

The Messenger

Underwood Lutheran Church

March, 2020

Pastor Scott Dalen

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

Congregational President – Diane Stein - 402-290-3090
Editor, Secretary – Tonya Mayer – 712-309-1512
Church Phone # - 566-2257
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Education @ 9:00 am

Worship Service @ 10:15 am



-In an effort to update our most current membership information, ULC's leadership is going through a process of removing individuals or families that fall under the status of inactive. However, we are reaching out to those who fall under this category to give them the opportunity to remain connected with membership. This communication is in the form of a letter with a deadline of March 15th for those who wish to maintain membership status.

-The Western Iowa Synod Assembly will be held May 1st-2nd in Spencer, IA. We are looking for 1 or 2 individuals interested in serving as Delegates to the assembly. Lodging and mileage reimbursement will be covered by the church. If you are interested please contact Pastor Scott.

-Confirmation classwork is switching over to Holy Week planning beginning on Sunday March 1st. This will last a few weeks, after which class time will be on hold until Palm Sunday on April 5th.

-Lent, which began the final week of February, continues through March. This includes our mid-week Wednesday night activities. Dinners begin at 6:00pm, with worship beginning at 7pm each night. We will, once again, feature Holden Evening prayer. Additionally we will share in times of personal stories as well as sharing personal insights in a conversational manner.

-During the season of Lent, regular Wednesday evening activities will be affected. They will either start immediately following Wednesday evening worship, or will be moved to different nights to accommodate. Please refer to direct communication/announcements regarding these scheduling changes.

-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.

-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.



Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white.
(Matthew 17:1-2)

I sit down to write this article during the week leading into the final Sunday of February, which happened to be Transfiguration Sunday. As you might recall at the time that you read this, I wasn't preaching that particular Sunday due to the presence of FaithSound leading our worship service. And yet (as I write this) I'm still pondering on the assigned text, which of course is the Transfiguration itself.

It's probably a no brainer...but the idea of change is prevalent...that somehow, in that particular moment, Jesus' appearance was changed. We don't know quite what to think, but it seems that in some way the divine was shining through the human. In fact, on the day that I'm writing this article, I met with my pastor's text study group and we had quite the lively conversation just trying to figure out what this whole scene must have looked like.

Now if we go back and revisit those opening couple of verses...we will recall that there were some witnesses that were there. Peter, James, and John...the inner circle of Jesus' disciples...a group I lovingly call "The Big Three." I've often wondered what it is about these three that made them privy to some of Jesus most intense ministry moments, the Transfiguration included.

Perhaps as we ponder on that question, it raises a bit of jealousy...and I wonder if the other 9 disciples felt it. "What's so special about those three? They get to see all the cool stuff." Or is it possible that Jesus hosted other small groups of disciples to witness amazing and yet unrecorded miraculous moments during his ministry? The truth is, we just don't know.

But...maybe just maybe, its not that there was something special about those three that raised them up in the ranks...maybe it was the other way around. Think about it, Peter was CONSTANTLY putting his foot in his mouth...and in fact had just butted heads with Jesus over the crucifixion about 4 verses before this story picks up. James and John...they're the boneheads who tried to claim the seats of honor at Jesus' right and left hands when he comes into his kingdom.

Maybe, Jesus chose these three out of the 12 because he knew they needed some extra work...they needed to see this amazing moment. Maybe, his choice was intentional. And if so, that gives me a bit of hope. Lord knows I have my bonehead moments. Admittedly, I'm still a bit aggravated with myself over my demeanor and rather blunt reactions and statement during our Annual meeting a month back. And while I have reached out to make amends with a couple individuals over that whole situation, it's a stark reminder that I'm every bit of flawed and sinful human as anyone.

Maybe the take away for us in this whole deal is a reminder that God's not done with us yet. We are a "work in progress" throughout our lifetimes. We've been talking about this quite a bit through a batch of Gospel lessons taken from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount...that we are called to be different in this world and to make a difference. But often times we foul it up. When we do, we need to repent and make amends...and trust that maybe God will use that particular moment to teach us something new that we need to learn about ourselves.

In Christ,
Pastor Scott



Thanks to those who greeted in the month of February.

Arlon and Carol Bertelsen
 Analise Letner and Kathy Darrington
 Bob and Judy Pingel
 James and Marlene Merdinger

4th Qtr Budgeted Income: \$ 44,023.75
 4th Qtr Actual Income: \$ 57,189.77
 4th Qtr Actual Expenses: \$ 47,917.19



Telescope Circle – Will meet at 1:30 pm on March 12th with Joyce Nelsen as Hostess.

Martha Circle – Will meet on March 13th with Nancy Dose as Hostess at 2:00 pm.

Council Meeting

The council meeting will be March 15th, following Worship service.



Lenten Dinners

The Lenten Dinners will continue through the month of March. Please come and join us for great food and fellowship! Everyone is welcome! The dinners will begin at 6:00 and the Services begin at 7:00.

March 4th – Martha Circle – Pulled Pork
 March 11th – Telescope Circle – Scalloped Potatoes and Ham

March 18th – Confirmation Class - Pizza

March 25th – Sunday School Teachers - Soup

April 1st – Church Council - Chicken

Please mark these dates on your calendars and come and enjoy!

Offerings....

“Our gifts to God”

	Offerings	Attendance
Jan. 26	\$ 1784.28	112
Feb. 02	\$ 2347.63	105
Feb. 09	\$ 1322.36	77
Feb. 16	\$ 3257.05	85

Underwood Lutheran Memorial Scholarships

Through the generosity of the Herluf and Vashti Christensen family and the Harold, Irma, and Shari Neumann family, Underwood Lutheran Church is again this year honored to be able to offer scholarship monies to qualified recipients. The scholarships are designed to give financial aid and recognition to members of Underwood Lutheran Church who have shown significant academic and constructive achievement and wish to pursue an advanced education.

To be eligible for application of these scholarships, you must be a member of Underwood Lutheran Church for 2 years or more and be confirmed in the Lutheran faith. These monies can only be used at a post high school institution of learning that you will be attending during the 2020-2021 school year.

Applications are currently available through the church secretary's office or they are also available on the church website to be printed off and will be accepted now through April 1. The church website is www.underwoodlutheran.org. Click on "More" in the upper right corner and then click on the "Church Scholarship Application" tab to access the application. Please return completed applications to the church secretary's office by the April 1 deadline. Please also note that your most recent applicable certified grade transcript MUST be included with your application or you will not be considered for either scholarship.

We have made the application process easier beginning this year for our applicants. Only one completed application will need to be submitted to allow you to be considered for either of the scholarships.

This year's recipients will be announced during a worship service in the month of May.

Also, if you are a recipient of one of the scholarships, you will need to achieve a 2.5 or higher GPA next fall to receive the monies; otherwise you will have to try and achieve a 2.5 GPA in next spring's semester to receive the monies.

The Scholarship Committee

SCRAPBOOKING/CRAFT DAY!
Come be creative with us

Saturdays
February 8, 2020
March 14, 2020
April 4, 2020

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

Underwood Lutheran Church—10 3rd 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.

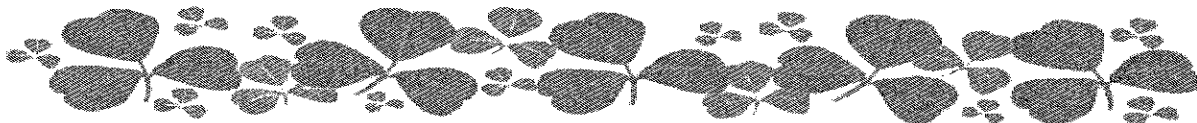
Hope to see you there—the more the merrier!!!

Worship Participants for March, 2020

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

ORGANISTS	March 01	Nancy Dose	COMMUNION
	March 08	Judy Pingel	
	March 15	Nancy Dose	
	March 22	Judy Pingel	
	March 29	Nancy Dose	
ACOLYTES	March 01	Elizabeth Henderson	COMMUNION
	March 08	Rachael Privia	
	March 15	Finley Roberts	
	March 22	Danny Stein	
	March 29	Colin VanTilburg	
LECTORS	March 01	Payton Leaders	COMMUNION
	March 08	Nancy Dose	
	March 15	Nancy Geise	
	March 22	Beth Torneten	
	March 29	Jessica Hultquist	
USHERS	March 01	Jeff and Tracy Shreeves	COMMUNION
	March 08	Lewis Curtis and Jeremy Hultquist	
	March 15	Neil and Adam Darrington	
	March 22	Phil Feller and Bob Pingel	
	March 29		
GREETERS	March 01	J.W. & Joyce Tiarks and Julie Larsen	COMMUNION
	March 08		
	March 15		
	March 22	Bob and Nancy Dose	
	March 29	Roger and Colleen Torneten	
SPECIAL MUSIC	March 01		COMMUNION
	March 08	Choraleers	
	March 15		
	March 22		
	March 29	Eric Torneten	

ALTAR GUILD: Charlene Brust and Joellen Darrington
CARRYING ELEMENTS: J.W. and Joyce Tiarks
DEACON: Joyce Tiarks



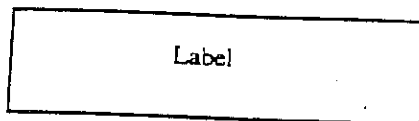
March 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3/1 9:00 AM Education 10:15 AM Worship Service/Holy Communion	2	3	4 6:00 PM Lent - Dinner/Martha Circle 7:00 PM Worship Service	5	6	7
8 9:00 AM Education 10:15 AM Worship Service	9	10	11 6:00 PM Lent - Dinner/Telescope Circle 7:00 PM Worship Service	12 1:30 PM Telescope Circle	13 2:00 PM Martha Circle	14 10:00 AM Scrapbooking 1:30 PM Youth Group
15 9:00 AM Education 10:15 AM Worship Service/Holy Communion 11:30 AM Council Meeting	16	17	18 6:00 PM Lent - Dinner/Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Worship Service	19	20	21
22 9:00 AM Education 10:15 AM Worship Service	23	24	25 6:00 PM Lent - Dinner/Sunday School Teachers 7:00 PM Worship Service	26	27	28
29 9:00 AM Education 10:15 AM Worship Service 11:30 AM Youth Group	30	31				

"THE MESSENGER"
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