

The Messenger

Underwood Lutheran Church

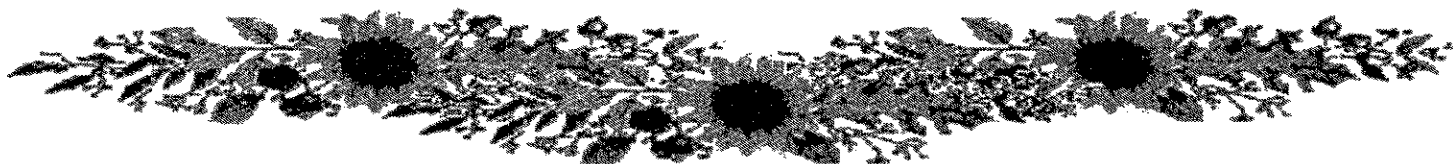
October, 2020

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 @ 9:30 am



-October brings a return to indoor activity. Beginning on Sunday the 4th, we will move to a new Sunday morning schedule that will include indoor worship in addition to Online and Outdoor opportunities. Online worship will continue indefinitely, and outdoor will continue as long as the weather cooperates.

-Education, including Sunday School and Confirmation, is slated to resume on Sunday October 18th. Adult Sunday School and Adult Choir remain on-hold at the discretion of each groups leadership.

-The new Sunday Schedule, beginning in October includes the following:

8:00am Online Worship Video Goes Live

8:30am Indoor Worship Service

9:45am Education (Beginning on the 18th)

11:00am Outdoor Worship Service on the Lawn

-Council is beginning 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.



Its been a weird year.

You know what...pause for a second...

And now, say it with me again...

Its been a weird year.

I've mentioned before that as I ponder on an article for the monthly newsletter, I often go back a year and see what we were talking about. Last year at this time, we were planning on a special congregational meeting to approve some rather large property projects in the church and parsonage.

And now this year, well...2020, am I right?

To be completely honest, I don't really have a whole more to say about that. If nothing else, a theme that has continually been pounded into us throughout the course of this year, and especially the past 6 months, has been the lack of control that we really have.

And maybe all we can do is acknowledge that. In many conversations that I have with different people, it seem almost inevitable that we'll come around to the old adage...one day at a time. Part of the human experience, and perhaps we could say that part of growing up, is realizing the truth that we really don't have that much control over things, and all we can really do is try to make the best of the situation we find ourselves in.

And sometimes, making the best of it means just getting through it, and holding onto hope that the sun will come up tomorrow.

Throughout all of this, I continue to come back to my favorite verse of the scriptures, one that you've heard from me many times in the past. A promise made that the love of God, made real in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, will be ever present no matter what our circumstances. And so, as we move into a new month with new opportunities and yet many of the same troubles, may we remember this...

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39.

In Christ,
Pastor Scott

In-Person/Indoor Worship Procedures As of September 23rd, 2020

-Online Worship Option Will Continue As-Is

-Outdoor Worship Will Continue As Weather Allows

(Pastor/President and/or Council will make the call on when to stop)

-Sunday Schedule

8:00am-Online Worship Video Goes Live

8:30am-Indoor Worship

9:45am-Education (Sunday School and Confirmation Classes)

11:00am-Outdoor Worship

AS YOU ARRIVE

PLEASE LIMIT ARRIVAL TIME TO 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO THE START OF WORSHIP

MASKS ARE MANDATORY (Please refer to CDC guidelines on masks)

KEEP COATS/JACKETS WITH YOU IN THE PEW

-Individuals enter and immediately use hand sanitizer (large bottle at each door)

-While remaining socially distanced from other individual/groups, move through Narthex to the Sanctuary doors and check in with Usher

Info Gathered will include: Names of Family/Individuals, 1 Contact Phone Number for the group, and number of individuals communing (if applicable). Usher will also record running total of attendees

-Individuals/Groups will be seated by the next usher. Every other pew, front to back. Bulletins will be printed and distributed by usher

-Order of Worship will be the same as we have established with spoken liturgy and audio of music, no singing

IF THERE IS COMMUNION:

-Usher will dismiss you from pew, every individual gets a shot of hand sanitizer

-Maintain 2-3 pews distance between groups/individuals

-2 servers will both be gloved/masked.

Pastor will distribute wafers, 2nd Server will fill individual plastic cup with wine/juice, and set it on the table to be picked up by the individual. Used cup will be dropped into a waiting garbage can

-Return by side aisle

-Order of Communion will be in the normal established order: Piano side front to back followed by Organ side back to front

-Pastor will offer the blessing to those not communing if desired...without touching the individual

Following the Conclusion of Worship:

-Ushers will dismiss back to front, individuals/groups exit promptly

-Sanitizer on hands as individuals exit the building

-Conversation can occur outside, but do not block doors/sidewalks

Holy Communion Services

- Connect with Pastor Scott via Email (sdalen001@luthersem.edu), or by phone to register for a specific service.
- Masks are mandatory
- Limit arrival to 10 minutes before the scheduled service time
- Use hand sanitizer as you enter the building
- Communion Server (Pastor) will be gloved and masked for the distribution
 - Server will distribute wafer
 - Individually filled wine glasses will be placed on small table
 - Deposit used glass in garbage can
- Order of Service:
 - Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness
 - Prayer of the Day
 - Words of Institution
 - Lord's Prayer
 - Distribution
 - Post Communal Blessing and Benediction
- Potential Service Times (Tentative)
 - Tuesday: 9:30am or 6:30pm
 - Thursday: 9:30am or 5:00pm

Education Procedures As of September 23rd, 2020

- Adult Choir and Adult Sunday School Class Remain On-Hold By Recommendation of Respective Leaders
- At-Home Resources Will Continue to be Made Available by Kim Through Christmas, and option will be re-evaluated at that time.
- Sunday School and Confirmation Classes Will Resume
 - Tentatively Scheduled for 9:45am on Sundays
- MASKS ARE MANDATORY
- Parents escort your Sunday School aged children to the fellowship hall for opening, and assist them in using hand sanitizer
- Classes will remain distanced during opening
 - We will not be singing for the time being
- Following Opening, students/teachers will move into various basement rooms for class
 - Classrooms will be assigned by overall class size, utilizing the largest available spaces for the larger classes whenever possible, to allow individuals to remain as spaced out as possible.
- Individuals/Families are welcome to join weekly for Education, we will not institute measures to schedule separation. *(Unless unexpected numbers require re-assessment)*
- Confirmation will meet in the Conference room with Pastor Scott
- Utilize hand sanitizer at conclusion of Education as the child/individual is exiting the building

Minutes for Underwood Lutheran Church Council

Wednesday, Aug 19, 2020, 6:00pm

Meeting Format: Zoom

In Attendance: Pastor Scott Dalen, Bill Shelton (Council Secretary), Tracy Shreeves, Brett Michael (Treasurer), Joyce Tiarks, Gary Leaders, Diane Stein (Council President), and Christine Privia

Call to order: 6:02 by Diane Stein

Financial Report: Brett Michael (Treasurer) reported accounts down just a little bit probably because of no in person church for the last two weeks. Brett has not started the SBA PPP loan forgiveness part yet. He is waiting till things get more resolved with the process and procedures.

A motion to cash in the Church's credit card reward money \$448.50 was made by Pastor, seconded by Diane - Approved.

Motion to approve financial report by Pastor, seconded by Tracy - Approved

Secretary Report: Move to approve Secretary's report by Pastor, seconded by Gary - Approved

Pastor's Report:

Wind caused tree limbs to fall in the parsonage lawn Erik helped cleanup.

Tree trimming and cleanup done by Hotze \$1979.50.

Basement carpet work has begun.

Conformation moved from late October to Sept 20. (27th backup) Potentially to be outside?

Motion to move back into church membership Rodney and Beth Kennedy by Pastor, seconded by Joyce

Discussed delaying sunday school rally day till October.

Move extend till September outside services at the same time by Pastor, seconded by Tracy - Approved

Pastor reported that the vast majority of feedback he has received is to keep doing what we are doing.

Property Committee:

Carpet paid \$5000 up front with a balance due of \$4293

Brett will look into lawn treatment options and companies.

Next meeting Wednesday Sept 16

Move to adjourn 7:04pm Christine, seconded by Pastor

Offerings....

"Our gifts to God"

	Offerings	Attendance
Aug. 23	\$ 2240.35	75
Aug. 30	\$ 2995.37	45
Sept. 06	\$ 2130.70	25
Sept. 13	\$ 2380.39	63
Sept. 20	\$ 3160.70	100

Building Closure

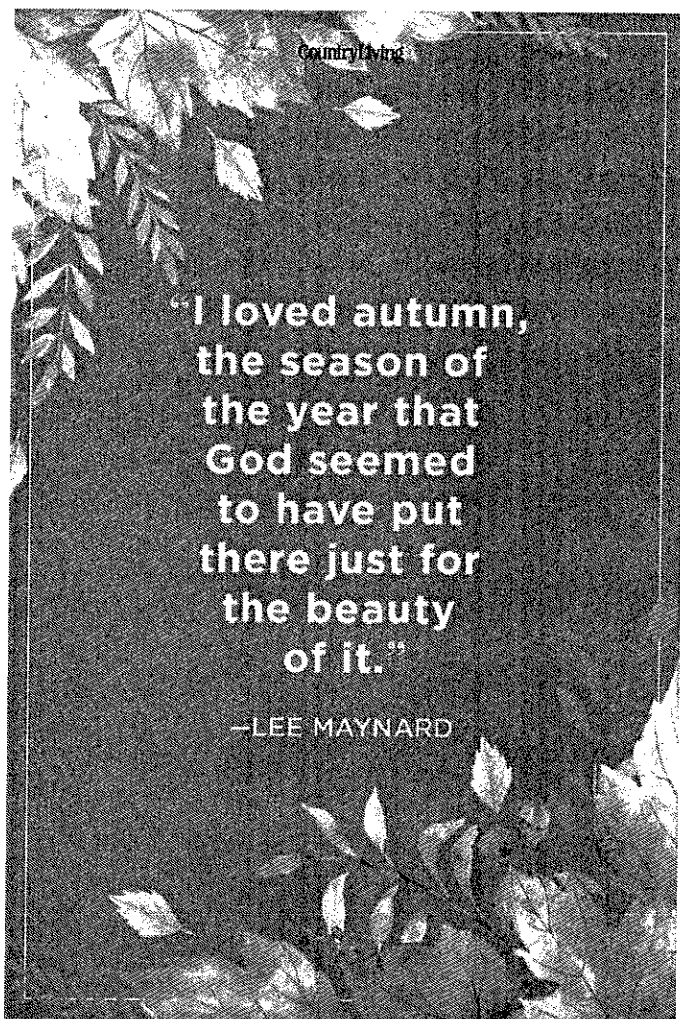
Status

While the Council has elected to begin indoor activities once again, 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.

*For with
God nothing
shall be
impossible.*

-Luke 1:37



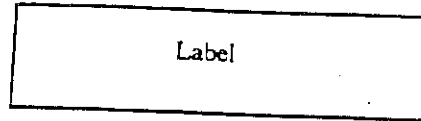
October 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			10/1		2	3
4 8:00 AM Online Service 8:30 AM Indoor Worship/Holy Communion 11:00 AM Outdoor Service/Holy Communion	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 8:00 AM Online Service 8:30 AM Indoor Worship 11:00 AM Outdoor Service	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 8:00 AM Online Service 8:30 AM Indoor Worship/Holy Communion 11:00 AM Outdoor Service/Holy Communion	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 8:00 AM Online Service 8:30 AM Indoor Worship 11:00 AM Outdoor Service	26	27	28	29	30	31

"THE MESSENGER"
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