

May 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:

Treasurer's Report 2
 Council Capsules 3-4
 Serving in the Lord's House 5
 Attendance Report..... 5
 Women's Fellowship 6
 Thank Yous..... 6
 Prayer Concerns..... 6
 Mission & Outreach..... 7
 Announcements 7
 Calendar..... 8

UPCOMING DEADLINES:

Weekly Bulletins:

Thursdays at 9 a.m.

June Herald Announcements:

Sunday, May 23 at 5 p.m.

LUKE 19:10

For the Son of Man came to seek
and to save the lost.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church - Vilmar

16073 Keystone Ave.
Greene, IA 50636-9163



Office:
(319) 267-2080

Website:
vilmarchurch.org

f /StJohnsVilmar

Email: vilmarchurch@gmail.com

Of Sheep and Fish

Note: *Rev. David Craig is scheduled to lead the Sunday worship services at St. John's - Vilmar through July, and offered to provide newsletter articles each month. The following is his message for May.*

Jesus said to His disciples, "I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). Jesus also said to Peter, "Tend My sheep." (John 21:16) We have two distinct commands in these verses. First is to evangelize, to become "fishers of men." Second is to feed and care for the sheep of Christ's flock. Who is entrusted with these commandments? Everyone who is a Christian is commissioned to do so.

How do these directions apply to us? Whenever we read our Bibles, we must ask ourselves that simple question, "How does this apply to me?" Biblically speaking, fish are lost souls, those who don't know Christ as Savior. Those who are sheep are those who have believed in Christ and now need tending and feeding to make them strong and healthy. The people of Christ's church are dually commanded to both evangelize and feed.

Statistics show a plummeting of the number of people who identify themselves as Christians and of that number those who act upon that profession by reading God's Word and faithfully attending to the preaching of the Word. America has shifted to a secular nation where a minority of people profess Christ as Savior and many of those who do fail to demonstrate any faith in Him.

What does this mean for the local church? It means simply that we must realize that every one of our neighbors, friends, and relatives who do not profess Christ as Savior are doomed to everlasting hell. We need to become serious about the command to be fishers of men. We need to witness to others about the grace of God and the only means of salvation, faith in Jesus Christ.



Rev. David Craig

See, **Pastor's Note:** Page 5

Treasurer's Report

FEBRUARY 2021

Operating Balance..... \$28,042.01

INCOME:

Envelope \$5,614.00
 Vanco..... \$354.00
 Feb Missions –World Vision \$375.00
 Feb Missions – Loose..... \$20.00
 Mission Investment Interest..... \$29.20
 From: Thrivent for Missions – World Vision ..\$100.00
 From: Sound System..... \$3,695.66
 From: Missions (for sound system) \$920.01
 From: GoServ Global \$893.00
 Thrivent Funds Deposit..... \$697.95
 Lent Offering \$359.00

Total Income..... \$13,057.82

EXPENSES:

Pulpit Supply.....\$600.00
 Pulpit Supply Auto Mileage \$246.63
 Wages.....\$831.15
 Supplies/Janitor \$38.30
 Supplies/Worship \$205.51
 Supplies/Postage..... \$55.63
 Supplies/Business \$26.73
 2020 Tax Preparation \$85.00
 Electricity..... \$70.50
 Telephone..... \$71.67
 Printer Contract \$209.50
 Vanco.....\$2.44
 Repairs/Bldg \$263.14
 LP \$858.13
 NALC 5% of 2020 Budget..... \$6,446.95
 Sound System Upgrade..... \$4,615.67
 Mission Payment to GoServ Global \$893.00
 To Missions – World Vision \$495.00
 To Thrivent \$697.95
 To Lent \$359.00

Total Expenses..... \$17,071.90

Operating Balance..... \$24,027.93

Thrivent Funds \$2,042.14
 Lent \$359.00
 Scholarships \$2,268.75
 Youth Camp Fund..... \$965.00
 Feed My Starving Children \$1,376.25
 Mission \$10,555.18
 World Vision \$495.00
 Operation Christmas Child \$153.61
 Bremwood..... \$1.14
 Easter–IA Youth NALC Mission Trip..... \$225.00

General Fund Balance \$42,469.00

Treasurer's Report

MARCH 2021

Operating Balance..... \$24,027.93

INCOME:

Envelope \$14,650.00
 Vanco..... \$354.00
 March Missions – Hope Ministries \$50.00
 March Missions – Loose \$102.00
 From: Thrivent for Missions – Hope..... \$100.00
 Iowa City Children's Hospital..... \$200.00
 Misc. Income – Cookbooks \$40.00
 Thrivent Funds Deposit..... \$2,030.95
 Lent Offering \$720.00

Total Income..... \$18,246.95

EXPENSES:

Pulpit Supply..... \$1,200.00
 Pulpit Supply Auto Mileage \$290.32
 Wages.....\$831.15
 Work Comp. Insurance \$211.00
 License/Permits \$277.00
 Supplies/Postage..... \$81.55
 Supplies/Office..... \$16.56
 Electricity..... \$485.21
 Telephone..... \$71.25
 Printer Contract \$209.50
 Vanco..... \$4.19
 Repairs/Bldg \$14.96
 Repairs/Water \$12.80
 LP \$850.26
 To Missions – Hope Ministries \$252.00
 To Thrivent \$2,030.95
 To Lent \$720.00
 To Iowa City Children's Hospital..... \$200.00

Total Expenses..... \$7,758.70

Operating Balance..... \$34,516.18

Thrivent Funds \$3,973.09
 Scholarships \$2,268.75
 Youth Camp Fund..... \$965.00
 Feed My Starving Children \$1,376.25
 Iowa City Children's Hospital..... \$200.00
 Mission \$10,555.18
 Hope Ministries \$252.00
 Lent– Lutheran World Relief \$359.00
 World Vision \$495.00
 Operation Christmas Child \$153.61
 Bremwood..... \$1.14
 Easter–IA Youth NALC Mission Trip..... \$225.00

General Fund Balance \$56,060.20

Respectfully Submitted By:

Brenda Boden, *Treasurer*

ST. JOHN'S – VILMAR COUNCIL CAPSULE

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

The St. John's Church council met for its regular meeting on April 14, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. Diane Hummel opened the meeting with devotions. Chairman, Ron Salge, called the meeting to order.

REPORTS

- **Secretary:** Secretary, Barb Wagner, gave the minutes of the March council meeting. There were no additions or corrections noted and would stand approved as read.
- **Treasurer:** Brenda Boden gave a review of the financial report. Currently the operating balance is \$34,516.18. A CD at Lincoln Savings Bank, designated for stained glass window repair, will mature on April 19, 2021. Council decided to renew the \$4,019.85 CD at the best rate on the renewal date.
- **Chairman:** Nothing to report.
- **Stewardship & Finance:** Nothing to report.
- **Mission & Outreach:** Barb Meyer reported that a \$200 donation was designated and sent to the University of Iowa Children's Hospital in Iowa City. February mission donations were sent to World Vision for \$495. March mission funds were sent to Hope Ministries in Des Moines for \$252. Lenten offering was sent to Lutheran World Relief for \$1,374. A thank you was read from Little Lambs Day Care thanking St. John's for their continued support with needed supplies and monetary donations. During the month of April, Vilmar's Mission and Outreach Team will be collecting donations to be put toward the yearly North Butler Scholarship Program. Each year a one-time \$500 scholarship is given to one girl and one boy from the graduating class. The scholarships for 2021 will be awarded on May 19 and will be presented by board chairman, Ron Salge. The annual Butler County Relay For Life will be held at the Butler County Fairgrounds on July 9. In conjunction with Relay For Life, June 6, 2021 has been designated as HOPE Sunday at Vilmar. Individuals will be able to purchase and decorate luminaries in memory or in honor of loved ones who have experienced cancer. More information will become available on purchasing luminaries in the near future.
- **Worship & Fellowship:** The council discussed Pastor David Craig's job description while serving Vilmar as a supply pastor. After discussions, Brenda Boden made a motion that Pastor Craig be hired for a three month increment for June, July, and August. During this time Pastor Craig will visit homebound members of St. John's. Warren VanDyke seconded the motion. Motion carried. Ron Salge and Diane Hummel will visit with Pastor Craig about his responsibilities and provide a list of members who he may wish to contact for visitation/communion. Pastor Craig will be paid \$150/week plus mileage.
- **Deacons:** Nothing to report.
- **Trustees:** A leaking water valve was replaced in the basement. A leak in the downstairs bathroom shower will be looked into. A report from the DNR was read, and any issues will be addressed. Warren will contact Jensens to put rock around the church on the parking area and driveways. Kurt Menken offered his services to paint and caulk the stained glass windows.

continued on page 4

- **Parish Ed.:** Julie Eberline reported that Parish Education recently presented Bibles to Finn Seehusen and Alivia Ufford during a recent worship service. The Parish Ed balance is \$867.91.
- **Director of Communications:** A yearly, state inspection was done on the elevator. There were no concerns with the elevator and passed inspection. Herald reports are now being either mailed out, emailed or picked up at the church. This new distribution seems to be going well. Virtual services continue to be offered online each week. Comments continue to be positive and appreciated. Children’s sermons during worship were discontinued due to COVID-19 restrictions. At this time council decided that children’s sermons could now resume.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Sound System:** The new video system is now in place and seems to be working well. Those who have been listening online have given positive feedback. It has been brought to council’s attention that some individuals have noticed an echo during in person worship. The issue will be looked into.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Dust Control:** A contract for dust control application was given to Niemeyer. The dust control application will be applied two times a year for 547’.
- **Church Cleanup:** A cleanup day for church and parsonage grounds is still to be determined.
- A letter requesting sponsorship of a PreK-6th grade Little League ball team was received from organizers of the program. Council discussed and declined to do a sponsorship.

NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be held Wednesday, May 12, 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)	P Evan Steere	P Jason Edeker
P 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

DATE	GENERAL	LENT	MISSIONS	OTHER
3-24-21	\$250.00	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$102.95 (Thrivent)
3-28-21	\$7,770.00	\$0.00	\$90.00	\$200.00 (U of I Hospital)
4-1 & 2-21	\$920.00	\$275.00	\$0.00	\$182.00 (Vanco)
4-4-21	\$4,505.00	\$20.00 (Easter)	\$33.00	\$20.00 (Memorial)
4-11-21	\$3,545.00	n/a	\$100.00	\$0.00
4-18-21	\$3,055.10	n/a	\$0.00	\$0.00
4-25-21	\$1,075.00	n/a	\$100.00	\$0.00

Serving in the Lord's House

SUNDAY, MAY 2

Pastor: Rev. David Craig
Organist: Diane Hummel
Reader: Ken DeBower
Fellowship Hosts: Warren and Lollie Van Dyke
Notes: Holy Communion

SUNDAY, MAY 9

Pastor: Rev. David Craig
Organist: Diane Hummel
Reader: Carol Seehusen
Fellowship Hosts: Kenny and Helen Debner
Notes: Mother's Day

SUNDAY, MAY 16

Pastor: Rev. David Craig
Organist: Barb Wagner
Reader: Julie Eberline
Fellowship Hosts: Host Needed
Notes: Holy Communion

SUNDAY, MAY 23

Pastor: Rev. David Craig
Organist: Barb Wagner
Reader: Ron Salge
Fellowship Hosts: Host Needed
Notes: Graduates recognized

SUNDAY, MAY 30

Pastor: Rev. David Craig
Organist: Barb Wagner
Reader: Brenda Boden
Fellowship Hosts: Host Needed

Scripture Readers Notice

Pastor Craig is preaching on a series he wrote, so we will not be following the three-year lectionary for the next few months. He will provide Diane Hummel (Worship Chairperson) with the readings each week, and she will let you know what they are so you can prepare for the lessons on Sunday. The lectern Bible is NRSV, and that will also be the version printed in the bulletins each week.

Special Music Notes

We are looking for individuals/groups to provide special music for the Sunday services from May through August. If you or someone you know would like to provide special music, please let Senior Choir Director Jane Thompson know.

Attendance Report

Worship Service	Attendance	Communed
Palm Sunday, 3-28:	..... 47	..... n/a
Maundy Thursday, 4-1	.. 33	..... 33
Good Friday, 4-2:	..... 32	..... n/a
Easter Sunday, 4-4:	..... 92	..... 76
Sunday, 4-11:	..... 53	..... n/a
Sunday, 4-18:	..... 54	..... 49
Sunday, 4-25:	..... 47	..... n/a

PASTOR'S NOTE FROM PAGE 1

Second, we need to be more diligent in tending God's flock. When sheep go astray, we can't ignore their absence from the flock. We need to go out into the hills and the valleys and bring them back into the fold. We also need to hold sheep accountable for being part of the flock. Shepherds will break one leg of a sheep that frequently strays and then carry it on his shoulders until the break heals. Then the sheep is again allowed to join the flock, but if it continues to stray it becomes the shepherd's supper. It is no longer part of the flock.

We cannot just sit and lament about the decline of interest in Christ among people in general and the ongoing absence of church members. We have a commission from Christ to be both fishers and shepherds. Our interest in men's souls must become active to change things and not be resigned to say, "That's the way it is." We must act on our biblical directive, not for us alone, but for all who face eternal consequences for their disinterest in Christ.

Submitted By:
Rev. David Craig, *Guest Pastor*

Vilmar Women's Fellowship

MAY 2021

Birthdays

- May 1:** Barb Westendorf, 20217 190th St., Allison, IA 50602
- May 10:** Evalyn Nettleton, 602 11th St., Charles City, 50616
- May 28:** Betty Rewererts, P.O. Box 565, Allison, IA 50602

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

Altar Committee

The altar committee for May is Ron & Diane Salge.

Sunshine Visitors

Sunshine people for the month of May are Ken & Margaret DeBower.

Bible Study

Vilmar Women's Fellowship Bible Study will be held on Tuesday, May 11 at 7 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. The group will continue with the study of Philippians, with Lesson 8, "The Peace of Christ." Karen Janssen will be the leader. No lunch.

Sewing Committee

The sewing committee will not meet at the church to work on quilts until the fall. However, the members have been and continue to be busy working in their own homes, and **they are always looking for volunteers.** You don't have to know how or even like to sew. They have many fabric donations that need to be trimmed/squared up, and the finished tops need to be tied, so all you need to know is how to tie a square knot. (If you don't know how, they will teach you!) Making quilts for Lutheran World Relief and NALC Disaster Relief is a very important and worthwhile cause that gives many people around the world the feeling of love and warmth when wrapped in them. If you feel called to help in this fun and fulfilling project, please talk to Margaret DeBower about how to help. Be sure to watch The Herald for the sewing start-up date in the fall.

Thank You

We wish to thank everyone for your thoughtful prayers and concerns for our cousin Mike Swick during his battle with the coronavirus. It has been a long road to recovery for him, but by the grace of God and many answered prayers he is doing much better. Thank you once again and God Bless!
– Stan & Denise Meyer and Steve & Barb Meyer

Remember in Our Prayers

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Mari Ann Wearda, Marlys Kruse, Bruce and 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, Pastor Mel Harris, Suzanne Miller, Jimmy Rogers, Susan Seehusen, Mary Lou Meyer, Brenda Schmadeke, Monte Allan, Pastor Jordan Long, Donna Hardy, Pastor Paul Nelson, Melissa Hovenga, Billy Klingenberg, Viola Luchtenburg, Dennis Prange, Jaxon Hartkopp, Rhonda Edeker, and John Daub.

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.

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.

Mission and Outreach

May Mission Spotlight

During the month of May, Vilmar's Mission and Outreach Team will be collecting financial donations to be put toward the North America Lutheran Seminary (NALS).

NALC Disaster Response

The NALC Disaster Response truck will be in Iowa in late June, and we are collecting items for this mission. The following are items that are needed. Please bring any items to the church and leave them in basement on the carpeted area. Mission and Outreach volunteers will pack the items and arrange for the delivery to the NALC disaster response truck in June.

Flood Buckets: We have 15 flood buckets available to fill at the church. Each bucket should include: 1 jug bleach; 2 large trash bags; 1 roll paper towels; Comet or scouring cleanser; Pine Sol or liquid cleaner; scrub brush; gloves, 1 pair rubber gloves; 1 pair leather gloves; 1 pair cotton gloves (all size L)

High School Kit: 1 backpack or duffle bag; 4 notebooks; 4 pocket folders; 4 pencils; 1 pencil sharpener; 1 eraser; 4 pens; 1 high school calculator

Elementary School Kit: 1 backpack or duffle bag; 4 notebooks; 4 pocket folders; 1 blunt scissors; 1 ruler; 1 pencil sharpener; 4 pencils; 2 pens; 1 eraser; 1 box of crayons

Health Care Kit: 1 bath towel; 1 washcloth; 1 shampoo (regular size or 2 travel size); 1 bar of soap (regular size or 2 travel size); 1 toothbrush; 1 pack of floss; 1 toothpaste (2 if travel size); 1 comb; 1 deodorant; 1 nail clippers (Pack items in 2-gallon Ziplock bag or tote bag)

Miscellaneous: Bibles (new or slightly used); prayer books; quilts and blankets; gift cards to Home Depot, Lowes, or Walmart; masks; baby diapers (disposable, assorted sizes); mops, booms, dustpans, rakes, shovels, etc.

Books available

Pastor Craig has written several books. A copy of each book has been purchased for the church, and they are available to borrow from the library downstairs in the fellowship hall. You may also purchase any of the books for yourself. If interested, please talk to Pastor Craig or his wife, Jacque, on Sunday mornings following the service.

Graduates Recognition

If someone in your family is graduating this year – high school, college, or any other schooling – and you'd like their name included in the bulletin, please let Monica know by Thursday, May 20. If we have any graduates to recognize, we will have a special prayer for them on Sunday, May 23, Commencement Sunday.

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.

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.

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 during this time is very much appreciated. Thanks!

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 8:45-9:45 a.m.: Sunday School 10 a.m.: Worship Service with Holy Communion led by Rev. David Craig 11 a.m.: Coffee and Fellowship	3	4	5 6-7:30 p.m.: Little Lutherans & Confirmation	6 9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline	7	8 7 a.m.: Community Bible Study and Coffee at Allison Congregational Church
9 8:45-9:45 a.m.: Sunday School 10 a.m.: Worship Service led by Rev. David Craig 11 a.m.: Coffee and Fellowship	10	11 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. LIFT at St. James 7 p.m.: Vilmar Women's Fellowship Bible Study	12 6-7:30 p.m.: Little Lutherans & Confirmation 7:30 p.m.: Council Meeting	13 9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline	14	15 7 a.m.: Community Bible Study and Coffee at Allison Congregational Church
16 Mother's Day 8:45-9:45 a.m.: Sunday School 10 a.m.: Worship Service with Holy Communion led by Rev. David Craig 11 a.m.: Coffee and Fellowship	17	18	19 6-7:30 p.m.: Little Lutherans & Confirmation 7:15 p.m.: NB Scholarship Presentation	20 9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline	21	22 7 a.m.: Community Bible Study and Coffee at Allison Congregational Church
23 June Herald Announcements Due 8:45-9:45 a.m.: Sunday School (final) 10 a.m.: Worship Service with Graduate Recognition led by Rev. David Craig 11 a.m.: Coffee and Fellowship	24	25 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. LIFT at St. James	26 6-7:30 p.m.: Little Lutherans & Confirmation (final class)	27 9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline	28	29 7 a.m.: Community Bible Study and Coffee at Allison Congregational Church
30 10 a.m.: Worship Service led by Rev. David Craig 11 a.m.: Coffee and Fellowship	31 Memorial Day	June 1	2	3 9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline	4	5 7 a.m.: Community Bible Study and Coffee at Allison Congregational Church

Deacons: Jeff Seehusen and Tyler Seehusen