

The Messenger

Underwood Lutheran Church

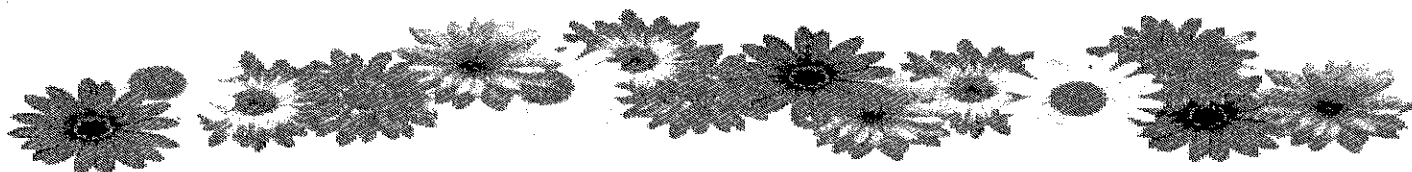
May, 2021

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

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



- In-Person Education will conclude for the program year on Sunday May 9th. We will have both Confirmation and Sunday School through that day.
 - Sunday Worship Schedule will remain in the same format through Sunday May 23rd, including Online at 8:00am and In-Person at 10:15am.
 - Sunday May 30th, Memorial Weekend, will be the first Sunday on the Summer Schedule, with Online at 8:30am and In-Person moving to 9:30am.
 - Sunday May 2nd will feature a visit from a staff member from Ingham-Okoboji Bible Camp.
 - Pastor Scott will be gone for Continuing Education Monday May 10th-Tuesday May 11th. He will be available by phone or email during this time.
 - 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.



[Jesus says] "Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I Myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he has said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. (Luke 24:39-40)

In advance of a week's vacation, I'm sitting down to write this article about mid-way through April, and this is part of the featured gospel lesson this time around. Through the earliest weeks of the Easter season, we continue to hear different accounts of the risen Jesus and his various encounters with different individuals. While the different stories and different gospel accounts of these various encounters offer a variety of details, there is something that tends to pop up pretty regularly.

The reference to his hands and his feet. Jesus seemingly shows up and repeatedly says "Take a look people...it's me, see here are the marks of the nails. I'm alive again...but the marks are still there."

I think it's good that the Easter season happens here through the season of Spring. Just as we continue to see signs of new life all around us, as lawns and flower beds and trees and the fields all come out of the winter slumber, we also continue to be reminded of the new life made possible in the reality of the resurrection.

Jesus was dead, and now he's alive again. This simple and yet profound truth is one that we cling to as Christ-followers. In fact, it's at the heart of the faith that we profess. And it is wonderful hopeful news. But there is something that we need to remember.

The resurrection didn't undo the crucifixion.

The marks are still there. Jesus bears the holes in his hands and his feet, along with the wound on his side. We never hear it but I imagine there were still scratches around his forehead from the crown of thorns, and wounds on his back from the scourging which he endured.

Things are different. He can walk through walls now, and apparently appear and disappear at will. And the brutal death has been overcome...but it has not been erased.

I share this because I think it is not only worth thinking about, but I think it's vital for us to recognize this truth in the midst of everything. We are finding ourselves in encouraging moments following what has been a really hard year-plus, but the incredibly slow progress that often feels like 3-steps forward, 2-steps back is maddening for all of us. Downright discouraging at times.

Now I had a heart-to-heart conversation with one of our members a few weeks back, on a day that I'll admit was a pretty low point for me personally. And as we talked, we remembered that truth of the gospel that we proclaim. That we have a God who is willing and able to somehow...SOMEHOW...create new life out of death.

But that new life doesn't cancel out the death, just as the hope and the encouragement that we might be feeling here through the spring and Easter season doesn't cancel out the struggles that we've faced together through 2020 and the first chunk of 2021. I think it's safe to say that we all bear the marks of all these difficulties...what we might call those little-deaths.

So, own them. Be real about it. Because we're all bearing the marks these days. But thanks be to God, because just as the resurrection doesn't erase the crucifixion, the marks of this year don't cancel out the hope of new life in Christ. May we all cling to that.

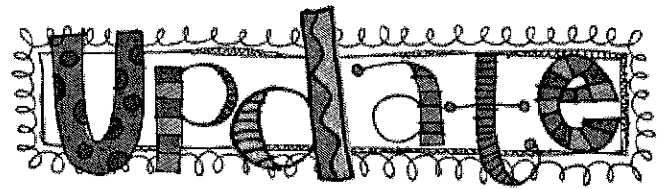
In Christ

Pastor Scott

Offerings....

"Our gifts to God"

	Offerings	Attendance
March 28	\$ 1788.92	38
April 04	\$ 3801.94	128
April 11	\$ 1428.67	46
April 18	\$ 2909.10	46



Precautionary Building Status

As we continue to see a general positive trend in vaccinations and local Covid case-counts, we are taking small steps forward. However, most of our ongoing precautionary measures are continuing. We still continue to ask individuals to wear masks and use hand sanitizer upon entering the church, particularly in a group setting. Our next anticipated change will occur in late May, when we switch to our Summer schedule and approach during Memorial Weekend.

This summer we are expecting to hold in-person worship on the church lawn, similar to last year. However, in instances of inclement weather we will have the option of holding worship inside, following our ongoing precautionary measures. Outdoor worship allows us to make masks optional, and singing during worship will likely be a possibility in an approach yet to be determined.

The building itself is accessible for usage, but distancing, masking, and limits on group size are still in place. Please contact the office if you have questions.

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.



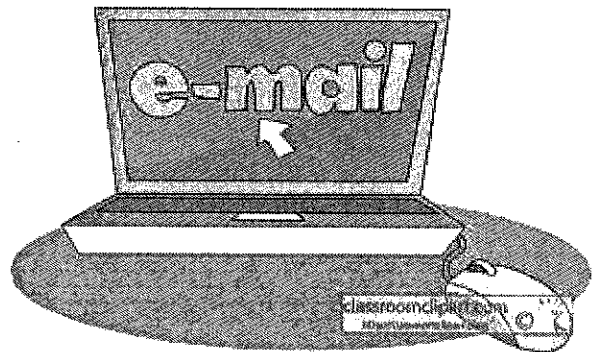
We are reinstating the practice of volunteer Lectors (Scripture Readers) during worship. With the time that has elapsed during Covid, we are asking for individuals to sign up rather than simply restarting the old list.

Likewise, we are looking for a group of individuals willing to help with setup/tear down and running audio for the outdoor worship. We hope to find enough people to create several small 2/3-person teams to be able to rotate through respective weeks during the summer, with the possibility of additional instances in the future.

If you are interested in either of these opportunities, please contact Pastor Scott.



There 's no
Greater love
than this



Beginning in late April, the office internet/phone service is being updated. We are switching away from Centurylink to Marne Elk Horn, which will allow much stronger internet/wifi signal throughout the building.

The office phone number will remain the same, being carried over to Marne Elk Horn service. So, no change there. 712-566-2257 However, Marne's service also brings in new options for email contact. Contact emails for Office Secretary Tonya and Pastor Scott will be changing. Note that Kim's email address will remain unchanged.

ulcsecretary@metc.net for Tonya
(Her old address will be discontinued)

ulcpastor@metc.net for Pastor Scott
(His old address will still be active, but he will work on switching work correspondence over the new address)

May 2021

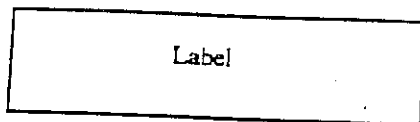
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						5/1
2 8:00 AM Online Service 9:00 AM Education 10:15 AM Worship Service/Holy Communion	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 8:00 AM Online Service 9:00 AM Education 10:15 AM Worship Service	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 8:00 AM Online Service 10:15 AM Worship Service/Holy Communion	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 8:00 AM Online Service 10:15 AM Worship Service	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 8:30 AM Online Service 9:30 AM Worship Service	31					

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



Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit # 1
Underwood, IA 51576-0009

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



UNDERWOOD
LUTHERAN CHURCH