



The Vasa Voice



Volume 60 No. 9



SEPTEMBER 2024

What's Happening This Month at Vasa

September 8th — Sunday School Classes begin: All Sunday school aged children (ages 3-grade 6) will gather at the Lutheran Center with their teacher(s) as another school year begins!

September 8th — 9th Grade Confirmation Classes begin at 10:15 in the Lutheran Center, Classroom 3.

September 11th—Confirmation Classes begin for 7th—8th graders. Meet at the Lutheran Center from 5:45-6:45pm, Classroom 3.

September 11th — Vasa Family Night! 5:30-7:00pm

Crafts & Games for all ages! Bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets!

September 15th—Presentation of Bibles to 3rd Graders—9:00 AM Worship

Third graders will attend worship with their parents and Bibles will be presented just before the sermon.

September 29th — Pastor Mickey Dobbins will lead worship and celebrate Holy Communion.

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Every year the Vasa Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund awards scholarships to students of active Vasa Families pursuing post-secondary education. Application forms can be downloaded from the Vasa Church website. They are also available at the back of the sanctuary or at the Lutheran Center. The application deadline is Sunday November 24th. Awards will be made in early 2025.

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Worship Volunteers for SEPTEMBER

USHER

September 1 Rick Samuelson
September 8 Bryan Diercks
September 15 Kevin Eckblad
September 22 Randy Klein
September 29 *volunteer needed*

READERS

September 1 Barry Skog
September 8 Sasha Diercks
September 15 Kathy Tilderquist
September 22 Jim Hedeem
September 29 Mo Hauck

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

September 1 Barry Skog
September 15 *volunteer needed*

HOSPITALITY

September 1 Marilyn Hanson
September 8 Lora Gruber
September 15 Jessica Anderson
September 22 Arleen Stahnke
September 29 Mo Hauck

September birthdays

- 1 John Hauck
- 2 John Hart
Greg Hovel
- 3 Scott Romness
Barry Skog
- 7 Jenny Hedeem
- 9 Lora Gruber
Carson Lind
Treyton Lind
Kyleigh Wetzstein
- 10 Sydney Johnson
- 11 Malissa Parrott-Stahnke
- 12 Steve Lindstrom
- 13 Rodney Nelson
- 16 Marcia Featherstone
Allison Finne
- 18 Sawyer Gesme
- 19 Mitchell Anderson
Al Lindell
- 21 Rick Samuelson
- 23 Amanda Sense
- 24 Judy Anderson
- 26 Amber Nelsen
- 28 Mya Montey
- 29 Sasha Diercks



Thoughts from Pastor Maureen

In 2 Corinthians 4:16 Paul writes, “So we do not lose heart.” Remaining confident in the midst of the storms and trials of life is hard. It’s easy to lose heart. Paul goes on to say, “Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.”

Paul knew trials. But he was also utterly confident in the promise of the resurrection and eternal life. We too know trials. Our challenge is to remain confident in the promise of the resurrection. It isn’t always easy. The power of having a church community is that when we are struggling the community will carry us.

Sometimes it takes a very long time for God to answer our prayers. Occasionally it appears that God has not and never will answer. But in spite of what appears to be a delayed response we must not lose heart.

I recently had the opportunity to connect with someone for whom I had been praying. This person was someone that I had named before the “throne of grace,” (as my father-in-law would say),

for many years. It took a long time for the circumstances to be arranged but the good news is that this person is finally in a better situation. God answered my prayer.

As a result of that experience I take the apostle Paul’s words seriously; “we do not lose heart.” The longer we stay in relationship with God and watch and pray, the more our eyes are opened to see prayers answered.

Do not lose heart,

Pastor Maureen



Image: “Hope” by Peter Ralston ;
<https://www.ralstongallery.com/>
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CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

June 10, 2024 @Lutheran Church

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

Devotions: Pastor

Members present and absent:

Present: Pastor Maureen Hagen; Bryan Diercks, President; Randy Klein, Vice President; Kent Volz; Tim Carlson; Kevin Eckblad; Barbara Weigman; and Andrew Featherstone, Secretary;
7 voting members present

Unable to attend: Chris Finne; Mo Hauck; Ben Norman; Missy McCann and Roger Guttromson;

Also Present: Kathy Tilderquist

Adoption of the Agenda:

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda for the June 10, 2024 council meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Minutes:

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2024 council meeting as written.

MOTION CARRIED

Reports Reviewed and Accepted:

Treasurer's Report (Attached)

We are in need of money designated for the fuel fund.

Kathy will order offering envelopes for next year.

Finance Report (Attached)

World Mission Prayer League funds will get redirected to pay for a plane ticket for Jessica Anderson to accompany Paul and Jay Mikaelson as far as Miami and get them on a plane to Bolivia.

The Checkbook balance is \$67,826.04. There were several large payments made out of the General Fund including Insurance, Property Tax, Pay for Icon use & mowing. The financial position remains strong.

Parish Life (Attached)

Vacation Bible School will take place August 12-15.

Tractor parade will take place June 23rd. Sue Hedeem will make cinnamon and caramel rolls.

Tractor parade will reverse next year for the 170th anniversary.

Property Team Report (NA)

Cemetery Board (NA)

Executive Board Report (NA)

Pastor's Report) Attached)

The bags of clothing & bed linens will be picked up by Epilepsy Foundation Tuesday June 11.

Pastor will be on vacation Thursday, July 11th through Wednesday, July 24th. Dahmon Romness will lead worship on July 14th. Cindy Fisher-Broin will lead worship on July 21st.

Museum Board (NA)

Endowment Board Report (NA)

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Tabled Business:

New Business:

Lutheran Center Roof- leaking was discovered above the office and front entrance. Fischer Roofing repaired the areas with the issues.

August Meeting Dates: (Tentative schedule)

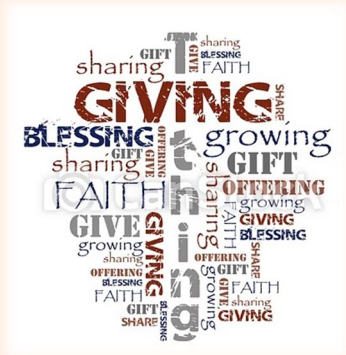
- Property: Monday August 5th @4:00pm
- Finance: Monday August 5th @5:00pm
- Parish Life: Monday August 5th @6:00pm
- Council: Monday August 12th @6:00pm Devotions:

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 6:50 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer

Report submitted by: Andrew Featherstone, Secretary



VASA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH	
Treasurer’s Report June, 2024	
Checkbook Balance, June 1, 2024	\$ 67,896.04
General Fund Contributions:	<u>12,264.37</u>
Total Funds Available	80,160.41
Budget Approved Monthly Expenses:	<u>(14,936.83)</u>
Checkbook Balance, June 30, 2024	\$ 65,223.58

<u>CHURCH COUNCIL</u>		
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
Kevin Eckblad		651-380-7849
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
<u>WHO TO CONTACT IN CASE OF EMERGENCY</u>		
Indoors:	Jim Hedeem	651-380-6054
Kitchen:	Sue Hedeem	651-380-6270
	Faye Drewianka	651-212-3209



PLEASE JOIN US

VASA Bazaar

SATURDAY	BAKE SALE LUNCH CRAFTS VENDORS
2	
November	9 AM - 3 PM

Vasa Lutheran Center
Corner of Hwy 19 and Cty Rd 7 in Vasa

The Vasa Bazaar will take place on Saturday, November 2 this year from 9-3. We are looking for crafters and vendors to take part. Already booked are: hand-made jewelry, Norway, apples and apple products, children's books, Tupperware, gluten-free baked goods, hand-made decorative signs, crocheted treasures, soy candles, and more.

We will again have lunch available. We plan to have a bake sale, so start thinking about what you can contribute to that! Pass the word about the bazaar to vendors and shoppers alike. The registration form for vendors is on the vasalutheran.org website. We want to fill the gym!! Questions? Contact Kathy Tilderquist at 612-554-1256 or Faye Drewianka at 651-212-3209.



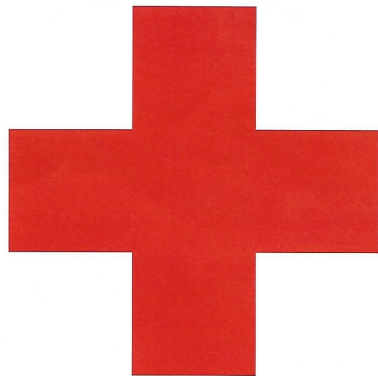
THE NEXT FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN MOBILE PACK

at Cannon Falls High School is scheduled for November 9th. You can sign up for shifts beginning on September 25th. There are shifts on Friday, Nov 8 to unload the truck from 1:30-2:30 and to set-up the cafeteria from 2:30-4:30. Shifts on Saturday, Nov 9 for packing will be held from 8-10 am, and from 11 am-1 pm. The clean-up shift will be from 12:30-3:30 pm on Saturday once the packing is done. Volunteers are needed for all shifts. Last year Vasa had 15 people who helped pack over 101,000 food packs which were sent to Nicaragua. See Kathy Tilderquist to sign up or to get questions answered. Kathy will have sign up sheets available at church along with QR codes to access from your phones starting mid-September.

Give blood.

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

American Red Cross



Vasa Lutheran Center Blood Drive

15235 Norelius Rd
Welch, MN 55089

Thursday, September 19, 2024
1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Friday, September 20, 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.



Fall into donating! Come to give blood Sept. 16 thru 30 for a \$15 e-gift card: rcblood.org/fall.



1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App
©2016 The American National Red Cross



Faith Formation

Sunday School will begin on Sunday, September 8th, at 9:00 in the Lutheran Center.

Confirmation Class for 9th graders will also begin on Sunday, September 8th. We will meet at the Lutheran Center from 10:15 to 11:15 each Sunday through November 10th.

Confirmation Class for 7th/8th graders will begin on Wednesday, September 11th. We will meet at the Lutheran Center from 5:45-6:45 each Wednesday through November 20th. Our focus of study will be the Gospel of Mark.



COME JOIN OUR
BIBLE
FOR WOMEN
OF ALL AGES
AND STAGES!

We meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the Lutheran Center from 9:30—11:00. This year we will continue to study the Gifts of The Spirit, especially the gift of Kindness.



Looking for people to cut jeans and flannel, and to help sew the quilts for the graduates. We will

work from 9:30

-11am on the 4th Wednesday of each month. We have many quilts to make for grads over the next few years. The first work-bee will be September 25. If you can sew, please bring your machine. If you can cut, please bring a scissors! There's something to do for anyone who wants to help!



MARK'S MEDITATION

What does it mean to be a Christian? Is there a Bible passage that sums up *orthodox*(1) Christianity? I think *Romans chapter 5 and chapter 6* (2) come pretty close.

Paul is our earliest Christian witness. His letters date from the 50s CE, and his ideas of who Jesus is and what he represents clearly influenced the Gospels, which were written from 20 to 60 years later. His epistle to the church in Rome is a systematic argument for *his theology*,(3) and these chapters are key. In chapter 5, Paul argues that we are saved by the grace of God. He proposes that we need saving because Adam, the first human, was sinful. Chapter 5 also gives us a poetic description of hope.

¹ Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Paul says that we are saved by grace. (Of course, being a good Lutheran, you know that!) Paul ends chapter 5 by stating that God gave us the Law (Torah) so that people could see how sinful they are. As a result, "as people sinned more and more, God's grace became more abundant." (Romans 5:20) As chapter 5 ends and chapter 6 begins, we learn that this is just half of Paul's argument. Here Paul gets to the big "*therefore*."

¹ What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it?

The rest of chapter 6 is allegorical. Paul talks of being a "slave to sin" and "dying to sin;" clearly, he doesn't mean this literally. He is saying that when you look to Jesus, to his death and resurrection, his death represents rejection of sin and his resurrection represents obedience to righteousness. Or, in Paul's words: Jesus offers "freedom from the bondage of sin," since you are no longer "under law, but under grace." He goes on to say:

¹⁵ Well then, since God's grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not!

¹⁶ Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey?

Paul then says that, as Christians, we become "slaves to righteousness" (allegorically).

For 2000 years, Christians have argued about what leads to salvation: "faith" or "works?" Romans chapter 6 says "both!" Paul argues that when you contemplate Christ's sacrificial act, you will want to be good. That righteousness is always a consequence of faith. Do you believe this is always true? Let's talk about that next month.

1. "Orthodox" is Greek for "right think-

2. Many theologians would add 1 Corinthians chapter 15 as another synopsis of Christian faith.

3. A theology he received by revelation. Paul admits he never met Jesus in person. He claims to have conversed with the resurrected Jesus "in the air." 2 Corinthians 12:4



Vasa Family Night

Fall into Fall

Wednesday, September 11th

5:30–7:00pm

Vasa Lutheran Center

Picnic Dinner

Outdoor Activities

Short Devotional

All Are Welcomed



VASA MEMBERS

you
**make a
A DIFFERENCE**

Memory Grace Hector is the director of the Luketekelo (Faith) Family Foundation of Zambia.

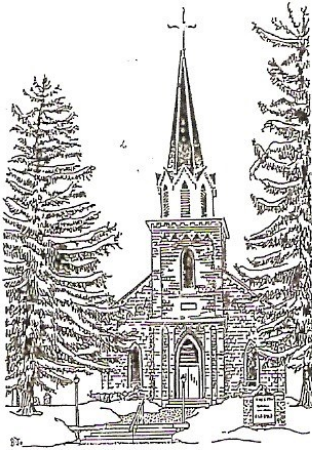
The foundation's current project is to build a school and orphanage for the housing and education of children in Zambia. Vasa's Endowment team granted the foundation \$1000 at their July meeting and the check was presented to Ms. Hector at Vasa's August 11 worship service. We rejoice that Vasa's long history of supporting orphans continues. This is a picture of the completed building.



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

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 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 Bolivia
Contact: pmikaelson@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!