

The Messenger

Underwood Lutheran Church

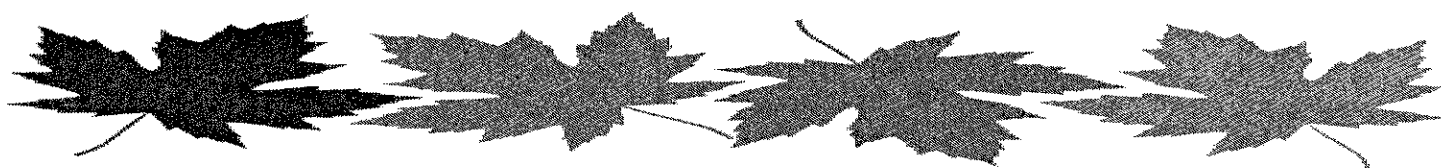
September, 2020

Pastor Scott Dalen

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

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No Education - Worship Service @ 9:30 am



-As worship opportunities continue both online and outdoors, we will be staying with the same schedule that has been established through the summer months. Online videos go live at 8am, any weather-related announcements will be made by 8:30am, and Outdoor worship begins at 9:30am. We expect this schedule to remain in effect through the month of September and will be reviewed in advance of October.

-Together we will celebrate Affirmation of Baptism with 8 of our young people during the outdoor worship on Sunday September 20th. If there is a weather-related delay, we will celebrate on the 27th as a backup. This is a change from our previous plan of holding the celebration in late-October.

-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.



There are 3 banners that hang in the narthex of the church. Honestly, I don't often pay that close attention to them. They hang up above the 3 doors that enter into the main office, my office, and the conference room. Beyond seeing the splash of maroon color in my peripheral vision when I'm walking in, I just don't really notice them.

But today, as I paced the church reflecting on this article, they caught my attention. The first banner reads over the main office door reads "I am with you always." The last one over the conference room reads "To the very end of the age." And in the center is a combined emblem of Alpha and Omega...a reference to Jesus' words that I am the beginning and the end.

The statements on these banners are taken from the Great Commission, found at the tail end of Matthew's gospel. Jesus, post resurrection, has appeared to his disciples on top of a high mountain. They have heard the reports of the women that Jesus is alive again. And with this appearance, he is confirming what he had often taught them, that the Son of Man will be betrayed and tortured and killed, but after three days would rise again.

The narration from Matthew 28 tells us that within this appearance, the disciples worshipped the risen Lord...but we also hear that some doubted. We don't know exactly what it is that they are doubting. Perhaps that this is really Jesus. Or that he had actually died and rose again. Perhaps they are doubting their ability to fulfill the commandment that he is giving them to make disciples of all nations.

Or maybe, just maybe...the details don't really matter. Maybe we simply need to recognize that the disciples, Jesus' closest followers, the ones who have been witnesses to every aspect of his ministry from start to finish...even these guys were a mix of reactions to that which they couldn't really understand. They worshipped and doubted...all at the same time.

Maybe that's reassuring for us. Even though we weren't there on top of that high mountain post-resurrection, the same Holy Spirit which empowered the disciples to carry on the great commission has also empowered us. We are part of the same body of Christ...connected and strengthened through the same Spirit.

And if that is in fact the case, and I believe that it is...then perhaps we find a bit of reassurance that the difficult times we are currently experiencing in the midst of a year that is off the charts in term of turmoil, these times are not what will ultimately define us. We can worship the Lord, practicing our faith both as individuals AND as a community united by the Spirit...while at the same time experiencing the doubt and the questions and the concerns that are so prevalent in our present reality.

One other thought...the Great Commission ends Matthew's gospel. But the wonderful things about the Gospels is that they are not the end of the story. It continues on, and we are blessed to be able to witness a portion of God's ongoing work in the world. So, however all this stuff ultimately shakes out in the end, may we cling to the knowledge that we are not the first to experience doubts while we follow the one who calls us.

In Christ,

Pastor Scott

Minutes for Underwood Lutheran Church Council

Wednesday, July 15, 2020, 6:00pm

Meeting Format: Zoom

In Attendance: Pastor Scott Dalen, Tracy Shreeves, Christine Privia, Diane Stein (Council President), Bill Shelton (Council Secretary), Lynn Leaders, Kathy Darrington, Brett Michael (Treasurer), Gary Leaders, and Erik Pedersen

Call to order: 6:01 by Diane Stein

Financial Report: Brett Michael (Treasurer) reported PPP Loan all funds are used. Brett is getting ready to file for forgiveness on the PPP Loan (this will allow the Church not to have to repay the loan). The church and parsonage renovation is currently \$3700 under budget. We received a check from Omaha Gives for \$534.03 with a bonus check for \$500 for a total of \$1035.03.

Motion was made to apply the extra \$500 as the Church's donation to support the seminarian. Motion by Diane, Seconded by Pastor - **Approved**.

Move to approve financial report by Tracy, Seconded by Kathy - Approve

Secretary Report: Move to approve Secretary's report by Pastor, Seconded by Gary, with modification of date changed to June 24.

Pastor's Report: Kim and Pastor have reached out to families with questioning to move rally day back to oct 1. Pastor will reach out to confirmation families to see how to confirm this year's confirmands. (private service, outdoor service, stream) Discussions were held about current situation or worship and how long it will need to be continued.

Property Committee

Kathy and Tracy looked at the carpet for the basement. Quote: Level1 quality \$9232, Level 2 quality \$10255. Removal of carpet pad installation reduces the quote by \$956.

Motion by Pastor, Seconded by Chris: to use additional money from reconstruction budget (\$3700 excess) to cover extra cost for the difference from the Women's account (approx \$8000) to install Level 2 with removing pad installation (-\$956) - **Approved**

We need to move items to get ready to install carpet. Counsel will meet Saturday morning. July 25. 8:00am to move items.

Lynn will get a bid on floor trim.

Received a bid from for Hotze \$1850 to trim both trees and haul away at the parsonage. Lynn will get a second bid.

Move to adjourn at 7:24 by Diane, Second by pastor

Next meeting is on August 19 at 6:00pm

Building Closure Status

At the August Council meeting, held on the 19th, leadership discussed the ongoing state of building closure given the current status of the ongoing pandemic. In the interest of ongoing safety, we have decided to extend our current status through the month of September. Online worship videos and Outdoor worship will continue to be held on Sunday mornings.

Likewise, we have also made the decision to delay the anticipated start of the new program year into October. This is, of course, a tentative decision, as the best practices for programming and educational opportunities are still in question.

These extensions will allow our community to see how the beginning of the school year is affecting the spread of Covid-19.

Leadership is beginning to explore the possibility of

reopening the building to small group (less than 10) activities with proper precautions. Please note that we are not yet doing so, but are trying to determine how best to go about this. Please stay tuned for further developments in this realm.

*For with
God nothing
shall be
impossible.*

-Luke 1:37

Offerings....

"Our gifts to God"

	Offerings	Attendance
July 26	\$ 1035.35	31
Aug. 02	\$ 920.37	
Aug. 09	\$ 1240.70	
Aug. 16	\$ 3305.39	57



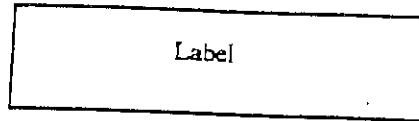
September 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		9/1	2	3	4	5
6 8:00 AM Online Service 9:30 AM Outdoor Worship/ Holy Communion	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 8:00 AM Online Service 9:30 AM Outdoor Worship	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 8:00 AM Online Service 9:30 AM Outdoor Worship/ Holy Communion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

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