the Church as a whole, are thinking along these lines. In the most recent issue of Living Lutheran magazine, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's monthly article spoke into this sense. I shared this same message with our new council in February, and will share it with you now.*

WHAT IS GOD UP TO? By Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

What is to be done? Our congregations are growing older and smaller. At least 40 percent of our congregations have an average weekly worship attendance of 50 or less. ELCA membership decreases by 70,000 people a year, or roughly the loss of a synod per year. Clergy retirements outnumber new candidates for ministry. Financial pressures and building maintenance create stress. There is a dearth of people in their 20s and 30s in our pews. How do we change this? How do we reverse the trends?

These are anxious questions that come from anxious people across this church. We aren't the only ones asking them—just about every mainline denomination, including the non-Latino population of the Roman Catholic Church, is in the same boat. Even some megachurches are showing signs of plateau or decline. And this is not exclusive to the Christian community. I once attended a national conference of Muslims where one workshop was titled "Un-Mosqued to Mosqued: How to Get the Young Muslim Back to the Masjid."

Some now see the decline of the church in general, and the ELCA in particular, as inevitable. The response can be to turn our churches into bunkers with our congregations sheltering within the walls or to try every new program that breathlessly promises to attract people to our congregations. Neither is an effective or faithful long-term strategy. I think we are asking the wrong questions.

The questions we are asking have to do about us: "What can we do?" They express loss and grief and fear—loss and grief for what we were and fear about what we will become. Not only do these questions not lead to productive answers, they also don't point to hope. It's as if the church's one foundation rests on us and our efforts. I think we need to ask: "What is God up to?"

It's clear to me that we are living in a time of transition, especially for the Western church. I don't know how long this transition will last nor do I have a clear vision of what the church is becoming. The good news is that you and I don't have to have a clear vision because God does. "*Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?*" (Isaiah 43:18-19). These words of hope were spoken to the Jews who were stuck in exile. They had lost their land, their temple and their king—the pillars of their identity. Likewise, the church has lost social status and relevance in 21st-century American culture.

For Israel and the church this would be a hopeless situation, except that God is faithful. When the Lord admonished, "Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old," this wasn't a command to forget God's past saving work, but to believe that God was still acting. This is true for us today. When we stop asking what we can do to fix the church and start asking what God is up to, we open ourselves up to the life-giving promise of God's future.

Then we are also open to more questions: How is the Spirit reshaping the church? How will Christ use us as Christ's living body in the world? If we want to attract people to our congregations to rebuild a memory, God will not bless our efforts. But if we—grabbed by the Spirit in baptism, changed by the word, intimately and lovingly connected to Jesus and each other in communion, and set free by grace to serve the neighbor—invite all people into true life, then we shall become part of the answer.

This takes attention and devotion. Worship, prayer, Scripture study, generosity and service—not in order to save the church, but in response to the new life God has given us in Christ. And one more thing: in God's inscrutable wisdom, God has chosen human hands and voices to tell and welcome.

Underwood Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes  
January 9, 2019

Members Present: Jessica Hultquist, Bob Pingel, Roger Hemmingsen, Erik Pedersen, Jeff Poggensee, Rhonda Johnson, Michael Johnson

Others Present: Linda Merdinger

Absent: Lynn Leaders, Carol Yeaton, Bill Shelton

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by council president, Jessica Hultquist.

Pastor Scott Dalen opened the meeting with prayer.

The monthly financial reports were presented as provided by Linda. It was discussed that we had not made our 2018 commitment to Western Iowa Synod. Their fiscal year is still open and ends January 31. Moved by Pastor to pay remaining \$2500 of our 2018 commitment to WIS from the Underwood Church 2019 budget. Seconded by Erik. Motion failed.

Other discussion about financial report included incoming scholarship requests.

Moved by Pastor to move \$5000 from the Edward Jones cash account into the General Account to be moved to the Scholarship Account. Seconded by Erik. Motion approved.

Moved by Michael to approve the financial reports as presented. Seconded by Pastor. Motion approved.

Minutes were presented from the December meeting by Pastor. Moved by Erik to approve the December minutes. Seconded by Jeff. Motion approved.

Pastor Scott presented his report for the month including the following.

Facility Issues

-Vital Signs completed the repair of the sign on 1-8-19.

Parish Education Matters

-Adult Bible Study focus switching from Old Testament to New Testament  
-Bishop's visit Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, possibly meeting with Adult forum group

Calendar Matters

-Pulpit supply Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>, changed to Pr Paula Lawhead  
-Pulpit supply May 5<sup>th</sup>, Pr Paula Lawhead (Synod Assembly)  
-Confirmation robe orders  
-Will be working on them early  
-Congregation paying for robe rental? (Not discussed at council)

Congregational Life

-Review of rules and procedures for committee resigning and participation  
-Nominating, Audit, Endowment, Mutual Ministry (non-active) are congregationally elected  
-Call Committee is appointed by council

- Operation, Property, Life, and Education are unregulated and aside council participation, members are volunteer and may leave at any time.
- 2019 Biennial Report for Corporation submitted to state of Iowa 1-9-19.
- Compiling annual congregational parochial reports for ELCA
  - Will be submitted after annual meeting

#### Pastoral Acts

- Regular Visitation Schedule
- Baptism for Bob and Adam Goodman Dec 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Both considered adult baptism which constitutes "Confirmed Member"
- 397 Communed (2 Communion Weeks, 2 Christmas Eve services via green slips)
  - Dec 16<sup>th</sup> 108 of 156
  - Christmas Eve 119 of 149 and 57 of 68
  - Jan 6<sup>th</sup> 113 of 130

#### Committee Reports:

##### Operations

No report

##### Property

No report

##### Education

No report

##### Life

Finishing touches are happening on new directory such as recording committee members and finalizing roster.

Silk poinsettias were well received and stored nicely ready for next year.

##### Old Business:

None

##### New Business:

Food plans made for the annual congregational meeting including 3 soups, sides, and dessert.

The annual meeting is January 27<sup>th</sup> with a quick council meeting following to elect new officers. The next regular council meeting will be February 13<sup>th</sup>.

Moved by Pastor to adjourn. Seconded by Bob. Motion approved.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Michael Johnson



Thanks to those who greeted in the month of February.

Carol Yeaton and Denise Barnett  
James and Marlene Merdinger  
Jeff and Tracy Shreeves



**Telescope Circle** – Will meet on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm , with Joyce Nelson as your Hostess.

**Martha Circle** – Will meet on March 8<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM with Nancy Dose for your Hostess.

### Council Meeting

The council meeting will be March 13th at 7:00 pm.



Ash Wednesday falls on March 6<sup>th</sup> this year. This will kick off the Lenten Dinners and Services with the Women's Executive Board hosting. We will be having a Taco Bar so please come and join us for food and fellowship. Everyone is welcome! The dinners start at 6:00 and the Services begin at 7:00.

- March 13th – Martha Circle
- March 20<sup>th</sup> – Telescope Circle
- March 27<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation
- April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday School
- April 10<sup>th</sup> – Church Council

Please mark these Wednesdays on your calendar. There will be six weeks of opportunities!

### Offerings....

*"Our gifts to God"*

	Offerings	Attendance
Jan. 27	\$ 1626.97	95
Feb. 03	\$ 1645.65	72
Feb. 10	\$ 2067.00	68
Feb. 17	\$ 1488.00	No Service



Our Family is so thankful to the Pastor, Tracy and the Women of the church for a wonderful luncheon. We appreciate all the cards, memorials and prayers as well. All of you are angels to us.

The Virginia Barnett Family

## March Quotes

"When March comes in like a lion it goes out like a lamb."

"Daffodils, that come before the swallow dares, and take the winds of March with beauty."  
- William Shakespeare

"A dry March and a wet May - fill barns and bays with corn and hay."

"As it rains in March so it rains in June."

"March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers."

## **SCRAPBOOKING/CRAFT DAY!**

*Come be creative with us*

*Saturdays*

February 16, 2019

March 16, 2019

April 27, 2019

*10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.*

**Underwood Lutheran Church—10 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue**

**\$10 per person (tax deductible donation to ULC)**

**Come work on your scrapbooking, crafts or projects**

**What is provided: Tables, chairs, trash bags, Cricut, people to bounce ideas to and from, coffee and camaraderie!!!**

**Bring your own lunch or bring something for everyone to share for lunch or snacks.**

**Questions:**

**Call Linda Merdinger: 712-566-2025 or 402-350-3619 after 6:00 p.m.**

**Hope to see you there—the more the merrier!!!**

# Worship Participants for March, 2019

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

ORGANISTS	Mar. 03	Judy Pingel	COMMUNION
	Mar. 10	Nancy Dose	
	Mar. 17	Judy Pingel	COMMUNION
	Mar. 24	Nancy Dose	
	Mar. 31	Judy Pingel	
ACOLYTES	Mar. 03	Rachael Privia	COMMUNION
	Mar. 10	Tenley Roberts	
	Mar. 17	Danny Stein	COMMUNION
	Mar. 24	Colin VanTilburg	
	Mar. 31	Jadynn McDonald	
LECTORS	Mar. 03	Carol Urban	COMMUNION
	Mar. 10	Jeremy Hultquist	
	Mar. 17	Emma Wulff	COMMUNION
	Mar. 24	Weta Butterfield	
	Mar. 31	Payton Leaders	
USHERS	Mar. 03	J.W. and Joyce Tiarks	COMMUNION
	Mar. 10	Jay Ackland and Arlon Bertelsen	
	Mar. 17	Bob Dose and Dick Miller	COMMUNION
	Mar. 24	Gary Leaders and Mark Torneten	
	Mar. 31	LaVern Leaders	
GREETERS	Mar. 03	Jay and Linda Ackland	COMMUNION
	Mar. 10	Bob and Judy Pingel	
	Mar. 17	Shirley K., Karen L. and Jackie M.	COMMUNION
	Mar. 24	Kathy Darrington and Analise Letner	
	Mar. 31	LaVern and Janet Leaders	
SPECIAL MUSIC	Mar. 03		COMMUNION
	Mar. 10		
	Mar. 17		COMMUNION
	Mar. 24		
	Mar. 30		

ALTAR GUILD: Charlene Brust and Joellen Darrington

CARRYING ELEMENTS: J.W. and Joyce Tiarks

DEACON: Jeff Poggensee



## BIBLE WORD SEARCH

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

FAITH  
GOLIATH  
GRACE  
MOSES  
SERPENT  
DEUTERONOMY

GALILEE  
GOOD FRIDAY  
PAUL  
LAST SUPPER  
GALATIANS  
ETERNAL LIFE

CHURCH  
BETHLEHEM  
REDEEM  
SANCTIFY  
PSALMS  
PARABLE



March 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					3/1	2
3 9:00 AM Sunday School/Confirmation/Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM Worship Service/Holy Communion	4	5	6 6:00 PM Ash Wednesday Dinner/ Women's Executive Board 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	7	8 2:00 PM Martha Circle	9
10 9:00 AM Sunday School/Confirmation/Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM Worship Service	11	12	13 6:00 PM Lenten Dinner/Martha Circle 7:00 PM Lenten Service 7:30 PM Council Meeting	14 1:30 PM Telescope Circle	15	16 10:00 AM Scrapbooking
17 9:00 AM Sunday School/Confirmation/Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM Worship Service/Holy Communion	18	19	20 6:00 PM Lenten Dinner 7:00 PM Lenten Service 7:30 PM High School Group	21	22	23
24 9:00 AM Sunday School/Confirmation/Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM Worship Service	25	26	27 6:00 PM Lenten Dinner/Telescope Circle 7:00 PM Lenten Service	28	29	30
31 9:00 AM Sunday School/Confirmation/Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM Worship Service						

"THE MESSENGER"  
UNDERWOOD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
P.O. BOX 9  
Underwood, IA 51576-0009



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*March*