

# The Vasa Voice

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

Put your  
Trust  
in  
Jesus



Photo by Mark Hagen



We walked up to Gravbakken  
(the pioneer cemetery with the Civil War graves).  
We climbed the hill to the "white rock."

*Come join us in  
Worship every  
Sunday at 9:00 a.m.*

- Message from Pastor "Wishful Thinking."
- Treasurer's Report

PAGE 2

- Jesus was a Scoutmaster  
By Mark Hagan

PAGE 3

- Birthdays
- Serving Us this Month
- Prayer Concerns

PAGE 4

- Summer Camp 5
- VBS 5
- Job Opportunity 6
- Upcoming Events 6
- Reports 7-10
- Columbarium 9
- Calendar 11



Photo by Mark Hagen

**Frederick Buechner**

## Wishful Thinking

"if you don't have doubts you're either kidding yourself or asleep. Doubts are the ants-in-the-pants of faith.

They keep it alive and moving."

— Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC*

### GIVE. GATHER. SERVE.

On Saturday, April 20 we went driving all over Goodhue County looking for spring wildflowers. We looked in Wally Gardner's woods. We walked up to Grabbakken (the pioneer cemetery with the Civil War graves). We climbed the hill to the "white rock." We didn't find any wild flowers anywhere.

This is what my husband Mark wrote on his Easter Sunday Facebook post. "Today (Easter Sunday), right in our own backyard, we found dozens of Pasque flowers. Of course, "Pasque" is Latin for Easter." He continued, "What a perfect metaphor for the season. On

Friday Maureen presided at a service with the altar covered in black--signifying our doubts about the message of Jesus. But if we have faith, if we wait just a little bit, we are rewarded."

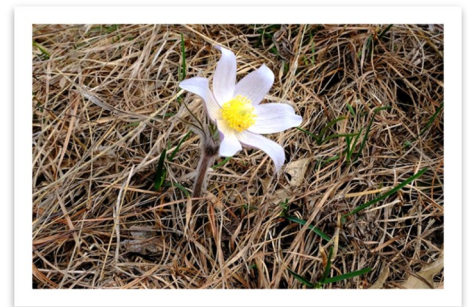
I would add a quote from Frederick Buechner, "Whether your faith is that there is a God or that there is not a God, if you don't have any doubts, you are either kidding yourself or asleep. Doubts are the ants in the pants of faith. They keep it awake and moving."

If you have any "ants in your pants of faith," come talk to me. It's always good for me to listen to the questions with which people are struggling. Sometimes the Holy Spirit manages to use me to lead you

to the answers you are seeking.

He is risen! He is risen, indeed!

*Pastor Maureen*



Photos by Mark Hagen

## VASA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

### *Treasurer's Report March 2019*

Checkbook Balance, March 1, 2019:	\$42,667.72	Mission Investment Fund, February 28, 2018	\$75,829.94
General Fund Contributions:	\$23,335.09	Mission Investment Fund, March 31, 2019	\$
Total Funds Available:	\$66,002.81		
Budget Approved Monthly Expenses:	\$18,391.99		
Checkbook Balance, March 31, 2019:	\$47,610.82		

## Jesus was a Scoutmaster

By Mark Hagen

For ten years I was an Assistant Scoutmaster and then the Scoutmaster for Troop 82 in Rochester. As Scoutmaster, my job was to help the youth leaders of the troop run the meetings and camps. If I was doing my job well, the Senior Patrol Leader would be prepared to lead the troop; and my only role during a meeting would be a talk at the end called the Scoutmaster Minute. Over time, I relished this opportunity to say something inspirational to the scouts. Earlier this month Maureen shared a sermon about the feeding of the five thousand and that reminded me of a Scoutmaster Minute I gave on November 29, 2008:

Tonight I want to talk about a story that is in all four Gospels: The feeding of five thousand people who came to listen to Jesus. This is from the 6th chapter of John and the 9th chapter of Luke.

(Luke) Jesus welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.

<sup>12</sup>Late in the afternoon the twelve disciples came to Him and said, "Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here."

<sup>13</sup>Jesus replied, "You give them something to eat."

They answered, ...(John) <sup>9</sup>"Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will that go among so many?"

(Luke) But Jesus said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." <sup>15</sup>The disciples did so, and everybody sat down. <sup>16</sup>Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to set before the people. <sup>17</sup>They all ate and were satisfied and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

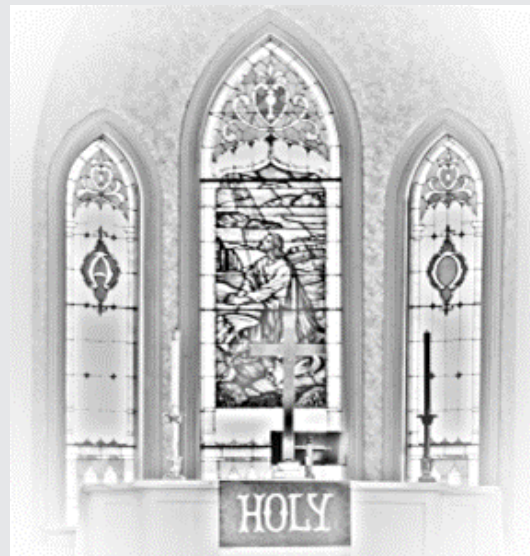
Did you notice the interaction between the disciples and Jesus? They said "Oh, oh, Scoutmaster Jesus. We need to feed everyone." Jesus said "You do it!" To which they replied "Oh Mr. Scoutmaster Jesus, we can't do that!" So Jesus explained to them what to do. Then he had them do it, and a miracle happened; everyone there ate and was satisfied.

Now I'm a born engineer and am always wondering how things work. For a long time I wondered about this miraculous story. Then, several years ago, in this very room, a member of this church got up during a meeting, right over in that corner, and explained how it might have happened.

What might have happened is that when the disciples asked for food, only one young boy, probably about your age, came forward with five loaves of bread and two fish. And when Jesus blessed this selfless act a miracle happened. The miracle happened, not out in space, or out of thin air, but in the hearts of everyone in the crowd. And following the leadership of this young man, everyone in the crowd shared what food they had and everyone was feed.

This explanation of the story was life changing for me. It meant that stories like this are not stale, dead stories where miracles happen only when Jesus is physically there. But that God acts through people, and therefore, I can expect to experience miracles in my life. All I have to do is look for the goodness in people to find miracles.

I think that if the feeding of the five thousand had happened in the last 99 years, it would turn out that the boy with the 5 loaves and 2 fishes was a Boy Scout. Think about it, he was there, he saw a need and he acted. He was *helpful* as he *cheerfully* shared what he had. Then, through his *leadership*, everyone was taken care of.



# May

## Happy Birthday!

05/02 Gabriel Bauch	05/19 Brady Bosshart
05/02 Sarah Jo Hedeem	05/19 Jeff Nelsen
05/05 Owyne Gillis	05/26 Gabriel Rehder
05/05 Vivian Strusz	05/27 Theresa Fredin
05/06 Josh Hanson	05/27 Julie Stahnke
05/07 Bently Endres	05/28 Parker Nelson
05/07 Chris Mann	05/29 Shelby Hyllengren
05/10 Ron Scripture	05/29 Anthony Mann
05/11 Jim Hedeem	05/29 Brian Schmidt
05/12 Merle Pearson	05/30 Lisa Bosshart
05/14 Martha Hanson	05/30 Ryan Rehder
05/16 Ross Fredin	05/30 Kathy Tilderquist
05/16 Bruce Tilderquist	05/31 Gerald McRae
	05/31 Audrey Rosener



# May

## Helpers & Prayers

### USHERS

Randy Klein  
Jason Pagel  
Chuch Peterson  
Kevin Eckblad

### READERS

BJ Norman May 5th  
Mark Hagen May 12th  
Dahman Romness May 19th

### GREETERS

Mel and Nancy Trelstad

### COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Jim Hedeem May 5th  
Kevn Hanson May 19th

### COMMUNION SET-UP

BJ Norman

*Thank You*

### PRAYER CONCERNS

David Broin  
Evans Josephson  
Scott and Kerry Sorenson  
(sons of Sterling and Sharyn)  
Brenda Bradley  
(second "mama to Austin F.)



**SUMMER CAMP 2019!** Good Earth Village is an ELCA Bible Camp located east of **Spring Valley, MN**. They are now accepting registrations for summer camp. There are a variety of programs available depending on age and interests.

**Check out their website: [www.goodearthvillage.org/summer-camp/](http://www.goodearthvillage.org/summer-camp/)**

The Vasa Church Council has agreed to fund **75%** of the cost for any child affiliated with our congregation. All that you need to do is register and bring a copy of your registration form to the church office.

Please see Pastor Maureen for additional details.

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

P: 651-258-4327



**JOB OPPORTUNITY:** Vasa Lutheran Church is looking for part time office help. The candidate must have very strong skills in the creation of a variety of documents used to communicate events. Also need the ability to manage the Vasa Facebook page, and the Vasa website. Hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday. Contact Pastor Maureen at 507-251-5270 or the Vasa Church office at 651-258-4327 for an application. Interviews will begin in mid-May. Visit the Vasa Lutheran website ([www.vasalutheran.org](http://www.vasalutheran.org)) to learn more about the position.

**FAMILY FARE RECEIPTS:** Help Vasa Lutheran Church earn \$1,000 through the Direct Your Dollars program! We're collecting receipts from any FamilyFare store. Drop your receipts off at the Vasa Lutheran Church or at the Vasa Lutheran Center. Thank you in advance for all your support!



**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**

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT VASA

- May 1,8,15,22:** FLN 5:15 Worship 6:15 PM
- May 2-5:** Pastor Vacation
- May 5,12,19,26:** Sunday School & Worship 9AM
- May 3,10,17,24,31:** Pastor's Day Off
- May 4:** Swedish Institute Museum Tour 1:30 PM
- May 6:** Museum Board Meeting 6:30PM
- May 6:** Parish Life committee Meeting 6:30PM
- May 6:** Finance Committee Meeting 7:30PM
- May 7:** Property Committee Meeting: 5:30PM
- May 7, 14,21,28:** Coffee with Pastor 9:30AM
- May 8:** FREE Community Dinner: 5:30—6:30PM
- May 12:** Undi Sunday
- May 16:** Women Bible Study 9:30PM
- May 20:** Church Council Meeting 7:30PM
- May 31-June 1:** Synod Assembly Meeting
- June 24-27:** Vacation Bible School PreK-6 grade
- July 4:** Museum Root Beer Floats
- Oct 26:** Museum Swedish Pancake Breakfast



**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. For additional information go to [www.vasalutheran.org](http://www.vasalutheran.org).

**Pastor's Report for April, 2019**  
**There is never a dull moment at Vasa Lutheran Church!**

**The positive news:**

There are four fifth grade children who will receive their first communion on Thursday, April 18. There are four baptisms scheduled for Sunday, April 28th. Three children are from one family and one child is from a second family. There is a fifth baptism tentatively scheduled for Sunday, May 12. Over 20 children sang, waved palms, and read parts on Palm Sunday. It was a joyous service.

**The disappointing news:**

Shelley Pohlman has resigned from the position of office administrator. The plan is for her to work through the end of May. We will begin the postings for the position after Holy Week and Easter.

The April 10-11 snowstorm caused havoc with the Lutheran Center roof. We have major water damage in the library. The storeroom off the gym has water on the cement floor which migrated toward the carpet and wicked into the carpet in two places. The kitchen ceiling has resumed dripping. Even before the storm and even though the roof appeared to be dry, water continues to leak through the ceiling of kitchen storeroom.

Sometimes the practical side of being a pastor and managing a parish is a challenge. In writing this I am referring to managing personnel and the failing roof on the Lutheran Center. But, I continue to say as I have said many times, *"God isn't done with Vasa. We still have important work to do. We are still making a difference in people's lives. We remain the hands and feet of Jesus."*

Luke 16:10 "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. We are called to be faithful, even if it is just with a little.

*Pastor Maureen*

---



---

**Vasa Lutheran Church**  
**Finance Committee Meeting**

**April 8, 2019**

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:**

Income and expenses were analyzed and discussed. The offering in March was higher than in January and February combined.

When the church gets its next check from Mission Endowment, the finance committee recommends that the money be sent to the Mission Investment Fund until such time as it is needed to help pay for the roof.

Scholarships for campers going to Good Earth Village can remain at 75% of the cost of the camp again this year.

Kathy Tilderquist  
Recording Secretary

**VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**March 18, 2019 @ Lutheran Center**

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

Members present and Absent:

Present: Pastor Maureen Hagen; Greg Drewianka, President, Jim Hedeem, Vice President; Geri Lindholm; Rick Samuelson; Steve Hyllengren; Kevin Eckblad; Duane Hanson; Dan Hedeem; Sid Featherstone; Ben Norman and Mike Carlson

Twelve voting members present

Unable to Attend: Gayle Strusz- Klein 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 February 18, 2019 council meeting as written.

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2019 Church Council Reorganizational Meeting as written.

MOTION CARRIED

Reports Reviewed and Accepted:

1. Treasurer and Finance Team Report (Attached)
  - a. Offering is down 6.7% year to date.
  - b. Kathy is working on ways that people can give with a credit card.
2. Parish Life (Attached)
  - a. A Habitat For Humanity team will be staying at the Lutheran Center again this summer.
3. Property Team Report. (Attached)
4. Museum Board (Attached)
5. Endowment Board Report (Attached)
6. Cemetery Board (Attached)
7. Executive Board Report (Attached)
8. Pastor's Report (Attached)
  - a. Pastor Maureen showed a chart with possible funds available for needed projects.

Tabled Business (None)

Old Business (None)

New Business

It was moved and seconded to recommend that the congregation approve the Annual Meeting minutes as written from March 3, 2019 at the next Congregational Meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

The council reviewed estimates for replacing furnaces and installing A/C that serve the gym and fellowship room in the Lutheran Center.

It was moved and seconded to table the heating and A/C project in the Lutheran Center.

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved and seconded to approve Damon Romness as the substitute for Pastor Maureen when she is on vacation this year.

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion

- a. There was further discussion on the Lutheran Center roof repair/replacement
- b. Talked about when the council could look at a Webinar on church related legalities.
- c. Council members signed up for devotions and contact information was verified. The council meeting time was discussed and it was decided to keep the meeting time the same.

April Meeting Dates: (Tentative schedule)

Parish Life: Monday April 8th @ 6:30pm

Finance: Monday April 8th @ 7:30pm

Property: Tuesday April 9th @ 5:30pm

Executive: Monday April 15th @ TBD

Council: Monday April 15th @ 7:30pm Devotions Sid Featherstone

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:45 pm.

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Report submitted by:

Rick Samuelson, Secretary



## Parish Life Team Meeting

April 8

We finalized plans for Easter week services and service assistants. A team from Habitat for Humanity will stay at the Lutheran Center the week of July 20th thru July 27th. Sid had some suggestions on possible music for upcoming 5th Sundays. He will check on them. We are in need of someone to take care of banners in Church and to get one ordered that we have received memorial money to purchase.

Plans are coming together for Vacation Bible School. We need volunteers to make it happen. We agreed to recommend to the Council that we again offer to pay 75% of the cost of summer camp at Good Earth Village for any child affiliated with to congregation. They would need to register and then bring a copy of the registration to the church office.

There was a discussion on the need for access to the church. We will talk to Property about either extra keys or a lock box.

There was a discussion on the large Easter cross for church. The feeling was that it is too large and heavy to erect with available people. Right now it is 15' tall and has a cross beam that is almost 8'. Sid, Ben, and Jim will look into downsizing it.

There was 143 lbs of dry goods collected and delivered to the Food Shelf's in Cannon Falls and Red Wing.

---

### Columbarium

Funerals and burials can be expensive. Some have found cremation to be a cost effective alternative.

The question still remains: what to do with the ashes? The

**Cemetery Board** is considering installing a columbarium with niches for burial urns. If you are interested in purchasing a niche please contact

**Rick Samuelson** or **Duane Hanson** for further details.



Photos by Austin Ferguson

**Property Team Meeting  
April 8, 2019**

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

Present: Dan Hedeem, Kevin Eckblad, Steve Hyllengren, Greg Drewianka

Unable to attend: Duane Hanson

Also present: Pastor Maureen

Noted:

Jason Stahnke patched the church's east sidewalk to parking lot for mismatch.

Rick Samuelson removed 2 bats from LC gym area.

Warm weather has brought out wasps seen in the sanctuary.

Checked with Andy at Klair Plumbing regarding water softener at the church. On schedule to be completed before cemetery water is turned on.

Discussion on need for key lockboxes when vendors need to get entry to church or LC. No action taken.

Estimates for LC roof were discussed.

Received estimate of \$93,860 from Fischer Roofing (Ellsworth, WI) for flat roof.

Received estimate of \$94,255 from Bresener's Roofing (Northfield, MN) for flat roof.

Received 'guesstimate' of \$50K-\$55K for trusses from ABC (Red Wing). No firm estimated without architectural design.

Merle Pearson submitted plan to build truss roof with volunteer workers. (No cost submitted)

Sid Featherstone submitted plan to build sloped roof and have a roofing company apply the final roofing cover. (No cost submitted)

Decided to call in roofing companies for Q&A clarifications on their estimates.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10p

Submitted by Greg Drewianka

---

**The Vasa Museum Board met on March 3, 2019 at the Lutheran Center  
during the 31st annual soup Luncheon**

Board members present, Eileen Anderson, Randy Lindholm, Audrey Rosener, Al Lindell, Dan Evanson, Rodney Nelson, Dan Hedeem, BJ Norman, Randy Klein, Deb Donath, Judy Scripture and Faye Drewianka.

Audrey Rosener welcomed Judy Scripture and Deb Donath, our New board members. Great to have them on the Board.

Vice President Dan Hedeem took over the meeting for the election of officers. Elected officers were President - Audrey Rosener, Vice President - Dan Hedeem, Secretary - Faye Drewianka, Treasurer - Al Lindell.

Secretary's Report was Read and approved.

Treasurers Report was read and approved. Total monies on hand are \$15,727.78.

Audrey swapped out pictures in the Gathering area of the church. Discussion on what items to be displayed next. We are in need of a 48" dowel with holder to hang quilt.

Audrey has gotten 2 confirmation pictures that we were in need of and still working on one more.

Randy is working on getting Museum roof repaired and is also working on windows that have hole in them and will be painting porch.

Discussion on new hinged sign to set out during our Soup Luncheon and also for the Pancake Breakfast. The old one is quite heavy. Also we need to set up a list of where we need to distribute posters to advertise our events.

Sign up sheets for Sundays will be available at the next meeting.

Next board meeting will be on April 1, 2019. Closed with the Lords Prayer. Faye Drewianka, secretary

# Vasa Lutheran Church May 2019

Pastor Maureen Hagen  
 Cell: 507-251-5270  
 Office: 651-258-4327  
 Email: [pastormaureen@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:pastormaureen@sleepyeyetel.net)  
 Email: [vasalutheran@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:vasalutheran@sleepyeyetel.net)  
 Web: [www.vasalutheran.org](http://www.vasalutheran.org)  
 Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Vasa-Lutheran-Church](http://www.facebook.com/Vasa-Lutheran-Church)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 <b>Pastor on Vacation</b> Dahmon Romness Preaching Worship Service 9 AM Holy Communion Sunday School 9 AM	6 <b>Museum Board Mtg 6:30 PM</b> <b>Parish Life Mtg 6:30 PM</b> <b>Finance Mtg 7:30 PM</b>	7 Office Hours 9-1 Coffee W/Pastor 9:30 AM <b>Property Mtg 5:30 PM</b>	8 Office Hours 9-1 FLN 5:15 PM Worship 6:30 PM <b>FREE COMMUNITY DINNER</b>	9 9-1 Office Hours	10 Pastor's Day Off <b>Pastor on Vacation</b>	11 Museum Tour Swedish Institute 1:30PM <b>Pastor on Vacation</b>
12 Worship Service 9 AM Sunday School 9 AM <b>Undi Sunday Donations</b> Mother's Day	13	14 Office Hours 9-1 Coffee W/Pastor 9:30 AM	15 Office Hours 9-1 FLN 5:15 PM Worship 6:16 PM	16 9-1 Office Hours Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM	17 Pastor's Day Off	18
19 Worship Service 9 AM Holy Communion <b>Lindstrom Baptism 9 AM</b> Sunday School 9 AM 4-H 6:30 PM	20 <b>Church Council Mtg 7:30PM</b>	21 Office Hours 9-1 Coffee W/Pastor 9:30 AM	22 Office Hours 9-1 FLN 5:15 PM – End Worship 6:15 PM	23 9-1 Office Hours <b>Vasa Voice Deadline</b>	24 Pastor's Day Off	25
26 Worship Service 9 AM Sunday School 9 AM	27 Memorial Day	28 Office Hours 9-1 Coffee W/Pastor 9:30 AM	29 Office Hours 9-1 Worship 6:15 PM	30 9-1 Office Hours Vasa Voice Mailed	31 Pastor's Day Off	

VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH  
15235 NORELIUS ROAD (IN VASA)  
WELCH, MN 55089

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **Pastor Maureen Hagen**

Cell: 507-251-5270

Office: 651-258-4327

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

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

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

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Vasa-Lutheran-Church](http://www.facebook.com/Vasa-Lutheran-Church)

## **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

[pmikaelson@gmail.com](mailto:pmikaelson@gmail.com)

website: [www.caranavi.net/rtc.htm](http://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!