



The Vasa Voice



Volume 56 No. 11

November 2020

Vasa happenings in November

November - Food Drive

During the entire month of November Vasa Lutheran will be collecting food and personal hygiene items, as well as monetary donations for the Red Wing and Cannon Falls Food Shelves. You can drop off your donations at church, at the Lutheran Center, or bring it with you when you pick up your Community Thanksgiving Dinner! If you wish to make a monetary donation or include it with your offering, please note Food Shelf in the memo line.

November 1- 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 11 - Community Dinner

November's Community Dinner will take place on November 14. 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 24 - American Red Cross Blood Drive

The November blood drive will be at the Lutheran Center, on Tuesday, November 24 from 1-7pm. 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 25 - Thanksgiving Service

On Wednesday, November 25, a pre-recorded Thanksgiving Service will be released. There will NOT BE an in-person service this year.

Here's what's on the Inside!

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Pastor's Thoughts for November



I recently stumbled on a picture of a "thankful pumpkin." The idea is that every day during the month of November people write something to be thankful for on a pumpkin with a goal of covering it. As you immerse yourself in the process and start thinking about the things that you can be thankful for it will get easier and easier to fill up the pumpkin.

In Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians he writes "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks

in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (5:16-18)

There is a common misunderstanding regarding these verses. Many think it says, "Give thanks *for* all circumstances." The verse actually says, "Give thanks *in* all circumstances."

Paul is not saying that we should give thanks for the messy and difficult circumstances that we find ourselves in and most especially not the Covid-19 virus! Instead, Paul would say that we are to look at our lives and our circumstances and give thanks to God for the good things that are happening *in spite* of the virus. God is actively at work in each of our lives bringing blessings to us and God's actions are not affected by the virus.

The month of November is the cloudiest and grayest month of the entire year. The month of November is also the month during which we set aside a day to give thanks. If you don't feel inclined to create a thankful pumpkin then I would encourage you to begin making a list. Write down one thing every day that you can be thankful for. Then say a prayer of thanks to God for every item on that list and allow it to grow until the blessings of all that God has done and continues to do for you fills your pumpkin.

Full of thanks,
Pastor Maureen



November Birthdays

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



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

Volunteers for November

READERS & COMMUNION SET-UP

- 1 Cynthia Gianoli
- 8 Marilyn Hanson
- 15 Sid Featherstone
- 22 Marcia Featherstone
- 29 Mark Hagen



Faith Formation

Wednesday evenings at the Vasa Center: 6:30pm Worship + Everyday Bible Conversation

VASA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report
September 2020

For the Month of September:

Checkbook Balance, September 1, 2020	\$ 51,539.11
General Fund Contributions:	8,735.69
Total Funds Available	60,274.80
Budget Approved Monthly Expenses:	<u>14,146.62</u>
Checkbook Balance, September 30, 2020	\$ 46,128.18

Mission Investment Fund, August 31, 2020	\$20,653.93
Mission Investment Fund, September 30, 2020	\$20,550.73



Mark's Meditation

By Mark Hagen

Maureen tells me that one of the upcoming scripture lessons will be the story in the book of Jonah. It's short, four chapters. I'm sure you know the story. God asks Jonah to go to Nineveh and prophesize its impending doom. Instead, Jonah goes the opposite direction. A storm ensues and he is swallowed by a fish which spits him out on shore. Chastened, Jonah goes to Nineveh, and delivers the prophesy "Yet forty days, and Nineveh will be destroyed." But the people repent, God took pity on the city and its fate is spared.

Jonah is the only person named in the story; and he is the only person that behaves badly. Everyone else does the right thing. If we look deeper at this book, we see that it is really a story about resurrection. When Jonah chooses to go to Tarshish (someplace in the western Mediterranean, possibly Carthage), he is choosing death. When the storm hits, he withdraws to the lowest part of the ship. When the sailors cast lots that implicate Jonah, he asks to be thrown overboard and sinks into hell.

"I sank beneath the waves,
and the waters closed over me.
Seaweed wrapped itself around my head.
I sank down to the very roots of the mountains.
I was imprisoned in the earth,
whose gates lock shut forever." (Chapter 2. NLT)

Then God (the Lord, Yahweh) sends a fish to swallow Jonah "for three days and three nights." To the Hebrews hearing this story, that phrase would mean "a long journey." Jonah is not necessarily in the belly of the fish for three days; he is in the underworld for that time. It is the fish that brings him back. Clearly, the fish is a vehicle of salvation, not punishment.

The Gospel of Matthew (chapter 12) has Jesus recalling this story when he is asked to "show us a miraculous sign to prove your authority." Jesus replied, "Only an evil generation would demand a miraculous sign; but the only sign I will give them is the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights.

"The people of Nineveh will stand up against this generation on judgment day and condemn it, for they repented of their sins at the preaching of Jonah. Now someone greater than Jonah is here—but you refuse to repent."

Do you see the parallels with the Gospel? 1) Jonah is three days in Sheol, then resurrected. 2) The fact that God spares Nineveh, the capital of Israel's sworn enemy Assyria, demonstrates that Yahweh is lord of the whole world, not just the Hebrews. 3) Everyone repents except for Jonah, who sulks in a hut outside of Nineveh when its destruction doesn't happen. This parallels Jesus' teaching to look beyond ourselves for God's grace.



NOVEMBER
FREE VASA COMMUNITY
DINNER
COVID-19 STYLE!



MENU

NOVEMBER 11, 2020

TURKEY
MASHED POTATOES/GRAVY
GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE
CRANBERRY SALAD
DINNER ROLL
FUN-SIZE CANDY BAR



OR

5:30-6:30 PM



Call the Church office to reserve your meal.
651-258-4327
Meal reservations due by **NOON, NOV 4, 2020**
(Be sure to specify Pick-up or Delivery)

Community Dinners

If you are interested in helping with the Community Dinner, the sign-up sheets are in the Lutheran Center during the week, and in church on Sunday mornings. Volunteers are needed for food prep and meal assembly for the Pick-Ups and deliveries. We are also in need of a few more delivery drivers.

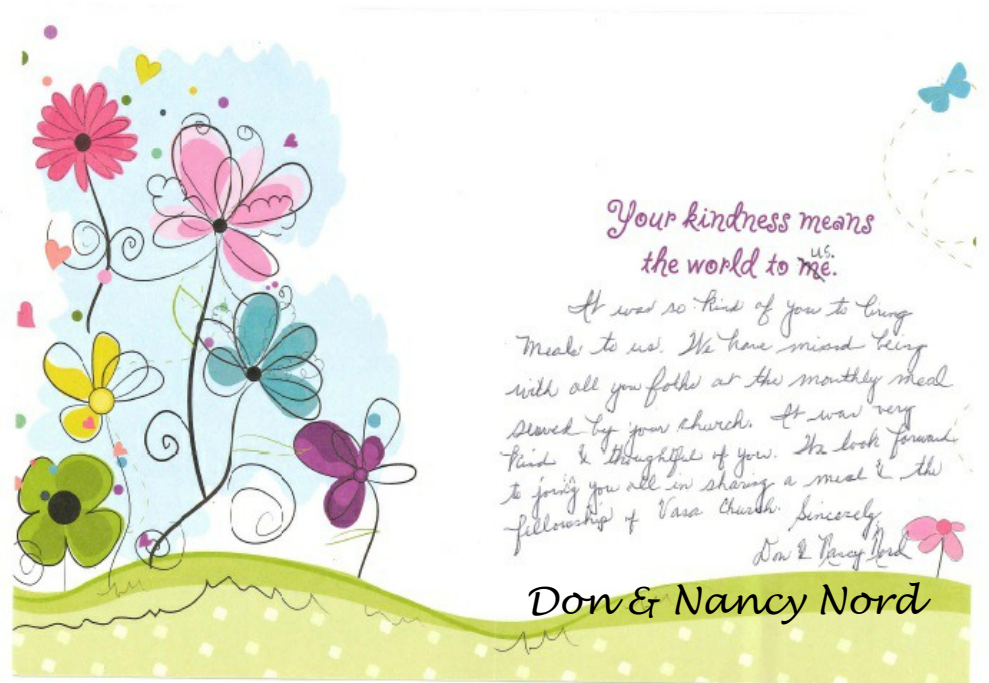
As in the past, we will also be collecting food and monetary donations for the local food shelves in Cannon Falls and Red Wing.

During September and October alone, we have served almost 500 meals. Reservations are required and we have been nearly full each month. Please get your reservations in by **NO LATER** than **NOVEMBER 4!!** This is very helpful for our purchasing and planning.

Meals are available for pick-up **no earlier than 5:30!** Please stay in your car and let the "car hop" bring your meal(s) to you. They won't be on roller skates, but they're quick and efficient! The car hop will also collect any food shelf donations you might have.

Free Community Dinner





Vasa Lutheran once again will be participating in the Goodhue County Christmas Project. We will be assigned our families on November 21 and plan on having our tree up in Church, with ornaments, on Sunday November 22. For those who are not comfortable attending Church, the ornaments will be available in the Lutheran Center lobby during the week.

Thank You!!



These were your totals for the 2 days;
Thursday, Oct 1st

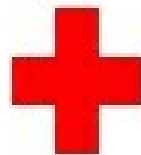
Goal: 19 units
Registered donors; 25
Deferred/Incompletes; 5
Total units collected: 20

Friday, Oct 2nd

Goal: 17 units
Registered donors; 26
Deferred/Incompletes; 0
Total units collected: 26

Total patients helped between the 2 days: 138!!!!
Thank you so much for everything you and your team do for the Blood Program! You are amazing!!!

Denise Emstad | Account Manager
American Red Cross



American Red Cross

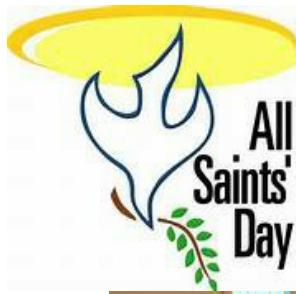
Vasa Blood Drive FUN FACTS!!

Vasa's Next Blood Drive is TUESDAY, November 24 from 1-7pm.

Please donate if you can!

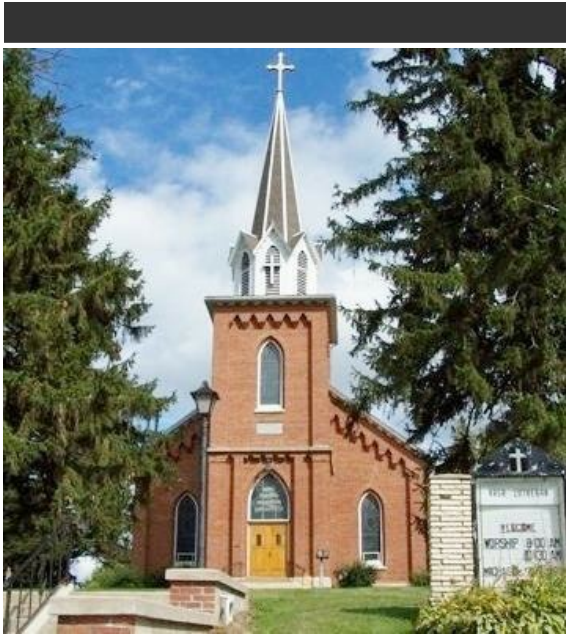
Mission Endowment Fund

EDUCATION AWARD
APPLICATION



**Sunday, November 1
at the 9am Worship
Service, all Saints will
be honored,
especially those whom we
lost since last year's Feast of All Saints.**

***Kathy Jacobson,
Jim Freeburg,
John Rehder,
Deb Ruby,
Lowell Peterson,
Deb Nelson***



15235 Norelius Road, Welch, Minnesota 55089

email: vasalutheran@sleepyeyetel.net

website: www.vasalutheran.org

The Mission Endowment Committee is now taking applications for Education Awards. Deadline to apply is November 30th. If you need an application, please contact the church office.



***Thanksgiving Eve Worship
Will be pre-recorded and
released on Wenesday
November 25.***

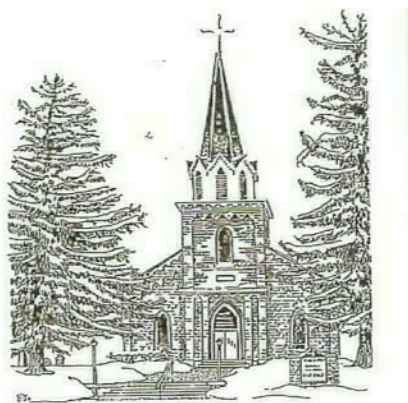
***Happy
Thanksgiving***

***Christmas Eve Worship
will be in-person at
2pm and 5pm***

NOVEMBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9am Service of Holy Communion 9am (online) Sunday School	2 9:30am Property Team 1:00pm Finance Team 6:30pm Parish Life Team Museum Board	3 9:30am Coffee with Pastor	4 6:30pm Wed Eve Worship + Everyday Bible Conversation Community Dinner Reservations due by NOON!	5	6 Pastor's Day Off	7
8 9am Service of Holy Communion 9am Sunday School (online)	9 Executive Team – Time TBD	10 9:30am Coffee with Pastor	11 5:30-6:30 Vasa Community Dinner Pick-Ups  6:30 Wed Eve Worship + Everyday Bible Conversation	12	13 Pastor's Day Off	14
15 9am Service of Holy Communion 9am Sunday School (online)	16 6:30pm Church Council	17 9:30am Coffee with Pastor	18 6:30pm Wed Eve Worship + Everyday Bible Conversation	19	20 Pastor's Day Off	21
22 9am Service of Holy communion 9am Sunday School (online)	23	24 9:30am Coffee with Pastor Blood Drive 1-7pm 	25	26 Happy Thanksgiving 	27 Pastor's Day Off	28
29 9am Service of Holy Communion 9am Sunday School (online)	30					

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-Virtual Sunda School - Church YouTube Channel

Wednesday Evening Worship

6:30pm Wednesdays, September-May
Vasa Lutheran Center

Pastor Maureen Hagen

pastormaureen@sleepyeyetel.net

(Cell) 507-251-5270

Church Office 651-258-4327

Office Email: vasalutheran@sleepyeyetel.net

Website: www.vasalutheran.org

Executive Team

Greg Drewianka 651-301-2472

Jim Hedeem 651-380-6054

Rick Samuelson 651-380-9150

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 Mikaelson, 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