

ST. JOHN'S – VILMAR COUNCIL CAPSULE

Sunday, Jan. 12, 2020

Pastor Martin opened the meeting with devotions and prayer.

REPORTS

- **Secretary:** Minutes of December meetings were read and approved.
- **Treasurer:** The treasurer's report from Brenda was read and approved. Brenda asked for permission to pay wages on the Sunday prior to the 15th of the month if it falls in the middle of the week. Council agreed to request. The bulk mailing rate will increase in March 2020. The bulk mailing permit (minimum of 200 mailings) is \$230 per year. Currently there is a \$35 charge for regular Herald monthly mailings and \$85-\$90 charge for mailings that include the *Christ In Our Home* devotional book. Until a more accurate number of monthly mailings is determined, council agreed to continue to pay current bulk mailing rate. Brenda also informed the council about consolidating bank accounts as requested by the bank. This will be addressed after the annual meeting.
- **Chairman:** No report.
- **Stewardship & Finance:** No report.
- **Mission & Outreach:** The January mission offering will be given to benefit GoServ Global. Rhonda shared responsibilities of councilpersons as outlined in the Constitution, referring to visiting the sick and inactive. Rhonda has been visiting with many members to update their current directory information.
- **Worship & Fellowship:** Diane reported worship will include two Sundays per month using the second setting of the liturgy.
- **Deacons:** Isabella shared there are concerns with the recordings of services not being complete. The issue will be looked into.
- **Trustees:** The light switch on the lecturn has been fixed by replacing it with a remote control switch. The water heater is not working in the electrical room and there is no hot water in the educational unit bathrooms. An electrician has been contacted to look into an outlet in one of the outbuildings that continues to trip the breaker.
- **Parish Ed.:** Monica reported that the Sunday School children will be singing on Jan. 26. There has been some changes in teacher positions for the new year. She also expressed her appreciation to everyone who had helped with preparations for the Christmas program.
- **Pastor Martin:** Pastor had five Sunday services, including Christmas Eve and Christmas morning. He had nine visitations and a private wedding ceremony of Zach Henneman and Amy Adams. Pastor has been updating current communion records and continuing to update the directory with new information. He reported all annual reports are in. Pastor presented the Little Lambs preschool with the hats, gloves and winter apparel collected for the preschool. Pastor will attend the ordination of Andrew Loomis at Ruthven, Iowa. Andrew is the first student ordained in the Iowa Mission District. Pastor will attend the Mission Team conference in Orlando, Florida from Feb. 12-15. Pastor talked briefly concerning the need and prayers for pastors in the NALC. Currently 41 of the 438 congregations in the NALC are actively in the call process.

- **Director of Communications:** Monica shared some of the changes in the bulletin and monthly Herald. It was suggested adding a note in the bulletin regarding who would be serving the following week. Monica shared a sample of the layout of the new directory. Council members thanked Monica for all her work with new updates and layout.

OLD BUSINESS

- The microphone/sound system will be looked into soon.
- There are concerns with the workmanship of the gutters that were installed on the church and parsonage. Kurt has visited with installers and is finding a time to meet and discuss the issues.

NEW BUSINESS

- The proposed agenda for the annual meeting was shared. Motion by Ron and seconded by Rhonda to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
- The ballot for the elections presented. Motion made by Brenda to approve the ballot of elections, and seconded by Diane. Yes votes-12; No votes-1. Motion carried to approve the ballot.
- The 2020 budget was presented and discussion was held. Rhonda made a recommendation of a 3 percent raise to Pastor's salary. The proposed budget was adjusted to reflect a change in salary to \$43,257.40; Social security adjustment to \$3,309.19; and pension to \$4,325.70. The 2020 proposed budget adjustment is \$140,786.62. A motion was made to accept the proposed budget as revised. Motion by Ron and seconded by Jeff. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be held immediately following worship on Feb. 9, 2020.

CLOSING

Kurt Roose thanked the council for their work. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Barb Wagner, *Secretary*

MEMBERS PRESENT

P Kurt Roose (President)
 P Brenda Boden (Treasurer)
 P Barb Wagner (Secretary)
 P Harlan Martzahn
 P Pastor Martin

P Evan Steere
 P Diane Hummel
 P Isabella Seehusen
 P Rhonda Edeker

P Wayne Dralle
 P Ron Salge
 P Monica Edeker
 P Jeff Seehusen

ST. JOHN'S – VILMAR ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020

OPENING

The annual congregational meeting of the St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Vilmar was held on Sunday, Jan 26, 2020, with 37 people in attendance. Pastor Martin led the group in prayer and responsive reading. Kurt Roose, Chairman, called the meeting to order at approximately 12 p.m.

REPORTS

Jim Wubbena moved and Lindsay Martin seconded to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously. The minutes of the 2019 annual meeting and the special congregational meeting minutes of Nov. 17, 2019 were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given. Pastor Martin answered a question regarding the balance in the mission report, explaining why the additional funds are in that balance and what they are designated for. One correction was noted to the listing of "Other Income-Women." It was corrected to read "Other Income- Memorial." Treasurer's report was approved.

Pastor Martin gave a brief summary of the Pastoral Acts in 2019 and the 2019 Statistical and Parochial Report.

Reports from various organizations were reviewed. Kenny Debner presented Brotherhood Report. He and Helen are interested in stepping down from the chairperson responsibilities. The question was brought up as to whether the Pancake Supper was something we wanted to continue. Warren Van Dyke volunteered to take the responsibility of chairman of the pancake supper. Kenny and Helen were thanked for their many years of planning and organizing this event. The date for the 2020 Pancake Supper is April 17, 2020.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

ELECTIONS: The ballot for 2020 elections was reviewed. It was noted that new delegates would be needed for the Iowa Mission District-NALC Convocation due to a conflict. Lindsay Martin and Barb Wagner volunteered to serve as the two delegates needed. Ken DeBower made a motion and Rhonda Edeker seconded to cease nominations for the ballot. Motion carried. A unanimous ballot of elections was presented. Ken DeBower made the motion and Rhonda Edeker seconded to approve the unanimous ballot. The newly elected members are:

- Deacons: Jeff Seehusen and Jason Edeker
- Treasurer: Brenda Boden
- Cemetery Committee: Jim Wubbena
- Bartels Home Delegate: Margaret DeBower
- Iowa Mission District-NALC Convocation: Lindsay Martin and Barb Wagner
- Trustee: Warren Van Dyke
- Stewardship and Finance: Don Salge
- NALC Convocation: Bob and Karen Janssen

BUDGET: The 2020 Budget was reviewed Chairman,. Kurt Roose, explained some of the new categories within the budget. Jim Wubbena made a motion and Ron Taylor seconded to approve the 2020 Proposed budget. Budget approved unanimously.

USHERING: There was discussion regarding whether to continue to usher out following services. By show of hands it was passed to continue to usher out.

DEVOTIONAL MATERIALS: Rhonda Edeker made a motion and Barb Wagner seconded to change from using Christ In Our Home devotional books to using Portals of Prayer. Motion carried.

CLOSING

Ron Salge made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Bill Debner. Motion carried. Thanks were expressed to Kurt Roose, Wayne Dralle, and Harlan Martzahn for their service on council. Pastor closed the meeting with responsive reading and the Lord's Prayer.

Following the annual meeting, a short council meeting was held. Monica Edeker and Ron Salge were nominated for chairman. Ron respectfully declined. By unanimous decision, Monica Edeker was named Chairperson. Installation of the council will be on Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020. Council dinner is being planned. Calling Tree and Prayer Chain assignments were assigned. Pastor Martin closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Barb Wagner, *Secretary*

MEMBERS PRESENT

P Monica Edeker (President)
P Brenda Boden (Treasurer)
P Barb Wagner (Secretary)
P Warren Van Dyke
P Pastor Martin

P Evan Steere
P Diane Hummel
P Isabella Seehusen
P Rhonda Edeker

P Jason Edeker
P Ron Salge
A Don Salge
P Jeff Seehusen

ST. JOHN'S – VILMAR COUNCIL CAPSULE

Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020

The Church Council of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Vilmar met on Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020 at 11 a.m. in the Council Room. Members present were: Monica Edeker, Diane Hummel, Jason Edeker, Brenda Boden, Rhonda Edeker, Jeff Seehusen, Don Salge, Ron Salge, Evan Steere, and Pastor Christopher Martin.

Chairman Monica Edeker called the meeting to order. Pastor Martin was named Secretary Pro-Tem for this meeting due to the absence of Secretary Barb Wagner. Pastor Martin opened the meeting with devotions from Acts 6:1-6 and led the council in prayer.

Pastor Martin read the minutes of the Jan. 12 Council meeting, the Annual Meeting of the congregation held on Jan. 26, and the special council meeting held after the Annual Meeting on Jan. 26. The minutes of all meetings were approved as read.

Brenda presented the Treasurer's report. She noted that some expenses were higher than normal for the month of January due to payment of fourth quarter payroll taxes, the partial payment made to Stirling Seamless Gutters for the new gutters on the church and parsonage, and the annual gift of 5 percent of the operating budget from 2019 to the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). In light of the conversation from the last meeting regarding consolidation of accounts at the bank, Brenda asked the council about the \$2,000 listed in the General Fund that is designated for Stained Glass Windows, noting there is a separate fund for Stained Glass Windows in the Memorial Fund. She asked if she could consolidate both into the Memorial Fund, and put all money set aside for Stained Glass Windows into a CD for the time being. A motion was made by Ron, seconded by Rhonda, to move the funds designated for Stained Glass Windows from the General Fund to the Memorial Fund, and then place them into one CD. Motion carried. Some discussion was held on the amount of money that was sitting in the Thrivent fund. A meeting will be set up with the Thrivent committee to discuss possible uses for the Thrivent funds. The treasurer's report was approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Chairman:** Monica announced the annual council dinner has been set for Sunday, Feb. 23 at the Rustic Brew in Hampton, beginning between 11:30 and noon, depending on when everyone arrives after worship that day. Council members were asked for a head count to pass along to them in preparing dinner that day. Monica has contacted outgoing council members to inquire who is planning to attend.
- **Stewardship & Finance:** No report.
- **Mission & Outreach:** Rhonda shared February's mission partner: World Vision. In response to questions that were brought to council members regarding the large balance in the Mission Fund, Rhonda explained how mission funds have been spent this past year. The Mission Fund currently consists of funds designated for missions that were held over from 2018, and also a large gift given to the congregation from the former members of New Life Lutheran Church that was designated for "missions." Each month, the Mission & Outreach Committee has selected a local, national, or foreign mission partner, to which all of the funds given for missions that month are directed to.

- The Mission & Outreach Committee has then used the money in the Mission Fund to help supplement these gifts. The committee has also made a couple of one-time “emergency” grants: one to NALC Disaster Response to help with Midwest Flood Relief efforts, and another to Pastor James Puotyual’s Medical Leave fund when he had to leave the mission field due to illness last fall. The council reviewed the mission giving for 2019, noting that over \$10,000 had been distributed last year for various projects. It was also noted all money that currently comes in for missions is going right back out, thus the amount in the Mission Fund will not be growing as they are spent as “matching” funds or in response to one time appeals. The council came to the consensus to leave the Mission Fund as is for the time being, and try to make more use of the money.
- **Worship & Fellowship:** The Senior Choir has asked Pastor Martin if he would be willing to practice Setting Two of the liturgy with them before using it again in worship, to help everyone become more familiar with it. Setting One will be used Sunday, Feb. 16 and Setting Two on Sunday, Feb. 23.
- **Deacons:** No report.
- **Trustees:** Evan gave an update on the gutters. Evan, Warren, and Jeff met with a representative of Stirling Gutters, and he agreed the gutters on the parsonage needed adjustment, which was completed this past Monday. Notes were read from the new statement indicating the church gutters were not in need of adjustment, and asked for payment of \$3,025, which represents the balance we owe for the work. Payment will be made tomorrow for the balance. Evan noted he was able to get hot water in the restroom in the Education Unit, so the hot water heater is working for now. Pastor had an electrician look at the outlet in the detached garage that was tripping a breaker. A completely new outlet and light switch were installed. The breaker tripped again the following day, and the electrician noted the problem is in the wiring underground. He has equipment to find the problem, but will have to wait until spring. He has shut off the outlet from the breaker box for now for safety purposes. Evan noted that the sticky traps continued to be monitored for mice and that is going well.
- **Parish Ed.:** Monica noted that there will not be classes for the Little Lutherans or Confirmation students on Wednesday, Feb. 12, due to Pastor’s absence or Wednesday, Feb. 26 for Ash Wednesday. The Sunday School kids will provide special music in worship Sunday, Feb. 16.
- **Pastor Martin:** Pastor Martin reported he conducted three worship services in January, with services on Jan. 19 canceled due to poor weather conditions. Instead, he offered an abbreviated worship service with sermon over Facebook Live during the normal worship time that day, noting there were over 300 views of the video. This approach will be used again in the event of a cancellation of a service, as it is an excellent outreach tool not just for Vilmar’s members, but others as well. He also reported conducting two worship services at the Valley View Care Center on Jan. 12 and Feb. 2, and had six pastoral calls. He officiated the funeral service of Christina Johnson on Jan. 11. He reported on follow up with the Iowa Secretary of State’s office regarding the filing of the Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation, noting they were officially filed on Jan. 9 and the name change is now reflected in their records, satisfying the bank’s requirements.
- He will be leaving on Tuesday for the NALC Mission Team Meetings/NALC Ministerium An-

nual Meeting/NALC Pastor's Conference, which is being held in Orlando, Florida, and plans to fly back on Saturday. Pastor Kim Thacker of St. John's-Western Douglas near Plainfield has volunteered to be available in his absence to cover emergencies. Pastor has accepted an invitation from the NALC Southeast Texas Mission District to team with Pastor Wendy Berthelsen to speak on the topic "The Small or Rural Church: Hope For the Future" at their Mission District's annual gathering. This is tentatively set for the weekend of June 12-14. He will be connecting with the dean of their mission district at this week's conference, and hopes to have plans finalized for that event soon. He is planning to begin evening Bible studies on the topic of Renewal and Discipleship beginning in March. Possible dates were discussed. He reported that Pastor Mark Lund, a member of the Mission District Council, has resigned from his call at Boyden, Iowa, and from the NALC, and has joined the Missouri Synod. He asked for prayers for the congregation at Boyden as they begin the call process, and for the Mission District Council as they consider a replacement for Pastor Lund on the council. He reported there are now six congregations in the Iowa Mission District at various stages of the call process and encouraged council to keep them in their prayers.

- **Director of Communications:** Monica noted that at the request of Diane, she has added the Scripture references in the various parts of the liturgy to each week's bulletin. She noted we are now mailing 234 copies of The Herald with updated addresses, some of which included "extras" she received from a list from Florence. She had business cards made for Pastor Martin to use during shut in, hospital, hospice, or other calls he makes to leave his direct contact information with families on first contact with them, and she shared some templates for outreach cards members of the church can use to give to new members, prospective members, and others who may be interested in the church. Monica was asked to have 100 of these cards made.

OLD BUSINESS

- Pastor Martin will be meeting with Pastor Tony Ede at this week's Pastor's Conference to have an initial discussion about the sound needs and issues, and how to proceed.
- An update was given regarding the balcony quilts. Four of the five quilt tops have been completed, and are now being quilted. The middle panel will be a cross, with the sides being "stained glass" panels. The entire back wall of the balcony will be covered. She is asking for assistance in hanging the quilts as she is planning to have a sleeve placed in the back to insert a rod for hanging. The council will look into options.

NEW BUSINESS

- Pastor Martin moved, Don seconded, "To add Monica Edeker as an authorized signer on the General Fund account and to remove Kurt Roose as an authorized signer on the General Fund account." Motion carried unanimously.
- There was discussion regarding the use of the new copy machine in the office. Brenda reported between Sept. 25 and Dec. 18, there were 25,370 black copies made and 1,334 color copies made. We are permitted 15,000 black copies per quarter (5,000 per month) per the lease before overage charges on a per copy basis goes into effect, and "pay as we go" for color copies. A "copy" is considered one side of paper, so a double-sided copy is 2 "copies" for counting purposes.

- Monica ran an estimate for that time period, noting we should have had 11,620 documented copies, with an estimate of 1,00 additional copies for “smaller” print jobs such as sermon manuscript, correspondence, treasurer’s records, Sunday School items, women’s booklet, etc. We are charged per our lease .0165 per black copy for each copy over the allowance, and 0.774 per copy for color. In response, to help prevent unauthorized color copies, Pastor contacted the sales rep this past week, and a “lock” has been set for the color feature of the copier, requiring a user ID to unlock this feature. He set up user ID’s for himself, Monica, and Brenda as they are the three people who will primarily use the copier. Others who need to use it can still make black copies, but are locked out from using color. He is also able to track on his laptop the usage of each user ID, and general usage, and is now keeping a weekly log on numbers, to monitor the copier usage. This approach will be used for now, and the issue will be revisited next month to see if this reduces unauthorized use of the copier or if further security measures are needed for the copier.

NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, March 8, 2020.

CLOSING

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Rev. Christopher Martin, *Secretary Pro-Tem*

ST. JOHN'S – VILMAR COUNCIL CAPSULE

Sunday, March 15, 2020

The St. John's–Vilmar church council met on Sunday, March 15, 2020. Pastor Martin opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

REPORTS

- **Secretary:** Barb Wagner read the council minutes of the Feb. 9, 2020 meeting. There were no corrections or addition to the minutes and they stood approved as read.
- **Treasurer:** Brenda Boden prepared a written treasurers report in her absence. Council reviewed that report and there were no corrections or additions and stood approved as presented.
- **Chairman:** Kathy Dann requested to use the fellowship hall for the Voigts Reunion on June 14.
- **Stewardship & Finance:** None.
- **Mission & Outreach:** Mission projects for the 2020 year have been scheduled, but if there are more needs to support, those missions can be added as needed.
- **Worship & Fellowship:** None.
- **Deacons:** Ron Salge gave an update on the hanging of the quilts. The plan is to hang the quilts in the balcony during this next week.
- **Trustees:** Intermittent hot water continues to be an issue. The issue will continue to be looked into.
- **Parish Ed.:** Monica Edeker reported that the Sunday School youth will sing March 29. Little Lutherans and Confirmation students had recently prepared care baskets to be delivered to children in the Waverly hospital, but because of COVID-19, these care packages will be delivered at a later date. The yearly Good Friday Day Camp plans are also currently on hold due to COVID-19.
- **Pastor Martin:** Pastor Chris reported he conducted four Sunday services including Ash Wednesday. He went on eight home visits and attended the annual meeting in Orlando, Florida. An overview of the 2020 Vision of the NALC can be read on the website thenalc.org. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions placed on visiting residents in long-term care/assisted living facilities, Pastor explained how he will be using Facebook Live for announcements/devotional messages, especially during the coronavirus concerns.
- **Director of Communications:** Monica designed a Vilmar “business card,” with the all the information about the church (Pastor’s name, phone numbers, website, Facebook, address, Sunday School and worship times). They are beautifully done and they will be an excellent tool in sharing information about our church.

OLD BUSINESS

- Bella reported the choir microphone is buzzing and she is looking into a backup recording to use during funerals. There has been an issue with recordings being incomplete.
- There were recent concerns about the number of undocumented copies being done on the copier. Since implementing security codes for individuals using the machine, the number of copies appears to be under control. Pastor is able to monitor the number closely.

NEW BUSINESS

- COVID-19 has brought to our attention concerns on what steps our congregation can and should do to protect our parishioners and visitors. Pastor will discontinue shaking hands, sharing of the peace through handshakes, and no communion at the rail. The offering plates will be at the back of the church where parishioners can place their offerings. On this Sunday morning, some area churches had canceled services due to the virus and at the recommendation of no gatherings greater than 50. After discussion and thoughts shared, council decided to continue with Sunday services and Lenten services as usual with the exception that there will be no coffee/fellowship after services or Lenten suppers prior to the evening services. There will be no youth programs, Sunday School, Confirmation or Little Lutherans, no choir or Bible studies until further notice or if the council decides other action must be taken or the Department of Public Health advises otherwise. Motion made by Rhonda, and seconded by Warren. Motion carried unanimously. At this time the pancake supper will be rescheduled.
- Pastor Chris shared about the Pastor's Discretionary Fund that is available for individuals who might ask for assistance during difficult times. Individuals who ask are advised on the resources that are available (ex: DHS, Salvation Army) and are directed to seek out those sources for help first. If those resources have been exhausted, then Pastor will work to find the necessary resources and funds available for assistance.
- Some discussion was held on the parsonage garage, was tabled until later.

NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, April 19, 2020.

CLOSING

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

MEMBERS PRESENT

P Monica Edeker (President)

P Evan Steere

P Jason Edeker

A Brenda Boden (Treasurer)

P Diane Hummel

P Ron Salge

P Barb Wagner (Secretary)

P Isabella Seehusen

A Don Salge

P Pastor Martin

P Rhonda Edeker

P Jeff Seehusen

P Warren Van Dyke

Respectfully Submitted By:

Barb Wagner, *Secretary*

ST. JOHN'S – VILMAR COUNCIL CAPSULE

April, 2020

On Thursday, April 2, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds announced that the Public Health Disaster proclamation for the state of Iowa, which, among other things, prohibits public gatherings of 10 or more people, has been extended to April 30, 2020 due to coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This means the doors of the church are currently closed to the public in order to follow the proclamation set by the governor, and as a result, I, and in consultation with Pastor Martin, decided to cancel Vilmar's April Council Meeting for the following reasons:

There are 13 members of the council, therefore we can not all meet in person and follow the proper social distancing guidelines.

It would not be socially responsible for us to ask any council members who are older or have an underlying health condition to attend a meeting; nor did we feel it appropriate to ask anyone to not participate in a meeting because of those reasons.

We did not feel there is anything that needed immediate attention from the council at this time.

We did consider conducting a meeting virtually, however not knowing everyone's technology capabilities, we did not think it was necessary yet.

The council members were contacted about this decision on Thursday, April 2. All of the members have each others' contact information, as well as mine and Pastor's. If anything should arise that needs attention from the group, we will be in communication to address it.

The Council held a text message/phone vote on Tuesday, April 28 in response to Governor Reynolds' proclamation from the previous day that churches in the state of Iowa could reopen for worship services beginning May 1 if certain guidelines regarding social distancing and cleaning/disinfecting the facility were upheld. Based on feedback and concern received from several members, Pastor Martin and Chairman Monica Edeker recommended to the Council that we continue to suspend all in-person activity at the church and the church building remain closed to the public for the first two Sundays in May (May 3 and 10). The Council approved this measure by phone and text affirmation and will hold a special meeting on Monday, May 11 at 7 p.m., to re-evaluate the situation at that time.

Thank you for understanding and for everyone's cooperation during this time.

–Monica Edeker,
Council Chairman

ST. JOHN'S – VILMAR COUNCIL CAPSULE

Monday, May 11, 2020 • 7 p.m. • Special Session

St. John's Lutheran Church Council held a special meeting on Monday, May 11, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Martin opened the meeting with devotions and prayer based on John 14.

REPORTS

- **Secretary:** Barb Wagner read the previous month's council minutes.
- **Treasurer:** The treasurers report was given.

NEW BUSINESS

Four items were on the special meeting agenda for discussion and consideration.

North Butler Scholarship

Each year St. John's awards a one-time scholarship of \$500 to one boy and one girl graduating from North Butler High School who plans to further their education. The guidelines for the scholarship were reviewed and put in place.

1. Vilmar's Mission and Outreach Committee will award a one-time, \$500 scholarship to one boy and one girl in the graduating class of North Butler High School every year.
2. The scholarships will not be awarded based on GPA, therefore the valedictorian and salutatorian will be automatically disqualified.
3. The scholarships will not automatically be awarded to a member of Vilmar. All eligible North Butler students must fill out an application provided by North Butler Schools.
4. Vilmar's Scholarship Committee will chose two applicants for discussion and approval by a majority vote from the church council.
5. Pastor Martin will present the winners with the scholarship certificates during North Butler's annual awards ceremony, when possible.

Diane Hummel recommended Eric Brehmer and Molly Hearn as the 2020 scholarship recipients. Pastor made a motion to accept the recommendation. Don Salge seconded the motion. Council approved.

Dust Permit

Dust control will be applied to the road in front of the church. Brenda Boden will contact Niemeyer Services for application. Rhonda Edeker made a motion and Ron Salge seconded. Council approved.

Confirmation

Pastor informed council that Emily Edeker will be confirmed on June 7, 2020 pending completion of all requirements. Barb Wagner made a motion that Emily be confirmed pending the requirements are met. Brenda Boden seconded the motion. Council approved.

Re-Opening

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, services have not been held at St. John's since March 15. Pastor has since held online Sunday morning services, prayer vigils, and other opportunities for worship throughout each week.

Gov. Reynolds announced that all 99 counties could resume gatherings, including churches, providing the following guidelines by the Iowa Department of Public Health were put in place and followed.

1. Social distancing must be enforced. Households must keep a 6-foot distance between themselves and others.
2. Hand sanitizing stations, sanitizing wipes must be available.
3. Regular sanitization must be done to high-touch areas including but not limited to: pews, hand railings, door handles and bathroom areas.
4. Holy Communion will not be given at the rail, but by individual cup distribution.
5. Offering plates will not be passed.
6. Signage must be placed at all doors reminding anyone who enters be free of COVID-19 symptoms for 14 days, or if you have been exposed to anyone who tested positive for COVID-19.
7. Individuals who are at higher risk (65 years of age and older, or if there are underlying health conditions) be encouraged and advised to remain at home.

The council spent time reviewing guidelines, asking questions and raising concerns. The council members went into the sanctuary and looked at how social distancing would look in regards to seating.

A motion was made by Barb Wagner to set a tentative date of June 7 to reopen for worship. Jason seconded. Motion failed.

Council members continued discussion on the guidelines and the steps the council would take to provide a safe place for worship for everyone. Pastor's recommendation was to reopen on May 31 at 10 a.m., with all guidelines in place. Pastor would send out these guidelines to all members prior to May 31 so everyone would be aware of the changes and expectations. Pastor made a motion to set worship for May 31. Jason Edeker seconded the motion. Council approved.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

CLOSING

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Barb Wagner, *Secretary*

MEMBERS PRESENT

P Monica Edeker (President)
P Brenda Boden (Treasurer)
P Barb Wagner (Secretary)
P Pastor Martin
A Warren Van Dyke

P Evan Steere
P Diane Hummel
A Isabella Seehusen
P Rhonda Edeker

P Jason Edeker
P Ron Salge
P Don Salge
P Jeff Seehusen

ST. JOHN'S – VILMAR COUNCIL CAPSULE

Wednesday, May 20, 2020 • 7 p.m. • Regular Session

St. John's–Vilmar Church Council met on Wednesday, May 20, 2020. Pastor Chris opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer focused on Acts 1.

REPORTS

- **Secretary:** Barb Wagner read the council minutes of the previous meeting. There were no corrections or additions to the minutes and they stood approved as read.
- **Treasurer:** Brenda Boden presented a written report in her absence. Corrections were noted for the May Herald's financial statement. On April 8, \$250 went to Missions; April 14 entry should read: \$1,040 to General Fund; \$100 to Missions; \$100 to Lent; and \$150 to Easter entries. A \$4,500 Mission Investment Fund (CD) was automatically renewed for four years at 2.75%. We collected \$225 in Easter donations, that will benefit youth attending the NALC Iowa Mission District youth trip. At this time that trip has been cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns.
- **Chairman:** Kurt Roose asked that he continue to mow, spray, and bale the church pasture. Warren made motion and Pastor Chris seconded to approve. Council approved request. Doyle Brocka would like to take west and south fence of the pasture out and clean up the brush pile. Barb Wagner made a motion and Rhonda Edeker seconded to grant request. Council approved. The Voigts family has cancelled their June 14 reunion. They have requested to reserve the Fellowship Hall for Sunday, June 13, 2021. Council approved. In November the Voigts family would like to host a Vilmar History Day after the morning service, providing COVID-19 restrictions for social gatherings have been lifted.
- **Stewardship & Finance:** Don will look into drafting a letter about our Simply Giving program.
- **Mission & Outreach:** May mission givings will fund the North American Lutheran Seminary.
- **Worship & Fellowship:** No report.
- **Deacons:** No report.
- **Trustees:** Flags were put out for oil treatment on the road. A lawn mowing sign-up sheet has been posted. Those interested in signing up to mow church lawn are encouraged to do so. The storm door on the back of the church and the storm door between the parsonage garage and entryway need to be replaced. Warren will begin to look at prices for a new garage door. There are some cracks in the foundation of the parsonage. There may be a need for some landscaping around parsonage. The elevator inspection certificate needs to be placed in the elevator. Warren will check into replacing some of the siding that was damaged on the back side of the church. Window World replaced the cracked window in the Educational Unit. There will be no spring cleanup scheduled.
- **Parish Ed.:** Monica reported that during this time of no Sunday School she has been mailing crafts, worksheets, resources, and cards to Sunday School youth to use at home. The annual day camp has not been rescheduled at this time.
- **Pastor Martin:** Pastor Martin reviewed the different approaches he has taken to provide opportunities for parishioners and others from our community and across the world to hear the Word of God using online methods and live-streaming on Facebook. Pastor has offered Tuesday and Thursday devotions and prayer, morning prayers on Wednesday and Friday along with the Holy Week events and Sunday morning online worship services. He took viewers behind the scenes with videos of interesting aspects of the church. The virtual ministry has reached not only members of St. John's, but also members of other congregations who have not had virtual services offered from

their own congregations. Pastor has also provided mailings of sermons and weekly information to those who do not have internet access. The Iowa Mission District's Pastor's Retreat was cancelled. The Mission District Convocation to be held in September at Vilmar is still being planned. More information will be coming as to Vilmar's responsibilities for this event.

- **Director of Communications:** Monica shared a list of members and non-members who currently receive the Heralds. The bulk rate prices and postage expenses were reviewed and explained.

OLD BUSINESS

- Bella reported they are still troubleshooting problem issues on the microphone system.
- The balcony quilts have now been completed and are hung. A special thanks to all who helped with this ministry in creating and in displaying. Not only are the quilts a beautiful addition to our sanctuary, but we are hopeful they will help with the echo in the sanctuary.
- Pastor's Discretionary Fund was discussed. This fund is available and can be used at the discretion of the Pastor to provide assistance to individuals who are in need and ask for help. Pastor has developed guidelines for this fund and its use. After council discussion, Rhonda made a motion to set up a Discretionary Fund at the Iowa State Bank in Clarksville. Barb seconded and council approved.
- Each year money is made available from St. John's for scholarships. There had been discussion on how students receive their monetary gift. The scholarship money will be given to the school and students will receive their scholarship from the North Butler Schools.
- Pastor Martin handed out the written guidelines for re-opening for in-person worship on May 31. He reviewed with the council all the guidelines set by the Iowa Department of Public Health and how those guidelines will be implemented for worship. Council discussed how certain aspects of worship would be handled—communion distribution, bulletins, hymnals, etc. The guidelines were agreed upon by the council, and will be sent to all members prior to the May 31 worship service.

NEW BUSINESS

- Augsburg will require at some point a license to live stream services using copyright material. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they gave permission for churches to live-stream without a current license. A license is also required to live stream and print hymns. After discussion, Don Salge made a motion and Rhonda Edeker seconded to purchase a one-year license at a cost of \$279 to live stream the hymns. Council approved.

NEXT MEETING

A special meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 3 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The regular June meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 10 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

CLOSING

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Barb Wagner, *Secretary*

MEMBERS PRESENT

P Monica Edeker (President)

P Evan Steere

P Jason Edeker

A Brenda Boden (Treasurer)

P Diane Hummel

A Ron Salge

P Barb Wagner (Secretary)

P Isabella Seehusen

P Don Salge

P Pastor Martin

P Rhonda Edeker

P Jeff Seehusen

P Warren Van Dyke

ST. JOHN'S – VILMAR COUNCIL CAPSULE

Wednesday, June 3, 2020

SUMMARY

The St. John's Church Council met for a special meeting on June 3, 2020, to review concerns/issues of the reopening of in-person worship on Sunday, May 31. Pastor opened the meeting with devotions and prayer based on John 7.

Because of the COVID-19 restrictions, the reopening of church services on May 31 was required to follow the guidelines set by the CDC and the Iowa Department of Public Health. Pastor stated he was pleased with 45 in attendance for worship. Overall the council felt that things went well in provided a safe environment for worship. It was noted that to ensure the six foot distancing guidelines, that only two persons may sit in the short pews: one household of multiple people or one person on each end.

Other items for discussion:

- Lapse of audio during live streaming was recognized and fixed.
- Hymn of the Day provides musical commentary on the context of the sermon. Some had expressed preferring the hymn after the sermon.
- Council discussed loaning out hymnals to those who would like to follow the order of service at home during live streaming. Brenda Boden made a motion and Warren Van Dyke seconded to allow parishioners who are not comfortable returning to in-person worship may contact Pastor to check out a hymnal from the church. Hymnals that are loaned out will not have an "in memory of" label. Motion carried.
- Pastor will make private communions available by appointment during the week.
- Pastor reviewed online opportunities for worship and devotions during the week.

NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be held Wednesday, June 10 at 7 p.m.

CLOSING

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Barb Wagner, *Secretary*

ST. JOHN'S – VILMAR COUNCIL CAPSULE

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

Pastor Martin opened the meeting with devotions and prayer based on Psalm 96.

REPORTS

- **Secretary:** The secretary's report was read and approved.
- **Treasurer:** Brenda Boden provided a financial report. It was noted that no check was issued to North Butler Scholarship this year as there was previous scholarship money that had been unclaimed from St. John's.
- **Chairman:** Monica had received an inquiry about any old banquet tables that might be available.
- **Stewardship & Finance:** No report.
- **Mission & Outreach:** Relay For Life Vilmar teams requested permission to display luminaries down the sidewalk areas on the evening of July 10. Council granted permission. Relay For Life will be a virtual event this year due to COVID-19. July mission will be Feed My Starving Children.
- **Worship & Fellowship:** No report.
- **Deacons:** No report.
- **Trustees:** Warren presented a quote for a new garage door from Christie Door Company. The bid of \$1,300 included an insulated door, installation and removal of old door. Jeff Seehusen made a motion to accept the bid from Christie Door Co., and Brenda Boden seconded. Motion carried and council approved. Warren also fixed some drainage issues and had concerns about some ash trees by the parsonage. The annual walk through the church grounds and parsonage has been completed and fulfilled for the year.
- **Parish Ed.:** No report.
- **Pastor Martin:** Pastor reported that since re-opening with in-person worship, there were 45 in attendance on May 31 and 38 on June 7. The live-streaming services continue to reach many individuals. It has been very positive to see how many are taking advantage of the live services as well as the devotions throughout the week Pastor is making private communion available for those who might be uncomfortable attending in-person services. He has had several who have made appointments and he will continue to offer that services at least through the month of June. Pastor is now Co-Chair of the NALC Mission Office Renewal Team. Projects they are working on include "The Academy" and "The Small and Rural Church" resources/online courses. Locally, an area pastor applied for a technology grant for Valley View Care Center in Greene. The churches in the community are working on updating Valley View's internet/wireless connections so that pastors can provide remote church services to the residents through live streaming.
- **Director of Communications:** In the past a combined July/August Herald has been printed. With all the changes going on at the present time with pandemic restrictions, it was felt that a Herald should be mailed out in July and in August to help keep everyone current on changes that are happening daily. Monica shared some information about the costs in mailing the Herald each month bulk rate vs. regular mailing rate. Monica will reduce the number bulletins printed weekly from 75 to 60. Monica noted that a request for the Herald by email. At this time we are not set up for that service, but may be in the future.

OLD BUSINESS

- It was noted that worshippers had noticed some change in the echo issue since the quilts have been hung in the balcony. Research will continue to be done to look into a more permanent solution for livestreaming.
- New doors have been hung on the barn. Pastor did power washing and is currently painting the barn. Lindsay plans on building shutters for windows on the barn.
- Discussion was held on the reopening of in-person worship and any concerns that have been noticed. Six foot distancing needs to be observed. Parishioners must enter the church upon entering and be seated. There can be no congregating in the Narthex. This needs to be enforced because of guidelines set by the CDC and the Iowa Department of Public Health, and because of liability. These guidelines are not drawn up by the Vilmar Church Council. In order for our church to continue in-person worship, the guidelines must be followed. Communion was observed the first Sunday in June. It was suggested to mark areas in the aisle to help observe the six foot distancing while waiting for communion.
- Lincoln Savings Bank informed us that the state tax ID has not been updated. Pastor will follow up with LSB for clarification.

NEW BUSINESS

- None.

NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be held Wednesday, July 8 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

CLOSING

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Barb Wagner, *Secretary*

MEMBERS PRESENT

P Monica Edeker (President)

P Evan Steere

P Jason Edeker

P Brenda Boden (Treasurer)

P Diane Hummel

P Ron Salge (*by video*)

P Barb Wagner (Secretary)

A Isabella Seehusen

P Don Salge

P Pastor Martin

P Rhonda Edeker

P Jeff Seehusen

P Warren Van Dyke

ST. JOHN'S – VILMAR COUNCIL CAPSULE

Wednesday, July 7, 2020

OPENING

Pastor Martin opened meeting with devotions and prayer based on 1 Corinthians 1:10.

Jim Wubbena addressed the council concerning cleaning up volunteer trees and brush under the evergreen trees behind the church/parsonage. Warren VanDyke made a motion and Jason Edeker seconded that motion to give permission to Jim to remove and dispose of volunteer trees and brush.

REPORTS

- **Secretary:** The secretary's report was read and approved.
- **Treasurer:** Brenda Boden presented a written report in her absence. The operating balance continues to decline and current funds will not cover three months of bills. Some of the expenses that have increased are: charitable donations, postage, pastor's health insurance, repairs, IRS penalties, and wages. Large expenses within the past year have included gutters, 5% of 2019 budget to NALC, Church Mutual insurance premium.
- **Chairman:** Monica received a letter from the company concerning the stained glass window repair and the status of the project. Council tabled the project for now.
- **Stewardship & Finance:** No report.
- **Mission & Outreach:** Rhonda presented report: \$1,000 was given to Lutheran World Relief, \$500 to Valley View Care Center, \$685 to Relay For Life (plus an additional \$500 from the mission fund was given to Riverside for one \$200 for camperships gift certificate and two \$150 camperships that were then donated to the Relay's Silent Auction); \$400 went to the Flood bucket project. The August mission is Allison and Greene Food Banks.
- **Worship & Fellowship:** No report.
- **Deacons:** No report.
- **Trustees:** Warren replaced furnace filters, repaired two broken windows in the basement and cleaned mildew in the stairwell. The water stains in the ceiling are being prepped to paint. Along with spraying roundup around the church, fill dirt has been added around the church property. The base of the elevator was wire brushed to meet guidelines. Warren observed that a new vacuum was needed for the janitors. Council approved a motion to allow janitors to purchase a new vacuum not to exceed \$350. It was advised to leave the doors open in the educational unit and to keep blinds shut top help with the dehumidifier. Other concerns brought up were: educational unit roof needs to be resealed. Rhonda made a motion and Jason seconded motion to replace air conditioner in Pastor's study if it can't be repaired. Motion carried. Rhonda made a motion and Diane second to have Ross Plumbing contacted to repack faucets in kitchen sink area. Wix Water Works will be called to look at the water softener in parsonage. Warren will check on new storm doors for church. Concrete needs to be replaced on the north side of the church and Jeff will check on extending sidewalk to the cemetery fence.
- **Parish Ed.:** No report.

- **Pastor Martin:** Pastor had confirmation service for Emily Edeker and conducted funeral service for Florence Vieker. Pastor presented a check to Valley View Care Center to help for helping with the purchase of three wireless accent points. There will be no convocation in Pittsburgh due to COVID-19. The convocation will be a virtual event held on August 7 and 8. It was decided that the Iowa Mission District meeting that was scheduled to be held at Vilmar, will not be held. Information will be sent and presented to delegates to review. The truck that was scheduled to be at Vilmar during the convocation to pick up flood buckets will not be available at that time. The decision as to where the buckets will be picked up has yet to be determined.
- **Director of Communications:** Monica gave a report on the cost of Herald mailings per month. There have been requests to receive Herald by email. Monica will print a survey in an upcoming Herald asking how parishioners would like to receive the Herald. Parishioners are encouraged to fill out the survey and return.

OLD BUSINESS

- Pastor had been asked about setting up a Sound System Fund. Virtual services have been live-streamed since the COVID-19 pandemic. Since Pastor plans to continue the online ministry and the worship services will continue to be online, the council agreed that a system that can support this ministry needs to be in place. Motion was made to start a “Sound Fund” to collect funds to update the equipment for live streaming. Research will be done as to what we are capable of doing and will talk with other churches about the technology they are using.
- There continues to be a concern that parishioners are not following the guidelines for social distancing in the pews. The guidelines need to be followed for in-person worship to remain open is set up by the Iowa Department of Public Health and the CDC. Parishioners are to note that hymn books are also an indication of where to sit to observe social distancing

NEW BUSINESS

- Weekly offering envelopes are purchased at a cost of \$218/100 boxes or \$160/75 boxes. The number ordered for 2021 will be reduced to 75.

NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be held Wednesday, Aug. 12 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

CLOSING

The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Barb Wagner, *Secretary*

MEMBERS PRESENT

P Monica Edeker (President)
 A Brenda Boden (Treasurer)
 P Barb Wagner (Secretary)
 P Pastor Martin
 P Warren Van Dyke

P Evan Steere
 P Diane Hummel
 A Isabella Seehusen
 P Rhonda Edeker

P Jason Edeker
 P Ron Salge
 A Don Salge
 P Jeff Seehusen

ST. JOHN'S – VILMAR COUNCIL CAPSULE

Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2020

St. John's Vilmar Church Council met Aug. 12, 2020 at 7 p.m., in the fellowship hall. Pastor Martin opened the meeting with devotion and prayer based on Matthew 14: 22.

REPORTS

- **Secretary:** The secretary's report was read and approved.
- **Treasurer:** Brenda Boden presented the treasurer's report. Council was given a breakdown of the cash flow needed to meet monthly expenses. To meet the approved 2020 budget, \$11,732 is needed in monthly envelope income. Currently the income is \$29,105 short to meet the 2020 budget. Bills presented for payment were Ross Plumbing and Heating for \$288.38, Peterson Backhoe for \$7,122.26 (for work done in 2019), and Christie Door Company for \$724.47. Council approved to pay Ross Plumbing and Christie Door Co. bills in full. Ron Salge would visit with Peterson Backhoe about making several payments on his bill. (Peterson agreed to several monthly payments.)
- **Chairman:** No report.
- **Stewardship & Finance:** No report.
- **Mission & Outreach:** Monica reported, in Rhonda's absence, that Rhonda has continued to keep in touch with personal notes to parishioners. Thank you cards were received from NALC Seminary and Lutheran World Relief for \$1000 gifts. The August mission focus is Allison and Greene Food Banks. Rhonda's report also included the delivery of school supplies to North Butler.
- **Worship & Fellowship:** No report.
- **Deacons:** No report.
- **Trustees:** Warren Van Dyke gave a report on the updates and repairs in the church and parsonage, including the air conditioner repairs, drains cleaned, and kitchen faucets repacked. The stove in the parsonage has been replaced and the garage door has been installed. A quote from Kurt Menken for labor and equipment to trim ash trees was presented. Barb Wagner made a motion to accept the bid of \$125/4 hours to have ash trees trimmed. Diane Hummel seconded the motion and council approved. The council room will be re-waxed soon and the sidewalk will be extended to the cemetery.
- **Parish Ed.:** Monica Edeker prepared and presented a sample of the 14 Vacation Bible School (VBS) activity boxes for the Sunday School children. These were prepared and delivered to the Vilmar students since no in-person VBS could be held due to restrictions from COVID-19.
- **Pastor Martin:** Pastor Chris gave an updated health report on Bishop John Bradosky and his continuing recovery. Since the re-opening of church services, the attendance has been between 30-50 persons. Online views are from 150-200 views. When the pandemic hit in March and churches were forced to refrain from in-person worship, Augsburg Fortress waived the licensing fee for livestreaming the liturgy. Beginning Sept. 1, Augsburg will require us to have a liturgy license to continue livestreaming services as we are doing currently. Brenda Boden made a motion to purchase the liturgy licensing fee if the cost does not exceed \$150. Council will need to approve the purchase if more than \$150. Pastor shared he will have one student for confirmation in the fall.

Pastor is reviewing options for classes with student and parents. Pastor Chris is preparing a video series to study the liturgical Bible references that are included in weekly bulletins. This study will be available as an adult education class, but will also be part of the confirmation curriculum. The proposed amendments from the NALC Convocation will be voted on at a special congregational meeting in the future. The Disaster Response truck will be collecting flood buckets in Strawberry Point on September 18-20. Used Bibles and gift cards are still needed to be included in the buckets.

- **Director of Communications:** Vilmar's Church Council is discussing additional options for delivery of the monthly newsletter. In order for the council to make a cost-effective decision, parishioners are to complete the survey and return by mailing to the church, emailing vilmarchurch@gmail.com or placing the form in the basket in the narthex. The council appreciates the responses so far and encourages everyone to complete the survey and return.

OLD BUSINESS

- Rick Chitty from Greene met with Pastor Chris and Monica to discuss the options for a new sound system/equipment to meet our needs. Rick will be putting a proposal together. Pastor and Monica also looked at the sound system used by the Trinity Reformed Church. We may have the option of having our services on the local TV Dumont Cable Vision channel in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

- A contract from Innovative Ag for propane was presented. The cost for contracting currently is \$1.05/gallon. Don Salge made a motion to purchase propane at \$1.05/gal for 2,873 gallons, which is the amount used last year. Warren VanDyke seconded the motion. Council approved.
- Monica Edeker asked the council to think about how we might or when we should return to normalcy since the pandemic. A list was reviewed on the different ministries that this would affect in our congregation, including but not limited to, safely opening Sunday school, women's fellowship groups, choir, youth groups, etc. At this time the council agreed to discuss re-opening after the schools have opened up and review at a later date.

NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be held Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

CLOSING

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Barb Wagner, *Secretary*

MEMBERS PRESENT

P Monica Edeker (President)

A Evan Steere

P Jason Edeker

P Brenda Boden (Treasurer)

P Diane Hummel

P Ron Salge

P Barb Wagner (Secretary)

A Isabella Seehusen

P Don Salge

P Pastor Martin

A Rhonda Edeker

P Jeff Seehusen

P Warren Van Dyke

ST. JOHN'S – VILMAR COUNCIL CAPSULE

Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2020 | 7 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

The St. John's Vilmar Church Council met on Sept. 9, 2020 at 7 p.m., in the fellowship hall. Pastor Martin opened the meeting with devotion and prayer based on Ecclesiastics Chapter 3.

REPORTS

- **Secretary:** The secretary's report was read and approved.
- **Treasurer:** Brenda Boden presented the treasurers report and a 2020 financial recap. Treasurer's report was read and approved.
- **Chairman:** No report.
- **Stewardship & Finance:** No report.
- **Mission & Outreach:** Allison and Greene Food Banks were recipients of the August mission. Mission emphasis for September is Little Lambs Preschool. Rhonda will be in contact with them to find out what needs they currently have and how our mission funds can support their needs.
- **Worship & Fellowship:** Pastor Paul Wegg will conduct services on Sunday, Sept. 20 due to Pastor and his family being on vacation
- **Deacons:** No report.
- **Trustees:** Curt Mehmen trimmed trees on property and donated his time and equipment.
- **Parish Ed.:** No report.
- **Pastor Martin:** Ballots for the Iowa Mission District Convocation were sent to Lindsey Martin and Barb Wagner. Voting by the delegates will be done by email. Pastor has prepared a three-part Bible study series on the Seasons of the Church Year, the Liturgy, and the Sacraments. This will also be part of the confirmation class study. It is also a virtual study and will be posted to the church's Facebook Page. Any questions can be posted in the comments and Pastor will be happy to answer any and all questions.
- **Director of Communications:** Results from the survey concerning how parishioners would like to receive the Herald was presented. 222 surveys were sent out and 52 were returned. More information will be gathered on special mailing rates. Council approved purchasing mailing envelopes from Mid-America Publishing for \$275/2,500.

OLD BUSINESS

- Council is currently waiting on a proposal for the sound system from Rick Chitty. Butler County Computers will also be contacted about a proposal.
- A motion was made by Warren and seconded by Rhonda to pay the remainder of the Peterson bill in full. Motion carried.
- The annual walk through of the parsonage was done by some of the council members. Pastor and Lindsay shared some items of concern that need to be addressed. Trustees will be taking care of these items of concern.

NEW BUSINESS

- Discussion was held concerning the return to normalcy at St. John's. It was decided that the following ministries would reopen in October pending any further COVID-19 restrictions that might be put in place. Sunday School will begin in October as well as Little Lutherans on October 7 with confirmation at 6 p.m. Sunshine visitors may resume visitations as long as everyone involved is comfortable visiting and receiving visitors. Cards, letters and phone calls would be alternative ways to remain in contact with those on the visitation list. Women's Bible Study and Sewing Groups may reopen as desired as long as precautions and social distancing are observed.

NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be held Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2020, following the evening's youth activities at 7:30 p.m.

CLOSING

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Barb Wagner, *Secretary*

MEMBERS PRESENT

P Monica Edeker (President)

P Evan Steere

P Jason Edeker

P Brenda Boden (Treasurer)

P Diane Hummel

P Ron Salge

P Barb Wagner (Secretary)

A Isabella Seehusen

P Don Salge

P Pastor Martin

P Rhonda Edeker

P Jeff Seehusen

P Warren Van Dyke

ST. JOHN'S – VILMAR COUNCIL CAPSULE

Special Session: Thursday, Oct. 1, 2020 | 7 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Monica Edeker called the meeting to order. Pastor Martin gave a devotion based on Acts 20:17.

Monica addressed the council regarding her decision to step down as council chairperson. She shared that the responsibilities of Director of Parish Education and Communications Director require a lot of her time. She will continue as chairman until the next council meeting when a new chairman will be selected. Council thanked Monica for her dedication and leadership during the months served.

Pastor Martin presented a letter of resignation as Pastor of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church-Vilmar effective Nov. 16, 2020. Pastor Martin has accepted a call to become Senior Pastor of Hope Lutheran Church in Ladysmith, Wisconsin and Glen Flora Lutheran Church, Glen Flora, Wisconsin. Pastor's final Sunday will be Oct. 25, 2020. Brenda Boden made a motion to accept the resignation of Pastor Chris Martin as Pastor of St. John's effective Nov. 16, 2020. Rhonda Edeker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Barb Wagner, *Secretary*

MEMBERS PRESENT

P Monica Edeker (President)

P Evan Steere

P Jason Edeker

P Brenda Boden (Treasurer)

P Diane Hummel

P Ron Salge

P Barb Wagner (Secretary)

A Isabella Seehusen

P Don Salge

P Pastor Martin

P Rhonda Edeker

P Jeff Seehusen

A Warren Van Dyke

ST. JOHN'S – VILMAR COUNCIL CAPSULE

Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2020 | 7:30 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

The St. John's-Vilmar Church Council met on Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2020. Pastor Martin opened the meeting with devotions and prayer based on 2 Corinthians 5:17-20.

REPORTS

- **Secretary:** Barb Wagner read the secretary's report from the Sept. 9, 2020 meeting and the special council meeting on Oct. 1, 2020. A correction to the September meeting was noted that Curt Mehmen should have read Curt Menken. The secretary's reports were read and approved.
- **Treasurer:** Brenda Boden presented a written report of the current financial report of St. John's. The report was approved.
- **Chairman:** In the upcoming weeks a meeting will be scheduled with the Mission District Dean, Pastor Chris Staley to discuss how we will proceed and the steps that will be taken as we go forward due to Pastor Martin's resignation.
- **Stewardship & Finance:** None.
- **Mission & Outreach:** Little Lambs Preschool was September's mission focus. Donations of \$609 were used to purchase the suggested items of paint racks for drying artwork, paint supplies, appropriate toys and puzzles for the various age groups. October's mission will be focused on Operation Christmas Child. Bremwood will be the mission focus in November, and the Gideons will be the focus in December. Rhonda continues to send letters and cards to members of the congregation.
- **Worship & Fellowship:** Diane reported that the following schedule for worship in November: Nov. 1 and 15, Pastor Weeg; Nov. 8, the Voigts Family; Nov. 22, the Carson Family.
- **Deacons:** None.
- **Trustees:** Schumacher Elevator sent a proposal for the inspection of our elevator for \$480. This inspection is done each year and is an annual requirement.
- **Parish Ed.:** Sunday School, Little Lutherans and Confirmation classes have begun. Monica reported that the schedule is going well and the youth are following the guidelines for self-distancing. Luther Leaguers have met with Monica and shared that they would like to meet frequently, in addition to Sunday School. They have expressed interest in helping with various projects.
- **Pastor Martin:** Oct. 25, 2020 will be Pastor Martin's last Sunday at Vilmar. He will be available to cover any funerals, if needed, the last week of October. His family plans to be out of the parsonage on Nov. 6. Pastor has been working on items needed to be completed for the pastoral transition. The Parish record book has been updated, confirmation instruction will be shared with Diane. Pastor has contacted the needed businesses/organizations regarding his resignation. Rhonda Edeker made the motion and Warren VanDyke seconded the motion to appoint Monica Edeker as the registered agent for the Iowa Secretary State's Office. Council approved. Rhonda Edeker made a motion to remove Pastor's name from the Pastor's Discretionary Fund and Cemetery accounts at Iowa State Bank. Brenda Boden seconded the motion and council approved. Pastor Martin explained the process for the distribution communion to the homebound during the absence of a pastor. Council will need to appoint individuals responsible for this ministry.

- **Director of Communications:** Bulk mailing rates for mailing the Herald are still being looked into. No action will be taken at this time until those numbers are available.

OLD BUSINESS

- Bids were presented from Butler County Computers in Allison and from Comprehensive Sound Systems in Greene regarding updating our sound system/live streaming equipment in the sanctuary. The Council discussed the two options and questions were raised about the two different proposals. Council will continue to be looking at the proposals and researching what will be the best system that will fulfill the needs for our church.
- Council discussed and decided that in November readers could begin reading the lessons and psalms.

NEW BUSINESS

- Monica Edeker presented a letter of her intent to step down from her position as Church Council President effective Nov. 1, 2020. Monica stated, “With the upcoming vacancy in the pastoral position, I feel it is in the best interest of our church if we have a separate Council President and Director of Communications. I believe we will be a stronger congregation if I can focus on the administrative responsibilities of the church, and have a Council President to call on, should any issues or questions arise in the future.” Barb Wagner made a motion to accept her resignation and Diane Hummel seconded the motion. Council approved. Pastor Martin abstained from voting. Council thanked Monica for her leadership during her time served and their appreciation for the administrative duties she has been doing. The floor was opened for nominations for a council president. There were none. Jason Edeker nominated Ron Salge to serve as council president beginning Nov. 1, 2020. Jason Edeker moved that nominations cease, and council cast a unanimous ballot to elect Ron Salge as the next council president. Council approved. Pastor Martin abstained from voting.

NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 11 in the Fellowship Hall.

CLOSING

The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Barb Wagner, *Secretary*

MEMBERS PRESENT

P Monica Edeker (President)
 P Brenda Boden (Treasurer)
 P Barb Wagner (Secretary)
 P Pastor Martin
 P Warren Van Dyke

A Evan Steere
 P Diane Hummel
 A Isabella Seehusen
 P Rhonda Edeker

P Jason Edeker
 A Ron Salge
 A Don Salge
 P Jeff Seehusen

ST. JOHN'S – VILMAR COUNCIL CAPSULE

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2020

The St. John's–Vilmar church council met for a brief meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2020. Council chairman Ron Salge opened the meeting.

**The regular November meeting scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2020, was postponed due rising COVID numbers in Butler County. The council felt the regular meeting could be put on hold; however, needing to transact business with the sound system and livestreaming, and provide a few updates, the council agreed to meet for a short meeting on Nov. 17. Formal reports were not given. Brief discussion was held on the following topics:*

REPORTS

- **Treasurer:** Brenda Boden requested council members to review the 2020 budget and to be thinking about what the proposed 2021 budget might look like.
- **Chairman:** Ron Salge reported that he had been in contact with Pastor Staley on the process of going forward with the call process. Pastor Staley has completed classes on his position as District Dean of the Iowa Mission District of the NALC, and was ready to meet with the council members. Ron stated he had walked through the parsonage and did some necessary cleanups and set mouse traps.
- **Mission & Outreach:** Rhonda ordered six travelling communion sets for private communions. Council will discuss more about setting up a pastoral committee for outreach to members.
- **Worship & Fellowship:** With no in-person services currently being held, council discussed the virtual services for upcoming Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The Thanksgiving Eve service will be taped and will be online Thanksgiving Eve. Diane and Barb will prepare the virtual Christmas service which will be available to view online Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The Carson family will provide a service of music and message on Nov. 22. Jack Miller will do the services on Nov. 29 and Dec. 6. David Burrier will provide service on Dec. 13, Pastor Wegg will conduct services on Dec. 20. Sunday, Dec. 27 will be a lay service.
- **Trustees:** The phone company has been putting in fiber optics wiring this past week. Warren will update the map with the location of the new lines. Harlan Martzahn will again set up a system in the parsonage for determining if the parsonage is without heat. He will set up a pumpkin in the east porch that will light up if the heat gets below a certain temperature.
- **Parish Ed.:** Monica reported that the Luther League will be decorating a tree at Wilder Park for the Christmas Light drive through event early in December.

OLD BUSINESS

- Council reviewed the quotes from Butler County Computers and Comprehensive Sound for new live streaming/sound systems. After discussion on the options of both quotes, Rhonda Edeker made a motion to accept the bid from Butler County Computers for \$4,787.18. Barb Wagner second the motion. Council approved. This quote includes video and computer equipment and labor, and will utilize the microphones and sound system presently in place for live streaming. The system will be paid for with memorial and mission money.

NEW BUSINESS

- No new business discussed at this meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be held Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020 at 7 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

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

P Brenda Boden (Treasurer)

P Diane Hummel

P Monica Edeker

P Barb Wagner (Secretary)

A Isabella Seehusen

A Don Salge

P Rhonda Edeker

P Jeff Seehusen

P Warren Van Dyke

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*

MEMBERS PRESENT

P Ron Salge (President)

P Brenda Boden (Treasurer)

P Barb Wagner (Secretary)

P Rhonda Edeker

P Evan Steere

P Diane Hummel

A Isabella Seehusen

P Jeff Seehusen

P Jason Edeker

P Monica Edeker

P Don Salge

P Warren Van Dyke

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.

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 Brenda Boden (Treasurer)

P Barb Wagner (Secretary)

P Rhonda Edeker

P Evan Steere

P Diane Hummel

A Isabella Seehusen

P Jeff Seehusen

P Jason Edeker

P Monica Edeker

P Don Salge

P Warren Van Dyke