


April 2021

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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UPCOMING DEADLINES:

Weekly Bulletins:

Thursdays at 9 a.m.

May Herald Announcements:

Sunday, April 25 at 5 p.m.

“Be still, and know that
I am God! I am exalted
among the nations, I am
exalted in the earth.”

– PSALM 46:10

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

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Congregational Workshop Summary

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Congregational Workshop on Sunday, Feb. 28. There were 35 people in attendance, and everyone's thoughts, insights, concerns, and conversation were appreciated, as the church began to lay the groundwork of their Congregational Profile.

The afternoon started with a prayer and introduction from Iowa Mission District Dean Pastor Chris Staley. The members broke into small groups for Bible study on the following passages: 1 John 4:1-7, Matthew 29:17-20, John 10:7-18, John 21:15-29, John 20:20-23, Acts 6:1-7, Galatians 1:11-17, Galatians 5:13-25, and Ephesians 4:11-16. Each group discussed and then shared with the larger group the following: 1. What is God saying about His call to mission and ministry? 2. What insights come from this passage regarding the ministry of the congregation/the community of disciples? 3. What insights come from the passage regarding the ministry of the ordained pastor? 4. How am I – how are we – being challenged by this passage to live and serve differently? and 6. In light of this passage, how might ministry in our congregation be renewed and restored? Pastor Staley also provided guidance throughout the workshop.

The afternoon continued with discussion about the ministry at Vilmar and how the congregation is built on close-knit relationships with a family-structure, and pulls together for one another. There was discussion about the current reality of the church's finances, property, and expectations for the future ministry. The group shared numerous uplifting projects of outreach and hope, and other traditions the church already undertakes. Additional thoughts, ideas, programs, and activities were brought forward and discussed. The conversation continued by looking at the positive work from previous pastors' calls, as well as the struggles that the congregation had with them.

The conversation evolved and dug deep into both those positive and negative experiences, to help understand exactly the kind of qualities and traits the next pastor must possess to be a good, valuable, and productive fit at Vilmar.

See, **Workshop:** Page 2

Call Committee Notes & Updates

- Following the Congregational Workshop, on Sunday, Feb. 28, the Call Committee met briefly to discuss their next steps. Diane Hummel was elected chairman of the committee. The group will meet Tuesday, March 2 at 7 p.m. to begin work on the Congregational Profile, as was advised by Rev. Chris Staley. Members present included Ron Salge, Diane Hummel, Julie Eberline, Monica Edeker, Marc Seehusen, and Barb Wagner.

- The Call Committee met Tuesday, March 2 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Call Committee Chairman, Diane Hummel opened the meeting with prayer and devotions based on Ephesians 3. The NALC Call Process Manual was given to each member. The committee worked through the Congregational Profile questions, and spent time discussing each of the answers. Monica will begin creating a profile video about the church to accompany the written profile. Diane will contact Rev. David Wendel to set up a conference call with him, as is required in the call process manual. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Members present included Ron Salge, Diane Hummel, Doug Schueler, Monica Edeker, Marc Seehusen, and Barb Wagner.

WORKSHOP FROM PAGE 1

Pastor Staley advised that the congregation carefully build their profile to reflect, "Who we are, what we want, and how we live." The afternoon continued with conversation about the next steps forward for the church. There was discussion about what needs to be done before the next pastor is called to serve, as well as what is standard procedure in the process.

The day concluded with the group compiling a list of priorities for the next shepherd of Vilmar. Collectively, the group came up with the following: visitation/regular contact, good sermons (preach the Gospel), community-minded, can relate to all ages, teach confirmation, good steward of the property, communion frequency, provide counseling/guid-

- The Call Committee met on Thursday, March 18 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting opened with devotions and prayer led by Call Committee Chairman, Diane Hummel. The group finalized Vilmar's Congregational Profile and previewed the profile video. At 7 p.m., the group met with Pastor David Wendel of the NALC via conference call. Pastor Wendel explained the call process, and answered questions. The members then spent some time discussing the information and different options for the church. Members present included: Diane Hummel, Barb Wanger, Ron Salge, Julie Eberline, and Monica Edeker.

- Vilmar's completed profile questionnaire and video were submitted to Pastor Wendel at the NALC office and Pastor Chris Staley, Dean of the Iowa Mission District on Friday, March 19. The information was uploaded to the NALC's website on Tuesday, March 23, and can be accessed at <https://thenalc.org/call-process/>

The information will be sent out to all NALC pastors following Easter, when the monthly pastoral vacancy list is sent. The video is available to watch on YouTube, and all the information is available on Vilmar's website as well.

ance, appreciates tradition, part of the family, growing the flock, singer/musician, tech savvy, good with administration, committed, and supportive/involved with the youth. Each member present then chose their top five priorities, and the lists were given to the call committee to look through to begin to compile the results.

The day ended with the singing of the doxology and a prayer by Pastor Chris Staley. Thanks to everyone who was able to be a part of this good investment for the future ministry at Vilmar. The church is looking forward to calling a pastor who can serve the needs of our Vilmar Family for many years to come.

ST. JOHN'S – VILMAR COUNCIL CAPSULE

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

The St. John's Church Council met for its regular meeting on March 10, 2021 immediately following the evening Lenten Service. Chairman Ron Salge called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. Secretary Barb Wagner gave the minutes of the February council meeting. There were no corrections or additions and the minutes stood approved as read. Due to the absence of Treasurer Brenda Boden no financial report was given.

REPORTS

- **Chairman:** No report by the chairman was given.
- **Stewardship & Finance:** No report.
- **Mission & Outreach:** Barb Meyer read a thank you from Hope Ministries from Des Moines, our March mission partner. Hope provides food, clothing, shelter, and life recovery programs for men, women, and children out of seven ministry centers around the Des Moines area. The Lenten offerings will be given to Lutheran World Relief. Barb is welcoming any suggestions for special projects for future mission offerings.
- **Worship & Fellowship:** Diane Hummel reported that David Craig will be conducting services on Sunday morning and Lenten services through Easter, with the exception of Good Friday, which will be a lay service. Easter morning service will be held at 9 a.m. only. There will not be an Easter breakfast. Diane also reported that the Call Committee will be meeting with Rev. David Wendel on March 18 about the next step(s) of the call process.
- **Deacons:** The deacons will put an informational sheet on the bulletin board behind the pulpit with general instructions and guidelines for setting up for Holy Communion.
- **Trustees:** No report.
- **Parish Ed.:** Julie Eberline reported that Sunday School classes resumed on Sunday, March 7. Students and teachers were excited to be back to learning and being together. Social distancing will continue in the classrooms.
- **Director of Communications**
 - Monica Edeker has put together a Congregational Profile video, which was advised by the Iowa Mission District Dean, Rev. Chris Staley. The video will be sent to the NALC website and will be available for viewing after March 18. This video gives a short overview of information and history of Vilmar, including photographs of the church, parsonage and church property.
 - The council reviewed COVID-19 guidelines that have been in place. Barb Wagner made a motion that masks are now be RECOMMENDED and not required during the worship services/events on the premises and that social distancing is still recommended while attending services/events on the church grounds. Motion was seconded by Jason Edeker. Council approved. Holy Communion will be processional; hand sanitizer will be available; the offering plate will remain in the back of the church and will not be passed. Coffee and fellowship after the worship service is tentatively set to resume on Sunday, April 11. Worshipers are asked to respect each other's choice to wear/not wear masks.

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- Monica gave a report on the Herald mailings. This past month, 97 Heralds were emailed, 60 were printed and mailed and 20 were picked at the church. A mailbox has been put in place in the narthex for those choosing to pick up the Herald. Portals of Prayer are also available. The bulk mailing permit account will be closed and the remaining \$46 on account will be refunded.
- Palm branches for Palm Sunday have been ordered.
- The renewal for Portal of Prayer booklets will be renewed in August. At that time the number of booklets ordered will reviewed and changed if needed.
- David Voigts asked that the Voigts Family Reunion be removed from the 2021 calendar. He has requested the reservation date of June 12, 2022 for their next family reunion in the Fellowship Hall.
- Information was received concerning putting together a new Vilmar Pictorial Directory. The council felt there was no need for a new directory at this time.
- A thank you was read from Susanne Cooper expressing their families gratitude for prayers offered on behalf of their sons COVID recovery and continuing prayers for her sister, Brenda Schmadede, who is going through cancer treatments.
- A letter was received from the organ tuner requesting an updated contract for yearly services. He has asked to raise contract price to \$580/year from the current \$400. It was decided more information was needed as to what services will be provided under the new contract. Diane will look into getting that additional information. Council tabled discussion to April meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- The new sound system is in place and seems to be working well. Those who have been listening online have given positive feedback.

NEW BUSINESS

- Dust control: Contracts were received from AP Fertilizer for \$420 (400'x18' 2x/year); Niemeyer for \$0.65/ft. (547' was applied in 2020). Since contracts are not due until later April, council tabled discussion and a decision will be made at the April meeting.
- Church cleanup: A date for church grounds cleanup will be determined at April meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

CLOSING

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Barb Wagner, *Secretary*

MEMBERS PRESENT

P Ron Salge (President)	A Evan Steere	P Jason Edeker
A Brenda Boden (Treasurer)	P Diane Hummel	P Julie Eberline
P Barb Wagner (Secretary)	P Tyler Seehusen	A Don Salge
P Barb Meyer	P Jeff Seehusen	P Warren Van Dyke

Serving in the Lord's House

THURSDAY, APRIL 1

Maundy Thursday Service at 7 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. David Craig

Organist: Barb Wagner

Music: Senior Choir – “The Upper Room”

Notes: Holy Communion

FRIDAY, APRIL 2

Good Friday Tenebrae Service at 7 p.m.

Lay Leader: Vilmar Members

Organist: Diane Hummel

Music: Choir Quartet, “The Old Rugged Cross/
There's Room at the Cross For You”

SUNDAY, APRIL 4

Easter Sunday Service at 9 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. David Craig

Organist: Diane Hummel

Reader: Ron Salge

Music: Senior Choir – “Alive!”

Notes: Holy Communion

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

Pastor: Rev. David Craig

Organist: Diane Hummel

Reader: Jeff Seehusen

Special Music: Open

Fellowship Host: Diane Hummel

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

Pastor: Rev. David Craig

Organist: Barb Wagner

Reader: Barb Meyer

Special Music: Open

Notes: Holy Communion

Fellowship Host: Open

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

Pastor: Rev. David Craig

Organist: Barb Wagner

Reader: Monica Edeker

Special Music: Open

Fellowship Host: Open

New Birth Day

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Christ. It is the birthday of the King. The angels were sent to proclaim it. The shepherds spread the good news – the Messiah, Jesus Christ, was born! That was the King's birthday.

At Easter we proclaim a new birthday. Not the birthday of the church, that comes in seven weeks. Easter is the new birthday of mankind. Christ is resurrected. He is Risen Indeed! Sin has been atoned for. Death has been defeated!

Mary Magdalene first, then the travelers to Emmaus, then those in the Upper Room. New birth sprang from faith in the crucified and risen Savior. Death had lost its sting. New birth, forever birth, was proclaimed. Rejoice! Christ is risen! New birth is given!

Submitted By:

Rev. David Craig, *Guest Pastor*

Easter Lilies

We welcome Easter lilies to help beautify our sanctuary for Easter Sunday. If you would be willing to share a lily with us, please bring it to the church by Saturday, April 3 (the day before Easter). You may leave them in the narthex of the church, and we will arrange them throughout the front of the church. Please mark them with your name, so you can collect your's after the worship service. Thank you!

Special Music Notes

- The Senior Choir will be done for the season after Easter. If at any time anyone would like to provide special music beginning April 11 through the summer months, please let Senior Choir Director Jane Thompson know.

- Thank you, choir members and accompanists, for your hard work, and for sharing and praising the Lord's word with song and music this past year!
– Jane

Vilmar Women's Fellowship

APRIL 2021

Birthdays:

- April 11:** Vera Kraft, 1103 Short St.,
Clarksville, IA 50619
- April 16:** Robert Vieker, 18248 Keystone Ave.,
Allison, IA 50602
- April 18:** Mr. Richard Kraft, 1103 Short St.,
Clarksville, IA 50619

If you or someone you know is 75 or older, and would like to be added to the birthday list, please let Margaret DeBower know.

Altar Committee:

- The altar committee for April is Ken & Margaret DeBower. May is Ron & Diane Salge. We appreciate your willingness to serve in this way. Remember it is up to you to find your replacement if you discover a conflict in your schedule.
- We are in need of volunteers to serve as the June Altar Committee. Volunteers are in charge of changing the altar hangings, care of altar linens, communion preparation and care of communion ware. If interested, please contact Margaret DeBower.

Bible Study:

Vilmar Women's Fellowship will resume Bible Study on Tuesday, April 13 at 7 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. We will continue with our Study of Philippians. We are working Lesson 7, "Maturity in Christ." Margaret DeBower will lead the study. We will not serve lunch, so it is suggested that you bring your own drink.

Sunshine Visitors:

Sunshine person for the month of April is Betty Rewerts.

WNALC Newsletter:

Keep up-to-date on the news and happenings of the WNALC from around the country by logging into the Women's organization website, wnalc.org.

Mission and Outreach

Lenten Offering:

Vilmar's Lenten Offering will be given to Lutheran World Relief (LWR). LWR tackles global poverty by helping people adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being. They provide aid in emergencies and help families restore their lives; partner with communities to build and grow rural economies; and break the cycle of poverty, so families and communities can thrive.

Easter Loose Offering:

The loose offering from the Easter Sunday service will be put into our fund for the Iowa Mission District – NALC Youth Mission Trip. The district currently does not have a trip scheduled for this summer, but the funds will be saved until they can safely plan a trip for our youth to go on.

April Mission Spotlight:

During the month of April, Vilmar's Mission and Outreach Team will be collecting financial donations to be put toward the yearly North Butler Scholarship Program. Each year, Vilmar provides a one-time \$500 scholarship to one boy and one girl from the graduating class of NB High School.

Community Groups

- LIFT (Ladies In Fellowship Together) will resume meeting at St. James Lutheran in Allison. The group will meet the second and fourth Tuesdays in April. There is no set time, but you are encouraged to join the group any time from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will not be a potluck, however you may bring your own sack lunch, or the group may choose to go out to eat.

- The Men's and Women's Community Bible Study/Prayer/Discipleship/Coffee group will resume meeting at the Allison Congregational Church at 7 a.m. on Saturday, April 10. The group meets every Saturday. For more information, please contact Robert Vieker.

DATE	GENERAL	MISSIONS	LENT	VANCO
2-17-2021	\$50.00	\$125.00	\$100.00	\$172.00
2-21-2021	\$1,035.00	\$220.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2-24-2021	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$259.00	\$0.00
2-28-2021	\$1,657.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3-03-2021	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$240.00	\$172.00
3-07-2021	\$1,695.00	\$60.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3-10-2021	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$0.00
3-14-2021	\$1,400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$172.00
3-17-2021	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$345.00	\$0.00
3-21-2021	1,335.00	\$2.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Offering

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. 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.

Thank You

THANK YOU to the kind, caring, and generous angel for the surprise gift we received for cleaning the church and parsonage. It brightened our day, and we appreciate you thinking of us! –Jean Morris and Julie Eberline

Attendance Report

DATE	ATTENDANCE	COMMUNED
2-28-2021	41	N/A
3-03-2021	25	N/A
3-07-2021	51	42
3-10-2021	26	N/A
3-14-2021	47	N/A
3-17-2021	25	N/A
3-21-2021	62	50
3-24-2021	32	N/A

Mowing Volunteers

There is a sing-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthax for mowing volunteers. Volunteers will need to mow both the church and parsonage grounds this year.

Remember in Our Prayers

Prayer Concerns:

Mari Ann Wearda, Marlys Kruse, Deb Johnson, Dean Westendorf, Robert and Jurene Dralle, Harley Uhlenhopp, Ellie Munis, Amy Cooper, Evalyn Nettleton, Joy Schueler, Ali Matteson, Robert Vieker, Cheryl Sankey, Pastor Dave Steffenson, Carol Finke, Kirk Tanner, Bob Kanter, Pastor Mel Harris, Suzanne Miller, Jimmy Rogers, Susan Seehusen, Mike Swick, Mary Lou Meyer, Brenda Schmadeke, Monte Allan, Pastor Jordan Long, Dick Ulrich, Scott Korte, Donna Hardy, Pastor Paul Nelson, Dean Uhl, Melissa Hovenga, Bruce Johnson, and Billy Klingenberg.

Service Men and Women:

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

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.

APRIL 2021: St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church—Vilmar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
				9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline 7 p.m.: Maundy Thursday Service led by Rev. David Craig	7 p.m.: Good Friday Service led by Vilmar Lay Leaders	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9 a.m.: Easter Sunday Worship Service with Holy Communion led by Rev. David Craig			6-7:30 p.m.: Little Lutherans & Confirmation	9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline		7 a.m.: Community Bible Study and Coffee at Allison Congregational Church
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:45-9:45 a.m.: Sunday School 10 a.m.: Worship Service led by Rev. David Craig	9 a.m. - 4 p.m. LIFT at St. James 7 p.m.: Vilmar Women's Fellowship Bible Study		6-7:30 p.m.: Little Lutherans & Confirmation 7:30 p.m.: Church Council Meeting	9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline		7 a.m.: Community Bible Study and Coffee at Allison Congregational Church
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:45-9:45 a.m.: Sunday School 10 a.m.: Worship Service with Holy Communion led by Rev. David Craig			6-7:30 p.m.: Little Lutherans & Confirmation	9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline		7 a.m.: Community Bible Study and Coffee at Allison Congregational Church
25	26	27	28	29	30	May 1
May Herald Announcements Due 8:45-9:45 a.m.: Sunday School 10 a.m.: Worship Service led by Rev. David Craig	9 a.m. - 4 p.m. LIFT at St. James		6-7:30 p.m.: Little Lutherans & Confirmation	9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline		7 a.m.: Community Bible Study and Coffee at Allison Congregational Church

Deacons: Ron Salge and Jason Edeker