

The Vasa Voice

Volume 57 no. 12

December 2021



Highlights of Vasa in December

December 5 - Poinsettia Christmas Flower Order Due

The order for Poinsettias will be placed at noon on Tuesday, December 8. Poinsettias will be delivered to church and displayed for the week of Christmas worship services. Plants will be available to take home after Christmas.

December 8 - Community Dinner

Drive Through opens at 5:30. Menu features a chicken dinner!

December 19 - Children's Christmas Program

This year the Children's Christmas program will be held in the Sanctuary at 10:30 am. Program practices will be during Sunday School on November 28, December 5 & 12. If you can't attend on Sundays, rehearsals will also be on Wed evenings at 5:30 (Dec 1, 8, & 15). The Final Dress Rehearsal will be at 9:00am on Sunday, December 19, before the performance.

December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship

Christmas Eve Worship services will be held at 2:00pm and 5:00pm on December 24th.

December 26th - 9:00am Worship service will include a Christmas Carol Sing along.



Here's what's on the Inside!

- P. 2 Pastor's Thoughts
- P. 3 Birthdays, Children's Christmas Program, Treasurer's Report
- P. 4 Community Dinner updates and Thanks yous, Goodhue County Christmas Project
- P. 5 Mark's Meditation
- P. 6 Community Dinner Grant from Goodhue Electric
- P. 7-8 Parish Council Meeting Minutes
- P.8 Playground Equipment Installed
- P. 9 Vasa's Generosity, acknowledged
- P.10 An Advent Meditation



Pastor's Thoughts for December

Isaiah 65:17-18 For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. 18 But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.

The prophet Isaiah foretold that God was about to create new heavens and a new earth. This prophecy came as the exiles returned to Judah and Jerusalem and began the difficult work of rebuilding their lives. It had to be hard to remain optimistic as they looked around and saw so much devastation. Isaiah's words were intended to encourage the exiles even as they struggled in their day to day lives. These words proclaimed that God was soon going to be actively creating and that the people would see Jerusalem as a joy.

We, too, need an encouraging word as we wait. On the one hand, we have little choice but to continue with the daily tasks of life: the laundry, the meals, the cleaning of bathrooms, and the care of our children and pets. On the other hand, we should allow ourselves to dream: to anticipate with eagerness when our time of waiting will be complete. Because we are all waiting for something: waiting for Covid to be over, waiting for a holiday gathering, waiting to see family or hug a loved one.

Advent is a season of waiting as we await the coming of the Messiah. Like the exiles, we have struggled over the last twenty months. But God did not abandon the Israelites and God has not abandoned us. Even more encouraging is recognizing that we are witnesses to the fulfillment of the ancient prophecies. We know that our redeemer, our savior, our messiah lives. And his name is Jesus.

*Blessed Christmas,
Pastor Maureen*



Worship Volunteers for December

USHERS

- 5 Rick Samuelson
- 12 Duane Hanson
- 19 Bruce tilderquist
- 24 Josh Hanson
- 26 Volunteer needed

READERS

- 5 Volunteer needed
- 12 Marilyn Hanson
- 19 Katie Lindahl
- 24 Volunteer needed (2:00 pm)
Maureen Hauck (5:00 pm)
- 26 Jim Hedeem



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

Birthdays



- Dec. 8 - Aliyah Chaska
Andrea Gillis
- Dec. 9 - Dahmon Romness
Chris Weigman
Iris Volz
- Dec. 12 - Oliver Endres
Piper Endres
Samantha Pearson
- Dec. 13 - Boedy Sense
- Dec. 14 - Debra Donath
Dustin Lindstrom
- Dec. 16 - Randy Klein
Shirley Hedeem
- Dec. 18 - Sonia Peterson
- Dec. 19 - Sandy Wollschlager
- Dec. 20 - Sharon Olson
- Dec. 21 - Andrea Mandelkow
- Dec. 22 Hailie Lindblom
Mark Hagen
- Dec. 23 - Duane Lindstrom
- Dec. 27 Katie Featherstone
- Dec. 28 - Joe Wollschlager
Joleen Hanson
Audrey Hyllengren
Samuel Gesme
- Dec. 31 - James Josephson
Bruce Olson
Jerry Rietmann
Stuart Samuelson

VASA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH	
Treasurer's Report	
October, 2021	
For the Month of October:	
Checkbook Balance, October 1, 2021	\$45,533.63
General Fund Contributions	22,200.00
Mission Endowment Offering	10,000.00
Total Funds Available	77,733.63
Budget Approved Monthly Expenses:	24,186.21
Checkbook Balance, October 31, 2021	\$ 53,547.42
Mission Investment Fund, Sept 30, 2021	\$15,752.64
Mission Investment Fund, Oct 30, 2021	\$12,769.19



**BLESSINGS
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY**

Children's Christmas Program Information!



The 2021 Children's Christmas Program is going to be on December 19th during worship. The service will begin at 10:30 and will be in the Sanctuary.

Practices began on November 28th and will continue on Dec 5th and 12th during Sunday School. If Sundays don't work, practices are also on Wednesdays (December 1st, 8th and 15th) during Faith Formation (at 5:30pm.) The final Dress rehearsal will take place at 9:00 am on Sunday, December 19th.

Giving
Tree



Goodhue County Christmas Project

This year's Christmas tree will be back in the sanctuary and will be ready for ornaments to be selected on December 5 and 12.

Please bring the unwrapped gifts, with the ornament from our tree attached, to the Lutheran Center or the church by **Sunday, December 19th at worship.**



COMMUNITY DINNER

The December Community Dinner will be on December 8th, with Drive Through opening at 5:30. The December menu features chicken! Call or email the church office by noon on December 1 to secure your meal reservation.!

Future dates and deadlines are as follows:

- Feb 9 (Beef Stew) Reservations by Feb 2
- March 9 (Meatloaf) Reservations by March 2
- April 13 (Swedish Meatballs?) Reservations April 6
- May 11 (Pulled Pork) Reservations by May 4

THAT WAS
WONDERFULLY
NICE OF YOU.

*Thank you for the wonderful
turkey dinner I received last
week, it was so appreciated
when you can make a meal
like that any more so good
you are all truly blessed for
all this work you put into making
a meal. Thanks again
Lorraine Fredrikson*



*I want to thank
you, all the
people that do the
community dinner.
I attended them
when you had them at
the center. God now
Wednesday night Apr. 10th.
Use this for the ex-
posure as what ever
God you & "God Bless" Godly*



Mark's Meditation

By Mark Hagen

The Genealogy of Jesus

Matthew opens the story of the birth of Jesus with a genealogy. Why did he do this? It may be because there were rumors about the legitimacy of Jesus' birth. For instance, John tells a story of Jesus debating in the Temple. (John 8:31-41) Jesus tells the crowd "You are a slave to sin; and a slave is not part of the family." To which they respond "Our Father is Abraham!" Jesus then says "If you were really the children of Abraham, you would follow his example." To which they respond, implying that Jesus is illegitimate, "We aren't born of fornication! God himself is our Father."

So, Matthew gives a genealogy that goes all the way back to Abraham. (That is, the list goes back 1900 years.) But it is an interesting list in that he places four women into this genealogy. This is surprising because women in that era were thought to only be "incubators" for a male's seed. In this way of thinking, it only mattered who your father was. There are several things that stand out about these women. 1) They are all well-known in the Hebrew scriptures. 2) All of them are Gentiles. 3) By the standards of the day, all of them are sexually compromised.

The first of these women is Tamar, the daughter-in-law of Judah, one of the twelve sons of Jacob. Tamar's story is told in Genesis 38. Tamar is a Canaanite woman who marries Judah's son Er. When Er dies, according to Jewish law, Tamar marries Er's brother, who also dies. The remaining brother is just a child, so Judah sends Tamar away to live (in shame) with her family. In time, Judah's wife dies. When Tamar hears that Judah will be passing by, she disguises herself as a prostitute and avails herself to Judah. When she becomes pregnant, Judah makes her part of his harem, even though this is technically incest. She bears twin boys: Perez and Zerah. Matthew has Perez in the line to Jesus.

The second woman in Matthew's genealogy is Rahab who was known as "Rahab the prostitute." Her story is told in Joshua 2 & 6. She operates a brothel built into the wall around the Canaanite city of Jericho. She hides Joshua's spies and strikes a deal with them that her family should be spared when Joshua attacks. Rahab then marries Salmon and they have a son named Boaz.

The third woman is a Moabite named Ruth. Her story is told in the book of Ruth. A Jewish couple, Naomi and Elimelech move to Moab in search of work with their sons. While there, their sons marry Ruth and Orpah. In time, all the men die and Naomi moves back to Judah. Orpah returns to her family, but Ruth remains devoted to Naomi. Back in Judah they settle near the fields of Boaz and glean grain to make a meager meal. At the harvest festival, Ruth seduces Boaz by getting him drunk and sleeping with him. In time they marry and produce a son named Obed.

The fourth woman is referred to by Matthew as "the wife of Uriah the Hittite." We know her as Bathsheba, the woman that King David desired from the roof of his palace and got pregnant while her husband was fighting in his army. David arranged to get Uriah placed at the front of an attack, where he was killed. He then took Bathsheba into his harem. In time, Solomon was born.

What is Matthew trying to say here? John Shelby Spong argues that Matthew is trying to show that Jesus is from God—and God can do anything! God can bring holiness out of any human circumstance. God can bring holiness out of incest, prostitution, seduction, and adultery. Matthew is addressing head on the first century criticism that Jesus was base-born. Matthew says—we know better. We know God was in Christ and we know that God can work through any set of human circumstances to bring holiness out of life.



COMMUNITY DINNER MINISTRY RECEIVES GRANT FROM GOODHUE COUNTY



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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Althoff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Althoff
Operation Round-Up
Vice-President

Website • www.gcea.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

VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

October 18, 2021 @Lutheran Church

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

Devotions: Andrew Featherstone

Members present and absent:

Present: Pastor Maureen Hagen; Barbara Weigman, President; Sid Featherstone, Vice President; Bryan Diercks; Duane Hanson; Jessica Anderson; Lora Gruber; Randy Klein; Steve Hyllengren; and Andrew Featherstone, Secretary;

Ten voting members present

Unable to attend: Kevin Eckblad; Missy McCann; Kent Volz; Ben Norman; and Greg Drewianka

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 September 20, 2021 council meeting as written.

MOTION CARRIED

Reports Reviewed and Accepted:

1. Treasurer's Report (Attached)
Property taxes due in November .
2. Finance Report (Attached)
 - a. Kathy paid Mark for the Camera Equipment.
 - b. Kathy and Gail will be working on wedding manual.
 - c. Kathy renewed pastor's health insurance policy.
3. Parish Life (Attached)
 - a. Children's Christmas program will take place on December 19th. Discussion about program will take place at Parish Life meeting in November.
 - b. The Advent bags were a big hit and should be done again this year, although Pastor could use some volunteer help with the distribution.
4. Property Team Report (Attached)
Playground climber is being delivered this week.
5. (N/A) Cemetery Board
6. (Attached) Report Executive Board
Individual portions will be out in the open for Intinction.
7. (s Report (Attached)'Pastor)
 - a. Eight Baptisms have taken place since May.
 - b. New member John Hauck is in training for live streaming.
 - c. Positive feedback for waving at live stream.
8. Museum Board (N/A)
9. Endowment Board Report (N/A)

OCTOBER 18, 2021 CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES (cont)

Tabled Business:

North doors on Church, hand rail, Vasa trail.

New Business:

1. Senior Appreciation Luncheon (Thank you cards/gift cards). Sunday school kids will make thank you cards and gifts. No luncheon will be served.
2. Gift for Mark Hagen in appreciation of the live streaming work he's done. Barb is going to give Mark gift and thank you card for Thankful Sunday November 21st.
3. Thanksgiving Worship (combine with Sunday 11/21) Thanksgiving service will take place on Sunday November 21.
4. Christmas Eve Worship. It was moved and seconded to have two services. First service will be at 2:00pm and second service at 5:00pm.

MOTION CARRIED

November Meeting Dates: (Tentative schedule)

Property: Monday November 1st @9:30am

Finance: Monday November 1st @5:00pm

Parish Life: Monday November 1st @6:00pm

Executive: Tuesday November 9th@6:00pm if necessary

Council: Monday, November 15th @6:00pm Devotions: Barbara Weigman

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:25 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Report submitted by: Andrew Featherstone, Secretary



**Good Things
come to those
who wait!
The New Vasa
Playground
Equipment!**



On a chilly day in early November, the Vasa Playground equipment was installed. No doubt it will provide lots of smiles, giggles and shrieks of laughter for years to come. Thanks to all who made this possible. It was worth the wait!



Vasa's Generosity knows no limits...



November 5, 2021

Vasa Lutheran Church
15235 Norelius Rd
Welch, MN 55089

Dear Vasa Lutheran Church,

You are such a blessing. Your gift of \$275.00 on November 1, 2021 to Feed My Starving Children is providing 1,145 MannaPack™ meals to those around the world who need it most.

Every gift matters to a hungry child. You're saving lives. You're providing hope. Thank you.

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat..." Matthew 25:35

May God bless you,

Mark Crea
Executive Director/CEO

Your donation is tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law. EIN 41-1601449
No goods or services were exchanged for this donation.



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: 11-3-21

Dear, Vasa Luth Church Members

Thank you very much for your donation of:

240# of bakery items

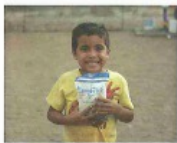
to the Red Wing Area Food Shelf. With assistance from people like you, we can continue to meet the temporary hunger needs of families in our area.

*Your spirits are generous...
our hearts are thankful!*

Sincerely,

For the Red Wing Area
Food Shelf

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



Erik says "gracias" (thank you)! He lives at an orphanage located outside of Tijuana, Mexico, where life is very difficult. Thanks to your support he has been able to eat nourishing FMSC MannaPack™ meals. As a direct result, Erik's health has improved and he feels encouraged.

Your generosity sends food to Erik's orphanage through FMSC's partner Han-Schneider International Children's Foundation. Thank you for ensuring so many precious kids like Erik have a nutritious meal to eat every day!

HQ 401 93rd Avenue NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433 | HQ 763-504-2919 | F 763-504-5235 | fmsc.org

Turn hunger into hope with your own two hands



Empowering Lives Through HOPE

VASA Lutheran Church
15235 Norelius Rd
Welch, MN 55089-4561

November 1, 2021

Dear Kathleen and Everyone at Vasa Lutheran Church,

We received your \$275.00 donation and it made our day! What a gift you have given us and what a year this has been so far. You are helping give hope to so many others in need, all while helping us reach our goal. Thank you!

Because of you we are one step closer to helping families rebuild their lives in times of crisis, and you are helping us address the larger underlying issues that cause domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and homelessness.

Warmest regards,

Sara Kern, Executive Director
skern@hope-coalition.org
651-388-9360, Ext.9

*Wow! Thank you
so much for your support
of our programs and
people we serve!
S.K.*

Below is the information for your records:

Date: October 29, 2021
Donation: \$275.00

Please note our new physical address is 1926 Old West Main St. #104, Red Wing, MN. Our mailing address is below.

HOPE Coalition is a nonprofit charitable organization, recognized as tax-exempt by the IRS under section 501 (c)(3).

HOPE Coalition, PO Box 247, Red Wing, Minnesota 55066
Business (651) 388-9360, Domestic Violence Crisis Line (800) 369-5214,
Sexual Assault Crisis Line (800) 519-6690, www.hope-coalition.org
[Equal Opportunity Employer / ADA](#)



An Advent Meditation

Each Day

**At the beginning of each day,
after we open our eyes
to receive the light
of that day,**

**As we listen to the voices
and sounds
that surround us,**

**We must resolve to treat each hour
as the rarest of gifts,
and be grateful
for the consciousness
that allows us to experience it,
recalling in thanks
that our awareness is a present
from we know not where,
or how, or why.**

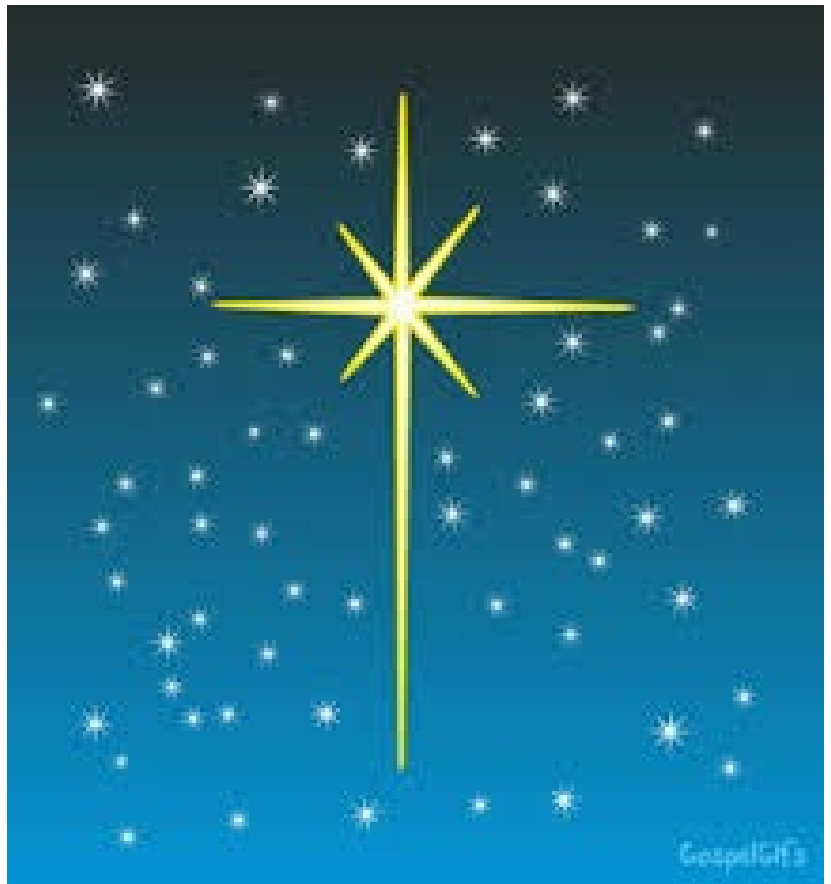
**When we rise from sleep let us rise for the joy
of the true Work that we will be about
this day,
and considerately cheer one another on.**

**Life will always provide matters for concern.
Each day, however, brings with it reasons for
joy.**

**Every day carries the potential
to bring the experience of heaven;
have the courage to expect good from it.**

**Be gentle with this life,
and use the light of life
to live fully in your time.**

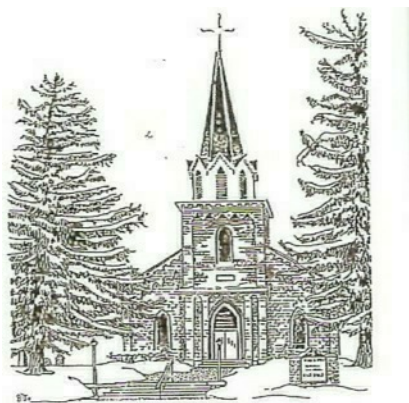
(Always We Begin Again, John McQuiston II, 1996)



DECEMBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 COMMUNITY DINNER RESERVATIONS DUE AT NOON!!	2	3 Pastor's Day Off	4
5 9am Service of Holy Communion 9am Sunday School at Lutheran Center (Christmas Program Rehearsal)	6 Property Team 9:30 AM Finance Team 1:00 PM Parish Life 6:30 pm	7  9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation	8  Drive Through opens at 5:30! 5:30pm Faith Formation(Christmas Program Rehearsal) 6:30pm Wed Eve Worship + Everyday Bible Conversation	9	10 Pastor's Day Off	11
12 9am Service of The Word 9am Sunday School at Lutheran Center (Christmas Program Rehearsal)	13  7:00pm Endowment Team 6:00 pm Exec Team	14  9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation	15 5:30pm Faith Formation (Christmas Program Rehearsal) 6:30pm Wed Eve Worship + Everyday Bible Conversation	16	17 Pastor's Day Off	18
19 9am Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Program 10:30am Children's Christmas Program (Sanctuary)	20 6:00pm Church Council	21  9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation	22 5:30pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Wed Eve Worship + Everyday Bible Conversation	24  Christmas Eve Worship Services: 2:00pm 5:00pm	25 	
26 9am Service of Holy Communion (Vasa Lutheran YouTube Channel) 9am Sunday School (online) .	7	28 No scheduled events at the LC	29 No scheduled events at the LC	30	31 Pastor's Day Off	JANUARY 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! 

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 (and also live-streamed on Vasa Lutheran YouTube Channel)

Christian Education

9:00 am Sundays at the Lutheran Center

Wednesday Evening Worship

5:30pm Children's Faith Formation

6:30 Wednesday Evening Worship + Everyday Bible Conversation

Executive Team

Barbara Weigeman, Council Pres. 507.202.7880

Sid Featherstone, Council VP 651.214.7486

Andrew Featherstone, Council Sec. 651.470.9823

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Pastor@vasalutheran.org

(Cell) 507-251-5270

Church Office 651-258-4327

Office Email: office@vasalutheran.org

Website: vasalutheran.org

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 LaPaz, Bolivia

pmikaelson@gmail.com

web site: 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!