

November 2023

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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PASTOR of St. John's-Vilmar

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Serving in the Lord's House 8
Treasurer's Report 5
Council Capsules 3-4
Mission & Outreach 6
Women's Fellowship 7
Announcements 8-9
Prayer Concerns 8
Calendar 10

UPCOMING DEADLINES:

Weekly Bulletins:
Thursdays at 9 a.m.

December Herald Announcements:
Sunday, Nov. 19 at 5 p.m.

The Lord is near to all
who call on him, to all who
call on him in truth.
PSALM 145:18

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church - Vilmar

16073 Keystone Ave.
Greene, IA 50636-9163



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



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From the Pastor's Desk

Dear People of St. John's – Vilmar,

As I write this, I am in the process of packing and preparing for my move to your congregation/parsonage. Many people are involved in this endeavor and I thank you for all of your help. It is truly appreciated.

I believe that prayers have been answered with God's blessings and in His good timing for our ministry together. I am grateful for this opportunity to serve as your pastor and look forward to getting to know you and discovering how we can honor and love God with our service together. Know that I extend an open invitation for conversation ... prayer ... Holy Communion ... though I will be scheduling visits, you are welcome to contact me, as well.

We are approaching a very eventful time of the church year. Reformation Sunday, All Saint's Sunday, Christ the King Sunday, Advent, Christmas, the Baptism of our Lord all within a couple of months. I am looking forward to these especially holy times of the church year. May we pray for the Holy Spirit to inspire us as we experience the deep meanings of these special times and how they reflect our lives and God's presence and promises for us. Gathering together as God's people is especially significant in these times. I am glad I get to share them with you.

Now, I was asked to share a little bit about me. Hmmm, where should I start (and stop – tee hee!) on a life that spans a few or more decades? Suffice it to say, I was raised in a Christian family on a farm in west-central Minnesota – Donnelly, to be exact. I attended a country Norwegian church where my mom was the church organist and choir director. Yes, we sat on the first pew, organ side every Sunday. Being the last born, the 'we' became "I, alone" sat in the first pew as time went on. Many people sat farther back though, so I wasn't completely all alone. My home church reminds me a lot of Vilmar in style and people. It feels like home.



Pastor Keen

See, **Pastor's Note:** Page 2

My mother taught seventh and eighth grade English for most of her career. My dad farmed and then managed the fertilizing plant in our little town of 252. I have three older sisters, who all live in Minnesota as do their families.

I attended Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, and majored in Religion and minored in Scandinavian Studies. During and between college and Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, I worked as a Certified Nurse's Aid at a Lutheran Nursing Home in St. Paul called Lyngblomsten.

My internship year was in Mason City, Iowa at Our Savior's on South Jefferson St. Maybe some of you know it. Pr. Ken Hatland was my supervisor. He was wonderful. From there my ventures took me to the Central States Synod (Kansas and Missouri). On the far western plains of Kansas (one block away from Mountain Time Zone), I was certain I could see uncharted territory of the western movement. I had never seen anything so expansive. It was incredible. Since that time I have served parishes in Wichita and the surrounding area, Springfield, Missouri and Batesville, Indiana. I have had the pleasure of a variety of congregations: small, large, country, small town, city, solo, staff, shared congregations, part-time, full-time. I have served as a full-time hospice chaplain, as well. Each experience has been valuable.

I have four adult children all in their twenties and 1 granddaughter at this time. My eldest, Makenzie, is living in Vermont as she pursues her graduate degree in nutrition. Some of her specializing is in the area of food sustainability, land/agricultural/livestock realities, social and political policies ... Moriah is in her internship year as a School Psychologist in El Dorado, Kansas. She is the queen of all table games and cards. Adam is the adventurous one, who has bicycled a variety of places. His farthest trip was from Valparaiso, Indiana (where he currently lives) to the Panama

Canal during COVID restrictions, no less! Though it was very stressful for this Momma, he seemed to weather all conditions quite well. He even designed and developed a bicycle accessory that helped him greatly. He is currently marketing that in America and in Japan. My youngest, Olivia, is pursuing a degree in Nursing and is a coach and marketer for Orange Theory Fitness in Wichita, Kansas. She has given birth to a precious little girl, Kehlani, who is the joy and delight of us all. She will be two March 12.

As for me specifically, besides being a pastor and a momma, I also enjoy, being outside – gazing at sunrises, sunsets, stars and clouds; strolling through fallen autumn leaves; laying in a blanket of soft, sparkling snow (I am from Minnesota, huh?!); and waves rolling in and out on a beach. God's creative handiwork is inspiring and it is new every day. Though I am not an athlete, I love to run and do other aerobics, like zumba, turbo-kick ... I love nestling into a really good streamed series or great movie! Food always works – especially popcorn and potatoes and pickles. I spend regular and significant daily time in developing spirituality through prayer, scripture meditation and journaling. I desire to understand, trust and love God as fully and deeply as possible, and myself and others, too. This is one of my primary ways of processing life and faith.

Well, so much for that 'nutshell' of a biography! Are you awake?!

Until we meet, which will be sooner than later now –

“May the Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;

May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.” (*Numbers 6:22-26*)

In the Lord's Service,
Pastor Tamara J. K. Keen

ST. JOHN'S – VILMAR COUNCIL CAPSULES

St. John's Church Council met Sunday, Oct. 1 following the church service. Chairman Don Salge reported that he will go to Wichita to help move Pastor Keen's items to Vilmar. Diane Hummel made a motion to hire a moving company to help get Pastor Keen's stuff from the Minnesota locations to Vilmar. Warren Van Dyke seconded it. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

Members present: Ron Taylor, Warren Van Dyke, Dick Ulrich, Diane Hummel, Julie Eberline, Don Salge, Margaret DeBower, Tyler Seehusen, and Rhonda Edeker.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Rhonda Edeker, *Secretary*

The St. John's Church Council met for its regular meeting on Oct. 11. Diane Hummel led the group in devotions and prayer. Chairman Don Salge called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

REPORTS & BUSINESS

- **Secretary:** Warren Van Dyke made a motion to approve all the minutes as read. Dick Ulrich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Treasurer:** Dale Janssen made a motion to approve the report at read. Meredith Steere seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Chairman:** Don Salge reported we received the signed paperwork from Pastor Keen.
- **Stewardship & Finance:** None.
- **Mission & Outreach:** Dale Janssen made a motion to match funds from the September mission for the November mission. Upon further discussion, Don Salge reported that the council could not use Thrivent funds without permission from the Thrivent group first, so the motion died for lack of a second. Barb Meyer made a motion for the November mission go to Randy Brinkman and his family. Warren Van Dyke seconded it. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Worship & Fellowship:** Pastor Keen's first day of preaching will be held Sunday, Oct. 29 with a potluck to follow. Her installation service will be held Sunday, Nov. 5 at 2:30 p.m. with a reception following. Rhonda Edeker made a motion for Pastor Keen's official start date to be Nov. 1, 2023. Warren Van Dyke seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Pastor Keen's first Sunday preaching will be compensated as guest pastor wages for bookkeeping purposes.
- **Deacons:** None.
- **Trustees:** Warren Van Dyke will call a carpenter to use up extra flooring for the back porch/laundry room. Don Salge will get ahold of Nick Thorne to powerwash the parsonage next spring. Looking into pricing for a new storm door in the parsonage. Looking into adding a light switch on the back porch of the parsonage. There are holes/gaps around the pipes in the kitchen sink that need to be looked at. Need to update smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector. The painting in the parsonage has been completed.
- **Parish Ed.:** None.

continued on page 4

- **Director of Communications:** Monica Edeker reported that parishioners have asked members to wear name tags for the first couple weeks for Pastor Keen. We are looking into which kids need to receive Bibles this year.

CLOSING

The next council meeting will be held Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. Dale Janssen made a motion to adjourn. Tyler Seehusen seconded it. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Rhonda Edeker, *Secretary*

MEMBERS PRESENT

P Don Salge (President)	P Dale Janssen	P Meredith Steere
P Margaret DeBower (Treasurer)	P Diane Hummel	P Julie Eberline
P Rhonda Edeker (Secretary)	P Tyler Seehusen	P Dick Ulrich
P Barb Meyer	P Ron Taylor	P Warren Van Dyke

St. John’s Church Council met Sunday, Oct. 15 following the morning worship service. Chairman Don Salge reported that he has ok’ed it with the Thrivent group to use funds to support the November mission – Randy Brinkman and family. It was reported that both the washer and dryer in the parsonage are not working, and repairs don’t seem likely. Barb Meyer will bet getting prices from AP Appliance for new machines. It was reported that the carpet in the parsonage is going to be installed this week. Warren Van Dyke is working on replacing the storm door and tightening the banister/railing going into the parsonage back door. Meeting adjourned.

Members present: Barb Meyer, Tyler Seehusen, Don Salge, Diane Hummel, Margaret DeBower, Ron Taylor, Meredith Steere, and Warren Van Dyke.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Monica Edeker, *Director of Communications*

St. John’s Church Council met Sunday, Oct. 22 following the morning worship service. Chairman Don Salge called the meeting to order. Barb Meyer presented two bids from AP Appliance for a new washer and dryer for the parsonage. Warren Van Dyke made a motion to purchase a Whirlpool washer and dryer from AP Appliance for approximately for \$1,350 + tax + removal of the old set. Tyler Seehusen seconded. Motion carried. Don Salge updated the council about Pastor Keen’s moving expenses. Margaret DeBower made a motion to adjourn. Diane Hummel seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Members present: Don Salge, Rhonda Edeker, Barb Meyer, Dick Ulrich, Ron Taylor, Tyler Seehusen, Warren Van Dyke, Diane Hummel, and Margaret DeBower.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Rhonda Edeker, *Secretary*

Treasurer's Report

SEPTEMBER 2023

Beginning Operating Balance\$113,682.96

INCOME:

Envelopes \$6,320.00
Vanco \$754.00
Loose Offering – Sarah Hawker\$69.50
September Mission – Sarah Hawker ...\$1,250.00
Parsonage Updates \$500.00
Wells of Inspirations \$200.00
Check voided for lack of cashing\$427.50
Thrivent Funds\$102.95

FROM:

Food Bank..... \$292.00
Iowa Mission of Mercy (IMOM)..... \$542.00
Youth Camps \$100.00
Thrivent for Hawker fund.....\$1,100.00

Total Income..... \$11,657.95

EXPENSES:

Pulpit Supply\$1,700.00
Pulpit Supply Auto Mileage \$284.95
Wages / Janitors\$461.74
Wages / Director of Communications ...\$769.58
Electricity \$487.19
Telephone\$71.51
Property Insurance\$7,973.00
Maintenance – Elevator Inspection \$225.00
Sound System\$550.00
Janitor Supplies.....\$56.74
Printer Contract.....\$196.04
Vanco\$8.19
NALC Convocation Expenses \$1,087.93

EXPENSES, cont.:

Iowa Mission District Offering \$100.00
Food Banks \$292.00
Iowa Mission of Mercy (IMOM)..... \$542.00
Youth Camp Scholarship \$100.00
Sarah Hawker \$2,000.00
Worship Supplies \$113.96
Streaming License..... \$79.00
TO: Sarah Hawker Fund \$1,419.50
TO: Thrivent.....\$102.95
TO: Parsonage Updates \$500.00
TO: Wells of Inspiration \$200.00

Total Expenses\$19,321.28

Operating Balance\$106,019.63

SPECIFIED ACCOUNTS:

Thrivent Funds\$2,740.59
Scholarships \$1,634.64
Youth Camp Fund.....\$215.00
Mission \$2,622.09
Operation Christmas Child\$535.90
Easter/IA Youth NALC Mission Trip \$258.00
Sarah Hawker..... \$1,419.50
Parsonage Updates..... \$500.00
Wells of Inspiration\$55.33

Specified Accounts Balance\$9,981.05

GENERAL FUND BALANCE.... \$116,000.68

Respectfully Submitted By:

Margaret DeBower, *Treasurer*

Daylight Savings

Reminder: Set your clocks back an hour on Saturday, Nov. 4 for Daylight Saving Time.

Pastor Installation

Pastor Keen's Installation Service will be held Sunday, Nov. 5 at 2:30 p.m., and will be led by Mission District Dean, Pastor Christopher Staley. There will be a coffee and fellowship reception after the service.

Mission and Outreach

During the month of November, Vilmar's Mission and Outreach Team will be collecting financial donations for Randy Brinkman and his family. Randy continues to heal, recover, and recuperate from a stroke. He also recently had heart surgery to repair a hole in his heart. The donations will be given to his family to help with his ongoing medical expenses at this time.

The Thanksgiving Eve offering will be split between the North Butler Hot Lunch Program and Butler County Visions of Well-Being.

All Saints Sunday

All Saints' Day will be commemorated on Sunday, Nov. 5, during the service, with a Commemoration of the Faithful Departed. During this rite, we will take time to remember all members of St. John's – Vilmar who have passed away since last year's commemoration (Nov. 6, 2022), and any additional loved ones and friends who have died during that time. If you have names of individuals that you would like to have included, please send them to Monica Edeker at vilmarchurch@gmail.com, call/text 319-939-7348, or hand her a note by Thursday, Nov. 2.

Meal Packing Event

Members of St. John's are invited to join a meal packing event on Sunday, Nov. 12 from 3-5 p.m. at Algona UMC. This is the same event that some members attended last 2 years. The meals kits are supplied by The Outreach Program out of Union, Iowa. We need to let the host church know how many will be attending, so if you are interested in this project, please let Monica Edeker know.

DATE	GENERAL	MISSIONS	OTHER FUNDS
10/01/23	\$2,486.25	\$165.05	\$1,000.00 – Parsonage Repairs \$550.00 – Wells of Inspiration \$382.00 – Simply Giving
10/08/23	\$1,440.00	\$29.00	\$300.00 – Wells of Inspiration \$1,570.00 – Parsonage Repairs \$1250.00 – Moving Expenses
10/15/23	\$1,785.00	\$15.00	\$372.00 – Simply Giving \$300.00 – Parsonage Repairs \$150.00 – Moving Expenses
10/22/23	\$815.00	\$254.00	\$800.00 – Moving Expenses \$500.00 – Parsonage Repairs \$102.95 – Thrivent

VILMAR WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NOTES: NOVEMBER 2023

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible study will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 7, at 9 a.m. in the church fellowship hall. Margaret DeBower will lead the study and serve the lunch.

ALTAR COMMITTEE

The altar committee for November is Kurt and Pam Roose. We appreciate your willingness to serve in this way.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Sunshine Committee is open for the month of November. If someone could visit the shut-ins in November, please talk to Margaret DeBower.

BIRTHDAYS

Nov. 5: Butch Freeseaman, 284 Maple St., Allison, IA 50602

Nov. 25: Dennis Prange, 3304 Panther Lane, Cedar Falls, IA 50613

BINGO

Vilmar is in charge of BINGO at the Allison nursing home on Thursday, Nov. 2 at 1:30 p.m. We need volunteers to help, if you are interested in participating, contact Betty Rewerts.

KITCHEN/FOOD DONATIONS

We welcome donations of items for use in the kitchen or for serving food. We just ask that a note be left stating that it is for general use. Sometimes things are left and we don't know if it is for a special occasion or something that anyone in the kitchen can use. Thank you.

SEWING DAYS

Sewing days will be Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 20 and 21, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., each day with a potluck lunch at noon. Everyone is welcome to join—you don't need special skills, as we have jobs for everyone. **We are still in need of sheets and lightweight blankets.** Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, contact Betty Debner, Betty Rewerts, or Margaret DeBower.

LWR QUILT DONATION

On Saturday, Oct. 14, 29 quilts and 10 baby care kits were delivered to Waverly for Lutheran World Relief.

WOMEN'S BOOKLET

We are working on the 2024 yearbook and need volunteers for Altar Committee, Sunshine Committee, Women's Bible Study leaders and serving volunteers. Also if you are 75 or older, we would like to add you to our birthday greeting list. Please talk to Margaret DeBower if you can help or have information for our book.

ITEMS AVAILABLE

Check the table in the basement for items for sale – there are many new things! These items make great gifts! All money raised will be used by the group for their yearly mission donations.

WNALC NEWSLETTER

You can keep up-to-date on the news and happenings of the WNALC by logging into the Women's organization website, wnalc.org.

Serving in the Lord's House

SCRIPTURE READERS

- Sunday, Nov. 5: Reader Needed
- Sunday, Nov. 12: Reader Needed
- Sunday, Nov. 19: Reader Needed
- Wednesday, Nov. 22: Reader Needed
- Sunday, Nov. 26: Reader Needed

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

- Sunday, Nov. 5: Host Needed
- Sunday, Nov. 12: Host Needed
- Sunday, Nov. 19: Host Needed
- Wednesday, Nov. 22: Luther League
- Sunday, Nov. 26: Host Needed

If you would be willing to serve coffee and fellowship after worship or read the scripture lessons during worship service, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex or talk to Diane Hummel or Carol Seehusen.

Music Schedule

Anyone and everyone is invited to join the choir. They will practice at 9:15 a.m., on Sunday mornings, and will sing during the worship services. For more information, contact Senior Choir Director Jane Thompson at 319-415-8456.

We are always looking for special music volunteers for the Sunday morning services too. If at any time you, or someone you know, would like to provide special music (instrumental, vocal, or both!) let Jane know and she will get you on the schedule!

Attendance Report

Worship Service	Attendance	Communed
Sunday, Oct. 01:	60	n/a
Sunday, Oct. 08:	64	n/a
Sunday, Oct. 15:	57	49
Sunday, Oct. 22:	58	n/a

Remember in Our Prayers

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Mari Ann Wearda, Harold and Marlys Kruse, Bruce and Deb Johnson, Dean and Barb Westendorf, Jurene Dralle, Ellie Munis, Evalyn Nettleton, Ali Matteson, Robert Vieker, Carol Finke, Cheryl and Kayla Sankey, Jaxon Hartkopp, Pastor James Puotyual, Larry Voigts, Sandra Greenlee, Emily Martzahn, Randy Brinkman, Pastor David Craig, Barb Kelly, Pastor Rich Eddy, Paul Hughes, Wendell Debner, Helen Debner, Jerrylyn Brinkman, Michelle Miller, Todd DeGroot, Calla Clarey, Dean Daub, Bonnie Hiatt, Lollie Van Dyke, Pastor Robert Salge, Will, and Mark Green

SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN:

Lloyd Davis and Rashell Haxhijaj
Notice: Alexa Page has been removed from our service list, as she has successfully completed her 4 years in the Marine Corps. Congratulations to Alexa, and we thank you for your service to our country.

FAITHFUL DEPARTED:

Remember the Family of Joy Schueler: Joy, 87, of Allison, passed away Tuesday, Oct. 3, at the Rehabilitation Center of Allison. Visitation was held from 5-7 p.m., Monday, Oct. 9 at Woodley Funeral Home in Allison. Funeral services was held at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 10 at St. John's Lutheran Church – Vilmar in rural Greene with Pastor Christopher Staley officiating. Burial took place in the South Vilmar Cemetery.

Remember the Family of Bill Senne: Bill, 82, of Iowa Falls, passed way Saturday, Oct. 21 from a battle with cancer. Visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 3 at the Redman Funeral & Cremation Services – Aplington Chapel. A Memorial Service will be held 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 4 at the Bethel Lutheran Church in Parkersburg. Bill was a former member of St. John's – Vilmar; he was baptized and confirmed in the church.



GodSpeed Equine Event

The Vilmar group enjoyed an evening at GodSpeed Equine's barn warming event near Dallas Center recently. Two years ago some of our members helped build fences at the ranch. Last night we were able to see the progress since then – they have completed their barn, put up an indoor and outdoor arena, and have been serving many youth in the communities since then. Their next project will be to put up another building for offices, storage, caretaker quarters, bathrooms, etc.

The night started with a presentation of colors on horseback by some of the kids in the program, a meal, silent auction, and a program detailing the history and future for the organization. There was a live band, and lots of faith, fellowship, good food, and fun!

Cookbooks Available

Cookbooks are available. They are \$15 for the 1979 edition (white cover) and \$10 for the 2004 edition (green cover). Contact Margaret DeBower, Barb Wagner or Monica Edeker if interested.

Simply Giving

If you would like to enroll in Vilmar's electronic giving, contact council secretary Rhonda Edeker for the paperwork. We appreciate everyone's continued financial support of Vilmar's ministry.

Contributions

If you are not able to worship in-person with us, we encourage you to continue your tithes/offering by mailing financial gifts to the church at, St. John's–Vilmar, 16073 Keystone Ave., Greene, IA 50636.

Want More Information?

To learn more...:

About Vilmar's ministry

vilmarchurch.org

About the North American Lutheran Church

thenalc.org

About the Iowa Mission District–NALC

iowamissiondistrict.com

About the Women of the NALC

wnalc.org

To stay up to date with current activities going on at the church "like" our Facebook Page:

[Facebook.com/StJohnsVilmar](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsVilmar)

Corrections, Information

If you have corrections or announcements for Vilmar's directory, the bulletins, Heralds, or website please contact Monica Edeker at 319-939-7348, vilmarchurch@gmail.com, or send a note to the church. Everyone's communication and cooperation is very much appreciated. Thanks!

NOVEMBER 2023: St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church—Vilmar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6-7:30 p.m.: Confirmation at Diane Hummel's	2 9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline 1:30 p.m.: BINGO at Allison Rehabilitation Center	3	4 7 a.m.: Bible Study at Allison Congregational
5 <i>Daylight Saving & All Saints Sunday</i> 8:45-9:45 a.m.: Sunday School 9:15 a.m.: Choir Practice 10 a.m.: Worship with Communion 11 a.m.: Coffee and Fellowship 2:30 p.m.: Installation Service	6	7 9 a.m.: Vilmar Women's Bible Study	8 6-7:30 p.m.: Confirmation at Diane Hummel's 7:30 p.m.: Council Meeting	9 9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline	10	11 7 a.m.: Bible Study at Allison Congregational
12 8:45-9:45 a.m.: Sunday School 9:15 a.m.: Choir Practice 10 a.m.: Worship Service 11 a.m.: Coffee and Fellowship 3 p.m.: Meal Packing in Algona	13	14	15 6-7:30 p.m.: Confirmation at Diane Hummel's	16 9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline	17	18 7 a.m.: Bible Study at Allison Congregational
19 Herald Announcements Due 8:45-9:45 a.m.: Sunday School 9:15 a.m.: Choir Practice 10 a.m.: Worship Service with Holy Communion 11 a.m.: Coffee and Fellowship	20 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Sewing Day with potluck at noon	21 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Sewing Day with potluck at noon	22 7 p.m.: Thanksgiving Eve Service	23 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i> 9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline	24	25 7 a.m.: Bible Study at Allison Congregational
26 8:45-9:45 a.m.: Sunday School 9:15 a.m.: Choir Practice 10 a.m.: Worship Service 11 a.m.: Coffee and Fellowship	27	28	29 6-7:30 p.m.: Confirmation at Diane Hummel's	30 9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline	Dec. 1	2 7 a.m.: Bible Study at Allison Congregational

Deacons: Tyler Seehusen and Meredith Steere