

The Messenger

Underwood Lutheran Church

October, 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@a.com

On Line Worship @ 8:30 – Education 9:00 am – Worship Service 10:15 am



- Holy Communion will be celebrated Oct 3rd and 17th.
 - There will NOT be Confirmation Class on Sunday Oct 31st. All other aspects of Education will meet as usual.
 - Council will meet for their regular monthly meeting on October 20th at 6:30pm.
 - Interested in becoming a member of ULC? Pastor Scott is offering a Membership Class on Wednesday October 27th at 7:00pm. Watch for a signup sheet at the church if you are interested.
 - Anyone interested in joining the ranks of worship volunteers in the roles of Usher, Reader, or Altar Guild? These important roles help the weekend worship services operate smoothly. Please contact Pastor Scott for me information or to volunteer.
 - 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.



Let me start by offering a correction. Last month I included a statement in my article indicating that Pike's Peak is the highest point in Colorado. It was brought to my attention that its not even close to the highest. And so, I'll amend my previous statement to "a pretty nice view of Pikes Peak, the highest visible spot from the front porch at Rainbow Trail." (Admittedly, including this is a bit of an inside joke with one of our members. You know who you are.)

Change is in the air. As I sit down to write this, my mind is filled with the memory of a day with nearly perfect weather. It was crisp and chilly in the early morning, but quickly warmed up into a beautiful calm clear afternoon. My daily walk over the Post Office was utter perfection. And it all capped off as I walked out of the church following an evening meeting, right at dusk.

In that particular moment, I stopped just outside the front door and took a big deep breath. I don't know what it is, but there is a distinct smell on those early fall evenings that is absolutely wonderful. Its one of those things that, pardon the pun, takes your breath away.

Now, I've never made a secret of the fact that I struggle with the season of fall, because I know that winter is not far behind. But in this particular case, I must confess, the change in the air from summer into fall, was pretty amazing.

Perhaps it goes without saying that this type of change is one that we expect and anticipate. The rotation of the seasons is a given every year. But there are other types of change that happen in the midst of our lives. Some are small and some are major. Some we create ourselves, and others happen whether we like it or not.

We've been in a season of change, a lengthy one, for a while now. Its been a struggle, painful in many regards. And while we are attempting to resume a sense of normalcy within our congregation and community, I think we also recognize that some things are different than they used to be.

Within the leadership of the congregation, we've had quite a few discussions about how to move forward within the ministry of this place. I've been quite vocal in these conversations with my belief that EVERYTHING is on the table to approach in new ways as we work our way out of the disruption that is Covid.

Now one of the new things that has become "normal" for us during the last 18 months has been the availability of Online Worship. For a while that was our only option. Now, it's one of two options. And folks, it's a good thing. We've had new people visit and even join our church after finding us online. We've had people who are unable to be with us in person for a wide variety of reasons continue to utilize Online Worship in order to stay connected with the congregation. It's a good thing, and its not going away.

But we do want to improve it. We want to make it live and potentially even interactive for those tuning in remotely. The first step in working towards this goal will be to combine the Online Worship with In-Person Worship. It may look like Livestreaming, or it may look like recording In-Person to then upload the video.

As we continue down this particular road, we have reached the first bridge that needs to be crossed. I'm almost positive it won't be the last one, but it is our first obstacle to overcome. This particular issue is licensing. Before we can stream or post worship, we need to have authorization for online usage of music and worship materials. To date, we have been able to sidestep this with the format our online worship utilizes, and that's been good. But if we're going to improve, this next step is necessary.

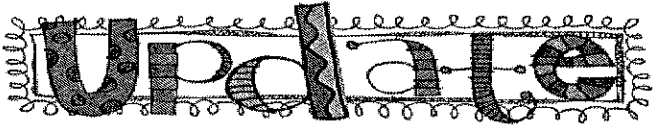
Now to give ourselves authorization, there are two licensing subscriptions that we need to acquire. One is for the music we feature and the other is for the usage of materials specific to our denomination. The cost of these two subscriptions is \$1,000. Leadership hopes to Fundraise this amount in order to pursue the subscriptions, knowing that in the years to come, it will likely be included within our operational budget.

Here's where you come in. This Fundraiser is outside of our normal operational ministry giving. Are you willing to give a little more in order to help us reach this goal and improve on the outreach of our congregational worship? If so, here's what you can do...

- Drop off a gift designated to "Online Worship Improvement Project" here at the church OR...
- You can utilize our online giving platform of Vanco to give a gift to this project. When setting up the specific donation, place the funds in the heading of "Evangelism/Outreach." Any funds given under this heading will be designated to this specific project.

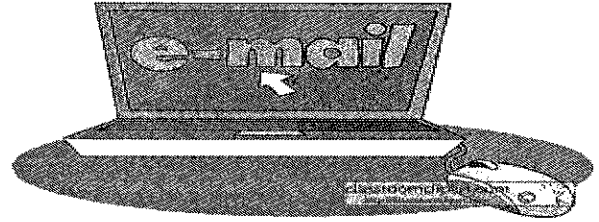
Once we have this base covered, we'll move on to the next step. I'm expecting several steps before we reach this particular finish line. But every step will be a good one. May God continue to watch over and bless this aspect of our shared ministry together.

In Christ,
Pastor Scott



Precautionary Building Status

As we continue to monitor ongoing local Covid activity, the leadership is continuing to urge caution. We are not changing any of our precautionary measures at this time. Hand Sanitizer is still available at both doors, and is available when Holy Communion is celebrated. Masking is recommended for unvaccinated individuals, and is certainly encouraged for all people. However, it is not currently a requirement. If you are experiencing any Covid-like symptoms, we encourage you to refrain from attending in-person activity. Please continue to use common sense, and remember that the actions which we take together are intended to protect those around us.



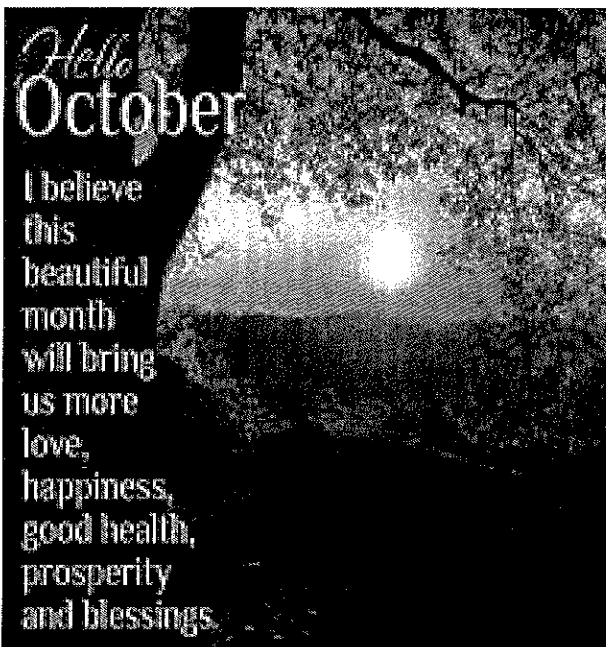
Please note the following email address changes for both Tonya and Pastor Scott. Tonya's old address will stop being functional in mid-June. Pastor Scott's old address is still functional, but he is changing work correspondence to the new account.

ulcsecretary@metc.net for Tonya

ulcpastor@metc.net for Pastor Scott



We have resumed the schedule of volunteer ushers assisting with Sunday morning Worship. Likewise, we continue to seek volunteer scripture readers on a weekly basis. Finally, the Altar Guild has also resumed activity, centered mainly around the preparation/cleanup of Holy Communion. If you are interested in serving in any of these capacities, please contact the church and we will put you in touch with the proper individual. Remember that we can't do this without you.



Sanctuary Audio-Visual Improvement Project

We continue to explore the possibility of a drastic improvement on the audio-visual capabilities within the sanctuary. The main purpose of this project will be to install equipment which will allow digital projection throughout the sanctuary. This will create the opportunity to enhance our worship experience, and help us move away from dependance on printed materials. While this project and possibility is exciting, it is also not cheap. The leadership ultimate hopes to fundraise this project. We have received several bids towards the project, ranging in cost up to \$8500 depending on current resource costs and including contingency funds.

We are also exploring a slightly different option, more directly aimed at realizing the goal of recording/livestreaming our In-Person Worship. This will lead to a more cohesive connection between In-Person and Online worship opportunities. This option, still in the early stages of exploration, will likely prove cheaper than the potential projection project. The leadership of the congregation will continue to explore how best to move forward with these different possibilities.

Through the generosity of several families through existing memorial funds, we already have \$4,500 dedicated to this project. But we will need your help to bring these dreams into reality. Please consider investing in the future of Underwood Lutheran, and contact Pastor Scott with your willingness to pledge towards this project.

Offerings....

"Our gifts to God"

	Offerings	Attendance
Aug. 22	\$ 1629.35	50
Aug. 29	\$ 1513.67	35
Sept.05	\$ 1714.35	45
Sept.12	\$ 2138.04	73
Sept.19	\$ 2134.64	86

Scrapbooking/Craft Time

Come be creative withus

Saturdays

October 9, 2021

November 13, 2021

10:00 am to????

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

Come work on your scrapbooking,
crafts or other projects.

What is provided: Tables, chairs, trash
bags, people to bounce ideas to and
from and comaraderie.

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

Questions:

Call Sandy Redshaw: 712-566-9574
or 712-310-2151 after 6 pm.

Worship Participants for October, 2021

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

Piano/Organist Schedule:

Oct 3rd: Nancy Dose
Oct 10th: Arla Claussen
Oct 17th: Judy Pingel
Oct 24th: Nancy Dose
Oct 31st: Sonya Schiphoff

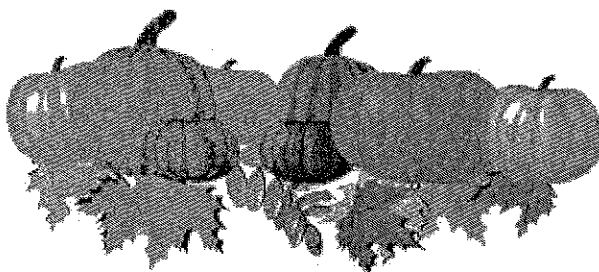
Acolyte Schedule:

Oct 3rd: Evan Karas
Oct 10th: Riley Sealock
Oct 17th: Julia Thomas
Oct 24th: Bailey Wood
Oct 31st: Kennedy Brown

Usher Schedule:

Oct 3rd: Alex and Sonya Schiphoff
Oct 10th: Jeff and Tracy Shreeves
Oct 17th: JW and Joyce Tiarks
Oct 24th: Brett Michaels and Mike Shelton
Oct 31st: Neil Darrington and Gary Leaders

ALTAR GUILD: Marlene Merdinger and Tonya Mayer
DEACON: Amanda Hendersen



October 2021

Calendar

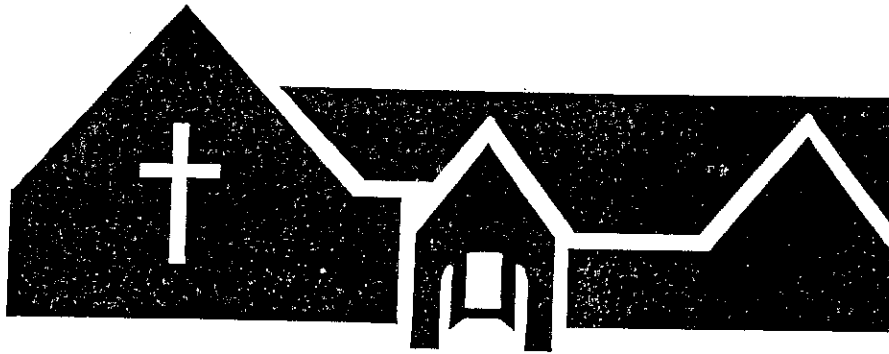
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sep 26 8:30 AM On Line Worship 9 AM Education 10:15 AM Worship Service	27	28	29	30	Oct 1	2
3 8:30 AM On Line Worship 9 AM Education 10:15 AM Worship Service/	4	5	6	7	8	9 10 AM Scrapbooking
10 8:30 AM On Line Worship 9 AM Education 10:15 AM Worship Service	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 8:30 AM On Line Worship 9 AM Education 10:15 AM Worship Service/	18	19	20 6:30 PM Council Meeting	21	22	23
24 8:30 AM On Line Worship 9 AM Education 10:15 AM Worship Service	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 8:30 AM On Line Worship 9 AM Education 10:15 AM Worship Service	Nov 1	2	3	4	5	6

"THE MESSENGER"
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