



September 2023

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Don Salge,
PRESIDENT of St. John's-Vilmar
Cell Phone: 319-239-2816

Monica Edeker,
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of St. John's-Vilmar

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UPCOMING DEADLINES:

Weekly Bulletins:
Thursdays at 9 a.m.

**October Herald
Announcements:**
Sunday, Sept. 24 at 5 p.m.

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

16073 Keystone Ave.
Greene, IA 50636-9163



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO BE HELD

On Sunday, Sept. 17, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church - Vilmar will hold a special congregational meeting immediately following the 10 a.m. worship service. The purpose of the meeting will be to vote on whether or not to call Rev. Tamara Keen to serve as the next pastor for Vilmar.

REMINDER: Voting members are confirmed members who have communed AND made a contribution of record during the current or preceding calendar year.



Successful Summer Social

Our annual Summer Social was a huge success! We had such great volunteers and donations. THANK YOU to everyone for your willingness to help at our yearly event. More information on page 8.

When I am afraid, I put my trust
in you. PSALM 56:3

Treasurer's Report

JULY 2023

Beginning Operating Balance \$108,171.79

INCOME:

Envelope.....\$7,293.00
 Vanco \$754.00
 Loose Offering – Special Hope \$206.75
 July Missions – Special Hope \$1,000.00
 Wells of Inspirations \$2,046.71
 Thrivent Funds.....\$102.95

FROM:

Relay For Life.....\$561.00
 Youth Camp Fund..... \$200.00
 Thrivent for Special Hope Network.. \$100.00

Total Income..... \$12,264.41

EXPENSES:

Pulpit Supply \$600.00
 Pulpit Supply Auto Mileage \$227.75
 Wages / Janitors \$461.74
 Wages / Director of Communications ... \$769.58
 Payroll taxes..... \$612.06
 Electricity \$376.70
 Water..... \$25.00
 Telephone \$71.07
 Building Maintenance \$120.00
 Property Maintenance (Dust Control) ..\$765.80
 Janitor supplies \$32.81
 Printer Contract\$196.04

EXPENSES, cont.:

Vanco\$8.19
 Relay for Life \$561.00
 Youth Camperships..... \$200.00
 Website Renewal..... \$149.80
 TO: Special Hope Network\$1,306.75
 TO: Thrivent.....\$102.95
 TO: Wells of Inspiration \$2,046.71

Total Expenses \$8,633.95

Operating Balance.....\$111,802.25

SPECIFIED ACCOUNTS:

Thrivent Funds.....\$3,734.69
 Scholarships..... \$1,634.64
 Youth Camp Fund \$315.00
 Mission..... \$2,932.66
 Operation Christmas Child \$535.90
 Easter/IA Youth NALC Mission Trip... \$258.00
 Special Hope Network.....\$1,306.75
 Wells of Inspiration..... \$4,296.73

Specified Accounts Balance.....\$15,014.37

GENERAL FUND BALANCE.....\$126,816.62

Respectfully Submitted By:
 Margaret DeBower, *Treasurer*

DATE	GENERAL	MISSIONS	OTHER FUNDS
7/30/23	\$739.00	\$222.75	\$481.71 — Wells of Inspiration
8/06/23	\$2,590.00	\$231.00	\$382.00 — Simply Giving \$300.00 — Wells of Inspiration \$1,000.00 — Cemetery
8/13/23	\$1,190.00	\$75.00	\$372.00 — Simply Giving
8/20/23	\$625.00	\$256.93	\$200.00 — Wells of Inspiration
8/27/23	\$1,370.00	\$170.50	\$102.95 — Thrivent

ST. JOHN'S – VILMAR COUNCIL CAPSULE

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023

The St. John's Church Council met for its regular meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 9. Diane Hummel led devotions and prayer. Chairman Don Salge called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

REPORTS

- **Secretary:** Warren VanDyke made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Julie Eberline seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Treasurer:** Ron Taylor made a motion to approve the report as read. Barb Meyer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Chairman:** None.
- **Stewardship & Finance:** None.
- **Mission & Outreach:** Thank yous were received from LWR and Special Hope Network. Warren Van Dyke made a motion to give \$1,000.00 from the General Fund and \$1,000.00 from the Thrivent Fund for the September mission, which is supporting Sarah Hawker. Julie Eberline seconded it. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Worship & Fellowship:** None.
- **Deacons:** None.
- **Trustees:** Warren cleaned the dehumidifiers.
- **Parish Ed.:** Sunday School will begin Sunday, Sept. 17.
- **Director of Communications:** Warren Van Dyke made a motion to give a \$100.00 to the Iowa Mission District Convocation. Barb Meyer seconded it. Motion carried unanimously. Tyler Seehusen made a motion to give \$1,000.00 from the General Fund plus the loose offering received on Sunday, Sept. 10 for the Gospel Group, Sacred Call. Julie Eberline seconded it. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

- None.

NEW BUSINESS

- Started cleaning the parsonage and acreage for Pastor Tamara Keen's visit from Aug. 25-27.

NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be held Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

CLOSING

Tyler Seehusen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ron Taylor seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Rhonda Edeker, *Secretary*

MEMBERS PRESENT

P Don Salge (President)	A Dale Janssen	A Meredith Steere
A Margaret DeBower (Treasurer)	P Diane Hummel	P Julie Eberline
P Rhonda Edeker (Secretary)	P Tyler Seehusen	A Dick Ulrich
P Barb Meyer	P Ron Taylor	P Warren Van Dyke

ST. JOHN'S – VILMAR COUNCIL CAPSULE

Sunday, Aug. 20, 2023

The St. John's Church Council met for a special meeting on Sunday, Aug. 20 following the morning worship service. Margaret DeBower reported that she paid the LP contract for 3,000 gallons at \$1.45/gallon. She also reported that the church's 6-month \$10,000 CD was maturing and we needed to take action on it. If we leave it as it is, it will renew for 6 more months at an interest of 3% or less; if we bump it up to 9 months, the interest will be 5%. Warren VanDyke made a motion to renew the \$10,000 CD at Lincoln Savings Bank for 9 months. Dick Ulrich seconded it. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Monica Edeker, *Director of Communications*

MEMBERS PRESENT

A Don Salge (President)	A Dale Janssen	A Meredith Steere
P Margaret DeBower (Treasurer)	P Diane Hummel	A Julie Eberline
P Rhonda Edeker (Secretary)	P Tyler Seehusen	P Dick Ulrich
A Barb Meyer	P Ron Taylor	P Warren Van Dyke

ST. JOHN'S – VILMAR COUNCIL CAPSULE

Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2023

The St. John's Church Council and Call Committee met for a special joint meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 30. Diane Hummel led the group in devotions and prayer. Don Salge called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Call Committee Chairperson, Diane Hummel, informed the council that the call committee had unanimously voted to recommend Rev. Tamara Keen to the church council for Vilmar's pastoral call. The group discussed Pastor Keen's recent visit and the call. Warren Van Dyke made a motion to call a congregational meeting on Sunday, Sept. 17 to vote on whether or not to extend a call to Rev. Tamara Keen. Meredith Steere seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The group discussed the compensation package. Dale Janssen made a motion to adjourn. Dick Ulrich seconded. Motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rhonda Edeker, *Council 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)	P Tyler Seehusen	P Dick Ulrich
P Barb Meyer	A Ron Taylor	P Warren Van Dyke

CALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

P Diane Hummel (Chair)	P Ron Salge	P Don Salge
P Monica Edeker	P Julie Eberline	A Marc Seehusen
		P Barb Wagner

Serving in the Lord's House

SUNDAY, SEPT. 3

Guest Pastor: Rev. Jack Miller
Organist: Diane Hummel
Reader: Don Salge
Fellowship Hosts: The Edekers
Notes: Holy Communion at the rail

SUNDAY, SEPT. 10

Lay Leader: Vilmar Members
Notes: Gospel Group Presentation
Organist: Diane Hummel
Fellowship Hosts: The Edekers

SUNDAY, SEPT. 17

Guest Pastor: Rev. Robert Salge
Organist: Barb Wagner
Reader: Dave Hubbard
Fellowship Hosts: Host Needed
Notes: Processional Holy Communion

SUNDAY, SEPT. 24

Lay Leader: James Koop
Organist: Barb Wagner
Reader: Reader Needed
Fellowship Hosts: Host Needed

Time Change

Reminder! Beginning on Sunday, Sept. 3, we will return to our regular hours with worship beginning at 10 a.m.

Confirmation

Confirmation classes will begin Wednesday, Sept. 6 from 6-7:30 p.m. at Diane Hummel's home. Students will also meet on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour

Sunday School

Sunday School classes will resume for the 2023-24 season on Sunday, Sept. 17 from 8:45-9:45 a.m. Ages 3 years — high school are welcome!



Sacred Call Gospel Group

Sacred Call, a mixed Southern Gospel quartet based out of Claremore, Oklahoma, will be performing at St. John's on Sunday, Sept. 10 during the 10 a.m. morning worship service. Mark Green, lead singer, (seated, far left) has performed at Vilmar previously with the group Forgiven and the group Paul's Journey. More information about the group members has been posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. **ALL LOOSE OFFERING on Sunday, Sept. 10 will be given to the gospel group as a "love offering."**

Music Schedule

ANY ONE is invited to join the choir. They will sing on most Sunday mornings during the worship service. For more information, contact Senior Choir Director Jane Thompson at 319-415-8456.

Wednesday, Sept. 6: 6:30 p.m., Choir Practice
Wednesday, Sept. 13: 6:30 p.m., Choir Practice
Sunday, Sept. 17: Choir will sing in church

Flowers

During September, if anyone would like to share flowers for the altar, feel free to bring them with you on Sunday morning and be sure to collect them before you leave. Thank you!

Call Committee Notes

The Call Committee met on Tuesday, Aug. 22 at 7:30 p.m. The members discussed the itinerary for Pastor Tamara Keen's on-site weekend visit. Members present: Diane Hummel, Barb Wagner, Monica Edeker, Marc Seehusen, and Ron Salge.

The Call Committee met with Pastor Tamara Keen on Saturday, Aug. 26 at 10:30 a.m. Diane Hummel, Barb Wagner, Julie Eberline, Monica Edeker, and Marc Seehusen gave her a tour of the church and then went to Diane Hummel's home for dinner. Following the meal, Marc, Monica, and Julie took Pastor Keen on a tour around the area communities (Greene, Bristow, Dumont, Allison, Wilder Park, and Clarksville). In the evening, the group met for supper at Barb Wagner's home (Barb, Diane H., Monica, Julie, Ron and Diane S., Marc and Jen, and JayLynn, Cody, and Kadence, and Pastor Keen). The day was spent visiting with Pastor Keen and sharing about our church and communities.

Pastor Keen preached for the congregation on Sunday, Aug. 27 during the morning worship service (If you'd like to hear her message, a video of the service can be found on the church's Facebook page). A congregational potluck was held following the service and members were able to spend time in fellowship with Pastor Keen.

A call committee meeting was held on Sunday, Aug. 27 at 11:30 a.m., following the potluck. The group discussed the weekend and the pastoral call, and voted unanimously to recommend Pastor Keen to the church council for a call. Members present: Diane Hummel, Julie Eberline, Monica Edeker, Marc Seehusen, Ron Salge, and Don Salge.

Remember in Our Prayers

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Mari Ann Wearda, Harold and Marlys Kruse, Bruce and Deb Johnson, Dean and Barb Westendorf, Jurene Dralle, Ellie Munis, Evalyn Nettleton, Joy Schueler, Ali Matteson, Robert Vieker, Carol Finke, Cheryl and Kayla Sankey, Jaxon Hartkopp, Pastor James Puotyual, Larry Voigts, Jim Wubbena, 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, and Lollie Van Dyke.

SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN:

Lloyd Davis, Rashell Haxhijaj, and Alexa Page.

FAITHFULLY DEPARTED:

Remember the Family of James Seehusen: James, 64, of Allison, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2023, at his home. Public visitation will be held from 4-6 p.m., Monday, Sept. 4 at Woodley Funeral Home in Allison. Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 5 at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church - Vilmar, rural Greene. Burial will take place in the South Vilmar Cemetery. Woodley Funeral Home is caring for James and his family.

Remember the Family of Donna Hardy: Donna, 93, of Greene, passed away Saturday, Aug. 26, 2023, at the Rehabilitation Center of Allison. Funeral services were held Saturday, Sept. 2 at First Presbyterian Church in Greene. Woodley Funeral Home of Greene assisted the family with arrangements. Donna was Joy Schueler's sister.

Remember the Family of Jeff Kelly: Jeff, 68, of Waterville, passed away Friday, Aug. 4, 2023, as the result of a UTV accident. Funeral services were held Saturday, Aug. 19 at St. Pius Cherry Mound Catholic Church in rural Harpers Ferry. Martin-Grau Funeral Home in Waukon assisted the family with arrangements. Jeff was Colleen Ulrich's brother.

Holy Baptisms

Congratulations to the newly-baptized members of Vilmar: Owen Tyler Ausborn, son of Laura Ausborn and the late Eric Ausborn; Aunya Noel Ausborn, daughter of Laura Ausborn and the late Eric Ausborn; and Naomi Raelynn Ausborn, daughter of Laura Ausborn and Tyler Seehusen. The trio was baptized on Sunday, Aug. 6 during the worship service.

Pastoral Care

During this time if you need assistance of any kind, please let Council President, Don Salge (319-239-2816) or Director of Communications, Monica Edeker (319-939-7348) know, and they will arrange for your needs.

NALC Convocation Report

We had the privilege to represent Vilmar at the biannual National Convocation in Oklahoma City from Aug. 9-11. It was a packed three days full of worship, Bible studies, speakers and workshops. There were 224 lay delegates, 245 clergy and 145 visitors in attendance.

The NALC is growing in numbers. Forty six congregations have been added since the 2021 Convocation for a current total of 490. About 45 percent of the congregations were represented.

The NALS (seminary) reported that there are 61 students preparing for the ministry. There are 12 newly ordained and 43 previously ordained pastors that have joined the NALC.

Bishop Dan Selbo was reelected for 4 more years. The other item of discussion and voted on was the support of Lutheran World Relief. LWR itself doesn't pay for abortions, but they belong to a group of organizations where some of them do support abortion. It was voted to not give any financial support to them and find another organization to support.

The NALC Disaster Response emptied five of their 15 warehouses since the devastating April tornadoes. Of the victims helped 95 percent have no church family. This is a great outreach to show God's love to those in need.

NALC now has 17 Global workers that they support in many countries and here at home. Those

in the USA serve many refugee communities.

Dr. David Luy from the North American Lutheran Seminary lead a Bible study at the beginning of each day's session. Highlights from these are summed up in the following statements. "We can not manipulate God's mission and word, but we can participate in it." "Discipleship is not something we do. It is who we are." "God doesn't call us to be successful. He calls us to be faithful."

We attended several workshops.

"Sexual Slavery-call it what it is" highlighted the growing dangers of human trafficking. It is everywhere and is growing immensely over the internet. The internet is used to lure victims by befriending them and then it goes on from there.

"Every Congregation Renewing" focused on how to strengthen aging congregations and to help them grow.

"How Congregations Can Address the Range of Life Issues" A Committee is developing a Bible study series to address life issues from conception to end of life and all circumstances in between. Topics will cover the value of human life, we are all adopted, who is our neighbor, end of life issues and suffering and compassion.

We will give a report after worship service in the near future. If you have any questions, please talk to either of us.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Ken and Margaret DeBower, *Vilmar Delegates*

VILMAR WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NOTES: SEPTEMBER 2023

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Due to the funeral of James Seehusen, the Women's Bible Study will NOT be held on Tuesday, Sept. 5. The group will discuss an alternate date/time for their meeting.

ALTAR COMMITTEE

The altar committee for September is Ken and Margaret DeBower. We appreciate your willingness to serve in this way.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Sunshine people for the month of September are Julie Eberline and Jean Morris.

BIRTHDAYS

Sept. 25: Donna Kruse, 305 Truax St., Bristow, IA 50611

Sept. 27: Robert Janssen, P.O. Box 874, Clarksville, IA 50619

Sept. 29: Kenneth Debner, 20865 160th 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.

BINGO

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

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. Thank you.

SEWING DAYS

Sewing days will be Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 18 and 19 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. The group continues to welcome any donations of materials and pieced quilt tops. Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, contact Betty Debner, Helen Debner, Betty Rewerts, or Margaret DeBower.

DONATIONS DELIVERED

On Aug. 8, 44 school kits, 48 quilts, 4 afghans, and 11 blankets were delivered to the NALC Disaster Response warehouse in Edmond, Oklahoma.

SUMMER SOCIAL

Thank you to everyone who donated food for the meal, donated items for the Country Store, and volunteered their time and talents to make our Summer Social a great success. Almost 100 people were served and \$1,525 was raised for various missions. This was a joint effort of the Women's Fellowship and the Vilmar Brotherhood. A special thank you to the Butler County Pork Producers for the pork burgers and Thrivent for the funds to purchase the other supplies needed for this event.

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.

Attendance Report

<u>Worship Service</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Communed</u>
Sunday, July 30:	44	n/a
Sunday, Aug. 06:	65	59
Sunday, Aug. 13:	50	n/a
Sunday, Aug. 20:	50	41
Sunday, Aug. 27:	66	n/a

Mission and Outreach

During the month of September, Vilmar's Mission and Outreach Team will be collecting financial donations for **Sarah Hawker** of Greene. Sarah had an accident while in Montana on a Luther League trip. It was dark and she went through the wrong door and fell down a flight of stairs. She had a major concussion along with other bumps, bruises, and broken bones. She went to the hospital in Bozeman and then was taken to the hospital in Billings. She has had some surgeries and has been in a medically-induced coma. She is now waiting to get transferred to an Iowa hospital.

Thank You

The Robert Dralle Family would like to thank everyone for your prayers, cards, food, and messages sent to us at the time of his death. May God bless each of you! –The Robert Dralle Families

Jean O'Brien donated a wooden bench to Vilmar. It is currently in the educational unit. We want to thank Jean for this donation.

Thank you to all who helped clean the parsonage/grounds recently. Everyone's assistance was greatly appreciated.

Dick and Colleen Ulrich would like to express their thanks to everyone for their prayers during the loss of Colleen's brother.

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 Rhonda Edeker for the paperwork. We appreciate everyone's continued financial support of Vilmar's ministry.

Contributions

If you are not able to 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.

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

About the Women of the NALC

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)

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 is very much appreciated. Thanks!

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 7 a.m.: Bible Study at Allison Congregational
3	4 <i>Labor Day</i> 4-6 p.m.: Visitation of James Seehusen at Woodley Funeral Home - Allison	5 10:30 a.m.: Funeral Service for James Seehusen	6 6-7:30 p.m.: Confirmation at Diane Hummel's 6:30 p.m.: Choir Practice	7 9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline 1:30 p.m.: BINGO at Allison Rehabilitation Center	8	9 7 a.m.: Bible Study at Allison Congregational 10 a.m.: Fellowship Hall Reserved
10	11	12	13 6-7:30 p.m.: Confirmation 6:30 p.m.: Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.: Council Meeting	14 9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline	15	16 7 a.m.: Bible Study at Allison Congregational 8 a.m.: Iowa District Convo. in Monona
17	18 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Sewing Day with potluck at noon	19 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Sewing Day with potluck at noon	20 6-7:30 p.m.: Confirmation at Diane Hummel's	21 9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline	22	23 7 a.m.: Bible Study at Allison Congregational
24	25	26	27 6-7:30 p.m.: Confirmation at Diane Hummel's	28 9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline	29	30 7 a.m.: Bible Study at Allison Congregational

Deacons: Tyler Seehusen and Meredith Steere