



The Vasa Voice



Volume 57 No. 11

November 2021

Vasa happenings in November

November 7- All-Saints Sunday

This service will remember the saints from our congregation who have passed away during the past year as we light a candle in their memory. Everyone is invited to come forward and light a votive in memory of a loved one.

November 10 - Community Dinner

November's Community Dinner will take place on November 10. The menu is a turkey dinner with all the trimmings. It's also a wonderful opportunity to volunteer to help the kitchen with donations of food and/or your time! Please see sign up sheets at church on Sundays, or in the Lutheran Center during the week.

November 18-19- American Red Cross Blood Drive

The November blood drive will be at the Lutheran Center, on Tuesday, November 18 from 1-7pm. And November 19th from 9am-2pm. The previous drives have been incredibly successful and we have been commended by the Red Cross for our level of participation. Thanks to all who are able to donate.

November 21 - Thankful Sunday and Intergenerational Worship Service

Children and youth will be participating in this intergenerational service where there will be special Thanksgiving readings. The Sunday School children will sing and the youth will assist with communion. Following worship there will be fresh baked caramel rolls and beverages. It will be a joyous celebration during which we give thanks to God and to various members of Vasa Congregation for all the blessings we have received.

Here's what's on the Inside!

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Pastor's Thoughts for November

November can be a sad time of year as we watch the harvested fields turn brown and drab. Birds fly south and trees drop their leaves. Dying and abandonment seem to confront us at every turn. It is at this time of year that the church takes time to remember those who have died, especially those who have died in the last year. Vasa has had a quiet year, with only two deaths and one burial. We have also been fortunate that so few within our faith community have been afflicted with Covid. But we all know people who have caught the virus and been very sick. We also know some who have died.

In the midst of the pain and the grief of loss we turn to the promises of our God. Paul writes with almost poetic abandon in his letter to the church in Corinth:

"Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

"Death has been swallowed up in victory."

"Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 15:51-57

We may feel a burden of grief at this time but we cling to the promise of the resurrection. We wait for the trumpet to sound. We wait, trusting in the promises that Jesus made and we hope for the life to come when God will wipe every tear from our eyes and death will be no more.

Grace and Peace to you,
Pastor Maureen





November Birthdays

- 2 - Rachel Bosshart
Brenner Pagel
- 6 - Malena Mandelkow
Miranda Mandelkow
- 8 - Steve Hyllengren
- 9 - Cassidy Smith
- 12 - Miley Clemens
- 13 - Connie Gillis
- 15 - Dan Evanson
- 16 - Duane Martenson
- 17 - Andrew Featherstone
- 19 - Janelle Ahern
- 21 - Charlie Peterson
- 22 - Barbara Flueger
- 23 - Teresa Schmidt
- 26 - Alivia Schaffer
- 27 - Kodee Lindahl
Laurie Poole
- 28 - Suzanne Ness
- 30 - Christopher Poole

Volunteers for November

USHERS

- 7 Stuart Samuelson
- 14 Kevin Hanson
- 21 Youth Volunteers
- 28 Jason Stahnke

READERS

- 7 Volunteer needed
- 14 Marilyn Hanson
- 21 Youth Volunteers
- 28 Marcia Featherstone



Apologies for mistakes or omissions. If you know of any birthdays that are missing or wrong, please contact the Vasa church office. THANKS!



VASA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report
September 2021

For the Month of September:

Checkbook Balance, September 1, 2021	\$ 55,370.66
General Fund Contributions:	6,213.03
Total Funds Available	61,583.69
Budget Approved Monthly Expenses:	<u>16,050.06</u>
Checkbook Balance, September 30, 2020	\$ 46,128.18

Mission Investment Fund, August 31, 2021	\$20,675.77
Mission Investment Fund, September 30, 2021	\$15,752.64



American Red Cross

Vasa's Next Blood Drive will be on Thursday, November 18, from 1-7pm, and on Friday, November 19, from 9am-2pm.

**Call 1-800 733-2767 or visit
RedCrossBlood.org to reserve your spot.**

Please donate if you can!

Mark's Meditation

By Mark Hagen

In last month's article, I talked about Original Sin. I said that it originated with Augustine in the fourth century—and, I'm not a fan. The idea that you are damned because of your ancestors is patently racist, and should be discarded. But Augustine was not a bad guy. His theory of Original Sin was a serious attempt to explain the atoning death of Jesus.

What *is* the point of Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension? What do we mean when we say "Christ died for my sins?" Over the centuries, there have been many theories put forth. Collectively this is called Atonement Theory. Here are five popular theories: 1) Christus Victor, 2) Satisfaction Theory, 3) Penal Substitutionary Atonement, 4) Moral Exemplar Theory, and 5) Scapegoat Theory.

Christus Victor

This (oldest) atonement theory uses battlefield imagery. The life of Christ is a battle with Satan. Jesus becomes the victor over Satan and all the evil forces in the world when he dies and rises from the dead. A good example of this thinking is in C. S. Lewis' story, "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe," when Aslan breaks the stone table and bests the White Witch. The biblical underpinning of this theory is Mark 10:45, "For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a *ransom* for many." But, this way of thinking gives Satan a lot of power—making him an equal of God.

Satisfaction Theory

Anselm (Archbishop of Canterbury from 1093 to 1109) had trouble giving Satan so much power and put forth the idea that Jesus's death was necessary to satisfy the *honor* of God. We have wronged God, and God's honor has been impugned. Therefore, the only way that we can make restoration for this behavior is for Jesus to die. This theory is an attempt to align Christ's atonement with Middle Age feudal society where honor must be paid to the lord of the manor. It also has echoes back to the Old Testament where God's honor is disparaged by the behavior of the Hebrews during the Exodus.

Penal Substitutionary Atonement (PSA for short)

This atonement theory has its roots in the Reformation (1500's). Where Anselm talked about satisfying God's honor, reformers such as Luther and Calvin taught that it was God's *justice* that must be satisfied. Sin cannot be allowed to go unpunished! In this scenario, God sends Jesus to suffer the penal punishment, as a substitute, for our sins. This is a legal view of the cross—maybe not surprising, given that Luther was trained as a lawyer. Today, conservative, evangelical Christians are the strongest proponents of PSA.

But there are complications with PSA. We confess the Trinity; that God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one. If that is true, who is Jesus paying ransom to? Himself?¹ And, the biblical picture we get of God is that he is omnipotent—He can do anything. But in this case, PSA theory says that His hands are tied. In addition, the parable of the Prodigal Son tells the story of a father who forgives his son before anything is said—or paid.

Moral Exemplar Theory

Peter Abelard (French contemporary of Anselm) believed that "Jesus died as the demonstration of God's love." And that this demonstration can change the hearts and minds of sinners. It is called the moral exemplar theory because Jesus' crucifixion offers us a perfect *example* of self-sacrificial dedication to God. Instead of Christ dying to satisfy divine justice, the idea is that Jesus' whole life was designed to display God's love and lead people to repentance. Today, this view of atonement is held among liberal Protestant thinkers and Unitarians.

¹ This circular argument is similar to a conundrum called the Euthyphro dilemma. Plato has Socrates ask Euthyphro "Do the god's love the pious because they are righteous; or are they righteous because the god's love them?"

Mark's Meditation

By Mark Hagen

(continued)

Scapegoat Theory

René Girard (1923-2015) was a French philosopher and theologian. His studies of human cultures led him to propose that there's a problem common to all humanity; that competition and desire lead to what he calls it mimetic violence. Historically, societies deal with this violence by focusing their conflict on a single victim, a scapegoat. However, once the scapegoat is killed, the cycle repeats. This is particularly true in the Old Testament.

Girard proposes that the Gospels present Jesus as a scapegoat whose innocent death exposes how humans have always created scapegoats. This revelation should have cured societal scapegoating, it should have broken the cycle of violence, yet those who claim to live by the Gospels have missed that message; they read the New Testament as victors, not as victims. They continue to scapegoat and remain blind to the suffering of scapegoats in modern life.

So, what camp do you put yourself in? The Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans contains, versions of all five theories. Particularly in chapter 3. Yet, by the end of the letter (chapter 11), Paul essentially gives up and summarizes by saying "Who knows the mysteries of God?"

This is a hugely important concept. *What did the crucifixion do?* Does it appease God's need for blood? Or is Girard right? Is this whole idea of divine sacrifice actually our own violence that we are projecting onto God?

VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING September 20, 2021 @Lutheran Church

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:10pm by Barbara Weigman, President

Devotions: Pastor

Members present and absent:

Present: Pastor Maureen Hagen; Barbara Weigman, President; Sid Featherstone, Vice President; Bryan Diercks; Duane Hanson; Greg Drewianka; Ben Norman; Missy McCann; Lora Gruber; Kent Volz; Randy Klein; Steve Hyllengren; and Andrew Featherstone, Secretary;
Eleven voting members present

Unable to attend: Kevin Eckblad and Jessica Anderson

Also Present: Kathy Tilderquist and Mark Hagen

Adoption of the Agenda:

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as written.

MOTION CARRIED

Presentation: Mark Hagen re: technology expenses

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2021 council meeting as written.

MOTION CARRIED

Reports Reviewed and Accepted:

1. Treasurer's Report (Attached)
2. Finance Report (Attached)
 - a. Kathy will work with Gail on the wedding contract packet. Finance team will look over packet and see what needs to be updated. Fee for custodian will be updated.
 - b. Ali Peters working on insurance for church to go over at November church council. Vasa Mutual not interested in insuring church.
3. Parish Life (Attached)
4. Property Team Report (Attached)
 - a. Kathy will call P.I.G to make sure we're on there schedule. They were suppose to be here the week before.
 - b. We're getting quotes for cleaning the carpets in LC. Missy recommended to include new carpet in fellowship area in sanctuary for cleaning.
5. Cemetery Board)N/A(
6. Executive Board Report) N/A(
7. Pastor's Report) Attached(
 - a. Vasa will receive 5 new members Sunday September 26th.
 - b. ELCA National Youth Gathering is scheduled for next summer in Minneapolis. November is the deadline. Registration fee is \$200 or less, depending on meal money.
8. Museum Board (Attached)
9. Endowment Board Report (N/A)

Tabled Business:

Vasa Lutheran Church Council Meeting

September 20, 2021 (continued)

North doors on Church, hand railing

New Business:

1. Vasa Trail by Greg D.
Trip through the woods hasn't taken place yet. Greg and Ben Norman will walk through woods September 26 at 11:30 am. Will keep trail on hold until walk thru has taken place.
2. Mask Mandate
Parish Life recommended to mandate wearing masks for everyone at all church functions. A vote was held on paper. The vote was in favor of leaving it up to people to decide if they want to wear a mask or not. Communion will go back to using individual portions.

June Meeting Dates: (Tentative schedule)

Property: Monday October 4th @9:30am

Finance: Monday October 4th @5:00pm

Parish Life: Monday October 4th @6:00pm

Executive: Monday October 11th @6:00pm

Council: Monday, October 18th @6:00pm Devotions: Andrew Featherstone

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:15 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Report submitted by: Andrew Featherstone, Secretary

Winter Project Opportunities

Looking for something to do during the winter months?
Vasa has two workshop projects.



The Parish Life Team would like to install a little free food pantry to be maintained during the summer months. The project begins with creating the pantry. We would install it near the Lutheran Center. Congregation members would "adopt" it for a two week span and make sure that it was stocked with appropriate groceries.



The three picnic tables in the picnic shelter are in need of some TLC. We will bring the tables to your workshop and provide the paint.



Thank You!! What you do matters!



Vasa Lutheran,
The Cannon Falls Food Shelf
board thanks you for your
donation. It is greatly
appreciated by our
community.
Robin M. Stewart
Treasurer

Dear Vasa~

Thanks to all the cooks, drivers and anyone else,
including Mr. Mills of Lake City! You all are
much appreciated!

Sharyn Sorenson



**Vasa Museum Swedish Pancake Breakfast
Fundraiser a Huge Success!!**



The Vasa Museum Board would like to Thank everyone who participated in the Swedish Pancake Breakfast. We served 150 meals and brought in \$1437.00 in donations. We also had a \$1000.00 donation from an anonymous source, which brought our total up to \$2437.00. Thank you all so much.

1755 Old West Main
Red Wing, MN 55066

Red Wing Area Food Shelf

OUR MISSION:

Secure & Distribute Nutritious Food To Individuals & Households In Need.

Date: 10-16-21

Dear, *Vasa Lutheran Church,*

Thank you very much for your donation of:

\$ 402.00

Chk. 21236

to the Red Wing Area Food Shelf. With assistance from people like you, we can continue to meet the temporary hunger needs of families in our area.

Sincerely,

Deb Drobos

For the Red Wing Area
Food Shelf

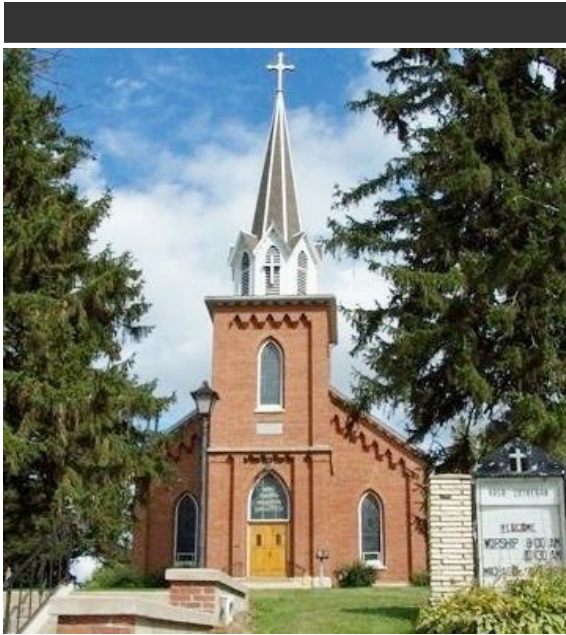
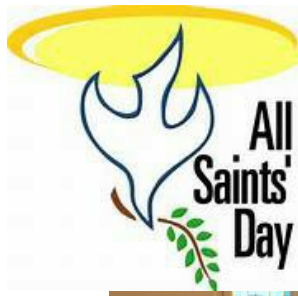


*No goods or services were received
in exchange for this donation.

Many Thanks!

Mission Endowment Fund

EDUCATION AWARD
APPLICATION



15235 Norelius Road, Welch, Minnesota 55089

email: vasalutheran@sleepyeyetel.net

website: www.vasalutheran.org

**Sunday, November 7
at the 9am Worship Service,
all Saints will
be honored,
especially those whom we
lost since last year's Feast of All Saints.**

***Mary Nelson
Gloria Skog
Pauline Carlson***



All Saints

The Mission Endowment Committee is now taking applications for Education Awards. Deadline to apply is November 28th. If you need an application, please contact the church office.

*Happy
Thanksgiving*

A Deeply Spiritual Act

By Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eton

Stewardship lets us rest in the promise of God's Abundance

The first-century church in Corinth must have been a lively place. Its members were competitive, jealous, divided into factions and litigious. The congregation was diverse. There were Jews and gentiles, rich and poor, men and women, young and old, those brand new to the faith and those with more maturity.

Paul spent over 18 months establishing the church in Corinth. He worked with, lived with and loved these people. Paul wanted them to know the risen Christ and the life of love and freedom found in Christ.

While the Corinthians were enthusiastic, they weren't very disciplined. They argued about which of them had the superior spiritual pedigree—those baptized by Paul or those baptized by Apollos. They took each other to court. And when they gathered for the Lord's Supper—neither decently nor in good order—Paul wrote, "When you come together, it is not really to eat the Lord's supper. For when the time comes to eat, each of you goes ahead with your own supper, and one goes hungry and another becomes drunk" (1 Corinthians 11:20-21).

At his ascension, Jesus told his disciples that they would "receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). The church in Jerusalem was the foundation of the Christian movement. It became the parent of the churches founded by the apostles throughout the world.

The decision had been taken at the Council at Jerusalem to welcome gentiles into the way of Jesus. This was a critically important decision and a difficult one. It wasn't universally embraced by everyone. And the saints in Jerusalem had fallen on hard times. Famine threatened the city. Paul organized a massive stewardship campaign among the gentile churches to send aid to the church in Jerusalem.

Paul would have done well as a development officer. He urged the believers to give generously and cheerfully. He set them up to compete with each other to see which church could be most generous. The enthusiastic Corinthians jumped at the chance, especially if they could do better than the Macedonians! But their lack of discipline was stronger than their zeal, and their stewardship campaign faltered.

Paul wasn't going to have it. In his second letter to the Corinthians, he laid out the spiritual basis for giving: it was about opening the self and the community, it was about glorifying God, it was a new way of thinking about sufficiency.

"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:8).

The concept of sufficiency had changed over the centuries. In Cynic and Stoic philosophy, true self-sufficiency was attained when a person became completely independent, with no need of anyone or anything else. By the time Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, self-sufficiency meant not just having enough for oneself but having enough to give away to others. One could have all the wealth and power and status in the world, but if one didn't share with others, that person was not self-sufficient. Contrast the rich young man who could give nothing away with the poor widow who gave everything. The rich young man went away grieving. The widow gave freely.

Stewardship is a deeply spiritual act. It moves us out of ourselves and toward the neighbor in need. It glorifies God. It brings freedom from wealth and status. It unclenches our hands and hearts. It lets us rest in the promise of God's abundance. We become cheerful givers.



NEWS

COMMUNITY DINNER

As this Vasa Voice is going to press the Community dinner Team would like to thank everyone who has made this ministry so incredibly successful. The first Community Dinner was held on September 12, 2012. That night we served 85 meals and delivered 10. Since then, we have served **14,531** meals, even with our 5 cancellations during Covid in the winter and spring of 2020 and 2021.

None of this would be possible without dedication of the 40+ volunteers each month who give selflessly to donate food, make phone calls (Thanks Rosann!), help prepare the meals, deliver them, and who stay to clean the kitchen and put everything back the way it was. It is truly a neighborhood endeavor, one that has more than lived up to its original vision of uniting the community through service and fellowship.



Goodhue County Cooperative Electric

A Touchstone Energy Partner

September 2021

Jeannette Anderson
Co-Dinner Coordinator
VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH COMMUNITY DINNER
15235 Norelius Rd
Welch MN 55089

Greetings ~

Thank you for your application to our Operation Round-Up program for the free community dinner. I am pleased to enclose a check for \$500 to help with this.

We wish you the very best with your dinner and your fund-raising efforts.

Sincerely,

Paul Althoff
Operation Round-Up
Vice-President

Website • www.gceea.com
Phone (507) 732-5117 • (800) 927-6864 • Fax (507) 732-5110
1410 NORTHSTAR DRIVE • P.O. BOX 99 • ZUMBROTA, MN 55992-0099
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer



Freezers in the Lutheran Center:

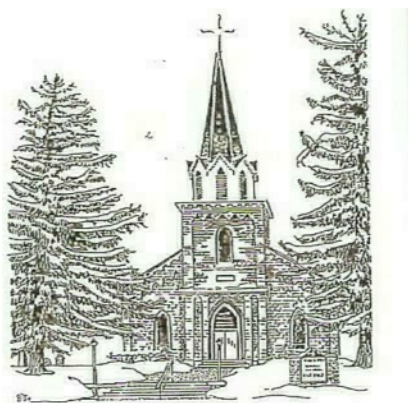
Vasa Feeds People! Vasa's feeding ministry was offered 200 pounds of chicken and 200 pounds of ground beef. In order to accept these donations we needed a lot more freezer space. We are grateful to acknowledge that one donor provided us with a "nearly new" freezer and a second donor provided us with the funds to buy a second new freezer. Both are filled with meat that will be prepared to feed people through the Community Dinner during the next few months.



NOVEMBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 9:30am Property Team 1:00pm Finance Team 6:30pm Parish Life Team Museum Board	2 9:30am Coffee and Conversation 	3 Community Dinner Reservations due by NOON! 5:30 Faith Formation 6:30pm Wed Eve Worship + Everyday Bible Conversation	4	5 Pastor's Day Off	6
7 9am All Saints Sunday and Service of Holy communion 9am Sunday School at the LC	8 Executive Team – Time TBD	9 9:30am Coffee and Conversation 	10 5:30 Faith Formation 5:30-6:30 Vasa Community Dinner Pick-Ups  6:30 Wed Eve Worship + Everyday Bible Conversation	11	12 Pastor's Day Off	13
14 9am Service of The Word 9am Sunday School at the LC	15 6:00pm Church Council	16 9:30am Coffee and Conversation 	17 5:30 Faith Formation 6:30pm Wed Eve Worship + Everyday Bible Conversation	18 Blood Drive 1-7pm  American Red Cross	19 Blood Drive 9am-2pm  American Red Cross Pastor's Day Off	20
21 9am Thanksgiving and Intergenerational Worship Service 9am NO Sunday School	22	23 9:30am Coffee and Conversation 	24 NO ADULT OR YOUTH FAITH FORMATION EVENTS	25 Happy Thanksgiving 	26 Pastor's Day Off	27
28 9am Service of The Word 9am Sunday School at the LC .	29	30 9:30am Coffee and Conversation 				

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

9:00 am Sundays

Christian Education

9:00-Sunday School at the Lutheran Center

Wednesday Evening Worship and Faith Formation

5:30pm Faith Formation

6:30pm Wednesday Evening Worship

Vasa Lutheran Center

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Pastor@vasalutheran.org

(Cell) 507-251-5270

Church Office 651-258-4327

Office Email: office@vasalutheran.org

Website: www.vasalutheran.org

Executive Team

Barbara Weigman, Council Pres. 507.202.7880

Sid Featherstone, Council VP 651.214.7486

Andrew Featherstone, Council Sec. 651.470.9823

Church Staff

Kathy Tilderquist, Treasurer

Emily Peterson, Office Administrator

Tom Erickson Worship Accompanist (1st Sundays only)

Anne Anderson, Worship Accompanist

Melissa McCann, Custodian

Gail Strusz-Klein, Wedding Coordinator

Paul & Jay Mikaelsen, Missionaries in LaPaz, Bolivia

pmikaelsen@gmail.com

website: 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!

Scatter seeds
of kindness
wherever you go