



The Vasa Voice

Volume 58 No.1

January 2022

Vasa Happenings in January

January 5th - Confirmation Classes for 7th/8th graders resume at 5:30pm in the Lutheran Center. Over the next 9 weeks we will study the 10 Commandments.

January 9th - Sunday School resumes at 9:00am in the Lutheran Center.

January 9th - Adult Bible Study resumes at 10:15 in the Fellowship Room at the Lutheran Center.

January 12 - Community Dinner (Meatballs, cheesy potatoes, veg/salad, brownie)

Continuing our Covid protocols, dinners will be available for take-out or delivery only. Please reserve your meals by January 5 at noon. Call or email the church office: 651-258-4327 or office@vasalutheran.org.

January 20-21 - American Red Cross Blood Drive

Vasa will host another American Cross Blood Drive at the Lutheran Center on Thursday, January 20, from 1pm until 7pm, and on Friday, January 22, from 9am-2 pm. Stop in, give blood, and save lives!! Refreshments will be available for donors.

Annual Report Deadline!!

January 27th - All committees, teams and boards should have their reports turned in to the Church Office for the 2021 Annual Report by **Thursday, January 27th**. Auditors will need all Financial Books at this time as well in order to complete their audits. Thank you for your cooperation with these deadlines!



Here's what's on the Inside!



- P. 2 Treasurer's Report, Pastor's Thoughts
- P. 3 Birthdays, Downtown Plaza Thank You, Faith Formation opportunities for children
- P. 4 More Thank-Yous! Adult Bible Study
- P. 5-6 Council Minutes
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Thrivent Choice for Vasa
- P. 7 January Calendar



Pastor's Thoughts for January

If I was a serious card player I might say that my family was dealt a really bad hand during the week before Christmas. My father died on Dec. 22nd. Two days later on Christmas Eve my maternal uncle died. Over the course of the week between Christmas and New Years there have been many phone calls back and forth as we tried to figure out the logistics for two funerals which had both paternal and maternal family connections. (And of course planning was all put on pause by the Christmas holiday)

I am pleased to say that we figured it all out and did so peaceably and in relatively good humor. There was give and take on both sides and all of us cousins still love each other. That's the power of the family that I was born into: tightly knit and loving.

However, in the card game of life our trump card is faith; faith in Jesus as our Savior. Jesus, the son of God sent to earth out of God's overwhelming and abundant love. Jesus the one through whom we see that death has been defeated and through whom we are given the promise of the resurrection.

As I move through these emotionally complicated days I keep returning to the good news that the angel brought to the shepherds: "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)

1. *Do not be afraid.* Even in the midst of the sorrow that comes with death, we have nothing to fear.
2. *A Savior is born.* Each of us has a Savior. He was born for each of us individually. He was born for all of us.

As we enter a new year with a multitude of unknowns I encourage you to take "*Do not be afraid.*" and "*A Savior is born.*" into your heart and soul. Hang on to these words when things look the most frightening. God is with us.

Happy New Year!

Pastor Maureen



The good news of the birth of Jesus was read in the church sanctuary on Christmas eve just after sundown. Photo credit: Mark Hagen (2020)



Vasa Evangelical Church Treasurer's Report November, 2021

For the Month of November:

Checkbook Balance, November 1, 2021	\$ 53,547.42
General Fund contributions:	14,015.18
Total Funds Available	67,562.60
Budget Approved Monthly Expenses :	14,885.15
Checkbook Balance, November 30, 2021	\$ 52,667.45
Mission Investment Fund, October 31, 2021	\$ 12,769.19
Mission Investment Fund, November 30, 2021	\$ 12,774.43



ELYSIAN
THE DOWNTOWN PLAZA

Dear Vasa Lutheran Church Pastor and Congregation:

Thank you so much for the delicious meals that you have provided the Downtown Residents this year! It is a very generous gift that you have provided so many this year, and we greatly appreciate it! Thank you!

Sincerely,

Mary Peterson - What a great ministry.
Connie Kuehni - so appreciated by all!
Sue + Mendel Markke Psalm 66:1
Eric Perkins - delicious!
Alicia Adalen - very good, thank you
Marian - Fitcher Very good - thank you
Dolores Rocks - Wonderful
Pastor Sue Karow - Thank you so much!
Rev. Holly
George Singblad - Thank you!!
Judy Taylor - Thank you so much!! Loved the meal!
Rosalie Thompson - Very good
Karen Etheridge - very good
David Lindblom
Adair Dahman - Bless you all -
Goden and Sandy Lisecke
Paula J 4th floor - thank you so much! the food was awesome!
Mary + Boomer Brummund Thank you so much!
Celicia Tri - THANKS SO MUCH over ↓

Rev. Ager - Lovely meal + a great service.
Sandy + Sonia Durick
Steve Bird - Delicious (much appreciated!)

January Birthdays

- 9 LaVonne Carlson
Jordan Fredin
Kennedy McCann
Kaelie Nelsen
- 11 Max Evanson
- 12 Ellie Gardiner
- 14 Marissa Mandelkow
Tegan Nelsen
- 16 Dillon Anderson
Sherri Broin
Breanna Soine
Andy Nelson
- 17 Amber Gesme
Terry Mandelkow
- 18 Vicki Weckerling
Gary Samuelson
- 19 Greg Drewianka
Nathan Lindholm
Gracie Featherstone
- 21 Gail Strusz-Klein
Sara Parker
- 23 Wally Gardiner
- 24 Bob Crouse
Ava Stehr
- 25 David Broin
Hettie Carlson
- 28 John Featherstone
Randy Lindholm
- 29 Sue Hedeem
Hailey Mann
Jason Pagel
- 31 Courtney Hovel



Faith Formation

Sunday School resumes on Sunday, January 9th at 9:00 in the Lutheran Center. We will return to using the Friends and Heroes curriculum featuring the animated adventures of two friends -Macky and Portia-as they fight for justice, and even survival, against the might of the Roman Empire.



Confirmation classes resume on Wednesday evening, January 5 at 5:30.



First Communion for current 5th graders begins Sunday March 20th.

People of Vasa:
Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel! Your support of \$5,950 so far this year is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your faithful stewardship as we walk together following Jesus.

Southeastern MN Synod, ELCA



Thank you for the many years you have supported us and Radio Television Caranavi-RTC with your prayers and gifts. Thank you for helping us out in so many ways and for the special friendship we share together. You have blessed us in so many ways.

Paul and Jay Mikaelson

**At the end of Sept. Paul and Jay retired from their work as regular missionaries with the World Mission Prayer League and are now under the status of the Bolivian Associate missionaries.*



On behalf of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS) and those we serve, thank you for your recent gift of \$525.00. For 156 years, congregations like yours have been essential partners in the mission of LSS, helping us grow from a church basement near Red Wing to offer services in all 87 counties of our state.

With deep gratitude,

Pastor Julie Wright

Pastor Julie Wright

Director of Church Partnerships and Volunteerism



Sunday Morning ADULT BIBLE STUDY will reconvene on Sunday, January 9th at 10:15 in the Fellowship Room at the Lutheran Center. We will finish our study of the Animals at the Manger,

and then, on January 23, we will begin a 5 part Study on the book of James. The schedule is as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| January 9 th | Animals at the Manger: Cattle |
| January 16 th | Animals at the Manger: Donkeys |
| January 23 rd | James, Chpt 1 |
| January 30 th | James, Chpt 2 |
| February 6 th | James, Chpt 3 |
| February 13 th | James, Chpt 4 |
| February 20 th | James, Chpt 5 |

VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

November 15, 2021 @Lutheran Church

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm by Barbara Weigman, President

Devotions: Barbara Weigman

Members present and absent:

Present: Pastor Maureen Hagen; Barbara Weigman, President; Sid Featherstone, Vice President; Brian Diercks; Duane Hanson; Kent Volz; Greg Drewianka; Missy McCann; Jessica Anderson; Lora Gruber; Randy Klein; Steve Hyllengren; and Andrew Featherstone, Secretary;
Thirteen voting members present

Unable to attend: Kevin Eckblad and Ben Norman

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 October 18, 2021 council meeting as written.

MOTION CARRIED

Reports Reviewed and Accepted:

1. Treasurer's Report (Attached)
 - a. Budget is on track.
 - b. John Otto final payment came out of the Mission Investment Fund.
 - c. Final payments needed to pay Midwest Playscapes for new children's equipment will come from Bob Stahnke and LeRoy Carlson undesignated memorials.
 - d. Kathy will have budget reports for team meetings in December.
2. Finance Report (Attached)
 - a. Finance team will create a new rental agreement for renter. Kent will look for rental agreement online.
 - b. County Property audit mentioned if Vasa wanted to be classified under one Parcel by combining Lutheran Center and Church together. It was decided to keep them separate.
3. Parish Life (N/A)
4. Property Team Report (N/A)
 - a. Tom Erickson emailed pastor about the organ. He mentioned that work on the mixture stop would be a good idea but not necessary. When tuning is done in December by David Grandall, we will get an estimate to see what this will cost.
 - b. We had Ringeisen fix the spotlights on the balcony and outside spotlights.
5. Cemetery Board (N/A)
6. Executive Board Report (N/A)
7. Pastor's Report (Attached)
 - a. Sunday School attendance numbers are increasing.
 - b. Pastor will be away November 22- November 27
8. Museum Board (Attached)
9. Endowment Board Report (N/A)

November Church Council Minutes (continued)

Tabled Business:

Vasa Trail- tour will take place after church on Sunday. Discussion on where trail should go will take place.

Senior Appreciation Luncheon- kids made 85 cards. Cookies and cards will be handed out at service.

New Business:

December Community Dinner- Drive thru will continue for time being. Community Dinner future with drive thru and dining in gym was discussed.

Steeple Shingles- We had a discussion on whether to replace steeple roof or not. We still have time to figure out what we would like to do.

Funeral live-streaming- It was moved and seconded to have link for live streaming on funeral online page.

MOTION CARRIED

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS!



Thrivent Choice®

Ready to give back?
The choice is yours.

Procedure to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Vasa.

1. Open your computer browser and enter: Thrivent.com
2. Select: [Thrivent Official Site](#)
3. [Log in to your personal account](#)
4. Select: [Generosity](#)
5. Select: [Thrivent Choice](#)
6. Select: [Directing Choice Dollars](#)
7. [Check your eligibility](#)
8. [Direct your choice dollars to: Vasa Lutheran Church](#)
 1. If possible: Print the Donated Dollars page
 2. Put your name and date at the top of page
 3. Give copy to the church treasurer
9. [Log out](#)

Questions? Call Faye Drewianka: 651-212-3209

If you wish to set up your account over the phone, call 1-800-847-4836.

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Cell: 507-251-5270

Office: 651258-4327

pastor@vasalutheran.org

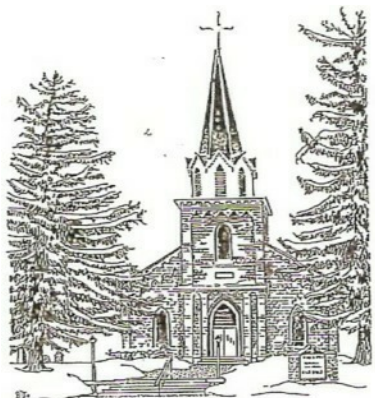
www.vasalutheran.org

www.facebook.com/Vasa-Lutheran-Church

JANUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Pastor Maureen Out of the Office						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9am Service of Holy Communion 9am Sunday School at Lutheran Center	9:30am Property Team 5:00pm Finance Team 6:00pm Parish Life Team Pastor Maureen back in the office		Community Dinner reservations Due at Noon 5:30 Faith formation 7:00pm Wed Eve Worship + Everyday Bible Conversation		Pastor's Day Off	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9am Service of The Word 9am Sunday School at Lutheran Center	5:00pm Executive Team		Community dinner Drive Through opens at 5:30 5:30 pm Faith Formation 7:00pm Wed Eve Worship + Everyday Bible Conversation		Pastor's Day Off	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9am Service of Holy Communion 9am Sunday School at Lutheran Center	6:00pm Church Council		5:30pm Faith Formation 7:00pm Wed Eve Worship + Everyday Bible Conversation	 Blood Drive 1-7pm	 Blood Drive 9am-2pm	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:00am Service of the Word (Sunday School at Lutheran Center)			5:30pm Faith Formation 7:00pm Wed Eve Worship + Everyday Bible Conversation	Annual Reports Due	Pastor's Day Off	
30	31					
9:00am Service of Holy Communion (Sunday School at Lutheran Center)					Pastor's Day Off	

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 (also live-streamed on Vasa's YouTube Channel)

6:30 pm Wednesday Evening Worship + Everyday Bible Conversation

Christian Education & Faith Formation

Sundays 9:00am at the Lutheran Center

Wednesdays 5:30 pm at the Lutheran Center

Executive Team

Barbara Weigman, 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



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