



# The Vasa Voice



Volume 56 No. 9

## What's Happening This Month at Vasa

### September 13 - SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES ONLINE

Beginning on September 13 an online Sunday school program featuring Pastor Maureen will be made available. It will include a bible story, some singing, an object lesson and a prayer. It will be posted as a link through Facebook, as well as on the Vasa Lutheran Church channel on YouTube. Pastor will send out notifications through email.

### September 09 - Community Dinner

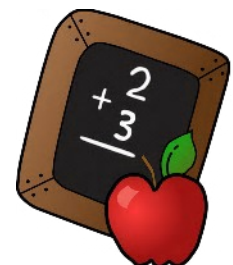
Our first community dinner of the fall occurs on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. Chicken is on the menu. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, we will be offering only Pick-Up or Delivery options for now. It is our hope that you will gather with a small group to share the meal together. Call or email the church office with your name and number of meals desired. If you want them delivered, please include your address and phone number!

### MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Every year the Vasa Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund awards scholarships to students pursuing post-secondary education. We have included the education application form on page 7 of this month's Vasa Voice. The deadline for application is Sunday, November 29, 2020. Applications will be considered in December, with awards being made by the first of the year.

### *Here's what's on the Inside!*

- P. 2 Pastor's Thoughts
- P. 3 Service Assistants, Birthdays, Thanks to our Volunteers
- P. 4-5 Council Minutes, Treasurer's Report
- P. 6 Mark's Musings
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- P. 9 American Red Cross Blood Drive (Oct. 1), Taste of Welch
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## Hidden Treasure

Matthew 13:44-46 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; 46 on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

These two parables are about hidden treasures. The treasure in the field is hidden. The seeker can't see it and doesn't have any assurance that there is actually a treasure located there but persists until the treasure is found. The nature of the treasure in the field is never specified: we don't know what exactly it is. All that we know is that it is of so much value that the seeker will sell everything that he owns to purchase the field.

Like the seeker the merchant is always on the lookout for a beautiful pearl. She probably has looked at many hundreds of pearls in her quest for the most beautiful one. She has no assurance that today will be the day when her patience in seeking pays off. After finally finding one, and recognizing its value, the pearl merchant sells all that she has so that she might buy this one beautiful pearl.

The actions of the seeker and the merchant in selling all that they own are not logical or rational. But something drives them; first to search and then to purchase. Jesus taught these short parables to help us to understand the value of the kingdom of heaven; something that is so valuable that we will sell all that we own to acquire a place within.

This year, because of Covid-19, I am leading Vacation Bible School more independently than I have since coming to Vasa in 2016. Yes, it's a lot of work. Yes, I will be exhausted by the end of the week. But I am having a blast. For me, the kingdom of heaven is VBS with about 20 elementary children. They are treasures hidden in a field and pearls of great value.

Blessings,  
~*Pastor Maureen*



# SEPTEMBER



## Volunteers for September

### READERS and COMMUNION SET-UP

- 6 Randy Klein
- 13 Jason Pagel
- 20 Chuck Peterson
- 27 Kevin Eckblad



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

## Birthdays

- 2 Piper Hanson
- John Hart
- Greg Hovel
- 3 Scott Romness
- 7 Jenny Hedeem
- 9 Jessie Bignell
- Lora Gruber
- Carson Lind
- Treyton Lind
- 11 Malissa Parrott-Stahnke
- 12 Steve Lindstrom
- 13 Rodney Nelson
- 16 Marcia Featherstone
- Allison Finne
- 18 Sawyer Gesme
- 19 Mitchell Anderson
- Shayne Dicke
- Al Lindell
- Megan Widstrom
- Michael Widstrom Jr
- 21 Tana Hovde
- 23 Amanda Sense
- 24 Judy Anderson
- 26 Amber Nelsen
- 28 Mya Montey
- 29 Sasha Diercks

**And a big thanks to Duane Hanson and Steve Hyllengren for taking care of the tree damage from the August 8 storm.**



# VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

June 29, 2020 @ Lutheran Center

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:30pm by Greg Drewianka, President

Devotions: Pastor Maureen

Members present and Absent:

**Present:** Pastor Maureen Hagen; Greg Drewianka, President; Rick Samuelson; Dan Hedeem; Sid Featherstone; Ben Norman; Steve Hyllengren; Duane Hanson; Kevin Eckblad; Mike Carlson; Lora Gruber; Andrew Featherstone and Jessica Anderson

Thirteen voting members present

**Unable to Attend:** Jim Hedeem

**Also Present:** Kathy Tilderquist

## Adoption of the agenda:

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

## Approval of Minutes:

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2020 council meeting as written.

**MOTION CARRIED**

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting as written.

**MOTION CARRIED**

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2020 Church Council Reorganizational Meeting as written.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## Reports Reviewed and Accepted:

### 1. Treasurer and Finance Team Report (Attached)

- a. The heating and A/C project in the Lutheran Center was paid by Mission Investment Fund.
- b. There was a good response to the church addressed envelopes that were sent out for offering
- c. Some members are now giving to the church with their credit card.

### 2. Parish Life (No Report)

### 3. Property Team Report. (Attached)

a. John Otto will be painting the outside windows of the church and the steeple. His bid was \$4930 and if he does not get to it this year the price will be good next year.

### 4. Museum Board (No Meeting)

### 5. Endowment Board Report (No Meeting)

### 6. Cemetery Board (Attached)

### 7. Executive Board Report (Attached)

### 8. Pastor's Report (Attached)

- a. We will try to resume the tuesday morning coffee and the wednesday service in August
- b. There will be first communion for 4 students this year
- c. There are some baptisms that have been put on hold
- d. The Pastor will be on vacation from July 2<sup>nd</sup> through July 15<sup>th</sup>
- e. When the Pastor returns from vacation the search process for a new musician will begin

## Tabled/Old Business (None)

## New Business

- We discussed what to do about the gazebo. No final decision was made but Greg will get an estimate to repair. The steps will be blocked off and signs will be put up for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.
- The Community Dinners this fall will depend on the status of the Covid19 virus.
- We talked about the reopening of the Church and Lutheran Center. A family would like to rent the Lutheran Center for a family reunion in August.
- We also talked about hiring a pianist/organist. Anne Anderson will be the interim musician. The Pastor will start the hiring process when she gets back from vacation July 16<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion

## Church Council Meeting Minutes, Continued...

- A presentation was given by Deb Donath regarding the planting an acre of wild flowers on the east side of the property by the ball field. Deb and Kent will donate the spray, seed and labor for this project. It was moved and seconded to move forward with the wild flower project. **MOTION CARRIED**
- Duane Hanson talked about the septic system project at the parsonage. Duane had contacted Benson Septic from Hastings and Dan Voight for bids. Dan Voight did not get back with us so the project went forward with Benson Septic from Hastings. The pipes in the basement need to be changed so that the septic pipes don't run under the garage floor. The costs are as follows:
  - \$875 for design, permit and test holes
  - \$11,815 for new septic and drainfield
  - \$3320 for Red Wing Plumbing to change pipes in the basement and plumbing work
  - \$675 to pump grout into the old system to seal.
  - Total = \$16,685

### August Meeting Dates: (Tentative schedule)

Parish Life: Monday August 3rd @ 6:30pm

Finance: Monday August 3rd @ 1:00pm

Property: Monday August 3rd @ 9:30am

Executive: Monday August 10th @ TBD

Council: Monday August 17th @ 6:30pm Devotions: Steve Hyllengren

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:20 pm. **MOTION CARRIED**

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Report submitted by:

Rick Samuelson, Secretary

VASA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH	
Treasurer's Report	
July, 2020	
For the Month of July:	
Checkbook Balance, July 1, 2020	\$ 38,534.86
General Fund Contributions:	20,272.35
Total Funds Available	58,807.21
Budget Approved Monthly Expenses:	<u>15,114.86</u>
Checkbook Balance, July 31, 2019	\$ 43,692.35
Mission Investment Fund, June 30, 2020	\$34,070.67
Mission Investment Fund, July 30, 2020	\$20,516.60



# Mark's Musings



## A History of Hell

Many people assume that, being married to a pastor, some theological understanding will rub off. As a result, I sometimes get asked difficult questions such as, "What is heaven like?" Or, even more difficult, "What is hell like?" I recently read the book "Heaven and Hell: A History of the Afterlife", by Bart Ehrman, that touches on this topic. Professor Ehrman teaches Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Ehrman points out that the concepts of heaven and hell have evolved over time. The Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament, imply that death leads to oblivion, or at least a state of suspended animation. To the early Hebrews (1000 BCE), mind, body and soul were one. When the body gave out, so did the soul. Meanwhile, Greek philosophers (mainly Plato) developed the concept of a separate, everlasting soul. By the time of the books of the prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, 700-500 BCE), the Jews clearly also held this view of a separate everlasting soul. But there was no hell. For sinners, death led to annihilation.

In the second temple period (516 BCE – 70 AD) Judea was brutally ruled by the Persians, followed by the Greeks, and then the Romans. Jewish writers began to think "This isn't fair!" There must be a place of torment for cosmic justice to occur. Still, this view was not widely held. Paul's letters (~50 AD) don't talk of hell. He says in Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Paul follows the old Jewish idea that death leads to annihilation for sinners.

However, by the time the gospels are being written (70 – 110 AD), hell as a place of torment is expressed. Jesus uses the word "Gehenna", which was originally a valley near Jerusalem where the Israelites committed the unspeakable act of sacrificing their children to the Ammonite deity Molech (Jer. 7:31:35), and where later generations burned their garbage. In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus says, "And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into Gehenna" (9:45). But still, hell doesn't appear to be eternal. In Matthew's Gospel Jesus states, "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna" (10:28), implying again that death leads to destruction for sinners.

Over time, the idea took hold that there is a place of eternal torment, where the sins against the righteous are avenged. Dante's seven rings of hell, described in his "Divine Comedy" (1300 AD), codified this popular view of hell. Milton's "Paradise Lost" (1667 AD) further defined our view of hell.

Vasa is a Lutheran church. What is the Lutheran stance on hell? Officially, the church accepts the reality of hell. We aren't called to judge who is going to hell, nor should we allow the fear of hell to determine how we live. The creeds and Lutheran Confessions proclaim that Christ descended into hell and destroyed it for all believers. Wholly, and by God's grace alone, Christ has snatched us from the jaws of evil and the "gates of hell" will not prevail against our election.

**Vasa Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Mission Endowment Fund Education Award Application**

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(first, middle, last - no nicknames)

Applicant's Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(likely home address - permanent) Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Father/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mother/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_  
School Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Program (Occupational Objective) \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Program in years to completion \_\_\_\_\_ Years/Months

Degree Sought \_\_\_\_\_ If not a degree, describe completion recognition in terms such as: certificate, diploma, license, etc.)

Starting Date (month and year) \_\_\_\_\_ Completion Date \_\_\_\_\_

Describe any special needs, circumstances, responsibilities, handicaps you have that will add to the cost and/or time needed to complete your program (reach your goal):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Use the space below to write a description of your school plans and occupational goals following completion of your schooling. Include the major(s) and minor(s) that will be a part of the program. Incorporate any work experience(s) that may be a part of your school program. Reveal how you see yourself advancing and progressing in your occupational field and in the community as a whole.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*(over)*

Leave this section blank.

Length of program \_\_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Starting Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completion \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that I must be an active member of Vasa Lutheran Church to receive an education award.  
I understand that this award is intended to financially assist me in my pursuit of a post-secondary education.  
If approved, I understand that I am eligible for a maximum of 5 awards and only one award per year.

My signature attests to the correctness of the information provided and to my understanding of the scholarship program.

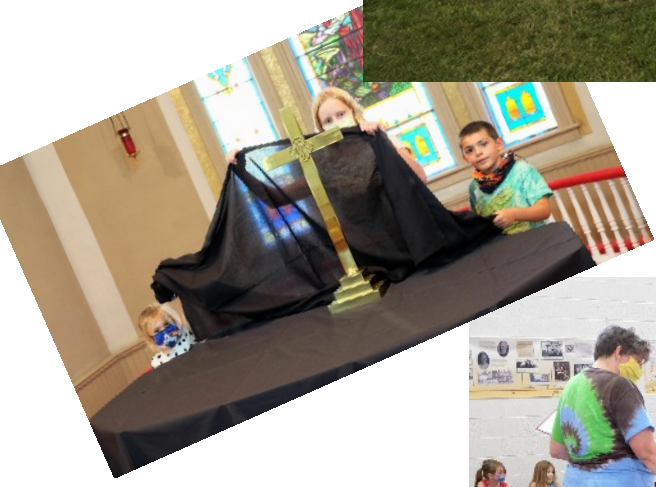
Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Return your application to:

Trustees: Mission Endowment Fund  
Vasa Evangelical Lutheran Church  
15235 Norclius Road  
Welch, Minnesota 55089

2020!!!

# VBS







29<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Taste of Welch

WELCA Mission Fundraiser

## Bake Sale

This year we will not have our usual in-person event. Instead, we will be taking pre-orders for the bake sale: Cookies, Bars, Breads, Sweet Breads, Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup & Chili.

Go to [ccchurch.us](http://ccchurch.us) or <https://www.facebook.com/CrossOfChristLutheranChurch/> to find the order form. Please return the form by September 26<sup>th</sup>. Pick up items in church parking lot on Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>.

Delivered to your vehicle.

## Raffle

Queen-Size Quilt 90" x 90"

Many other items including

Gift Cards and Gift Certificates

Order tickets on bake sale form, purchase ticket when you pick up your order, or from a WELCA member.

## Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

24036 Co. Rd. 7 Blvd. - Welch, MN

Saturday, October 10, 2020

10:00 am - 2:00 pm



*Give blood.*

Every 2 seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.

American Red Cross



## Blood Drive Vasa Lutheran Church

15235 Norelius Rd

Thursday, October 1, 2020

1:00 - 7:00 pm



**SEPTEMBER  
FREE VASA COMMUNITY  
DINNER  
COVID-19 STYLE!**

**MENU**

September 9, 2020

CHICKEN

MASHED POTATOES

GRAVY

CORN

REFRIGERATOR PICKLES

DINNER ROLL

MINI CHEESECAKE



**OR**

**5:30-6:30 PM**



**Call the Church office to reserve your meal.**


**651-258-4327**

**Meal reservations due by 5pm Sept. 4, 2020**

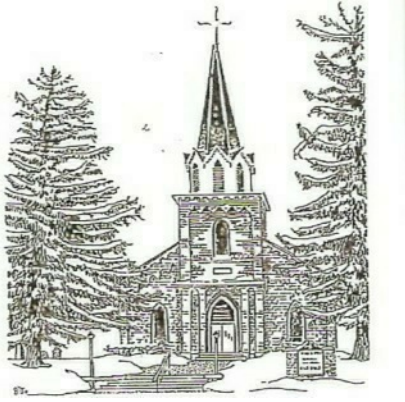
**(Be sure to specify Pick-up or Delivery)**

# SEPTEMBER 2020

Pastor Maureen Hagen  
 Cell: 507-251-5270  
 Office: 651258-4327  
[pastormaureen@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:pastormaureen@sleepyeyetel.net)  
[www.vasa.lutheran.org](http://www.vasa.lutheran.org)  
[www.facebook.com/Vasa-Lutheran-Church](https://www.facebook.com/Vasa-Lutheran-Church)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 9:30am Coffee with Pastor 9:30am Property Team 6:30pm Parish Life Team	2 6:15 Wed Eve Worship + Communion	3	4 Free Community Dinner  MEAL RESERVATIONS DUE TODAY! Pastor's Day Off	5
6 9am Service of Holy Communion	7 LABOR DAY	8 9:30am Coffee with Pastor	9 Free Community Dinner  PICK-UP or DELIVERY ONLY 5:30-6:30 PM 6:15 Wed Eve Worship + Communion	10	11 Pastor's Day Off	12
13 9am Service of Holy Communion	14	15 9:30am Coffee with Pastor	16 6:15pm Wed Eve Worship + Communion	17	18 Pastor's Day Off	19
20 9am Service of Holy Communion	21 6:30pm Church Council	22 9:30am Coffee with Pastor	23 6:15pm Wed Eve Worship + Communion	24	25 Pastor's Day Off	26
27 9am Service of Holy Communion	28	29 9:30am Coffee with Pastor	30 6:15pm Wed Eve Worship + Communion	Oct 1  American Red Cross Blood Drive 1-7 Lutheran Center	Oct 2 Pastor's Day Off	Oct 3

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**

Online Sunday School

### **Wednesday Evening Worship + Communion**

6:15pm-6:45pm Wednesdays, September-May  
Vasa Lutheran Center

### **Executive Team**

Greg Drewianka 651-301-2472

Jim Hedeem 651-380-6054

Rick Samuelson 651-380-9150

### **Pastor Maureen Hagen**

[pastormaureen@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:pastormaureen@sleepyeyetel.net)

(Cell) 507-251-5270

Church Office 651-258-4327

Office Email: [vasalutheran@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:vasalutheran@sleepyeyetel.net)

Website: [www.vasalutheran.org](http://www.vasalutheran.org)

### **Church Staff**

Kathy Tilderquist, Treasurer

Emily Peterson, Office Administrator

Melissa McCann, Custodian

Austin Ferguson, Worship Accompanist

Gail Strusz-Klein, Wedding Coordinator

Paul & Jay Mikaelson, Missionaries in LaPaz, Bolivia

[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!

Scatter seeds  
of kindness  
wherever you go

