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The Vasa Voice

*A monthly publication
encouraging faith, family,
friends and community.*



The Bible is the story of God's ongoing relationship with God's people. The story begins at creation but continues in earnest with Abraham and Sarah and all the rest of their family.

Join us every Sunday!
9:00 am Worship

The LORD is...

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Psalm 145:8-9

The LORD is...

Gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

GIVE. GATHER. SERVE.

Psalm 145:8-9 8 The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. 9 The LORD is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

A lectionary is an organized list of Bible readings that a church follows throughout the year. Here at Vasa, we use the Narrative Lectionary (NL). The Narrative Lectionary is a four year cycle of Bible readings that begins in September and continues through Pentecost. Each year it begins in the Old Testament with longer readings and stories. At Christmas we return to the New Testament and read consecutive stories from one of the gospels.

In September we began reading stories from the Old Testament that emphasized God's covenant with God's people. Beginning with Abraham and then over

and over throughout the Old Testament God affirms the promises made to the Israelites. As it says in Psalm 145:8, "God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."

As we enter a new year we will begin reading stories of Jesus from the gospel of Matthew. When Matthew wrote this gospel, he was writing to a Jewish audience who had long looked for a fulfillment of God's covenant through the sending of a Messiah. Matthew frequently references the Old Testament to support his premise that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah. It will be helpful to keep Matthew's intent in mind as we read toward the Easter story. You will find connections to the Old Testament lessons from this past fall.

The Bible is the story of God's ongoing relationship with God's people. The story begins at creation but continues in earnest with Abraham and Sarah and all the rest of their family. The good news is that the story doesn't end with them. It continues on generation after generation, down to the present time. This story's most

important theme is God's great love for God's people; for us. That is the most amazing part of this story: that God's love just flows on and on. We are the beloved children of God and this, our God, is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love

May your new year be happy and healthy! May you continue to bask in the amazing grace of God's great love for you.

Pastor Maureen



VASA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Treasurer's Report - November 2018

Checkbook Balance, November 1, 2018	\$ 30,638.79
General Fund Contributions:	20,684.26
Mission Endowment contribution	8,910.00
Total Funds Available	60,233.05
Budget Approved Monthly Expenses:	16,031.90
Checkbook Balance, November 30, 2018	\$ 44,201.15

Ministry Partnerships of the SE MN synod of the ELCA

Over the past 25 years by chance, or by God's plan, an unusual ministry opportunity developed in south eastern Minnesota. For a variety of reasons a number of immigrants from war-torn Sudan settled in the communities of Austin, Rochester, Owatonna, and Faribault: places where they could find jobs in manufacturing, meat-packing, and the hospitality & service industry. They sought places to worship driven by a deep desire to worship in their native language, just like our immigrant ancestors.

So it is that our synod is home to several Sudanese worshipping communities. They are not formal congregations with all of the governance structures of a church. They are simply groups of people with a common background who gather together to worship; each with their own language: Nuer, Anyuak, and Dinka. Our synod and the Lutheran churches of those communities provide primary support.

On Sunday, Dec. 9th, we welcomed Yang Tut, the worship leader for the Nuer community worshipping at Our Savior's Lutheran in Owatonna. He told us part of his life story: war, living in a refugee camp in Kenya, meeting Sarah, whom he eventually married, and then immigrating to the United States.

Yang highlighted the work of ministry going on in Juba, the capitol of South Sudan. "In November of 2016, the Lutheran Church of South Sudan, in partnership with the ELCA broke ground on a Lutheran center and clinic in Juba, in an area that lacks basic health and education services. The center will be a place for the community to find hope by providing classes, including computer training, and a health clinic – which will be the country's first and only place for fistula surgery for women and girls."

Through your generous contributions we gathered \$443 that Sunday morning. Together with a \$250 grant from the Vasa Endowment fund we were able to donate a total of \$693 toward the work of ministry with the synod's global partners in Columbia, Tanzania, and South Sudan.

For more information about the Global Ministry Partners of our synod go to <http://semnsynod.org/ministries/gmcs/>.



Pastor's Report for December, 2018

The most pressing issue to be addressed since the last council meeting was the hiring of a new office administrator. I am happy to announce that Shelley Pohlman has accepted the job and will begin training later this week. Shelley's resume' is very strong and I am confident that with her skill set she will quickly and easily manage the responsibilities of the position.

When I was called as pastor here at Vasa I had no agenda beyond "loving you all and caring for you as a pastor should." Everyone has responded in a very positive manner. Having said this, it has become clear in this last year that it's time for Vasa to take on remodeling projects. We have already accomplished some of these projects:

- Repair of the organ
- Remodeling of the Bride's room (with insulating the bell tower floor and a new dropdown ladder)
- The gathering space and new restroom
- New roof on the gym

But, we're not done. As we move into 2019, we have several more projects to tackle:

- New flat roof on the Lutheran Center (LC)
- New metal roof on the classroom wing of the LC
- Consideration of a kitchen remodeling project that will include taking out the old (and very inefficient) walk-in cooler and replacing it
- Three of the furnaces in the LC date from 1989.



The Properties team will provide over-all management for the roofing project. But a certain amount of research is going to be needed. If there is anyone here or if you know anyone who has skills that would be beneficial to this project, please see Dan or Greg.

The kitchen committee will put together a plan for the kitchen remodel project. I want to be clear that we don't have enough information to say specifically what is going to be done and therefore we cannot and should not speculate about cost. I will help the kitchen committee, as I am able.

I have asked Rick S. to analyze options in regard to heating and cooling in the LC. Some considerations include:

- What will it cost to replace the furnaces?
- What will it take to add air conditioning?
- What about a geo-thermal heating/cooling system?
- What about solar panels in conjunction with a new heating system?

I do not anticipate that we will be accomplishing all of these projects in 2019. The roof on the LC is of the highest priority. Replacing the walk in refrigerator comes in second, but must be tied in with creating a more efficient kitchen. It is simple wisdom to put together a plan for replacement of the furnaces so that we are being proactive and not reactive.

Our task as a council is to prepare Vasa for the future. We don't know what that future holds, but God is not done with this place, of that I am convinced.

Pastor Maureen

There have been no pastoral acts of note since the November council meeting. I am grateful that there have been no funerals. I have had conversations with two moms about baptisms, and there is a brand new baby in the Pearson clan.

Prayer Concerns

David Broin

Jay Mikaelson

Scott Sorenson (son of Sterling and Sharyn)



January

Happy Birthday!

- Jan.9 Carlson LaVonne
Fredin Jordan
McCann Kennedy
Nelsen Kaelie
- Jan. 11 Evanson Max
- Jan. 14 Mandelkow Marissa
Nelsen Tegan
- Jan. 15 Hovde Dennis
- Jan. 16 Anderson Dillon
Broin Sherri
Nelson Andrew
Soine Breanna
- Jan. 17 Gesme Amber
Mandelkow Terri
- Jan. 18 Samuelson Gary
Weckerling Vicki
- Jan. 19 Drewianka Greg
- Jan. 21 Strusz-Klein Gail
- Jan. 23 Gardiner Wallace
- Jan. 24 Crouse Bob
- Jan. 24 Stehr Ava
- Jan. 25 Broin David
Carlson Hettie
- Jan. 28 Featherstone John
Lindholm Randy
- Jan. 29 Hedeem Sue
Mann Hailey
Pagel Jason
- Jan. 31 Hovel Courtney

January

Volunteers

USHERS

- 6 Joe Wollschlager, Jason Pagel, Chuck Peterson
- 13 Joe Wollschlager, Jason Pagel, Chuck Peterson
- 20 Joe Wollschlager, Jason Pagel, Chuck Peterson
- 27 Joe Wollschlager, Jason Pagel, Chuck Peterson

READERS

- 6 Duane Martinson
- 13 Sandy Wollschlager
- 20 Needed
- 27 Marilyn Hanson

GREETERS

- 6 Needed
- 13 Jim and Sue Hedeem
- 20 Jim and Sue Hedeem
- 27 Jim and Sue Hedeem

COMMUNION

ASSISTANT

- 6 Rodney Nelson
- 20 Tana Hovde

ACOLYTE

- 6 Chance Rehder
- 20 Kate Hart

COMMUNION SET-UP

- 6 Needed
- 20 Rodney Nelson





If you're interested in helping, please reach out to Sue Hedeem or Jeannette Anderson.

Donate Food Items | Serving | Clean up | Delivery of Meals

Free Community Dinner

Vasa Lutheran Church

January **9th**, 2019 - 5:30 to 6:30 pm

COME AND MEET, GREET AND EAT WITH YOUR
NEIGHBORS AT A FREE COMMUNITY DINNER . . .
EVERYONE IS INVITED!



FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD, I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME DRINK, I WAS A
STRANGER AND YOU WELCOMED ME, MATTHEW 25:35

Feb. 13 Beef Stew | March 13 Meatloaf (bring a non-perishable item for the food shelf) | April 10 Pork Roast | May 8 Pork Burgers, Brats and Hot Dogs



TACO DIP

BY ARLENE SAMUELSON



You will need:

8 OZ CREAM CHEESE, SOFTENED
1PT. SOUR CREAM
1 PKG. TACO SEASONING MIX
1 - 16 OZ. BTL. CHUNKY SALSA
8 OZ. SHREDDED CHEDDAR CHEESE
BLACK OLIVES, SLICED

Steps:

1. Blend the cream cheese with the sour cream and taco seasoning.
 2. Spread on a large platter or put in a 9x9 Tupperware dish.
 3. Cover with the bottle of chunky salsa and then shredded add the Cheddar cheese.
 4. Garnish with black olives.
- Serve with your favorite tortilla chips.



THIS RECIPE CAN BE FOUND IN 150 YEARS OF VASA FAVORITES
VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH 1855-2005

VASA CEMETERY BOARD MEETING

December 5, 2018@ Lutheran Center

Meeting called to order by Dale Anderson, President
Members Present: Duane Lindstrom, Dale Anderson, Duane Hanson, Rick Samuelson and Chuck Peterson

Discussion Topic Included:

- We will bring both mowers to Sema Equipment in Wana-mingo for maintenance before the 2019 mowing season.
- We talked about a columbarium for our cemetery. It was decided to provide the congregation with information and discuss further at the congregational meeting in February and to possibly have a vote to see how many people would be interested in this.
- We decided to make the months of November through April the frost charge months.
- We went over our financials and decided to put a \$5000 CD that is coming due this month into the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust.
- We talked about the fact that Duane Lindstrom's term on the board is expiring and he is not running again. Dale will talk to possible replacements.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED

Report submitted by:
Rick Samuelson, Secretary/Treasurer

UPCOMING EVENTS AT VASA

- Jan. 6: Sunday School starts again on its regular schedule
Jan. 9: January Community Dinner – Serving Escalloped Potatoes & Ham
Jan. 10: Blood drive at Vasa
Jan. 20: Financial records are due in the church office for the year-end audit
Feb. 13 February Community Dinner Serving Beef Stew
Feb. 24: Annual Meeting
Feb. 26 Children's Music Night K-5 5:30 PM
Feb. 27 Adult Choir 7:15 PM

Faith Life Night at the Vasa Lutheran Center

Wednesdays at 5:15pm is Child Education/Wednesday School for children pre-k thru 6th Grades.

Wednesday Evening Worship begins at 6:15pm.

Confirmation Classes

7th Grade: Wednesday evenings the 9 week winter session will begin in January.

Christian Education

9:00-10:00 am Sunday School held at the Church
September 27 thru May 21

Electronic Giving

Electronic giving is an option at Vasa Lutheran Church. If you are interested in using this method of giving instead of using weekly offering envelopes, please fill out the "Authorization Form" and bring it to the Church Office. Thanks for your consideration of this giving option.

Help a Veteran

Everyone, with so much mail coming and going now, please save your cancelled stamps! Rosann will package them up and send them off to the Veterans Association in Arizona. Then they will be sorted, trimmed and packaged in small amounts. This aids Vets with coordination, math, and penmanship problems. Place them in envelopes in back of the church or at the Lutheran Center.

Thank you,
Rosann Pearson



VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
November 15, 2018 @ Lutheran Center

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:30pm by Greg Drewianka, President

Devotions: Terri Mandelkow

Members present and absent:

Present: Pastor Maureen Hagen; Greg Drewianka, President; Jim Hedeem, Vice President; Geri Lindholm; Rick Samuelson; Steve Hyllengren; Kevin Eckblad; Terri Mandelkow; Duane Hanson; Mike Carlson; Dan Hedeem; Sid Featherstone and Gail Strusz-Klein

Unable to Attend: None - Thirteen voting members present Also Present: Kathy Tilderquist

Adoption of the agenda:

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

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Minutes:

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2018 as written.

MOTION CARRIED

Reports Reviewed and Accepted:

1. Treasurer and Finance Team Report (Attached)

a. Kathy stated that the total in the Mission Investment fund as of Oct. 31, 2018 is \$68,241.06

b. We spent more than we took in, in October and offering is continuing to lag behind projected.

2. Parish Life (Attached)

a. A total of 300 people were served at the last community dinner.

3. Property Team Report. (Attached)

a. Bob Josephs has been hired to shovel snow this winter for \$25/hour.

4. Museum Board (Attached)

5. Endowment Board Report (Attached)

6. Cemetery Board (No Meeting)

7. Executive Board Report (Attached)

8. Pastor's Report (Attached)

a. The pastor's report was about medical insurance. Mark plans to retire at the end of 2019 when he is 62 so both Pastor Maureen and Mark will need health insurance starting January 1, 2020. This will impact the last 2 months of our upcoming budget which is January and February of 2020. Pastor left the room and the council discussed different options available.

It was moved and seconded to pay all of the pastor's health insurance premium and half of Mark's health insurance premium for January and February, 2020 at the Portico Gold level.

MOTION CARRIED

Tabled Business (None)

Old Business (None)

New Business

a. We talked about developing a Undesignated Gifts of money policy

b. Teams need to submit budget estimates at December meeting

c. The Administrative Assistant (Secretary) position has been posted.

Discussion (None)

December Meeting Dates: (Tentative schedule)

Team: Monday December 3, (Property Tuesday December 4, 2018)

Executive Board: Monday December 10, 2018

Council: Monday December 17, 2018 @ 7:30pm – Devotions: Kevin Eckblad

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 9:15 pm.

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Report submitted by: Rick Samuelson, Secretary

Property Meeting 12-4-2018

Meeting called to order at 5:30p by chairperson Dan Hedeem.

Members present: Dan Hedeem, Steve Hyllengren, Duane Hanson, Kevin Eckblad, Pastor Maureen, Greg Drewianka

Dan gave us an update on the LC gym roof repair. The insurance company now has a letter from the Goodhue County Building Code Administrator stating the code requirements the contractor had to comply to. The insurance company is re-doing its estimate on the replacement cost for the roof. Additional monies should be forth coming so that the contractor can be paid the full amount.

Noted that the carpets have been cleaned at the Church by A-1 Cleaning. This includes the kneeling pads and hand rail around the alter. The LC will be cleaned on Wednesday, Dec. 26.

Discussed electric for the new shades in the LC gym. Benda is the contractor. Last we have heard on it is that they are very busy and will get to it as soon as they can.

Noted that the line to be tapped for electricity is the line that feeds the lights for the parking lot. The light on the east corner does not work. Steve checked the light and it seems to have been damaged by the storm that damaged the roof as it now collects water in the housing. May have to have a new light fixture. We will have Benda check it out when the electric for the shades goes in.

Pastor noted that the heater in the custodian's closet at Church was not on. (This was checked out after the meeting and it was discovered that the circuit breaker was in the off position. The heater in the closet is now working as is the heater in the vestibule.)

Discussed next step in the repair of the roof over the classrooms. The claims representative from the insurance company has been consulted in this regard. We need to decide if the roof warrants replacement of the metal as it does not seem to be leaking at this time. (The sheet metal roof does not match the new roof over the gym.) If not replaced, the roof needs at a minimum to have longer sheet metal screws put in to more firmly attach it to the roof rafters.

We went over the budget for property for 2019 and set only a slightly higher budget than the 2018 budget.

Vasa Lutheran Church Finance Committee Meeting December 3, 2018

The finance committee meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Members present: Rick Samuelson, Kathy Tilderquist, Gail Strusz-Klein, Mike Carlson Others present: Pastor Maureen

Items discussed:

The income and expenses for November were analyzed. Offering income for the year is running behind.

The committee decided to pay down the loan balance by \$1,000 by the end of the year, using monies from the general fund.

A discussion was held concerning the final bill from VanGuilder Construction and the additional insurance payment needed to pay it.

A short discussion was held concerning the budget for 2019.

Kathy Tilderquist
Recording Secretary

Parish Life Team Meeting December 3, 2018

Children's Christmas Program will be on December 16th at 10AM and we will have a meal to follow.

We will meet as a group to prepare treat bags for the kids and hand them out after the program.

Christmas Eve worship will be at 2pm and 9pm. Two Copper Coins will be here on December 30th. It will be an awesome worship featuring Christmas Carols.

Organizing has begun to start up an adult and youth choir. Dates and times will be announced.

New hymn board numbers are very much needed, two sets will be ordered.

After Christmas we will organize, clean up and decide what to do with all of the extra lights and garland in the cellar at church.

The *Vasa Voice* does not include all "Team Meetings" minutes to reduce printing costs but are available for review in the office.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>30 5th Sunday Special Music</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Service of Holy Commur 9am Sunday School 10am (No title) 	<p>31 New Year's Eve</p>	<p>Jan 1 New Year's Day</p>	<p>2 9am Office Hours</p>	<p>3 9am Office Hours</p>	<p>4 Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 9am Service of Holy Commur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Sunday School 12pm Melissa Mccann - Chriz 	<p>7 6:30pm Parish Life Committe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30pm Finance Committee h 	<p>8 9am Office Hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am AM Coffee with Past 5:30pm Property Committee I 	<p>9 9am Office Hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:15pm FLN 5:30pm FREE Community Din 	<p>10 9am Office Hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm Blood Drive 	<p>11 Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 9am Service of The Word</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Sunday School 	<p>14</p>	<p>15 9am Office Hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am AM Coffee with Past 	<p>16 9am Office Hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:15pm FLN 6:15pm Worship 	<p>17 9am Office Hours</p>	<p>18 Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 9am Service of Holy Commur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Sunday School 6:30pm 4-H 	<p>21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30pm Church Council Meet 	<p>22 9am Office Hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am AM Coffee with Past 	<p>23 9am Office Hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:15pm FLN 6:15pm Worship 	<p>24 9am Office Hours</p>	<p>25 Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 9am Service of The Word</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Sunday School 	<p>28 11am Leon Mutual Meeting</p>	<p>29 9am Office Hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am AM Coffee with Past 	<p>30 9am Office Hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:15pm FLN 6:15pm Worship 	<p>31 9am Office Hours</p>	<p>Feb 1 Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>2</p>

VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH
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CHURCH STAFF

Kathy Tilderquist, Treasurer

Shelley Pohlman, Office administrator

Melissa McCann, Custodian

Austin Fersonson, Worship Accompanist

Gail Strusz-Klein, Wedding Coordinator

Paul and Jay Mikaelson, Missionaries,

LaPaz, Bolivia

pmikaelsen@gmail.com

website: www.caranavi.net/rtc.htm

VASA MISSION STATEMENT

We at Vasa Congregation, called by
God, commit to:

Worshiping together,
Growing in faith,
Serving others, and
Welcoming and loving all!