



Church Profile

Established in 1902, Hilmar Covenant Church has an incredible history and longstanding presence in the rural community of Hilmar, California. Our church was founded by resilient, hardworking Swedish settlers who sought to build a better future for themselves and generations to come. These pioneers left their homes in the Midwest in search of a more prosperous life promised by developers. Sadly, the land of the Great Pacific Ocean and the beauty of the Yosemite Valley were nowhere in sight upon their arrival in Hilmar.



What they found was a desert-like environment full of tumbleweeds and jackrabbits far beyond the ocean or the beauty of Yosemite. Their faith in God's purpose in bringing them so far from home, coupled with no funds for a return trip, inspired them to do the best they could in this arid land. Today, Hilmar and the surrounding region is known worldwide for its abundant agricultural diversity, something our early settlers would certainly be proud of.

Despite the early struggles of these Swedish migrants, the Church grew along with the community. The first church building was located in the country and was quickly replaced in 1922 by a larger building more centrally located in the heart of town, which still serves as our beautiful sanctuary today.

In the early 2000s, at the height of our membership, a Family Center was built on this same property. The facility includes staff offices, meeting rooms, a large auditorium, modern kitchen, and stage for performances. Across the street is the Hilmar Christian Children's Center, which is affiliated with our church and serves our community with a full-service infant, preschool and after-school programs.



The diversity of our church family has grown to include many nationalities reflective of our community. We find ourselves at a challenging crossroad like so many other older Covenant Churches across the nation.

Secular pressures along with a church that did not keep pace to meet the changing needs of younger generations has led to a decline in attendance. Like our founders, we are eager to establish our church once again as a source of faith and community. We seek the leadership and necessary changes it will take to rebuild our church family.

In the last year, we have transitioned to a new Senior Pastor and experienced momentum in our various ministries. As a church we are excited for all the positive things that are happening in the life of the church. Our worship service is currently led by volunteer worship and tech teams to serving everyone who attends in-person or online. We have an adult choir who participates in leading in worship services once a month and a handbell choir that serves during holiday seasons. Our tech team has developed an amazing live stream that happens solely with volunteers. Our volunteer Front-line Team provides a welcoming environment for people to attend and enjoy the worship service.