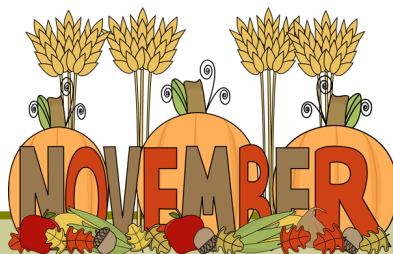




The Vasa Voice



VOLUME 60 No. 11



NOVEMBER 2024

What's Happening This Month at Vasa

November 2—Vasa Bazaar 9:00-3:00

November 3—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 13th — Vasa Family Fun Night 5:30PM

All are invited to join in fun and fellowship.

November 17th—Affirmation of Faith

Join Julia Fleming, Max Fredin, Connor Hyllengren, Brenner Pagel, Alivia Schaffer and Nick Weigman as they affirm their faith during worship on November 17th.

November 24th—Thankful Sunday

Although we give thanks to God weekly, this is a special opportunity to remember our blessings — from God and from members of our own congregation. Treats will be provided after the service.



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

P. 2 *Worship volunteers, November Birthdays
Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal Dates*

P. 3 *Thoughts from Pastor Maureen*

P. 4 *All Saints Remembrances*

P. 5 *Advent Celebration (save the date), Vasa Bazaar,
Vasa Endowment Education Award information*

P. 6 *Church Council Highlights*

P. 7 *Treasurer's Report, Church Council Members,
Habitat For Humanity (Goodhue County)
Thanks Vasa*

P. 8 *Mark's Meditation*

P. 9 *American Red Cross Blood Drive*

P. 10 *Vasa Family Fun Night Info*

P. 11 *November Calendar*



Worship Volunteers for November

USHER

| | |
|-------------|------------------|
| November 3 | Roger Guttromson |
| November 10 | Marv Fredrickson |
| November 17 | Duane Hanson |
| November 24 | Rick Samuelson |

HOSPITALITY

| | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| November 3 | Grace/David Hector |
| November 10 | Sue Ness |
| November 17 | Lora Gruber |
| November 24 | Mo Hauck |

READERS

| | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| November 3 | Barry Skog |
| November 10 | Sasha Diercks |
| November 17 | Kathy Tilderquist |
| November 24 | Mo Hauck |

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

| | |
|-------------|------------------|
| November 3 | Roger Guttromson |
| November 17 | Elleanor Diercks |

November birthdays

| | |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| 2 | Brenner Pagel |
| 6 | Malena Mandelkow Miranda Mandelkow |
| 8 | Steve Hyllengren Donna Anderson |
| 9 | Cassidy Smith |
| 12 | Miley Clemens |
| 13 | Connie Gillis |
| 15 | Dan Evenson |
| 17 | Andrew Featherstone |
| 21 | Charlie Peterson |
| 22 | Barbara Flueger |
| 23 | Teresa Schmidt |
| 26 | Alivia Schaffer |
| 27 | Kodee Lindahl Laurie Poole |
| 28 | Suzanne Ness |
| 30 | Christopher Poole |

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDARS!

Calling all Vasa children! The Children's Christmas program will be on Sunday, December 15 at 10:00am in the Lutheran Center, followed by a potluck meal of ham and scalloped potatoes. Rehearsals will be held during Sunday School on **November 10th & 17th, and December 1st and 8th.** November 3rd will be a regular Sunday School day. In addition to rehearsals during the Sunday School Time, there will also be work on set decorating. Make sure to come to Sunday School in November and December!



Thoughts from Pastor Maureen

This is the monthly newsletter article from Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee, ELCA bishop of the Northwestern Washington synod. While I suspect that a number of you will have voted by the time you read this, I think that her wisdom is worth sharing.....even after the election. *Pastor Maureen*

From the Bishop:

Dear Beloveds,

As the election season is here, I have been doing some reflecting on what it means to vote as a Lutheran Christian. Please know that I am not telling you who to vote for in this election. It is not for me to tell you who to vote for. I mean, after all, God is neither Republican or Democrat, or even American.

But in saying that, I am not abdicating the responsibility that we have as Lutheran Christians who live in a country where voting matters. As children of God, we are called to vote beyond our own self-interest or individuality. As people who follow Jesus, we are called towards God's vision of a just and mercy-filled world. As people who have received grace upon grace, we are called to stand against injustice, and to remind everyone that, in God's eyes, every single person is loved and beloved.

So, here are a few thoughts and questions:

1. Jesus is all about loving one's neighbor. Even when it's hard. When he's asked, "Who is my neighbor," Jesus expands his answer. In Jesus' stories and actions he constantly goes to those who are on the outside, those marginalized, those without status, and shows how they are loved by God – how they are, in fact, his neighbor.

As you vote: Who is your neighbor?

2. Throughout scripture, hospitality to the stranger is embraced. In the Old Testament, the command to welcome strangers is repeated 37 times. In Matthew, Jesus says, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

As you vote: Who is the stranger?

3. God's will and God's calling is towards equity and justice for those who have been silenced, oppressed, or harmed. As we hear in Isaiah, "Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, and plead for the widow."

As you vote: Who are the silenced, the oppressed, the harmed?

4. The eighth commandment declares that we are called to not bear false witness against our neighbor. This, of course, means not lying about another but seeking the truth. This means no name-calling or false accusations. But it goes beyond this. As Martin Luther tells us in his Small Catechism, we are to defend our neighbor, speak well of our neighbor, and explain everything in the kindest way.

As you vote: Who is speaking truth?

5. God created this beautiful earth and declared that we are both part of the creation and are also called to be stewards of it. As we read in the ELCA social statement called "Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice," we affirm that it is God's intention for us to join in the healing and wholeness of creation.

As you vote: Who is caring for creation?

Dear Beloveds of God, there is so much more that could be written about the state of our country and what voting means. We could make this all complicated and intricate and difficult. But truly, it comes down to this: God's love is unconditional and unending. Jesus came to this earth to show, to embody, to be God's love for us and for all people. And so, knowing this, trusting this, believing this, we are called. We are called, as children of God, to show this love to the world. We are called to vote against hate. We are called to vote for God's love. As we hear in 1 John, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear ... We love because God first loved us."

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee



Sunday November 3rd at the 9AM worship Service, all saints will be honored, especially those whom we have lost since last year's Feast of All Saints.

Irene Carpenter

Jerry McRae

Jerry Keppers

Carolyn Gardiner

Grace Nelson

Vasa Evangelical
Lutheran Church

Education Award Application

MISSION ENDOWMENT
FUND



The Mission Endowment Committee is now taking applications for Education Awards. The application deadline is Sunday, December 1st. You can download an application form from the Vasa Website (vasalutheran.org), or request one from the office by email (office@vasalutheran.org) or phone (651-258-4327.) To qualify for an award, you or your parents must be active members of Vasa Lutheran.

SAVE THE DATE!

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 8 3 PM

REJOICE IN HOPE

An Advent Celebration
with carols and hymns by
The Cannon Valley Ensemble--a
group of musicians sponsored by
the Cannon Falls Senior Center
and festive desserts

Vasa Lutheran Church
15235 Norelius Rd
Welch, MN

JOIN US FOR THE

VASA BAZAAR

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2

**BAKE SALE . LUNCH .
CRAFTERS . VENDORS**

9 AM - 3 PM

15235 Norelius Rd, Welch, MN 55089
Corner of Hwy 19 and Cty Rd 7 in Vasa

Made with PosterMyWall.com



VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

September 9, 2024 @Lutheran Church

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM by Bryan Diercks, President

Devotions: Pastor Maureen

Members present and absent:

Present: Pastor Maureen Hagen; Bryan Diercks, President; Randy Klein, Vice President; Tim Carlson; Kevin Eckblad; Mo Hauck; Roger Guttromson; and Andrew Featherstone, Secretary; 8 voting members present

Unable to attend: Chris Finne; Barbara Weigman; Ben Norman; Missy McCann; and Kent Volz;

Also Present: Kathy Tilderquist

Adoption of the Agenda:

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda for the September 9, 2024 council meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Minutes:

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2024 council meeting as written.

MOTION CARRIED

Reports Reviewed and Accepted:

Treasurer's Report (Attached)

Kitchen remodel expenses have been paid so far besides the plumbing.

We received \$9,475.00 from Mission Endowment Fund.

The budget is on track for most categories.

Finance Report (Attached)

The financial position for the Church remains strong.

The cost of the January 1 insurance renewal is expected to significantly increase.

Parish Life (Attached)

Christmas Bazaar will take place November 2. We are currently looking for vendors.

Feed my Starving Children will take place November 9. Sign up sheet will be in the Church.

Pastor will be away September 23-29. Mickey Dobbins will lead worship on September 29.

16 kids were at Sunday School on September 8th.

Property Team Report (NA)

We have two color options for the Church Sanctuary picked out for display. We will have a vote on the colors to make a decision.

Kitchen remodel is nearly done. A few small items are left to do. Kitchen team put all the dishes away this morning (Monday September 9, 2024).

Cemetery Board (NA)

Executive Board Report (NA)

Pastor's Report) Attached)

Ninth grade confirmation has started. There are six Students. 7th and 8th confirmation will begin on Wednesday.

Family fun night begins on Wednesday.

Museum Board (NA)

Endowment Board Report (NA)

New Business:

Parsonage Tenant- Ben was introduced to Sasha Diercks and have been communicating. Ben is behind in rent, but hasn't been compensated for work done to the property (cut trees) or appliances replaced (fridge and dryer). Propose to wipe balance to zero and start fresh – building a new strong relationship. Follow up in writing to protect both sides to this agreement. Sasha to follow up on rents paid, late or missed monthly and timely so that he cannot get or stay this far behind in the future.

It was moved and seconded to wipe balance to zero with the understanding the Appliances Ben furnished for the Parsonage are owned by Vasa Lutheran. If Ben does future repair work or furnishes appliances, he must contact Sasha beforehand. Improvements must be in writing. We will provide late notices to Ben if necessary.

MOTION CARRIED

Pre-paid Fuel Fund- It was moved and seconded to book 6,000 gallons at \$1.50 a gallon from September 1 to March 31.

MOTION CARRIED

Transfer money from Parsonage Account into a CD- It was moved and seconded to move \$30,000.00 from the Parsonage Account at First Farmers & Merchants Bank into a short term CD at First Farmers & Merchants Bank.

MOTION CARRIED

November and December Devotions- Mo Hauck will do November devotions and Tim Carlson will do December devotions.

VASA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer’s Report
September 30, 2024

For the Month of September:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Checkbook Balance, September 1, 2024 | \$ 63,449.13 |
| General Fund Contributions: | 9,558.40 |
| Total Funds Available | 73,007.53 |
| Budget Approved Monthly Expenses: | (14,341.80) |

Checkbook Balance, September 30, 2024 \$ 58,665.73

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 |
| 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 Hedeem | 651-380-6054 |
| Kitchen: | Sue Hedeem | 651-380-6270 |
| | Faye Drewianka | 651-212-3209 |



Dear Vasa Lutheran Congregation,

A safe, healthy living environment isn’t a luxury—it’s a necessity. Your generous contribution brings us closer to making this a reality for more families.

Thank your for your donation of \$275.00 made on 9/4/2024. Your support advances our mission both locally in Goodhue County and globally through our tithe to Habitat for Humanity Internation.

Your contribution is more than just financial support—it’s a testament to your commitment to creating positive change. Every dollar helps us provide another family wit a place to call home.

We deeply value your partnership and look forward to continuing our shared journey of transforming lives through affordable housing. On behalf of the Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors and the families we serve, please accept our heartfelt gratitude.

Together we’re building a stronger community, one home at a time.

Sincerely,

Bob Hawley
Executive Director

MARK'S MEDITATION

BY MARK HAGEN

“Apocalypse” is a Greek word that means “to reveal.” Apocalyptic literature, especially Jewish and Christian apocalyptic literature, portends to reveal the end of the age—when God would sweep away the corrupt powers of this world and usher in a new Godly, righteous order.

There is a progression in the Bible from a prophetic to an apocalyptic outlook. This transition can be seen in portions of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Joel and Zechariah. The role of a Hebrew prophet is to tell truth to power. To remind the nation what will transpire if they are not righteous. By contrast, an apocalyptic message is not directed at the people or the king. It describes a cosmic event where God/Christ will intervene directly and overturn the political order. The two Biblical books that are fully apocalyptic are Daniel and Revelation. Here, the role of messiah is taken on by God directly.

Apocalyptic and messianic thinking took hold in Judea during the 160s BCE when the Maccabean Zealots ousted the Greeks, under Antiochus Epiphanes. They established an independent Hasmonean kingdom, and for a time, it looked like the Kingdom of God was at hand. However, political and economic freedom was not to be. In 63 BCE, as part of the larger Mithridatic Wars, the Roman general Pompey conquered Judea and made it a province. Now who would save the Jews? Some thought an anointed son of David would fight for them; some thought that God would intervene directly. By whom and by what means this salvation is to come has been a source of societal and political tension through to today.

The difference between an apocalyptic and a messianic outlook is hope. Apocalyptic literature paints a bleak, fearful picture of both the present and the future. The only fix for the world is to burn it down. Literature that anticipates a messiah is about hope for a better future. Revelation is

apocalyptic, the Gospels are messianic. As Christians, we hear a message of hope in the Gospels. Hope is optimism; it is one of the most valuable things we get from a Christian faith. Hope enables us to do great things. No pessimist ever succeeded in business. No complainer ever won a battle. Those that see only darkness are always left behind. As the Apostle Paul says, “character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us.”

Those without hope often worship power. When you worship power, compassion and mercy will look like sins. When you worship power, cruelty towards your perceived enemies will look like righteousness. When you worship power, tyrants and bullies will look like your savior. This is a flawed view of the world. But hope gives us courage; the courage to reject earthly power and accept Jesus as our Messiah. Jesus is the light, and that light is optimistic love, not darkness. Think about that when you vote. (This observation about worshipping power is from [Rev. Bengamin Cremer.](#))





**American
Red Cross**

GIVE SOMETHING THAT
Means Something®

GIVE BLOOD

Vasa Lutheran Center Blood Drive

15235 Norelius Rd
Welch, MN 55089

Thursday, November 21, 2024
1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Friday, November 22, 2024
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: vasa lutheran to schedule an appointment.



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®



**Give Nov 18 to Dec 8 for two pairs of custom FRIENDS
+ Red Cross socks, ltd qty. Keep one, gift one!**



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

Schedule your blood donation appointment today!

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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Vasa Family Night

Thankfulness

Wednesday, November 13th

5:30–7:00pm

Vasa Lutheran Center

Sloppy Joes

Moonlight Adventure

Short Devotional

All Are Welcomed

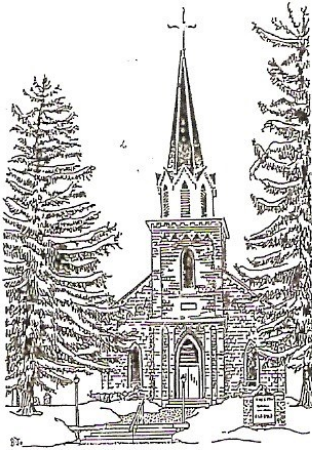


| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| |  | | | | |  |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|  9AM All Saints Sunday Worship and Sunday School @ Lutheran Center | TEAM MEETINGS 4:00 Property 5PM Finance |  9:30 | All Stages Women's Bible Study 9:30- 11:00am Faith Formation 5:30-6:30 7/8 Confirmation 5:45pm--6:45pm 6:45PM WEDNES- DAY EVE WORSHIP | | Pastor's Day Off |  Cannon Falls High School |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 9AM Worship with Christmas Program Rehearsal @ Lutheran Center 10:00 Special Congregational Meeting immedi- ately following worship | 5:30PM PARISH LIFE 6PM CHURCH COUNCIL |  9:30 | <i>Vasa Family Night</i> Thankfulness Wednesday, November 13th 5:00-7:00pm Vasa Lutheran Center Sleepy Joe's Moonlight Adventure Short Devotional All Are Welcomed  | | Pastor's Day Off | |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 9AM Worship with Affirmation of Faith Holy Communion & Christmas Program rehearsal @ Lutheran Center | |  9:30 | All Stages Women's Bible Study 9:30- 11:00am Faith Formation 5:30-6:30 7/8 Confirmation 5:45pm--6:45pm 6:45pm Wednesday Eve Worship | 1:00-7:00PM  American Red Cross | Pastor's Day Off 9:00-2:00PM  American Red Cross | |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| Thanksgiving Wor- ship 9:00 AM (NO SUNDAY SCHOOL) | |  9:30 | NO ADULT OR YOUTH FAITH FORMATION EVENTS |  | | 9:30AM Christmas Tree Set Up |

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)

Wednesday Evening Worship *RESUMES November...*

6:30pm Holy Communion + Everyday Bible Conversation
(Fellowship Room of Lutheran Center)

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

(Cell)507.251.5270

Church Office

651.258.4327

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 Bo-
livia Contact: 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!