

December 2023

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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PASTOR of St. John's-Vilmar

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## UPCOMING DEADLINES:

### Weekly Bulletins:

Thursdays at 9 a.m.

### January Herald

### Announcements:

Sunday, Dec. 17 at 5 p.m.

“Glory to God in the  
highest, and on earth peace,  
good will toward men.”  
LUKE 2:14 (KJV)

## St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church - Vilmar

16073 Keystone Ave.  
Greene, IA 50636-9163



NORTH AMERICAN  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH



**Office:**  
(319) 267-2080

**Website:**  
vilmarchurch.org

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## From the Pastor's Desk

### Dear Friends of St. John's - Vilmar:

As I pen this month's letter to you, it is Thanksgiving week and I am easily reminded of how grateful I am to be called to serve as your pastor. When God blesses, He really blesses! My heart rejoices to be in a congregation that is so faithful, kind, supportive, fun-loving, thoughtful, servant-oriented, mission driven, scripture and worship fed ... my list could go on and on and on. It is as if Christmas has already arrived!

Though Thanksgiving and Christmas are very different holidays, the giving with love and thankful hearts; acknowledging God as the source of all good gifts and Christ, himself; spending time with family and friends ... surely weave through both of them. This time of year, is full with good things to be cherished, remembered, and celebrated. I pray that each of you have a very meaningful season in your own lives, as well.

I am well aware of how hectic life can get in this season, but I hope and pray that you grace your days with an extra measure of time with the Lord. Maybe it is extra time in prayer, or listening to a special song, or reading a little more in scripture or creating a quiet space just to be ... whatever it may be, be intentional in gifting Jesus and yourself with time together. It helps prepare us to see and to receive the wonder and miracle of the birth of Jesus who became one of us that we might believe in the depth of his love, forgiveness and compassion for us. This babe in the manger saves the world one day. He is worth an extra measure of time.



**Pastor Keen**

See, **Pastor's Note:** Page 4

# Treasurer's Report

OCTOBER 2023

**Beginning Operating Balance ..... \$106,019.63**

**INCOME:**

Envelope.....\$10,540.00  
 Vanco ..... \$754.00  
 Loose Offering – Samaritan’s Purse..... \$64.05  
 October Mission – Samaritan’s Purse ...\$525.00  
 Wells of Inspirations ..... \$850.00  
 Parsonage Updates.....\$3,370.00  
 Moving Expense Donations ..... \$3,200.00  
 Misc. Income – Butler County Solid Waste.....  
 \$41.25  
 Thrivent Funds .....\$383.95  
**FROM:**  
 Sarah Hawker Fund..... \$1,419.50  
 Missions for Godspeed Equine.....\$1,096.48  
 Parsonage Updates  
 (Donations from September) ..... \$500.00  
 Thrivent for Samaritan’s Purse ..... \$100.00  
**Total Income.....\$22,844.23**

**EXPENSES:**

Pulpit Supply ..... \$750.00  
 Pulpit Supply Auto Mileage ..... \$113.32  
 Wages / Janitors ..... \$461.74  
 Wages / Director of Communications ...\$769.58  
 Payroll expenses ..... \$612.06  
 Electricity ..... \$309.36  
 Water..... \$15.50  
 Telephone ..... \$71.88  
 Workman’s Comp Insurance..... \$962.00  
 Property Maintenance – Building .....\$188.70

Sound System-Livestream  
 Troubleshooting .....\$124.12  
 Janitor Supplies..... \$20.81  
 Kitchen Supplies .....\$14.71  
 Printer Contract..... \$206.39  
 Postage .....\$57.77  
 Vanco .....\$8.19  
 Parsonage Updates.....\$2,999.53  
 Moving Expenses..... \$10,567.44  
 Sarah Hawker ..... \$1,419.50  
 Godspeed Equine .....\$1,096.48  
 TO: Thrivent.....\$383.95  
 TO: Samaritan’s Purse ..... \$689.05  
 TO: Wells of Inspiration ..... \$850.00  
**Total Expenses ..... \$22,692.08**

**Operating Balance..... \$106,171.78**

**SPECIFIED ACCOUNTS:**

Thrivent Funds.....\$3,024.54  
 Scholarships..... \$1,634.64  
 Youth Camp Fund .....\$215.00  
 Mission..... \$1,525.61  
 Samaritan’s Purse.....\$1,224.95  
 Easter/IA Youth NALC Mission Trip... \$258.00  
 Wells of Inspiration..... \$905.33  
**Specified Accounts Balance .....\$9,981.05**

**GENERAL FUND BALANCE..... \$114,959.85**

**Respectfully Submitted By:**  
 Margaret DeBower, *Treasurer*

## Christmas Schedule

**Sundays in December, 8:45 a.m.:** Christmas Program Practices  
**Sunday, Dec. 24, 6:30 p.m.:** Christmas Program and Candlelight Service  
**Monday, Dec. 25, 9 a.m.:** Christmas Worship Service



## ST. JOHN'S – VILMAR COUNCIL CAPSULE

Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023

### OPENING

The St. John's Church Council met for its regular meeting on Nov. 8. Pastor Keen gave devotions based on giving thanks and praise. Chairman Don Salge called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Jen Seehusen gave a presentation to the council about Tithely Giving – an online giving option that can be added to our website or downloaded as an app on a smartphone/tablet for a digital avenue for donations to the church/Wells of Inspiration mission project. Margaret DeBower made a motion to set up a Tithely Giving account that deposits into a new, separate church bank account at Lincoln Savings Bank for these online donations. Dale Janssen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### REPORTS

- **Secretary:** Diane Hummel made a motion to approve all the minutes as read. Dick Ulrich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Treasurer:** Warren Van Dyke made a motion to approve the report as read. Meredith Steere seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Chairman:** None.
- **Stewardship & Finance:** None.
- **Mission & Outreach:** The Thanksgiving Eve offering will be split between the NB Hot Lunch Program and BC Visions of Well-Being. The December mission offering will be used to purchase Christmas gifts for the Bremwood students. The Christmas Eve offering will be used to purchase gifts/supplies for the North Butler family/students. The Christmas Day offering will be given to the Gideons. Dale Janssen made a motion that, along with the money raised for the November mission, we will also send an additional \$1,000 from the general fund to Randy Brinkman and his family. Ron Taylor seconded it. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Worship & Fellowship:** None.
- **Deacons:** None.
- **Trustees:** Trustees will look into putting up the new curtains in the Sunday school rooms.
- **Parish Ed.:** None.
- **Director of Communications:** Monica Edeker announced that the meal packing event in Algona will be Sunday, Nov. 12.
- **Pastor:** Pastor Keen shared many thanks for all the help with moving and transitioning into the pastoral role at Vilmar. She gave an accounting of her recent pastoral activities. In October she visited 1 member and provided private communion. We are going to have a card shower for Robert Vieker during this time that he is recovering from the accident.

### OLD BUSINESS

- An accounting of recent parsonage updates was given: carpet was installed; a new back door was installed; a new solar light for the back door has been ordered; a wireless doorbell has been ordered; a new burn barrel is on the way; fire and carbon monoxide detectors are purchased and will be installed; the back door steps will be looked into when the weather is warmer.

continued on page 4

continued from page 3

**NEW BUSINESS**

- No new business.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next council meeting will be held Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. Dale Janssen made a motion to adjourn. Diane Hummel 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)	A Tyler Seehusen	P Dick Ulrich
A Barb Meyer	P Ron Taylor	P Warren Van Dyke
P Pastor Keen	P Monica Edeker	

DATE	GENERAL	MISSIONS	OTHER FUNDS
10/29/23	\$4,055.00	\$126.00	\$1,000.00 – Moving Expenses
11/05/23	\$4,025.00	\$523.00	\$382.00 – Simply Giving \$450.00 – Wells of Inspiration
11/12/23	\$2,275.00	\$756.00	\$700.00 – Parsonage Updates \$1,000.00 – Moving Expenses
11/19/23	\$945.00	\$345.25	\$372.00 – Simply Giving \$2,000.00 – Wells of Inspiration
11/22/23	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$541.00 – Thanksgiving Eve

**PASTOR’S NOTE** FROM PAGE 1

Holding him in our heart and mind, let’s us realize just how much God holds us in his hands every moment of every day! We are not alone. God is with us! Immanuel.

Blessings to you this very special season of our faith life.

**Pr. Tamara J.K. Keen**

*“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel,” which translated means, “God with us.” (Matthew 1:23)*

*“My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.” (John 10:29)*

*“Even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.” (Psalm 139:10)*

*“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalm 16:11)*

# Serving in the Lord's House

## SCRIPTURE READERS

- Sunday, Dec. 3: Carol Seehusen
- Sunday, Dec. 10: Ken DeBower
- Sunday, Dec. 17: Margaret DeBower
- Sunday, Dec. 24: Reader Needed
- Sunday, Dec. 31: Reader Needed

## FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

- Sunday, Dec. 03: Host Needed
- Sunday, Dec. 10: Host Needed
- Sunday, Dec. 17: Host Needed
- Sunday, Dec. 24: Host Needed
- Sunday, Dec. 31: 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.



JOIN ME FOR A

*Holiday Coffee Break*

Wednesday, December 13th

Open house

9:00 AM- 1:30 AM or 2:00 - 4:30 PM

Barb Wagner Home  
23592 160th St.-Greene

641-330-0093

# Christmas Caroling

Christmas caroling is just around the corner! We will meet at the church at 3:30 p.m., on Sunday, Dec. 10 to get organized and head out around 4 p.m. ALL are welcome to join in sharing the good news of Jesus' birth with music! Fellowship with refreshments will be served as we return to the church. If you know of anyone who we can carol to, please let Choir Director, Jane Thompson, know.

## 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!

## Poinsettias

If anyone would like to share a poinsettia during any of the worship services in December, bring them to the church and set them on the counter in the kitchen. Please mark your flowers so you will be able to pick them up after the Christmas Day Service.

## Attendance Report

Worship Service	Attendance	Communed
Sunday, Oct. 29:	70	57
Sunday, Nov. 5:	50	43
Installation (11/5)	59	n/a
Sunday, Nov. 12:	53	n/a
Sunday, Nov. 19:	52	48
Wednesday, Nov. 22:	42	n/a

# VILMAR WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NOTES: DECEMBER 2023

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## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible study will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 9 a.m., in the church fellowship hall. Diane Hummel will lead the study and Margaret DeBower will serve.

## ALTAR COMMITTEE

The altar committee for December is Meredith and Linda Steere. We appreciate your willingness to serve in this way.

## SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Sunshine Committee for December will be the Christmas Carolers. They will be caroling on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 3:30 p.m. – all are welcome to join!

## BIRTHDAYS

**Dec. 25:** Dean Brinkman, 13673 Camp Comfort Rd., Greene, IA 50636

**Dec. 30:** Harley Uhlenhopp, 1447 Timber Ave., Hampton, IA 50441

*If you or someone you know is 75 or older, let Margaret DeBower know.*

## BINGO

Vilmar is in charge of BINGO at the Allison nursing home on Thursday, Dec. 7 at 1:30 p.m. We need volunteers to help, if you are interested in participating, contact Betty Rewerts.

## 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.

## SEWING DAYS

The sewing committee will not be meeting for the month of December. We want to thank everyone for the donations we have received lately. They are very much appreciated. We will always accept donations. Donations are what keeps this great mission project going. Our quilts are helping people in the United States and all over the world. It is another way Vilmar is trying to share God's love to the world.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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](http://wnalc.org).

## 2024 Directory

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I will be working on the 2024 Directory in the coming weeks. I would appreciate if everyone could look over your family listings and let me know if you have any changes/corrections/updates/etc. Thanks, Monica Edeker, 319-939-7348, vilmarchurch@gmail.com, or send a note to the church or leave it in the office.

## Council Members

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Soon we will be nearing the time of year when the nominating committee will be looking for volunteers to serve on the church council. We ask that you prayerfully consider if this is a way that you'd like to serve our church. If you would be willing to be on the ballot in 2024, contact Don Salge, and he will get you for more information about the seats available.

## Tithely – Online Giving

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St. John's – Vilmar now has another, new way to make donations to the church – online giving through Tithely. If you would like to give an offering this way, you may do so by going to [www.vilmarchurch.org](http://www.vilmarchurch.org) and clicking on "Donate" in the navigation menu, fill out the form, and submit your donation to the church. Tithely also has an app that you can download to your smartphone/tablet and make donations that way. If you have questions, please talk to Monica Edeker or Jen Seehusen.

We will still be using our regular offering envelopes, as well as Simply Giving. This is just another way to expand our donations for offerings and special projects.

And as always, if you are not able to worship in-person with us, you may still continue to send your tithes/offering by mail, to the church at, St. John's–Vilmar, 16073 Keystone Ave., Greene, IA 50636.

## Mission and Outreach

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For the month of December, Vilmar's mission project will be **Bremwood Residential Treatment in Waverly**. We will be collecting Christmas gifts that will be given directly to the students on the campus. There are currently around 30 students, ages 13-17 on the campus. If you prefer to give a monetary donation, the mission team will use the funds to purchase items for you. Items need to be dropped off at the church by Sunday, Dec. 17.

### Gifts requested include:

- Gift cards (Walmart, McDonalds, Pizza Ranch, or Applebees)
- Mosaic/adult color books with colored pencils
- MP3 Players/Speakers/Cordless Headphone
- Bluetooth Speakers
- Small boom boxes/CD players
- Walkman with headphones
- Leather footballs, basketballs, volleyballs, soccer/kick balls & air pumps
- Craft kits and art supplies
- Board games and card games
- DVDs (rated G, PG, or PG13)
- Hooded Sweatshirts (adult large-2X)
- College-Logo T-shirts, long sleeved shirts or sweatshirts (adult large-2X)
- Pots & Pans
- Bath Towels
- Kitchen Towels/Dish Cloths/Hot Pads
- Plastic dishes and cups (dishwasher safe)

### CHRISTMAS MISSIONS

**Christmas Eve:** North Butler Family. The offering will be used to purchase Christmas gifts and clothes for a local North Butler family.

**Christmas Day:** Gideons. Offering will be given to Gideons, for their work to place the Scriptures into the hands of those who need God's Word the most around the world.

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## Remember in Our Prayers

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### PRAYER CONCERNS:

Mari Ann Wearda, Harold and Marlys Kruse, Bruce and Deb Johnson, Dean and Barb Westendorf, Jurene Dralle, 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, Pastor Robert Salge, Will, Mark Green, Darwin Dralle, Jamie Osterbuhr, Mary Schipper, Jean Morris, and Susan Seehusen

### SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN:

Lloyd Davis and Rashell Haxhijaj

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## Thank You

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Thank you to everyone who helped move into the parsonage. It is truly appreciated. Thank you for the lovely Installation Service and Reception - both Sundays! :) Your kindness, faith, and generosity is such a beautiful blessing. May the Lord continue to do a good work in you and through you as we reach out to the world in His love.

– Pastor Keen

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## Card Shower

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You are invited to bless Robert Vieker with your thoughts and prayers through a card shower. He is currently recuperating from leg surgery at the Rehabilitation Center of Allison. Cards may be sent to him at: 900 7th St., Allison, IA 50602.

*“The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him.”*  
*Psalm 28:7*

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## Pastoral Care

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If you need pastoral assistance or would like private communion, please contact Pastor Tamara Keen at 316-655-3306 (cell), 319-267-2080 (office), or email [keentjkk@gmail.com](mailto:keentjkk@gmail.com).

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## Notice

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In the event of a weather-related cancellation, announcements will be posted on Vilmar’s Facebook Page, KWWL, and KLMJ 104.9. If you are unsure, don’t hesitate to call.

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## Cookbooks Available

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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.

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## Want More Information?

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To learn more...:

### About Vilmar’s ministry

[vilmarchurch.org](http://vilmarchurch.org)

### About the North American Lutheran Church

[thenalc.org](http://thenalc.org)

### About the Iowa Mission District–NALC

[iowamissiondistrict.com](http://iowamissiondistrict.com)

### About the Women of the NALC

[wnalc.org](http://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)

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## Corrections, Information

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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](mailto:vilmarchurch@gmail.com), or send a note to the church. Everyone’s communication and cooperation is very much appreciated. Thanks!





Some Vilmar members enjoyed an afternoon at Algona UMC packing meals on Sunday, Nov. 12. The rice and bean meals kits were supplied by The Outreach Program out of Union, Iowa, and will be given to GoServ Global's mission work in Haiti. Pictured from left to right are: Margaret DeBower, Barb Meyer, Pastor Keen, Jason Edeker, Kimberley Edeker, Monica Edeker, Jeremy Edeker, Jim Wubbena, and Ken DeBower.



Members of Vilmar's sewing group were busy working on quilts on Tuesday, Nov. 21. They always welcome donations and helping hands! The quilts are helping people in the United States and all over the world. It is another way Vilmar is trying to share God's love to the world.

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>REMINDER: In the event of a weather-related cancellation, announcements will be posted on Vilmar's Facebook Page, KWWL, and KLMJ 104.9. If you are unsure, don't hesitate to call us!</i>						
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
8:45-9:45 a.m.: Program Practice 9:15 a.m.: Choir Practice 10 a.m.: Worship with Communion 11 a.m.: Coffee and Fellowship		9 a.m.: Vilmar Women's Bible Study	6-7:30 p.m.: Confirmation at Diane Hummel's	9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline 1:30 p.m.: BINGO at Allison Care Center		7 a.m.: Bible Study at Jurene Dralle's home
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
8:45-9:45 a.m.: Program Practice 9:15 a.m.: Choir Practice 10 a.m.: Worship Service 11 a.m.: Coffee and Fellowship 3:30 p.m.: Christmas Caroling			6-7:30 p.m.: Confirmation at Diane Hummel's 7:30 p.m.: Council Meeting	9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline		7 a.m.: Bible Study at Jurene Dralle's home
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
8:45-9:45 a.m.: Program Practice 9:15 a.m.: Choir Practice 10 a.m.: Worship with Communion 11 a.m.: Coffee and Fellowship Herald Announcements Due			6-7:30 p.m.: Confirmation at Diane Hummel's	9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline		7 a.m.: Bible Study at Jurene Dralle's home
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
8:45-9:45 a.m.: Program Practice 9:15 a.m.: Choir Practice 10 a.m.: Worship Service 11 a.m.: Coffee and Fellowship 6:30 p.m.: Christmas Eve Program and Candlelight Service	<i>Merry Christmas!</i> 9 a.m.: Christmas Day Worship Service with Holy Communion			9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline		7 a.m.: Bible Study at Jurene Dralle's home
<b>31</b>	<b>Jan. 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
No Sunday School – Christmas Break 9:15 a.m.: Choir Practice 10 a.m.: Worship Service 11 a.m.: Coffee and Fellowship	<i>Happy New Year!</i>		6-7:30 p.m.: Confirmation at Diane Hummel's	9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline		7 a.m.: Bible Study at Jurene Dralle's home

**Deacons:** Dick Ulrich and Ron Taylor