

January 2021

CONTACT INFORMATION: Ron Salge,

PRESIDENT of St. John's-Vilmar Cell Phone: 641-330-0456

Monica Edeker,

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS of St. John's-Vilmar

Cell Phone: 319-939-7348 Email: vilmarchurch@gmail.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

reasurer's Report3
Council Capsules4-6
Annual Reports4
Herald Survey7
Women's Fellowship7
Mission & Outreach8
Prayer Concerns8
Announcements8-9
Serving in the Lord's House9
Calendar 10

UPCOMING DEADLINES:

Weekly Bulletins:

Thursdays at 9 a.m.

February Herald Announcements:

Sunday, 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.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church – Vilmar 16073 Keystone Ave. Greene, IA 50636-9163 f/StJohnsVilmar

Office: (319) 267-2080

Website: vilmarchurch.org

Email: vilmarchurch@gmail.com

CONGREGATIONAL WORKSHOP

n Sunday, Jan. 31, members of Vilmar are encouraged to take part in a Congregational Workshop at Vilmar, led by Iowa Mission District Dean, Rev. Chris Staley. The intention of this workshop is for members of the congregation, along with the call committee, to begin to piece together Vilmar's Congregational Profile.

The workshop is estimated to take 4-5 hours. (The council will discuss the start time at their upcoming meeting, and details will be posted on the church's website and Facebook page.) This may seem like a big time commitment—and it is—but this will be a good investment and benefit for the future ministry at Vilmar. The information from the workshop will help to lay the groundwork for calling a pastor who can serve Vilmar for many years to come.

To begin this process, I ask that each of you take time to read the

Bible passages noted in the box, and after reading each one, consider the following questions:

- What is God saying about His call to mission and ministry?
- What insights come from this passage regarding the ministry of the congregation/the community of disciples?
- What insights come from this passage regarding the ministry of the ordained pastor?
- How am I—how are we—being challenged by this passage to live and serve differently?
- In light of this passage, how might

ministry at St. John's-Vilmar be renewed and restored?

PASSAGES TO STUDY

Matthew 29:17-20 Mark 16:15 Luke 24:44-53 John 10:7-18 John 20:20-23 John 21:15-19 Acts 6:1-7 Galatians 1:11-17 Galatians 5:13-25 Ephesians 4:11-16 1 John 4:1-7

You are encouraged to start thinking about these things, as well as items such as who we are here at Vilmar—our foundation, roots, and history, our family, our community, our rural location, the qualities needed in our next pastor, etc.

See, Workshop: Page 2

In light of the upcoming workshop, I would like to share the following with you all:

As I was organizing papers in the church office the other day, I found this poem buried within a folder marked "items to save." I don't know why it caught my eye, and I don't know who put it in that folder, but I couldn't help but think how fitting it is for all of us right now—not just with our church, but how true it is of our own lives and the world today. The poem reads as follows:

ANSWERS

By Helen Inwood

Answers to prayers,
Come in various ways,
Sometimes in minutes,
Sometimes in days.
And some take years
To fully unfold
The harvest of love
And blessings they hold.

Answers to prayers,
Come in various forms,
Sometimes in sunlight,
Sometimes in storms.
And some blossom late,
But each one will flower –
Have faith and wait!

As I was reading that, it reminded me of this verse in Galatians, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9)

Both seem like perfect, daily reminders for us. With whatever may be going on in our lives—job changes, health changes, stress, difficulties caring for loved ones—whatever the case may be, we must remain faithful and trust God's timing. The same can be said of our world with the ongoing pandemic and social unrest we see today.

While it can be difficult to have patience with all these things, we should wait with hope and spend time getting to know God. As Diane Hummel shared with us during the Christmas service, God seeks out the quiet heart, and we need to seek to know Christ and worship Him. We can confidently build our relationship with Jesus, because we know that He will never stop loving us, He will always be with us, and He will give us strength for whatever comes our way.

The same can be said for our church as we move forward with the ministry and good news at St. John's, and begin the search for our next pastor. We have to remember how incredibly blessed we are, and take time to daily thank and praise God for our faithful members and friends, and all the gifts He gives us. I have truly appreciated everyone's devoted commitment and dedicated service to our church. We should be joyful and give thanks in all circumstances, as we work to live according to the Bible and teach it to others, because we know that with faith in Christ—and patience—God will provide for our needs according to his perfect timing.

With all that being said, I would again encourage you all to take some time to read the Bible passages and consider the questions posed on page 1. If anyone has an item that they would like mentioned during the workshop, please bring them with you on Sunday, Jan. 31. If you are not comfortable bringing the question or concern forward, or you cannot be at the meeting, feel free to get your information to any council member, and they will make sure each item is addressed during the workshop.

I look forward to the positive, uplifting discussion we will have at the workshop, as we discuss what God has planned for us in this place that we call home and family—St. John's–Vilmar. Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd. We must follow his lead and diligently seek him, as we seek to call the next shepherd of our congregation.

-Monica Edeker, Director of Communications

Treasurer's Report

NOVEMBER 2020 Operating Balance	\$5,399.20
INCOME:	
Envelope	\$7.780.00
Vanco	
Nov. Mission – Bremwood	
Nov. Mission – Loose	
Thanksgiving Eve	
Sound System	
From Thrivent for Bremwood	
Thrivent Funds Deposit	
From Mission – Little Lambs	
From Mission – Samaritan's Purse	•
From Missions	
Total Income	\$13,/54.//
EXPENSES:	
Pastor Wages	\$1.940.27
Pastor Pension	
Pulpit Supply	
Pulpit Supply – Auto Mileage	
Wages	
Supplies – Janitor	
Supplies – Postage	
Supplies – Office	
Electricity	
Telephone	
Printer Contract	
Vanco	
LP	
Repairs – Elevator Maintenance	
Mission Payments	φ)13.00
Little Lambs	\$603.64
Samaritan's Purse	
Appalachian Project	
Hope Ministries	
Portable Communion Boxes	
TO Thanksgiving Eve	
TO Sound System	
TO This are the second	
TO Thrivent	
Total Expenses	\$12,921.66
Operating Balance	\$6,232.31

Treasurer's Report

Thrivent Funds	\$1,438.29
Scholarships	
Youth Camp Fund	
Mission	
Feed My Starving Children	\$1,376.25
Operation Christmas Child	\$702.61
Bremwood	\$670.00
Sound System	\$3,695.66
Thanksgiving Eve	\$50.00
Easter – IA Youth NALC Mission Trip	\$225.00
General Fund Balance	\$30,130.67

2020 FINANCIAL RECAP

2020 Approved Budget	\$140,786.62
Monthly offerings needed to meet budget	\$11,732.22
Amount needed to meet budget	
thru Nov. 30, 2020	\$129,054.40
Monthly Offerings as of Oct. 31, 2020	\$85,895.00
Current budget deficit	-\$43,159.40

Respectfully Submitted By:

Brenda Boden, Treasurer

Attendance Report

DATE	ATTENDANCE
11-29-20	14 + Online
12-06-20	17 + Online
12-13-20	18 + Online
12-20-20	18 + Online
12-24/25-20	13 + Online
12-27-20	21 + Online

^{*}Those attending during the livestream include the pastors/lay leaders, organists, deacons, readers, special music persons, and other volunteers.

Pastoral Care

During this time that Vilmar is without a pastor, 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.

ST. JOHN'S - VILMAR COUNCIL CAPSULE

Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2020 | 7 p.m.

On Nov. 24, 2020, the St. John's church council met with Pastor Staley, Iowa Mission District Dean. Pastor Staley shared a message from Philippians 2. Pastor Staley and the council spent much time in discussion about going forward, but also reflecting on the past two years. Pastor Staley discussed the idea of setting up a congregational workshop where members could share their thoughts on who we are as a congregation and what is important to us as a congregation.

The annual meeting will be held on Jan. 17, 2021, and a congregational workshop on Jan. 24, 2021. Both of these dates are tentative pending any changes in COVID-19 restrictions.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Barb Wagner, Secretary

P Evan Steere	P Jason Edeker
P Diane Hummel	P Monica Edeker
A Isabella Seehusen	P Don Salge
P Jeff Seehusen	P Warren Van Dyke
	P Diane Hummel A Isabella Seehusen

Annual Reports and Meeting

All annual reports are due Friday, Jan. 8 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 mailed to the church or placed in the basket in the office. The 2021 Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, Jan. 17 at approximately 11 a.m., following the church service in the sanctuary.

The following reports are needed:

Monica Edeker – 2019-20 Staff List; Parish Education Report; Luther League Report; 2020 Directory

Ron Salge - Annual Meeting Agenda; Letter from the Chairman

Brenda Boden – Treasurer's Report; Proposed Budget

Barb Wagner – 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes; 2020 Financial

Statement; Women's Fellowship Report

Warren Van Dyke – Brotherhood Report

Rhonda Edeker – Mission and Outreach Report

Kevin Edeker – Cemetery Report

Helen Debner – Memorial Fund Report

Diane Hummel – Worship and Fellowship Report

Nominating Committee – 2020 Ballot

Office Staff/Volunteers – 2020 Parochial/Statistical Report;

NALC Report; Iowa Mission District Report

2021 Directory, Corrections and Announcements

Directory:

We will begin working on the 2021 Directory soon, so we ask that you check your family listings for corrections.

Other Items: If you have corrections, announcements, or prayer concerns for Vilmar's bulletins, Heralds, or website please let us know. If you have changes for any of these items, please contact Monica Edeker at 319-939-7348, vilmarchurch@gmail.com, or leave a note in the basket in the office. Thanks for your help with these projects!

ST. JOHN'S - VILMAR COUNCIL CAPSULE

Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020 | 7:30 p.m.

The St. John's-Vilmar church council met for their regular meeting on Dec. 9, 2020. Chairman Ron Salge called the meeting to order, and Rhonda Edeker gave a devotion.

REPORTS

- **Secretary:** Secretary report was given by Barb Wagner. There were no corrections or additions, and was approved as read.
- **Treasurer:** Treasurer's report was given by Brenda Boden. The general fund is currently at \$29,536.32 and \$3,695.66 has been given in donations/memorial gifts for the livestream system.
- Chairman: Ron Salge had no chairman report.
- Stewardship & Finance: No report.
- Mission & Outreach: Rhonda Edeker reported the following mission donations: Butler County Visions of Well-Being, \$200; Bremwood, \$670; Hope Ministries in Des Moines, \$250 to help with meals for the homeless; Appalachian Project in Kentucky, \$250. The December missions will be dispersed to the Gideons. The church also adopted a North Butler family for an extra Christmas Project. The Christmas Eve/Day service will be divided between the radio stations: Christian Crusaders, Life 101.9 and American Family Radio 88.9.
- Worship & Fellowship: Diane Hummel has prepared the Christmas Eve/Day worship. This service will be a virtual service and will be taped on Sunday, Dec. 13, 2020. The service will be aired on Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24 at 6:30 p.m. and Christmas Day, Friday, Dec. 25 at 9 a.m. These services will be available to view at any time. The organ and piano were also recently tuned.
- Deacons: No report.
- Trustees: No report.
- **Parish Ed.:** Monica reported that since in person worship and Sunday school has been suspended, she continues to send written correspondences with Sunday School children and families.
- **Director of Communications:** Monica prepared a report for the council to look at the cost analysis of Herald mailings. The council took no action at this time, and was tabled until next month. Monica will prepare another notice/survey to include in the January Herald.

OLD BUSINESS

- The new livestream system has been ordered from Butler County Computers and will be installed in the near future.
- Julie Eberline and Jean Morris have offered to shampoo the carpeting, as well as start a thorough cleaning of the parsonage.
- Ron Salge did fall spraying for dandelions on the lawns and south cemetery. Warren VanDyke, Kevin Edeker, and Jason Edeker continued parsonage grounds cleanup, trimming trees, and filling in holes in the lawn.

continued on page 6

NEW BUSINESS

- A letter was read from Pastor Martin stating that the records of births, baptisms, confirmation, marriages and deaths were complete upon his leaving, and the responsibility of that record keeping was now given back to the church.
- The nominating committee for 2021 elections is Ron Salge, Kurt Roose, Wayne Dralle and Harlan Martzahn. The offices needed for the 2021 ballot include: one Deacon, Mission & Outreach chairperson, Parish Education chairperson, possibly one Trustee, one Bartels Retirement Community delegate, two delegates for the Iowa Mission District Convocation, and one delegate and one alternate for the NALC Convocation.
- The council discussed re-opening for in-person worship services. After discussion Jeff Seehusen made a motion to tentatively set a re-open date for in-person worship for Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021 pending any COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines changes, with the requirement of masks. Sunday School, Confirmation, Little Lutherans and any youth programs will continue to be suspended for the time being. Rhonda Edeker seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Pastoral Care Committee will be set up to offer in-home communion one time per month. Individuals interested in helping with this ministry may contact Rhonda Edeker.
- The 2021 church budget will be reviewed by Brenda Boden, Don Salge and Ron Salge, and brought to the council for approval in January.
- A letter was received from Cathedral Crafts Inc. concerning the resealing of the stained glass windows. Council tabled this action until spring of 2021.

CLOSING

The next council meeting will be held Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2021 at 7 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Barb Wagner, Secretary

MEMBERS PRESENT

P Ron Salge (President)

P Evan Steere

P Brenda Boden (Treasurer)

P Diane Hummel

P Monica Edeker

P Barb Wagner (Secretary)

A Isabella Seehusen

P Don Salge

P Rhonda Edeker P Jeff Seehusen P Warren Van Dyke

DATE	GENERAL	MISSIONS	SOUND	CHRISTMAS	NB FAMILY
Nov. 20, 2020	\$1,020.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Nov. 22, 2020	\$360.00	\$140.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Nov. 29, 2020	\$1,495.00	\$70.00	\$2,695.66	\$0.00	\$0.00
Dec. 19, 2020	\$1,270.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
Dec. 20, 2020	\$4,795.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$25.00
Dec. 27, 2020	\$8,272.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Simply Giving	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

INFORMATION NEEDED

Vilmar's Church Council is discussing the delivery method of the church's monthly newsletter, The Herald. In order for us to make a cost-effective decision, please respond and let us know how you would prefer to receive it each month. We will let everyone know, following the January meeting, how we are going to proceed. Please mark all that apply.

IF YOU SUBMITTED A SURVEY PREVIOUSLY. YOU DO NOT NEED TO RESEND.

NAME:
☐ USPS MAIL: I would like to continue to receive the newsletter via mail.
Address change (if applicable):
☐ EMAIL: I would like to receive the newsletter electronically.
Email address:
\square PICK UP: I would like to pick up my newsletter at the church on Sunday morning.
☐ REMOVE: I would prefer not to receive the newsletter in any format.
PLEASE SEND YOUR RESPONSE BY TUESDAY, JAN. 12 TO:
St. John's – Vilmar, 16073 Keystone Ave., Greene, IA 50636; email us at vilmarchurch@gmail.com;

or place your completed form in the basket in the Narthex. Thank You!

NOTE: If you do not respond, the council may assume you would like to be removed from the list

Birthdays

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

If you or someone you know is 75 or older, let Margaret DeBower know so she can add them to the list.

Women's Fellowship

The Women's Circles will not be meeting for Bible Study during the month of January. A decision will be made later on for their plans for February.

NALC Online Resources:

The NALC Website: thenalc.org The Iowa Mission District-NALC: iowamissiondistrict.com

Womens Organization–NALC: wnalc.org

Remember in Our Prayers

PRAYER CONCERNS: Diane Osier, Mari Ann Wearda, Faber Miller, Marlys Kruse, Deb Johnson, Dean Westendorf, Jurene Dralle, Harley Uhlenhopp, Ellie Munis, Amy Cooper, Evalyn Nettleton, Joy Schueler, Verlene Senne, Ali Matteson, Robert Vieker, Cheryl Sankey, Pastor David Schafer, Robert Dralle, Pastor Dave Steffenson, Darwin Dralle, Carol Finke, Kirk Tanner, Bob Kanter, Bishop John Bradosky, Pastor Mel Harris, Dan Martzahn and family, Harlan Martzahn, Sandra Greenlee, Suzanne Miller, Jimmy Rogers, Susan Seehusen, Marty Cooper, Mike Swick, and Mary Lou Meyer.

SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN: Col. Bryan Opperman, Dalton Fehlberg, Lloyd Davis, Rashell Haxhijaj, Randy Wildeboer, and Alexa Page.

COVID-19 PRAYERS: Let us remember all the staff and employees in our area care centers, assisted living facilities and hospitals, as well as Butler County Public Health and all other local businesses as everyone is working through the COVID-19 pandemic. Let us pray for all those in our state, in our country, and throughout the world. May our God and Father heal the sick, strengthen those who care for them, and help us all to persevere in faith.

Look Who's Here

Proud parents, Jeffrey and Amanda Uhlenhopp, are happy to announce the birth of their daughter Everly Jean who was born on Nov. 19, 2020, at Iowa Specialty Hospital in Clarion. Everly was 7 pounds, 4 ounces at birth, and 20 inches long. Everly completes her happy family and joins her sister Katherine. Grandparents are Michael and Christine Uhlenhopp, and great-grandparents are Harley and Althea Uhlenhopp. Everly is Michael and Christine's second grandchild and Harley and Althea's ninth great-grandchild.

Mission and Outreach

January Mission Spotlight:

During the month of January, our mission spotlight will be GoServ Global. Funds that are donated for Missions on Sunday mornings will be given to them to assist with their mission work at the orphanages in Les Cayes, Haiti. If you'd like more information about GoServ Global, visit goservglobal.org or talk to Jason Edeker.

Vilmar "adopts" local family

The Vilmar Mission and Outreach Committee adopted a local North Butler family for the Christmas season. Thanks to everyone's continued support, we were able to provide each of the three children with snowboots, two pairs of shoes, snowpants, shirts, pants, socks, books, games, toys and Christmas treats.

Vilmar donates to Bremwood

On Thursday, Dec. 17, members from the Vilmar's Mission and Outreach Committee delivered Christmas gifts to the students of Bremwood Residential Center in Waverly. With the generous donations from our members, Vilmar was able to provide: toys, games, sport balls, earbuds, books, toiletries, combs, brushes, hair ties, school essentials, activities, crafts, paints, kitchenware, towels, bedding, blankets, wastebaskets, laundry baskets, batteries, socks, fishing poles, home items and other presents for the kids at the center.

A Bremwood representative told us that the past year has been difficult with COVID guidelines in place for the staff and students, but they are very appreciative of this surprise donation of Christmas gifts. The center had not received hardly any toiletries since March, and had only begun accepting donations a couple months ago—with the proper quarantine procedures in place for the items brought in. She told us the donation is a great blessing for the kids, and the items will be put to good use throughout the year, and thanked us for reaching out.

Serving in the Lord's House

SUNDAY, JAN. 3:

Pastor: Rev. Jack Miller Organist: Diane Hummel Reader: Jane Thompson

SUNDAY, JAN. 10:

Pastor: Rev. Jack Miller Organist: Diane Hummel

Reader: Kurt Roose

SUNDAY, JAN. 17:

Pastor: Rev. Paul Weeg Organist: Barb Wagner Reader: Julie Eberline

SUNDAY, JAN. 24:

Leader: David Burrier Organist: Barb Wagner Reader: Carol Seehusen

SUNDAY, JAN. 31:

Leader: Edeker Family **Organist:** Diane Hummel **Reader:** Jason Edeker

Special Music

Thanks to all the people who have done special music in the past year. The January schedule currently has many opportunities available. If you are comfortable to provide music on a Sunday, please let Choir Director Jane Thompson know.

Thank You

Thank you to all my Vilmar family and friends who remembered me this past year, and especially at Christmastime, with notes, cards, and phone calls. I really appreciate everyone remembering me, and I will cherish all the kind words and love expressed to me. I hope everyone had a blessed holiday. Thank you all so much, Joy Schueler

Volunteer Opportunities

- Council Members: The nominating committee is looking for volunteers to serve on the church council. The open positions include: one Deacon, Mission & Outreach chairperson, Parish Education chairperson, possibly one Trustee, one Bartels delegate, two delegates for the Iowa Mission District Convocation, and one delegate and one alternate for the NALC Convocation.
- Call Committee: We will also be looking for members to serve on the call committee soon.

If you would be interested in volunteering to serve our church in either of these ways, please contact Ron Salge at 641-330-0456.

- Altar Committee: We are looking for volunteers for a couple of months next year for the Altar Committee. The altar committee is in charge of changing the paraments, setting up for communion, and cleaning up after communion. The months still needed are April and June.
- Funeral Committee: We are also looking for someone to be a co-chair of the Funeral Committee. This person will be in charge of the committee, and will assist in funeral luncheon arrangements and such.

Please prayerfully consider if you would be willing to serve the church in either of these areas. If you are interested, or would like more information, please contact Margaret DeBower at 319-269-1306 or 641-775-3413.

Offering and Simply Giving

During this time if you cannot, or are not comfortable, worshiping in-person, 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. If anyone would like to enroll in Vilmar's automatic electronic giving program, please contact council secretary Barb Wagner at any time for the paperwork.

NAL	JANUARY 2021: St.	John's Evang	elical Luthera	John's Evangelical Lutheran Church–Vilmar	nar	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					-	2
10 a.m.: Worship Service with Holy Communion led by Rev. Jack Miller	4	ĸ	••	9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline	8 Annual Reports Due Today	•
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10 a.m.: Worship Service led by Rev. Jack Miller			7 p.m.: Church Council Meeting	9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10 a.m.: Worship Service with Holy Communion led by Rev. Paul Weeg 11 a.m.: Annual Meeting				9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Herald Announcements Due 10 a.m.: Worship led by David Burrier 31 10 a.m.: Worship Service led by the Edeker Family TBD: Congregational Workshop				9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline		

Deacons: Jeff Seehusen and Isabella Seehusen