

The Messenger

Underwood Lutheran Church

November, 2020

Pastor Scott Dalen

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

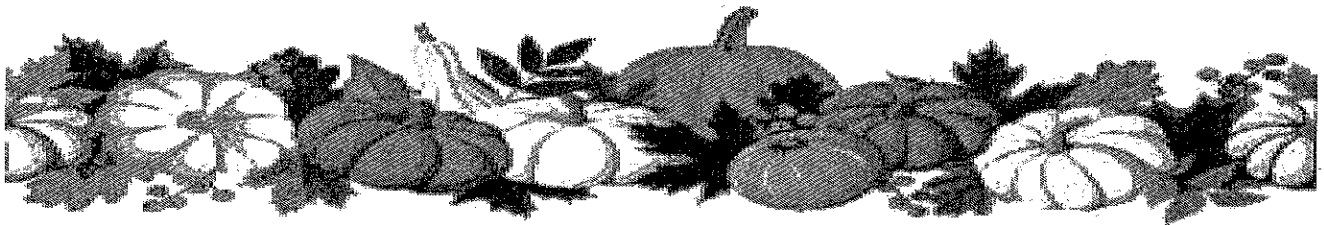
Underwood, IA 51576

Congregational President – Diane Stein - 402-290-3090
Editor, Secretary – Tonya Mayer – 712-309-1512

Church Phone # - 566-2257

e-mail address: underwoodlutheran@q.com

No Education - Worship Service @ 8:00 am on line – 9:30 am Indoor Worship



-November marks a change in our Sunday morning schedule. In light of delaying the return to in-person education along with inclement weather's effect on the outdoor worship, the Sunday morning schedule is returning to the approached utilized June through September:

8:00am Online Worship Video Goes Live

9:30am Indoor Worship Service

-If/when worship attendance numbers begin to create concerns over the ability to remain socially distanced in the sanctuary, we will consider the addition of a second worship opportunity. Likewise, when we are able to return to in-person education, it is likely that we will return to the "normal" program year schedule.

-Reminder that Council members are filling the various worship helper roles for the time being. If you are slated to serve in one of these roles (Usher, Reader, Greeter, Etc) on the year long schedule that was in place pre-Covid, you DO NOT need to fill this role. We will communicate when that changes.

-Sunday November 1st is All-Saints Sunday. While our congregation has been very blessed to not experience the deaths of any members in the past year, we will still have an All-Saints Remembrance included in worship, as we remember the beloved Saints who have gone on before us.

-Pastor Scott will be on vacation November 23rd-30th. This is Thanksgiving week. Due to his absence, we WILL NOT have in-person worship on the 29th. However, a limited Online Worship Video will be available.

-Council is continuing to explore how to conduct the business of the congregation IF we are unable to hold our Annual Meeting in early 2021. The main topics to account for will be the approval of the 2021 budget and election of new Council members (as well as the other various elected positions). In the meantime, if you are interested in serving on Council (or are simply curious about it) please reach out to Pastor Scott or one of the existing Council members. Due to our current circumstances, we will have upwards of 5 Council positions to fill.

-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.

-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.





And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. (Colossians 3:15)

This verse is part of a larger passage often utilized in wedding ceremonies, including my own a couple decades back. The statement made by the minister who preached at my wedding highlighting this particular verse. Its always stuck with me, and to be truthful had such an impact that whenever a couple choses this passage for their wedding, I offer the same advice.

Above all, be thankful.

Perhaps this is a fitting idea here in November and the month in which we celebrate Thanksgiving. But at the same time, this year...maybe the idea of being thankful just sounds like a cliché. Truly this has been a hard year, one of unprecedented events in our own personal histories. Perhaps for many of you, Thanksgiving itself is going to look and feel a whole lot different than usual. And as we consider all this, maybe the attitude of gratitude is a hard one to find these days.

But this larger passage from Colossians reminds us of an important truth. If we back up to where it starts, chapter 3 verse 12, we are immediately reminded of who we are. God's chosen ones. This speaks into a theme which we have been clinging to extremely tightly throughout the ongoing Covid pandemic...the theme that we have been chosen by God. We have been claimed by God as beloved children, and the way in which this becomes tangible for us in the waters of baptism.

Our very identity is ultimately defined by God's claim upon us...that God has chosen us.

Now the aspect of God's claim upon us that truly blows my mind every time I consider it, is the absolute depths of God's grace, in that the claim of God is upon all of humanity. Jesus himself said that he is drawing all people to himself. Admittedly, I don't know how it works. And Lord knows there are some people that I question as to their status of "Child of God," but fortunately that's not ultimately up to me.

I am thankful for the joyful reality of God's grace, which was somehow made real for us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Again, I don't know how...but I'm grateful for it anyway. And I'm grateful that as followers of Jesus, we get to share this news with the world.

God loves you. God takes delight in you. God has claimed you as beloved child.

In Christ,

Pastor Scott

Offerings....

"Our gifts to God"

	Offerings	Attendance
Sept. 27	\$ 1245.35	
Oct. 04	\$ 2014.02	20
Oct. 11	\$ 1867.30	34
Oct. 18	\$ 2455.70	18



Building Closure Status

While we have resumed various activity within the building, the reality of Covid is still a concern. From this standpoint, we are hoping to keep activity in the building to a minimum through the week. That said, the office is still open throughout the week, and Pastor Scott continues to keep office hours.

If you have an event/meeting/etc that you would normally hold within the building, please contact the church office before holding it. Masks should be worn when in groups, and hand sanitizer is available in the narthex, and should be used regularly.

Likewise, we are continuing to monitor Covid positivity rates and case counts within Pottawattamie County, and will also continue tracking the local school districts. There may come a point when we need to resume the full building closure and return to Online-Only status, though of course we hope that this does not become the case.

Thanksgiving
blessings  *Gatherings*

GRATEFUL *Family*
Give Thanks

Prayers  *Blessed* 

Let us come before Him
with Thanksgiving

Psalms 95:2

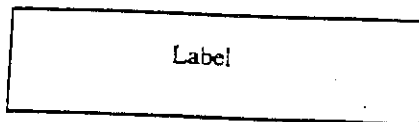
November 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11/1 8:00 AM Online Worship Service 9:30 AM Worship Service/Holy Communion	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 8:00 AM Online Worship Service 9:30 AM Worship Service	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 8:00 AM Online Worship Service 9:30 AM Worship Service/Holy Communion	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 8:00 AM Online Worship Service 9:30 AM Worship Service	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 8:00 AM Online Worship Service 9:30 AM Worship Service	30					

"THE MESSENGER"
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