

January 2022

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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

UPCOMING DEADLINES:

Weekly Bulletins:

Thursdays at 9 a.m.

February Herald Announcements:

Monday, Jan. 24 at 5 p.m.

NOTICE: In the event of a weather-related cancellation, announcements will be posted on Vilmar's Facebook Page, KWWL, and KLMJ 104.9.

... Surely I am with you
always, to the very end of the
age." MATTHEW 28:20

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church - Vilmar

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Message from the Bishop

Greetings in the name of our God as we reflect on the celebration of our Lord's birth at Christmas and His glorious return when the Father will call us all home to be with Him forever!

The purpose of this letter is to thank you for your good and faithful ministry, and for your partnership in the work of the Gospel. It is my deepest and most sincere desire and prayer that this season will be one in which we offer a strong and encouraging word of hope to a world that is in desperate need of what only our Lord Jesus can give.

There is little doubt that we are living in challenging times. Our world continues to be threatened by a global pandemic that appears to be with us for an uncertain amount of time. Our nations continue to be torn by politics that tend to separate and divide rather than unify and lead to peace. The uncertainty of the stock markets, the threat of increased inflation, the tension that exists between some of our world's strongest nations — these are but a few of the many reasons why people are concerned for their futures and find little reason to hope for the generations that will follow.

At the same time, as followers of Jesus, we know that the troubles of this world are only of this world. As real as they are and as challenging and troubling as they might be, they do not and never will have the final say. The final say belongs to God. The final word is always and only His. And the Word He has given to us, in His Son, Jesus Christ, is one in which we find real and lasting hope.

In his letter to the believers in Galatia, the apostle Paul points to the confidence we can have in our God who knows and sees and responds to our deepest needs in a timely manner. "When the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights as sons." (Galatians 4:4-5)

Our hope is in Jesus. Our security is in Christ. We have been redeemed, bought back, justified, and made right with God in what has been accomplished for us in His Son.

See, **MESSAGE:** Page 2

Christmas and the new year offers a word of needed and lasting hope to all who are willing to place their trust in Jesus.

It is always helpful, in troubling times, to remember the context of the world into which our Lord Jesus was born. People were fearful of the political powers. Although there was a Roman peace, it was one brought about by a singular power instead of a shared unity. Countries were divided. Families were being torn apart. Racism was real. Life was fragile. There was as much anxiety and fear in Jesus' day as there is in ours. Although much has changed in our world in the past 2,000 years, little has changed when it comes to this world's troubles and the need people have for a real and lasting word of hope.

Over the past several months, as travel restrictions have eased up, I have had the privilege and joy of visiting some of our mission districts and congregations. There is no doubt that our pastors have been challenged. There is no denying that the past year and a half have been a struggle and that the resulting impact of the pandemic has reduced the number of people in worship. There is also little doubt that God is alive and at work, and no denying that the lives of people for whom our Lord Jesus gave His life on the cross continue to be transformed.

My encouragement to churches is to not become too concerned with what might appear to be a decline in the impact we are having through our ministries. The deceiver wants nothing more than for us to focus on the numbers and percentages that would lead us to become discouraged. Rather, our calling is to fix our eyes on Jesus and to remember that there is nothing in this world that can stop the power of the life-giving message offered in Him. Continue to love your people. Find new ways to make the connections that are so vital to our faith and life. Fulfill the ministry to which you have been

called. The Church belongs to Jesus. He is Lord. He knows the challenges we face. Be encouraged by His presence in your ministry and His promise to give hope. The promise and presence of the Christ child, born in Bethlehem's manger, is as needed and relevant today as it was when our Lord was born. As the familiar Christmas hymn puts it, "The hopes and fears of all the years" are still being met and fulfilled in the Word made flesh, God's only Son, Jesus Christ.

As I reflect on the events of this past year and the work of our congregations and ministry partners, I cannot help but give thanks for the many ways in which God has been blessing us from the start. The NALC is now in its 12th year as a church body. We have missionaries and ministries in more than 10 countries around the world. We have a vision for our future. We have a renewed energy and focus for our work. We have the guidance of God's Holy Spirit. We have the gift of forgiveness and life eternal in God's only Son. And we have the purpose our Lord has given us in His commission, to "make disciples of all nations," and the promise of Emmanuel, "God with us" in all things. For these reasons, and many more, we are and will always be a people of hope.

As a result, let us be bold in our witness and confident in the words we share. We carry a message our world needs to hear, and we follow the One who has called and claimed us for eternity. Thank you for your faithful witness. Thank you for the partnership we share in Christ. Thank you for persevering in what has been another challenging year. I look forward to the year ahead and to continuing the work that is ours in Jesus. It is a joy and an honor to serve as your bishop. Know that my prayers are with each of you.

In Christ,

Dan Selbo, *Bishop of the NALC*

ST. JOHN'S – VILMAR COUNCIL CAPSULE

Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021

The St. John's Church Council met on Wednesday, Dec. 8. Ron Salge called the meeting to order. Diane Hummel gave devotions based on Luke 2:14

REPORTS

- **Secretary:** Read and approved.
- **Treasurer:** Read and approved.
- **Chairman:** No report.
- **Stewardship & Finance:** No report.
- **Mission & Outreach:** The December projects for missions are the Gideons and a North Butler family.
- **Worship & Fellowship:** Diane Hummel reported that the Sunday School children were working on a Christmas Eve program. It will be held on Friday, Dec. 24 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Deacons:** No report.
- **Trustees:**
- **Parish Ed.:** No report.
- **Director of Communications:** No report.

OLD BUSINESS

- Ron reported that he is corresponding with someone to correct the problem with our speaker system.

NEW BUSINESS

- It was decided that our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan. 23.

NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be held Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2022 at 7 p.m.

CLOSING

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Diane Hummel, *Worship & Fellowship*

MEMBERS PRESENT

P Ron Salge (President)

P Evan Steere

P Jason Edeker

P Brenda Boden (Treasurer)

P Diane Hummel

A Julie Eberline

A Barb Wagner (Secretary)

A Tyler Seehusen

P Don Salge

A Barb Meyer

P Jeff Seehusen

A Warren Van Dyke

DATE	GENERAL	MISSIONS	SIMPLY GIVING	OTHER
11-28-21	\$2,255.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$945.00
12-05-21	\$6,350.00	\$160.25	\$382.00	\$0.00
12-12-21	\$4,390.00	\$256.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
12-19-21	\$3,345.00	\$402.00	\$372.00	\$0.00
12-24-21 (Eve)	\$1,857.00	\$1,574.95	\$0.00	\$0.00
12-25-21 (Day)	\$0.00	\$477.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
12-26-21	\$2,575.00	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Nov. Treasurer's Report

Operating Balance..... \$62,302.56

INCOME:

Envelope\$5,800.00
Vanco..... \$410.00
Nov. Loose – Bremwood.....\$11.10
Nov. Mission – Bremwood\$752.00
Oct. Mission – Samaritan's Purse Postage ...\$126.00
Mission Investment Interest..... \$29.21
Thanksgiving Eve Offering \$945.00
From: Thrivent – Bremwood \$100.00
Samaritan's Purse – Postage\$540.00

Total Income.....\$8,713.31

EXPENSES:

Pulpit Supply..... \$1,750.00
Pulpit Supply Auto Mileage\$259.17
Pulpit Supply Housing Allowance..... \$400.00
Wages.....\$831.15
Worship Supplies – Printed Materials\$22.03
Supplies – Janitor.....\$62.82
Insurance – Workman's Comp\$905.00
Bank Charges \$105.00
Electricity..... \$312.27
Telephone.....\$71.06
Printer Contract\$152.10
Vanco.....\$4.69
Repairs & Maintenance – Speakers.....\$1,235.74
Repairs & Maintenance – Water.....\$12.80
Charitable Donation – Samaritan's Purse... \$666.00
TO: Thanksgiving Eve\$945.00
TO: Bremwood \$863.10

Total Expenses\$8,597.93

Operating Balance..... \$62,417.94

Thrivent Funds \$2,281.74
Scholarships\$1,818.75
Youth Camp Fund..... \$815.00
Feed My Starving Children \$1,376.25
Mission\$5,964.43
Operation Christmas Child\$172.14
Bremwood.....\$864.24
Thanksgiving Eve..... \$945.00
Easter–IA Youth NALC Mission Trip.....\$258.00

General Fund Balance\$76,913.49

Submitted By:

Brenda Boden, *Treasurer*

Serving in the Lord's House

SUNDAY, JAN. 2

Bible Teacher: Rev. David Craig

Organist: Diane Hummel

Reader: Jacque Craig

Fellowship Hosts: Jeff and Carol Seehusen

Notes: Holy Communion at the rail

SUNDAY, JAN. 9

Bible Teacher: Rev. David Craig

Organist: Diane Hummel

Reader: Reader Needed

Fellowship Hosts: Dean and Kay Brinkman

SUNDAY, JAN. 16

Bible Teacher: Rev. David Craig

Organist: Barb Wagner

Reader: Reader Needed

Fellowship Hosts: Host Needed

Notes: Processional Holy Communion

SUNDAY, JAN. 23

Bible Teacher: Rev. David Craig

Organist: Barb Wagner

Reader: Reader Needed

Fellowship Hosts: Potluck

Notes: Annual Meeting

SUNDAY, JAN. 30

Bible Teacher: Rev. David Craig

Organist: Diane Hummel

Reader: Reader Needed

Fellowship Hosts: Host Needed

Music Schedule

ANY ONE is invited to join the choir. They sing on Sunday mornings during the worship service, and hold practices on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. and on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m., in the sanctuary. For more information, contact Senior Choir Director Jane Thompson.

Mission and Outreach

January Mission Spotlight

For the month of January, our mission offering will be collected for **Retrieving Freedom**, a non-profit organization dedicated to training service dogs to help veterans and children with Autism.

Retrieving Freedom's training program isn't designed to train each dog to follow a certain program, but instead, dogs are trained to meet the needs of their specific recipient. The dogs go through more than two years of training to meet the standards for a successful placement. They help improve the lives of the people they are placed with, by assisting with specific chores and performing tasks associated with their training. They also offer companionship and unconditional love.

RFI has two locations: Waverly, Iowa, and Sedalia, Missouri. We will be using the mission offering to purchase supplies for the Waverly facility, as well as give a financial contribution for the training expenses. For more information about Retrieving Freedom, visit www.retrievingfreedom.org.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of Vilmar's mission projects this year – whether you made financial contributions, purchased supplies, attended a mission event, or simply offered prayers for the organizations – THANK YOU! Our church is truly mission-driven because of everyone's generosity.

Mission Ideas!

While we have a great list of organizations that we have supported the past years, we are always looking for new projects to feature and lift up to the congregation for your mission support. The mission committee will be meeting soon to set their giving plan for 2022, if you have an idea to consider – or if you'd like to join us! – please contact Barb Meyer, Mission and Outreach Chairperson.

Vilmar Women's Fellowship

JANUARY 2022

Bible Study

- Rebecca Circle will meet Tuesday, Jan. 11 at 7 p.m., at the church. Margaret DeBower will lead the Bible study, and JoAnn Taylor will serve the lunch.

- Rachel Circle will meet Wednesday, Jan. 12 at 9 a.m., at Diane Hummel's home.

Altar Committee

The altar committee for January is Jeff and Carol Seehusen. We appreciate your willingness to serve in this way. It is your responsibility to find a replacement if you cannot attend a service. Thank!

Sunshine Committee

Sunshine people for the month of January are Diane Salge and Diane Hummel.

Birthdays

Jan. 23: Jean Morris, 625 Church St., Bristow, IA 50611

Jan. 26: Lavone Frerichs, 20228 160th St., Greene, IA 50636.

Jan. 29: Lucy Steere, 19782 135th St., Greene, IA 50636.

Jan. 29: Darwin Dralle, 18079 110th St., Greene, IA 50636.

Sewing Days

Sewing days will be Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 17 and 18 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., with a potluck at noon. Everyone is welcome to join—you don't need special skills, as we have jobs for everyone.

Items Available

Please check the table in the narthex for items for sale. These items make great gifts or are useful for personal use. All money raised will be used by the group for their yearly mission donations.

Annual Reports Needed; Annual Meeting Date Set

All annual reports are due Friday, Jan. 14, 2022 at noon. If at all possible, send them digitally to Monica Edeker through email at vilmarchurch@gmail.com. If you need, they may also be placed in the basket in the office.

THE 2022 ANNUAL MEETING will be held SUNDAY, JAN. 23 at approximately 12:15 p.m., following a potluck after the morning worship service.

The following reports are needed:

Monica Edeker – 2020-21 Staff List; Luther League Report; 2022 Directory; Parochial/Statistical Report; NALC Report; Iowa Mission District Report

Ron Salge – Annual Meeting Agenda;
Letter from the Chairman

Brenda Boden – Treasurer's Report;
Proposed Budget

Barb Wagner – 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes;
2021 Financial Statement;
Women's Fellowship Report

Don Salge – Stewardship and Finance Report

Warren VanDyke – Brotherhood Report

Barb Meyer – Mission and Outreach Report

Julie Eberline – Parish Education Report

Kevin Edeker – Cemetery Report

Diane Salge – Memorial Fund Report

Diane Hummel – Worship/Fellowship Report

Nominating Committee – 2022 Ballot

2022 Directory

I am working on the 2022 Directory! Please you check your family listings. If you have any changes, please email them to me at vilmarchurch@gmail.com or leave a note in the basket in the church office. Or, if you have questions about your listing, please give me a call, 319-939-7348. Thank you to everyone for your help with this project; I appreciate it! – Monica Edeker

Attendance Report

<u>Worship Service</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Communed</u>
Sunday, Dec. 12:	56	
Sunday, Dec. 19:	44	39
Friday, Dec. 24:	155	
Saturday, Dec. 25:	54	49
Sunday, Dec. 26:	40	

Volunteers Needed

Altar Committee: Volunteers are still needed for March. The committee members will need to set-up and clean-up for communion distribution, as well as change the altar paraments, when needed.

Sunshine Committee: Volunteers are still needed to fill the months of August and October.

If you'd be willing to serve on the Altar or Sunshine Committees, please let Margaret DeBower know.

Council Members: We are looking for volunteers to serve on the church council. If you would be willing to be on the ballot in 2022 to serve the church, contact Ron Salge, and he will get you for more information about the seats available.

Scripture Readers: We are looking for readers for Sunday mornings. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Diane Hummel (Worship Chairperson) will contact you with the readings each week. We will be printing the New King James version in the bulletins.

Fellowship Volunteers: We are looking for people to serve coffee and fellowship following the worship services on Sunday morning. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Children's Sermon Volunteers: If anyone would like to lead a children's sermon on Sunday mornings, please let Monica Edeker or Diane Hummel know.

Please prayerfully consider helping with these opportunities to serve our church family!

Christmas Carolling Note

We had 10 very enthusiastic Christmas Carolers representing Vilmar Church on Sunday, Dec. 19. We visited Robert Dralle; Elm Springs, where Joy Schueler had everyone out to listen; Allison Rehab Center for everyone and Harold and Marlys Kruse. Then we stopped at Dean Westendorf's and then travelled to Mari Ann Wearda's. We had a nice lunch after at the church. We want to thank everyone we visited and that welcomed us this Christmas Season. – Jane Thompson, Choir Director

Portals of Prayer

The January–March Portals of Prayer booklets are available in the narthex for anyone to take.

Remember in Our Prayers

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Mari Ann Wearda, Marlys Kruse, Bruce and Deb Johnson, Dean Westendorf, Robert and Jurene Dralle, Ellie Munis, Amy Cooper, Evalyn Nettleton, Joy Schueler, Ali Matteson, Robert Vieker, Cheryl Sankey, Pastor Dave Steffenson, Carol Finke, Kirk Tanner, Jimmy Rogers, Mary Lou Meyer, Pastor Jordan Long, Donna Hardy, Jaxon Hartkopp, Kayla Sankey, Pastor David Schafer, Pastor James Glesne, Pastor James Puotyual, Courtney Debner, Harold Kruse, and David Burrier.

SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN:

Dalton Fehlberg, Lloyd Davis, Rashell Haxhijaj, Randy Wildeboer, and Alexa Page.

Pastoral Care

During this time if you need assistance of any kind, please let Council President, Ron Salge (641-330-0456) or Director of Communications, Monica Edeker (319-939-7348) know, and they will arrange for your needs.

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 Barb Wagner for the paperwork. We appreciate everyone's continued financial support of Vilmar's ministry.

Contributions

If you are not comfortable, or cannot 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.

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 during this time is very much appreciated. Thanks to everyone for helping out.

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

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)

JANUARY 2022: St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church—Vilmar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:45-9:45 a.m.: Sunday School 9:30 a.m.: Choir Practice 10 a.m.: Worship with Communion 11 a.m.: Coffee and Fellowship			7 p.m.: Choir Practice	9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline		7 a.m.: Bible Study at Robert Dralle's Home
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:45-9:45 a.m.: Sunday School 9:30 a.m.: Choir Practice 10 a.m.: Worship 11 a.m.: Coffee and Fellowship		7 p.m.: Rebecca Circle at the Church	9 a.m.: Rachel Circle at Diane H. 6 p.m.: Choir Practice 7 p.m.: Council Meeting	9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline	<i>Annual Report Due to Monica Today!</i>	7 a.m.: Bible Study at Robert Dralle's Home
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:45-9:45 a.m.: Sunday School 9:30 a.m.: Choir Practice 10 a.m.: Worship with Communion 11 a.m.: Coffee and Fellowship	9 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Sewing Day	9 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Sewing Day	7 p.m.: Choir Practice	9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline		7 a.m.: Bible Study at Robert Dralle's Home
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:45-9:45 a.m.: Sunday School 9:30 a.m.: Choir Practice 10 a.m.: Worship 11 a.m.: Potluck 12:15 p.m.: Annual Meeting	<i>February Herald Announcements Due to Monica Today!</i>		7 p.m.: Choir Practice	9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline		7 a.m.: Bible Study at Robert Dralle's Home
30	31	Feb. 1	2	3	4	5
8:45-9:45 a.m.: Sunday School 9:30 a.m.: Choir Practice 10 a.m.: Worship 11 a.m.: Coffee and Fellowship			7 p.m.: Choir Practice	9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline		7 a.m.: Bible Study at Robert Dralle's Home

Deacons: Jeff Seehusen and Tyler Seehusen