



July 2023

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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UPCOMING DEADLINES:

Weekly Bulletins:

Thursdays at 9 a.m.

August Herald

Announcements:

Sunday, July 23 at 5 p.m.

TIME CHANGE:

During July and August, the church services begin at 9 a.m. No Sunday School.

For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'
ROMANS 10:13

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church - Vilmar

16073 Keystone Ave.
Greene, IA 50636-9163



NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH



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Well of Inspiration Update

In March of 2023, Clint & Amy Seehusen, Teta Ross, and Marc Seehusen and I went to Liberia, Africa. The mission was a blessing from God. We felt His presence in the organization of the event, multiple ceremonies, the sermons, relationships, culture, and visiting the wells.

Teta's husband, JB, helped organize and navigate the arrangements. We were supported at the airport from the second we arrived. Collecting our passports and immunization cards, gathering and loading our fifteen 50-pound suitcases into a police truck, and giving us a police escort 30 miles — 2 hours ride to our hotel.

An itinerary was planned for each day. Starting with a welcome ceremony at JB's sister's church was full of music from shekere (gourd rattle), singing voices, and dancing. The message shared was about using our talents to serve God. Ladies from the trade school wore dresses they made at the trade school and were overjoyed to meet us. A sense of community, love, and appreciation filled the church. Finishing the first day with a trip to Teta and JB's house to meet, greet, build relationships, and tour the future location of the church/trade school that is being built. Kicking a soccer ball around with children and sharing candy created lots of smiles and excitement.

Sunday was filled with praise and worship at the site of the church/trade school. Tarps were erected to give some protection from the intense sun, lawn chair put in rows like pew benches in church, and 200-plus seated guests patiently waited for our arrival. We were honored and seated at a head table facing the congregation with a banner with our faces tied up behind us. Children and women of the trade school performed well-rehearsed skits. A band played as women and children danced in praise. We were dressed in traditional garments as a sign of appreciation. All the donations that were carried in our suitcases were presented to the village members.

See, **Wells Update:** Page 2

The rest of our days were filled with touring 5 completed wells, making acquaintances, sharing our faith, and building relations. Well #1 was at Ma Mary's Place requiring us to cross a bamboo stick 75-yard, 1-foot wide, no handrail bridge. Thoughts of children crossing this bridge with buckets of water or food on a daily basis flooded my mind as we carefully sidestepped the unsteady structure. Ma Mary's dwelling was constructed of scraps of tin adorned by her children's artwork directly on some of the outside walls. Years ago, Ma Mary sadly lost a child that fell from the bridge when attempting to cross it to avoid flooding water. This well was completed on Jan. 17, 2023.

Well #2 required a 4-wheel drive vehicle to travel over 4 miles off the main road into the bush. We passed different villages that will all utilize the well. One lady greeted us at the well to praise God for the gift of fresh water, as many other village members were in the bush gathering food, firewood, and items to make into charcoal.

Well #3 was along a road with many different dwellings. Many women and young children gathered to give thanks. All were excited to get a few pieces of candy.

Well #4 was a challenge to dig as a large rock required additional pounding to break through. Village members danced and sang songs of praise to God around the well. Children were excited to have friends from the United States and were taught the I-O-W-A chant that is heard after the Iowa Hawkeyes score touchdowns. Giggles and cheers surrounded us.

Well #5 was placed in the city behind a shop that sells all sorts of merchandise. Many town members shook hands and shared cool drinks with us. A young woman named Handful explained how thankful she was that she didn't have to walk all day with a small plastic pool on her head to find water for her family to drink. I inquired about her name and discovered she was named for being born a preemie. She seemed like an adult handful full of spunk.



At this point, the mission has completed 10 wells, purchased and delivered 160 -25 pound bags of rice, made, purchased, and installed 5,000 bricks, and paid and poured the foundation for the future church/trade school. God has made the Well of Inspiration far bigger than our simple minds could imagine. The future goals are to purchase 200 bags of rice at \$17 each for December 2023, dig 11 additional wells at the cost of \$2,500 a well January-June of 2024, pay salaries for 3 teachers at the trade school, continue to build the church/trade school, and search for someone to come on board that is called to support the medical need of the mission.

Teta, Marc, and I are sharing this mission with other churches in hopes to spread the amazing things God is doing.

Thanks for all the continued support,

Jennifer Seehsuen
319-269-4826

Treasurer's Report

MAY 2023

Beginning Operating Balance \$104,667.49

INCOME:

Envelope.....\$6,175.00
 Vanco \$754.00
 Loose Offering – NALS (Seminary)\$115.10
 May Missions – NALS (Seminary) \$250.00
 Mission Investment..... \$28.25
 Camp Scholarships \$225.00
 Wells of Inspiration.....\$1,750.00
 Thrivent Funds\$102.95
 From:
 Lutheran World Relief.....\$1,723.84
 NALC Disaster Relief \$996.76
 Scholarships \$1,000.00
 Youth Camp Fund \$100.00
 Thrivent Funds for NALS \$100.00
 Wells of Inspiration\$6,521.40
Total Income..... \$19,842.30

EXPENSES:

Pulpit Supply \$450.00
 Pulpit Supply Auto Mileage\$65.31
 Wages – Janitors\$461.74
 Wages – Director of Communications ..\$769.58
 Payroll Expenses-\$126.30
 Electricity \$363.29
 Water..... \$15.50
 Telephone \$71.06
 Building Maintenance\$435.18
 Printer Contract.....\$196.04

EXPENSES, cont.:

NALC 5% budget \$4,042.00
 Vanco\$8.19
 Workmen's Comp Insurance..... -\$183.00
 NALC Convocation \$979.10
 NB Scholarships \$1,000.00
 Riverside Bible Camp.....\$325.00
 Lutheran World Relief\$1,723.84
 NALC Disaster Relief..... \$996.76
 Wells of Inspiration.....\$6,521.40
 TO: NALS\$465.10
 TO: Thrivent.....\$102.95
 TO: Wells of Inspiration\$1,750.00
Total Expenses\$20,432.74

Operating Balance.....\$104,077.05

SPECIFIED ACCOUNTS:

Thrivent Funds.....\$3,728.79
 Scholarships..... \$1,634.64
 Youth Camp Fund \$515.00
 Mission \$2,932.66
 Operation Christmas Child \$535.90
 Easter/IA Youth NALC Mission Trip... \$258.00
 NALC Seminary\$465.10
 Wells of Inspiration.....\$1,493.02
Specified Accounts Balance \$11,559.21

GENERAL FUND BALANCE.....\$115,640.16

Respectfully Submitted By:
 Margaret DeBower, *Treasurer*

DATE	GENERAL	MISSIONS	OTHER FUNDS
6/04/23	\$2,275.00	\$310.00	\$382.00 — Simply Giving \$357.00 — Wells of Inspiration
6/11/23	\$2,235.00	\$300.00	None
6/18/23	\$1,047.00	\$24.00	\$372.00 — Simply Giving \$100.00 — Wells of Inspiration
6/25/23	\$2,085.00	\$52.00	\$300.00 — Wells of Inspiration \$102.95 — Thrivent

ST. JOHN'S – VILMAR COUNCIL CAPSULE

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

St. John's Church Council met for its regular meeting on Wednesday, June 14. Diane Hummel gave devotions and led the council in prayer. Chairman Don Salge called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

REPORTS

- **Secretary:** Report was read and approved.
- **Treasurer:** Report was read and approved.
- **Chairman:** Epiphany Lutheran Church in Pensacola, Florida, sent a letter requesting money to help build a new church building. Rhonda Edeker made a motion to table any action until we have further information about this church. Warren Van Dyke seconded it. Motion carried unanimously. Monica Edeker will contact the NALC and ask about the legitimacy of this church.
- **Stewardship & Finance:** Nothing to report.
- **Mission & Outreach:** We will have a mission Sunday on July 9 with Jessica Mwanza from Special Hope Network.
- **Worship & Fellowship:** Nothing to report.
- **Deacons:** Nothing to report.
- **Trustees:** Warren Van Dyke reported that Jon Heuer will look at the carpentry work of the kitchen windows and education unit back door, and submit a bid.
- **Parish Ed.:** Nothing to report.
- **Director of Communications:** Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

- Tyler Seehusen and family completed the landscaping work in front of the church.
- We are waiting for a the installation of the new speaker in the sanctuary.

NEW BUSINESS

- No new business.

NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be held Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

CLOSING

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rhonda Edeker, *Secretary*

MEMBERS PRESENT

P Don Salge (President)	P Dale Janssen	A Meredith Steere
A 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

Serving in the Lord's House

SUNDAY, JULY 2

Guest Pastor: Rev. Solveig Zamzow
Organist: Diane Hummel
Reader: Carol Seehusen
Fellowship Hosts: Bob and Karen Janssen
Notes: Holy Communion at the rail

SUNDAY, JULY 9

Lay Leader: Jessica Mwanza
Organist: Diane Hummel
Reader: Dave Hubbard
Fellowship Hosts: Host Needed
Notes: Mission Presentation about Special Hope Network – Zambia

SUNDAY, JULY 16

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

SUNDAY, JULY 23

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

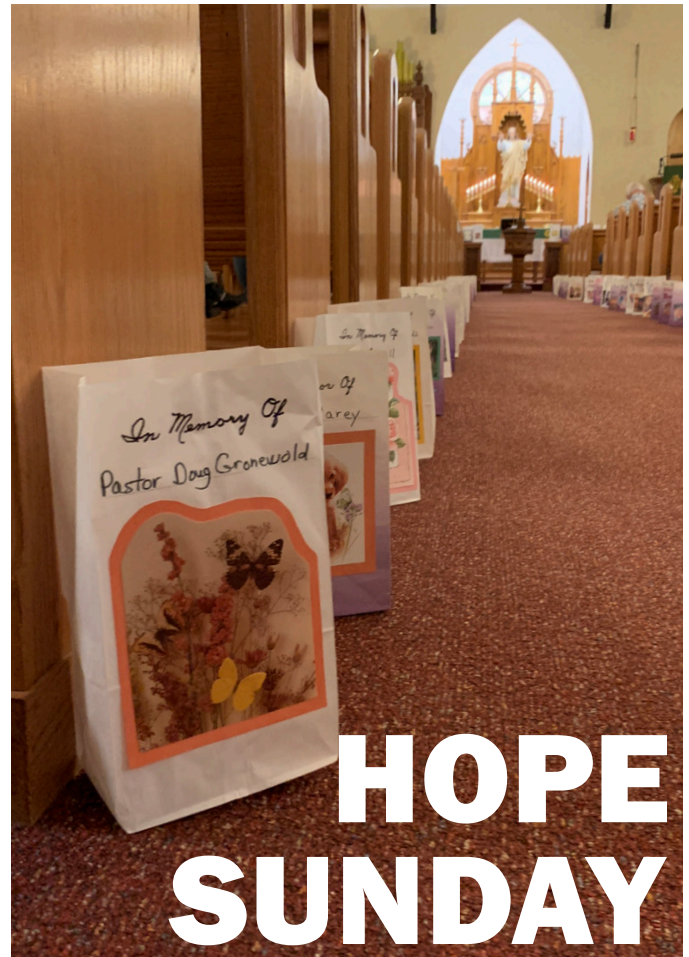
SUNDAY, JULY 30

Guest Pastor: Rev. James Block
Organist: Diane Hummel
Reader: Betty Rewerts
Fellowship Hosts: Host Needed

Volunteers Needed

We are always look for looking for volunteers for:

- **Scripture Readers** (sign up sheet in the narthex)
- **Fellowship Hosts** (sign up sheet in the narthex)
- **Special Music** (talk to Jane Thompson)
- **Mowing People** (sign up sheet in the narthex)



On Sunday, June 11 during the morning worship service, we honored, remembered, and prayed for those and their families who have been impacted by cancer. The sanctuary was decorated with luminaries from Margaret DeBower's and Jennifer Seehusen's Relay For Life teams, and each name was read. This is always a special Sunday for our Vilmar Family. Thank you to Ken and Margaret for leading the service of hope for us, and thank you to everyone who helped set-up/take down the luminaries.

Fellowship at the pond

Wagner Waters Fellowship: Barb Wagner and family will host the coffee and fellowship time following the worship service on Sunday, Aug. 6 at her pond, Wagner Waters (3.5 miles east of the church at 23592 160th St.). Bring a lawn chair. All are welcome to attend.

Upcoming Mission Presentations

SUNDAY, JULY 9:

Special Hope Network

On Sunday, July 9, Jessica (Cramer) Mwanza, a Speech Language Pathologist who works with Special Hope Network in Zambia, Africa, will present a mission presentation at Vilmar.

Special Hope Network, a faith based Christian organization caring for children with intellectual disabilities in Zambia. The network exists to bring glory to God by creating a world where all kids are valued. They impact communities by improving care for these kids. This starts by equipping families and caregivers to provide these children with a loving home, holistic health care, and exceptional education and therapies.

A message from Jessica: "This coming month is going to be packed with things to do, but we are so excited to meet with you all and catch you up on what God has been doing in our lives. We can't wait to share with you, learn how you are doing, and connect. God has been so good to provide for everything we need over the years we've lived here, and we continue to trust in His faithfulness to provide for our fundraising goal this summer. We look forward to seeing you all so soon!"

Jessica (pictured below) is the granddaughter of Lois Stauffer of Allison.

**Vilmar's
July Mission
Spotlight
will be
Special Hope
Network.**



SUNDAY, AUG. 13:

Iowa Mission of Mercy Dental Clinic

Waterloo will host the 14th Iowa Mission of Mercy (IMOM), a large-scale, free dental clinic, on October 13-14 at the Waterloo Convention Center at Sullivan Brothers Plaza.

Created to meet the needs of Iowans who cannot afford or access dental care, IMOM has provided over 16,600 patients with free dental care totaling in excess of \$11.5 million since its inception in 2008. IMOM has been in Waterloo twice before, including the inaugural IMOM in 2008, at which time 1,254 patients were served and \$602,000 of free oral care was provided. IMOM returned to Waterloo in 2014, when 1,112 patients were served and over \$768,000 of free oral care was provided.

One hundred mobile dental chairs will be brought in and a full service field dental clinic will be set up. IMOM is designed to treat immediate, acute needs of its patients and a wide variety of free dental procedures will be offered, such as fillings, extractions and cleanings. IMOM leadership anticipates serving over 1,000 patients and providing over one million dollars in free oral healthcare over the course of the two-day clinic. In addition, over 1,000 dental professionals and other individuals will volunteer their time at the event. While patients see certified dental professionals, there is also a great need for general volunteers to help lead the patients through the clinic, check in volunteers, and assist in other important roles to make sure the clinic runs smoothly.

Patients at the Iowa Mission of Mercy are seen on a first come, first served basis. Doors to the clinic open at 6 a.m. on Friday, October 13 and Saturday, October 14. People interested in volunteering at IMOM or becoming a patient can learn more information at iowamom.org.

VILMAR WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NOTES: JULY 2023

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

There will be no Bible study in July because our meeting date is on the Fourth of July. We will meet again on the first Tuesday of August.

ALTAR COMMITTEE

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

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Sunshine people for the month of July are Margaret DeBower and Kay Brinkman.

BINGO

The Allison nursing home is looking for volunteers to play BINGO. Vilmar is scheduled to serve on the first Thursday of each month. This month will be July 6. Anyone who would like to volunteer may contact Betty Debner or Betty Rewerts.

BIRTHDAYS

July 8: Mari Ann Wearda, 1963 210th St., Sheffield, IA 50475

July 15: Karen Janssen, P.O. Box 874, Clarksville, IA 50619

July 24: Jerald Wearda, 1963 210th St., Sheffield, IA 50475

SEWING DAYS

The sewing committee is taking the summer off. We will resume in September. In the meantime they are still accepting donations of sheets and blankets.

SUMMER SOCIAL

The Summer Social will be Sunday, Aug. 20 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex late July or early August. Volunteers are needed to help serve and to make salads and pies. Please contact Margaret DeBower if you have any questions.



Parade Volunteers

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers for walking in the Greene River Days parade (left). St. John's – Vilmar Luther League will also be walking in the Bristow Days parade on July 29. We are looking for people to join us! We will be passing out candy and Bible verse cards. We will meet at 4 p.m. by East Street and Railroad Street. If you have questions, talk to Monica Edeker, 319-939-7348.



Attendance Report

<u>Worship Service</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Communed</u>
Sunday, June 04:	43	39
Sunday, June 11:	50	n/a
Sunday, June 18:	56	48
Sunday, June 25:	42	n/a

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, Amy Cooper, Evalyn Nettleton, Joy Schueler, Ali Matteson, Robert Vieker, Carol Finke, Cheryl and Kayla Sankey, Jimmy Rogers, Donna Hardy, 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, Dave Hubbard, Jerrylyn Brinkman, Michelle Miller, Althea Uhlenhopp, Todd DeGroot, and John Daub.

SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN:

Lloyd Davis, Rashell Haxhijaj, and Alexa Page.

FAITHFULLY DEPARTED:

Remember the Family of Robert Dralle: Robert, 82, of Allison, passed away Saturday, June 10, 2023, at the Clarksville Nursing & Rehabilitation Center. Visitation and funeral services were held Tuesday, June 13 at St. John's – Vilmar. Counsell Woodley Funeral Home of Allison assisted the family.

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.

Thank You

- A special thank you to Tyler Seehusen and his family for updating the landscaping around the memorial area in front of the church.
- Thank you to everyone who has been helping maintain the church grounds this summer.

Bartels Needs Volunteers

Bartels Lutheran Retirement Community is always on the lookout for people that would like to share their time and/or talents with the great residents of their campus. They have opportunities to read to a resident, help with activities, bring in a craft or a story to share. At times they have outside projects, that, if you have a green thumb, would be perfect for you to assist with. If this sounds like you please feel free to contact Kristina Ladage, Volunteer Coordinator, at 319-352-6988 or kladage@bartelscommunity.org.

Relay For Life

The 2023 Butler County Relay For Life will be held Friday, July 14 from 5-10:30 p.m. at the Butler County Fairgrounds in Allison. The silent auction will be held online (www.32auctions.com/RFL23ButlerCountyIA) from July 1-12, and will become live on July 14 during the event. Bidding ends at 7:45 p.m. No pets allowed at the event. For more information talk to Jen Seehusen or visit www.relayforlife.org/butlercountya.

Mark Your Calendars

Sacred Call, a mixed Southern Gospel quartet based out of Claremore, Oklahoma, will be performing at St. John's on Sunday, Sept. 9 during the 10 a.m. morning worship service. Mark Green, lead singer, has performed at Vilmar previously with the group Forgiven. More details will be available in upcoming bulletins and Heralds.

Flowers

During the summer, 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!

Items available

Check the table in the basement for items for free will donation. These items make great gifts! All money raised will be used by Vilmar Women's Fellowship for their yearly mission donations.

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. Sometimes things are left and we don't know if it is for a special occasion or something that anyone in the kitchen can use. Thank you.

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

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!

JULY 2023: St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church–Vilmar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>2</p> <p>9 a.m.: Worship Service with Holy Communion 10 a.m.: Coffee and Fellowship</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7 p.m.: Call Committee Meeting</p>	<p>4</p> <p><i>Independence Day</i></p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline 1:30 p.m.: BINGO at Allison Rehabilitation Center</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7 a.m.: Bible Study at Allison Congregational Church</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9 a.m.: Worship Service with Mission Presentation by Jessica Mwanza from Special Hope Network – Zambia 10 a.m.: Coffee and Fellowship</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>TBA: Call Committee Meeting</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:30 p.m.: Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7 a.m.: Bible Study at Allison Congregational Church</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9 a.m.: Worship Service with Holy Communion 10 a.m.: Coffee and Fellowship</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7 a.m.: Bible Study at Allison Congregational Church</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9 a.m.: Worship Service 10 a.m.: Coffee and Fellowship <i>August Herald Announcements Due</i></p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7 a.m.: Bible Study at Allison Congregational Church 4:30 p.m.: Bristow Parade</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9 a.m.: Worship Service 10 a.m.: Coffee and Fellowship</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>August 1</p> <p>9 a.m.: Women's Fellowship Bible Study</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9 a.m.: Weekly Bulletin Deadline 1:30 p.m.: BINGO at Allison Rehabilitation Center</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7 a.m.: Bible Study at Allison Congregational Church</p>

Deacons: Meredith Steere and Tyler Seehusen