



# The Vasa Voice



VOLUME 60 No. 10

OCTOBER 2024

## OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS AT VASA!



**Sunday School!**  
**Catch the Excitement!**

Sunday School is off and running! Children from age 3 through 6th grade meet every Sunday morning at the Lutheran Center during worship. On average, about 17 children attend! This picture was taken on September 22nd.

### HERE ARE OTHER VASA HIGHLIGHTS FOR OCTOBER:

- ◆ October 2 & 16            9:30-11:00            Women (of all ages and stages) Bible Study
- ◆ October 9                    5:30-7:00 pm        Vasa Family Fun Night
- ◆ October 10                 10:00am              Pastor Maureen Leads Worship at Cannon Rivers
- ◆ October 23                 9:30-11:30            Quilts for Grads (Fellowship Room) Many hands make light work!
- ◆ October 26                 9:00-11:00            Swedish Pancake Breakfast Museum Fundraiser
- ◆ October 31                 Time TBD              Set up for Vasa Bazaar

### *Here's what's on the inside...*

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## Worship Volunteers for October

### USHER

October 6	Rick Samuelson
October 13	Marv Fredrickson
October 20	Ben Norman
October 27	Ben Norman

### HOSPITALITY

October 6	volunteer needed
October 13	Audrey Rosener
October 20	volunteer needed
October 27	B-J Norman

### READERS

October 6	Sasha Diercks
October 13	volunteer needed
October 20	B-J Norman
October 27	Geri Lindholm

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

October 6	Elleanor Diercks
October 20	Sid Featherstone



- 2 Edward Gruber
- 5 Jason Stahnke  
Bryan Diercks
- 6 Braeden Gillis
- 8 Jeannette Anderson  
Rebecca Fleming
- 11 Camden Smith
- 13 Elijah Bauch  
Jenna Montey  
Lyle Ness
- 15 Grace Nelson  
Judy Scripture
- 19 Michael Rosener
- 20 Cary Clemens
- 21 Caleb Diercks
- 23 Allen Peterson  
Ben O'Connor
- 24 Julia Fleming
- 26 Tim Carlson
- 27 Coty Hyllengren  
James Gruber
- 28 Murlyn Rosener
- 30 Dale Anderson  
Doris Munsen
- 31 Jillian Anderson

## VASA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Treasurer's Report Aug 31, 2024

For the Month of August:

Checkbook Balance, August 1, 2024	\$ 64,791.06
General Fund Contributions:	10,907.42
Mission Endowment Offering	<u>9,475.27</u>
Total Funds Available	85,173.75
Budget Approved Monthly Expenses:	<u>(21,724.62)</u>
Checkbook Balance, August 31, 2024	\$ 63,449.13

## *Thoughts from Pastor Maureen*

When Carolyn Gardiner fell and broke her elbow, arrangements were made for her to move to nursing home care. She ended up at Hastings Senior Health and Living (formerly known as Augustana Nursing Home) on a Wednesday. I went to see her the next Tuesday and Wally made a point to be there. After some visiting we shared communion.

As Lutherans we believe and teach that Jesus is truly present in the bread and the wine of Holy Communion. In the quiet of that nursing home room that day, Jesus was present.

From all outward appearances Carolyn was not close to death. She was sitting up in a wheelchair and drank a fruit smoothie during my visit. I was as surprised as anyone when the phone call came informing me of her passing just a few days later.

I have learned over my years as a pastor to listen to the stirring of the Holy Spirit. If the Spirit is anxiously pressing me to go to a home or a room or a bedside, I find that I better go because the Spirit knows I am needed even if I am unaware of the need.

The presence of the Holy Spirit is not unique to me. It is a gift from God given to every person through their baptisms. The purpose of this gift is explained in 1 Peter 2:9 "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

How do you know that the Holy Spirit is pressing you into action? First, God is love. Therefore, any action that you take should be rooted in love.

Second, God is not going to call you to do something that you don't know how to do. Are you a good cook? Then making a pot of soup or a hot dish to

take to someone having a rough time is an act of love.

Third, the previous point doesn't mean that we are not going to learn new things. Every thing in life is training for the next thing. God will stretch you and your skills so that you are prepared for the next situation that occurs in your life.

Fourth, through the ongoing practice of listening to the Holy Spirit you will grow ever more familiar with her voice. If the need to take action keeps coming to your mind, then you better act. What will happen is that as you continue to listen to the Holy Spirit, you will recognize her voice more readily and become ever more comfortable in taking actions—albeit actions rooted in love.

Listening to the Holy Spirit and taking action is not some mystical or magical thing. It is the natural consequence of being a member of the royal priesthood and one of God's own people. Many of us overlook the idea that it is a high honor to be a member of God's family and forget that this position comes with responsibilities. God's expectation is that we will act with the dignity, wisdom, and love that comes from being one of the "King's kids." When we act with genuine love and concern the burdens of the world will be lightened for those where in the midst of troubles.

Listening to the Spirit...

*Pastor Maureen*





CHURCH COUNCIL

## VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

August 14, 2024 @Lutheran Church

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 7:27 pm by Bryan Diercks, President

**Devotions:** Randy Klein

**Members present and absent:**

**Present:** Pastor Maureen Hagen; Bryan Diercks, President; Randy Klein, Vice President; Kent Volz; Tim Carlson; and Andrew Featherstone, Secretary;  
6 voting members present

**Unable to attend:** Chris Finne; Barbara Weigman; Kevin Eckblad; Mo Hauck; Ben Norman; Missy McCann; and Roger Guttromson;

**Also Present:** Kathy Tilderquist

**Adoption of the Agenda:**

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda for the August 14, 2024 council meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Approval of Minutes:**

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2024 council meeting as written.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Reports Reviewed and Accepted:**

Treasurer's Report (Attached)

Bazaar fund was used towards the kitchen. The fund is currently empty.

We received a donation for the carpet for the Church for \$1,500.00.

Mail service has been goofy and has been sending mail back saying Vasa doesn't exist.

Kathy emailed Church Mutual about sending the insurance bill thru email.

Finance Report (Attached)

Kathy reviewed the Treasurer's Report, Income & Expense Report and the Designated Fund Report. The checkbook balance is \$64,791.06.

The kitchen remodel continues. The money in both the P Carlson Remodeling Fund and the Bazaar Fund have been used for the partial payment of the kitchen remodel.

Parish Life (Attached)

September 8<sup>th</sup> will be the first day of Sunday School.

September 11<sup>th</sup> will be Family Fun Night.

September 18<sup>th</sup> Faith Formation.

December 15<sup>th</sup> will be the Christmas Program.

Property Team Report (NA)

Chris Finne ordered the steel for the counter tops thru his work.

On going discussion of the sanctuary redecorating continues.

Cemetery Board (NA)

Executive Board Report (NA)

Pastor's Report) Attached)



CHURCH COUNCIL  
MINUTES

Vacation Bible School has over 20 children in attendance. Pastor is emphasizing Jesus Stories rather than Old Testament stories. The God of the Old Testament is often perceived as harsh and cruel. Young children need to perceive God through the example of Jesus: one who loves, heals, and feeds people.

Since the council met in June my activities included: Five days at Good Earth Village as the pastor in residence. Blessed the tractors at the Midsommer Festivities.

Walked the Vasa Fourth of July parade. Took my annual two week vacation at the lake. Completed worship planning for September, October, and November. Officiated at the baptism of Samuel Duane Lindstrom. Working behind the scenes to move the kitchen remodel project forward. Preparing for the start of Confirmation.

Museum Board (Attached)

\$20,000.00 was placed in a CD at the bank.

The Vasa 4-H children visited the museum. We had 20 4-H children and 10 adults

They had a scavenger hunt in an effort for the children to get acquainted with artifacts in the museum.

Endowment Board Report (NA)

**New Business:**

**Parsonage Tenant-** Duane is going to introduce Sasha to the tenant as the new contact person. Sasha will come up with the payment schedule for the renter and inform him on the late rent.

**Painting and flooring in the Sanctuary-** Andrew has currently been working on an estimate for the interior. We will soon have numbers to bring to the council and congregation for the redecorating.

**170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Task Force-** a team will form for the task force to go over the tractor parade, food, and celebration.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:45 PM.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Report submitted by: Andrew Featherstone,  
Secretary

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

**President:** Bryan Diercks, 507-259-3909  
diercksbryan@gmail.com

**Vice President:** Randy Klein 651-212-8045  
rdklein@mmm.com

**Secretary:** Andrew Featherstone 651-470-9823  
rwfeatherstonepainting@gmail.com

Tim Carlson 651-442-5066

Kevin Eckblad 651-380-7849

Chris Finne 651-380-3690

Roger Guttromson 651-308-6349

Maureen Hauck 651-331-8593

Missy McCann 651-307-2274

Ben Norman 651-208-7124

Kent Volz 651-402-0942

Barbara Weigman 507-202-7880

**WHO TO CONTACT IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**

**Indoors: Jim Hedeon 651-380-6054**

**Kitchen: Sue Hedeon 651-380-6270**

**Faye Drewianka 651-212-3209**



OCTOBER 26TH

9:00-11:00AM



# SWEDISH PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Vasa Lutheran Center

15235 Norelius Road

Welch, MN 55089



**DINE IN!  
NO RESERVATIONS  
REQUIRED!**



**Swedish pancakes  
Sausage patties  
Lingonberries**

Proceeds will be used to restore a very rare, original 1877 map of Goodhue County. This map was likely used in school (s) at the time, which makes it a valuable primary source. All donations are greatly appreciated as we continue to preserve our history here!





**The Feed My Starving Children mobile pack is coming to Cannon Falls High School on Saturday, November 9.** Last year volunteers packed 101,088 meals which fed 276 children in Nicaragua for a year. In 2023, Vasa had 15 volunteers participate and the Mission Endowment Committee gave a donation to Feed My Starving Children.

The 2024 mobile pack needs 500 volunteers, and needs to raise 30 cents for each meal. You can help by donating or by volunteering. Donations can be given to Kathy Tilderquist for our mobile pack. If donations are sent directly to Feed My Starving Children, they may not get put toward our expenses.

Volunteers measure and scoop ingredients, seal bags, and prepare boxes for shipping. There are 5 shifts in which you could participate: Friday, Nov 8 unloading trucks will take place from 1:30-2:30. Then set-up on Friday, Nov 8 will be from 2:30-4:30. On Saturday, Nov 9, packing shifts are from either 8-10 or 11-1. The clean-up shift is from 12:30-3:30 or until done. A sign-up sheet will be in the gathering space on Sept 29, Oct 6, and Oct 13 or you can sign yourself up by going to the Feed My Starving Children website, clicking on Volunteer, and looking for the Cannon Falls Mobile Pack. The code to sign up is CFFMSC. You can also use the QR code which is at the bottom of this announcement to volunteer or to donate. The earlier you sign up, the better chance you have to register for the shift you want. Please contact Kathy Tilderquist with any questions.

33<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
**Taste of Welch  
 Bake Sale  
 Lunch**




Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup  
 Homemade Vegetable Soup  
 Roast Beef Sandwiches  
 Coleslaw  
 Assorted Desserts  
 Hot and Cold Beverages

**Raffle**

"Up North" Queen-Size Quilt 72"x89"  
 Many other items including  
 Gift Cards and Gift Certificates  
 Sign up for FREE drawings! Some Crafts available

**Cross of Christ Lutheran Church**  
 24036 Co. Rd. 7 Blvd. Welch, MN  
 Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> 2024  
 9:00 am – 2:00 pm






PLEASE JOIN US

# VASA Bazaar

SATURDAY

2

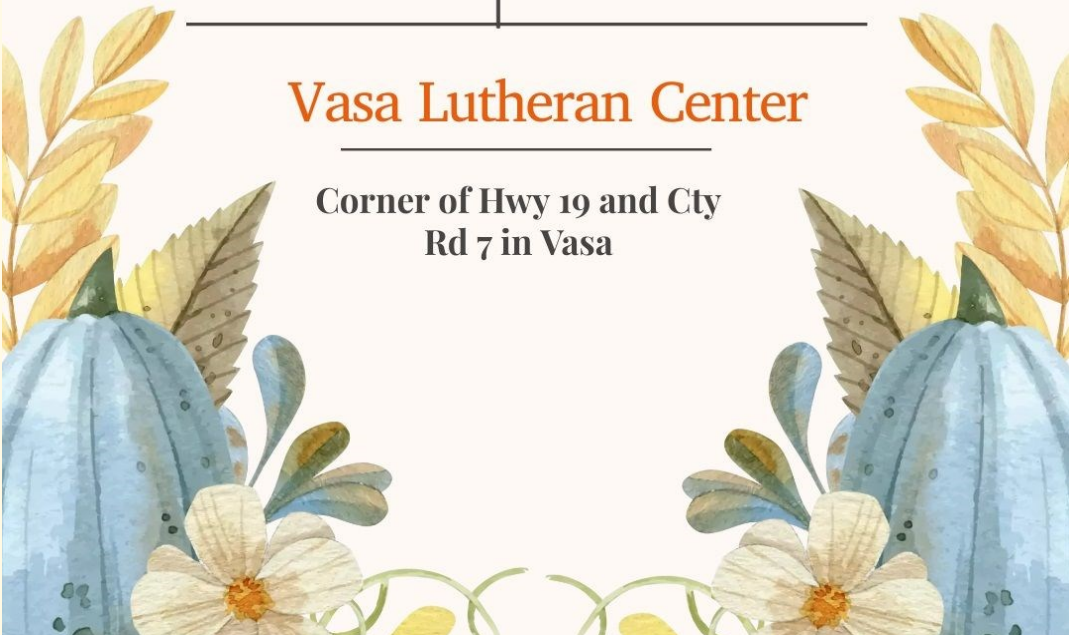
November

BAKE SALE  
LUNCH  
CRAFTS  
VENDORS

9 AM - 3 PM

Vasa Lutheran Center

Corner of Hwy 19 and Cty  
Rd 7 in Vasa





## VASA WILL SUPPORT LOCAL FOOD SHELVES DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

The need continues to be real. Please bring your donations to the Lutheran Center, or to Church on Sundays. Here is a list that you might find helpful as you do your grocery shopping. Cash donations are also appreciated.



### SHELF-STABLE ITEMS

- Cereal and powdered milk
- Canned Tuna/Chicken
- Canned fruit, especially pears, oranges and peaches.
- Canned veggies, especially corn, peas, diced tomatoes and green beans.
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Hearty Soups (Progresso is an excellent choice)
- Canned Chili
- Hamburger Helper
- Crackers/Cookies
- Rice-a-Roni or Rice pilafs that can be cooked on a stove
- Cooking oil (for Rice a Roni)
- Salt/Pepper and other common seasonings
- Tea Bags/Coffee
- Sugar
- Flour
- Sandwich Bread
- Peanut Butter/Jelly
- Cake Mix/Frosting (for special occasions)
- Stove Top Stuffing

### FRESH ITEMS

- Apples
- Carrots
- Oranges
- Onions
- Squash
- Tomatoes (Cherry or Campari)
- Eggs
- Butter/Margarine
- Ground Beef (for Hamburger Helper)

### NON-FOOD ITEMS

- Dish Detergent
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Feminine Hygiene products
- Toilet Paper
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Laundry detergent
- Can Opener (for canned products without pull-tops)

## MARK'S MEDITATION

Last month I wrote about Paul's letter to the Romans. In this epistle he argues that faith in the death and resurrection of Christ leads, not only to salvation, but to righteousness. The text is convoluted, but he appears to be saying that when you contemplate what Christ has done for you, you will just want to be good.

Here Paul is making a rational argument. That is, he is laying out "if this--then that" logic. This kind of testimony works for most people. But some humans are incapable of following this logic. There are sociopathic narcissists (lately, some prominent ones) that simply cannot make the connection between Jesus' actions and righteousness. Undoubtedly, this was true 2000 year ago as well. If we read carefully, we can see how Paul's argument changed in the books of the Bible that were written after his letters.

The New Testament contains 13 epistles that claim to be from Paul, 8 letters from other apostles, 4 gospels, Acts and Revelation. Of the 13 Pauline epistles, 7 most certainly were written/dictated by Paul. The remainder contain ideas about church structure and theology that must have been written long after Paul's death. What was the idea introduced to deal with the problem of not everyone understanding Paul's logic? There were several things, but a big one was h-e-double-hockey-sticks; Hell.

The origin of the Christian understanding of Hell is a vast theological subject that is far above my pay grade. Let me try to hit the highlights: There is no Hell in the Old Testament. Ancient Hebrews believed you went to "Sheol" when you died. This is a kind of suspended-animation. Nothing happens there. Then, in the 2nd and 1st century BCE, chafing under Greek and Roman occupation, some Jews thought there must be Godly punishment for these occupiers who live so well. The Book of Daniel reflects this idea. The idea that God will soon punish the unrighteous is called *apocalypticism*. This term stems from a Greek word meaning "to uncover." The

*book of Daniel uncovers Gods plan for justice.*

Paul, in addition to being an apostle to Christ, was an apocalyptic Jew. His earliest letters (Galatians, Thessalonians, Corinthians) make it clear he thought a new Kingdom of God, led by Jesus, was coming soon--next Tuesday, at the latest. Jesus himself would deal with the injustice in the world! When this didn't happen, Christians asked "Where is God's justice?" The obvious answer was that God doles out justice in the after-life--in Hell.

Paul's assertions about what leads to righteousness is the inverse of what Greek philosophy taught. Paul argues that righteousness is a consequence of faith (in Jesus Christ). Secular philosophy argues that faith (in future blessings) is needed to be righteous. Maybe this dichotomy is the point. Some people can connect blessings with righteousness on their own, apart from a Godly command. Some people can hear the Gospel story and be moved to righteousness. But some people need a darker motivation. Only fear of personal suffering and loss can direct their actions.

God, who created us, surely understands this. The many, many religions and denominations in the world suggest that there is no one-size-fits-all plan for righteousness and salvation. Apparently, we each have to find our own path.

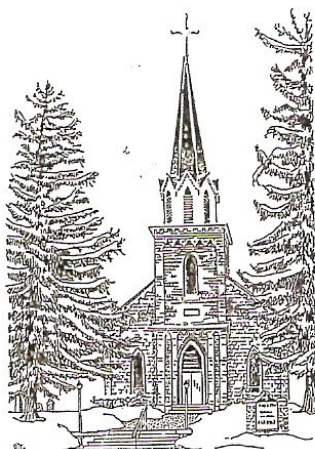


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		 9:30	1	2	3	4	5
							
6	7	 9:30	8	9	10	11	12
9AM Communion Worship and Sunday School @ Lutheran Center  10:15 9th Grade Con- firmation	<u>TEAM MEETINGS</u> 4PM Property 5PM Finance		9:30-11:00 <b>Wom-            en's Bible Study</b>  5:45-6:45 7th/8th Confirmation Class  <b>Vasa Family            Fun Night!</b>	Pastor Maureen at Cannon Rivers 10:00 AM	Pastor's Day Off		
13	14	 9:30	15	16	17	18	19
9AM Worship & Sun- day School @ Luther- an Center  10:15 9th Grade Con- firmation  Pastor Maureen at Theological Conference	5PM Parish Life 6PM CHURCH COUNCIL		5:45-6:45 7th/8th Confirmation Class  6:45 Wednesday Evening Worship			Pastor's Day Off	
20	21	 9:30	22	23	24	25	26
9AM Communion Worship and Sunday School @ Lutheran Center  10:15 9th Grade Con- firmation			9:30-11:00 <b>Wom-            en's Bible Study</b>  5:45-6:45 7th/8th Confirmation Class  6:45 Wednesday Evening Worship			Pastor's Day Off	 9:00-11:00 AM  Swedish Pancake Breakfast
27	28	 9:30	29	30	31	NOVEMBER 1	NOVEMBER 2
9AM Worship & Sun- day School @ Luther- an Center  10:15 9th Grade Con- firmation			9:30-11:00 <b>QUILTS FOR GRADS</b>  5:45-6:45 7th/8th Confirmation Class  6:45 Wednesday Evening Worship	11	Winter Bazaar Set Up  Happy Halloween! 	Winter Bazaar Set Up  Pastor's Day Off	<b>VASA WINTER            BAZAAR</b>

VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH

15235 NORELIUS ROAD (in Vasa)

WELCH, MN 55089



Historic Vasa Lutheran Church Built in 1869  
(Vasa Drawing by B-J Norman)

### **Worship Schedule**

**9:00AM** Sundays (also live-streamed)

### **Executive Team**

Bryan Diercks, Council President 507.259.3909

Randy Klein, Council Vice President 651.212.8045

Andrew Featherstone, Council Secretary 651.470.9823

### **Pastor Maureen Hagen**

[pastor@vasalutheran.org](mailto:pastor@vasalutheran.org)

(Cell)507.251.5270

### **Church Staff**

Kathy Tilderquist, Treasurer

Emily Peterson, Office Administrator

Melissa McCann, Custodian

Anne Anderson, Worship Accompanist

Gail Strusz-Klein, Wedding Coordinator

Paul & Jay Mikaelson, Missionaries in La Paz Bolivia  
Contact: [pmikaelson@gmail.com](mailto:pmikaelson@gmail.com)

Website: [www.caranavi.net/rtc.htm](http://www.caranavi.net/rtc.htm)

## Vasa Mission Statement

We, the Vasa Congregation,  
Called by God, commit to:  
Worshipping together,  
Growing in Faith,  
Serving Others, and  
Welcoming and loving all!