



## VASA SUMMER SERMON SERIES

(During the summer months, we take a break from the Narrative Lectionary. Here's what's in store for July!)

The Vasa Summer Sermon Series continues with its focus on Creation. There will be multiple scripture readings from the Old and New Testament each week, helping us discover where the Spirit is breathing new life into creation, suffering with creation or renewing creation. The readings will focus our attention on *The Word* and where it is the impulse that summons creation, evokes praise from creation and/or stirs life in creation.

July 7 The Season of Creation: Forest

July 14 The Season of Creation: Mountain

July 21 The Season of Creation: Storm

July 28 The Deep Life of Overflow (This sermon will focus on the spiritual life and growth of present-day disciples of Jesus—namely, us.)

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

P. 2 *Worship volunteers, July Birthdays*  
Pastor Maureen's Vacation dates

P. 3 *Thoughts from Pastor Maureen*

P. 4-5 *May Church Council Minutes & Treasurer's Report, Church Council members*

P. 6 *Vasa Museum July 4 Fundraiser*

P. 7 *Midsommar, Ash Tree Update, Epilepsy Foundation donation success*

P. 8 *VBS Life with Jesus in the Great Outdoors, Vasa Softball Schedule, Night to Unite—save the date!*

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P. *Mark's Meditation: John the Baptist*

P. 11 *July Calendar*

## Worship Volunteers for July

### USHERS

July 7	volunteer needed
July 14	Rick Samuelson
July 21	Bryan Diercks
July 28	Kevin Eckblad

### READERS

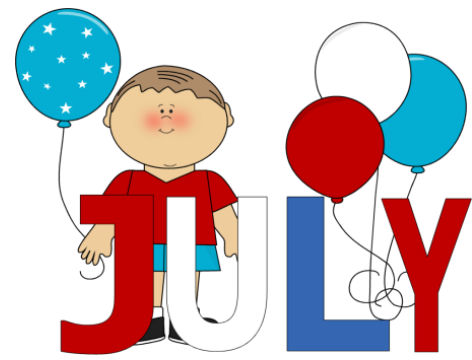
July 7	Mo Hauck
July 14	Sid Featherstone
July 21	Kathy Tilderquist
July 28	Barry Skog

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

July 7	Volunteer needed
July 21	Eleanor Diercks

### HOSPITALITY

July 7	Mo Hauck
July 14	Marcia Featherstone
July 21	Marilyn Hanson
July 28	Audrey Rosener



## BIRTHDAYS

July 6	Zach Carlson
July 8	Fiona Diercks
July 9	Maureen Hagen
July 10	Patrick Rehder
July 12	Steven Thomforde
July 16	B-J Norman
July 17	Lucy Fountain
July 18	Nora Poole
July 19	Joel Hyllengren
July 20	Karen Lindblom
	Beibhinn Winn
July 26	Bonnie McNamara
July 27	Emmitt Featherstone
July 28	Dylan Anderson
	Kelsey Lindholm
	Jedd Otto
July 31	Nancy Trelstad

### ***Pastor Maureen leaves on vacation Thursday, July***

***11th*** and will be away for two weeks, including Sunday July 14th and 21st . She will return to lead worship on Sunday, July 28th.

***Dahmon Romness*** will lead worship and preach on July 14th, Mountain Sunday.

***Cindy Fisher-Broin*** will preach on July 21st, Storm Sunday.

*Pastor Maureen will notify the congregation about who to contact in case of emergency before she leaves.*



Pastor Maureen's Birthday will be celebrated on July 7th! There will be a basket for cards, and if you'd like to help with treats during coffee time, that would be wonderful! Remember, Pastor's secret (well, maybe not-so-secret) vice is CHOCOLATE!!



### ***Thoughts from Pastor Maureen***

Summer is the time when all the seeds that were planted this spring germinate and grow. When a farmer or gardener plants a seed they assume that it will grow as expected. A kernel of corn will produce a stalk of corn. A carrot seed will produce a carrot.

Jesus told a parable in Mark 4:30-32 about a tiny mustard seed that grows into “the greatest of all shrubs and puts forth large branches so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.” The mustard seed is not an acorn. It will not grow into a mighty oak tree. It will grow to be a shrub. That’s what this seed was created to become. If the farmer wanted an oak tree they better plant an acorn.

Let’s imagine that the mustard shrub starts to compare itself to an oak tree. It might begin to feel inadequate because it’s not big and tall. It doesn’t produce acorns. But doing so is inappropriate since the shrub is fulfilling what God created it to be. From God’s perspective it has an important place in the larger ecosystem since it provides shade and shelter for those particular birds that prefer smaller plants that are closer to the ground.

It’s the same way for people. If we agree that God created us we must strive to avoid comparing ourselves to others. We have a place in the kingdom and tasks to accomplish.

The same idea applies to churches. If we agree that God planted us in a specific place then we must strive to avoid comparing our church to other churches. Whether we are an oak tree or a mustard shrub doesn’t matter. Our congregation has a place in the kingdom and tasks to accomplish.

Enjoy the summer and don’t work too hard mowing the lawn as we all strive to keep up with the rapid growth of the grass.

Blessings,

*Pastor Maureen*



**VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**  
May 13, 2024 @Lutheran Church

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

**Members present and absent:**

**Present:** Pastor Maureen Hagen; Bryan Diercks, President; Randy Klein, Vice President; Mo Hauck; Missy McCann; Kent Volz; Ben Norman; Roger Guttromson; and Andrew Featherstone, Secretary;  
Eight voting members present

**Unable to attend:** Kevin Eckblad; Chris Finne; and Barbara Weigman

**Also Present:** Kathy Tilderquist

**Adoption of the Agenda:**

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda for the May 13, 2024 council meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Approval of Minutes:**

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2023 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.

The Church is still doing really well with the budget.

Finance Report (Attached)

Kathy reviewed the Treasurer's Report, Income & Expense Report and the Designated Fund Report. The checkbook balance is \$69,926. The financial position of the church remains strong. Monthly expenses average about \$18,000. Best practice is to maintain a three month cash balance, or about \$54,000.

Payroll taxes will run over budget this year because snow plowing and lawn mowing expenses are now being treated as employee expenses, not independent contractor. These tax implications were not included in the budget.

Parish Life (Attached)

Tractor parade will take place June 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will be serving coffee and rolls for breakfast.

Service will be at 10:00 AM.

Vacation Bible School will take place August 12-15<sup>th</sup>.

We had a very good turn out/year for Sunday School. We had ice cream and a party the last day of Sunday School.

Quilts will be given to graduating seniors.

Property Team Report (Attached)

Kitchen remodeling is just starting. Cupboards will be cleaned out after family fun night and demolition will begin Thursday.

Kent Volz planted maple trees around the gazebo grounds.

Cemetery Board (NA)



Executive Board Report (NA)

Pastor's Report) Attached)

Along with Ben and B-J Norman I attended the SE MN Synod Assembly on Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup>. For the first time in many years Vasa contributed money to the offering collected at the assembly. Their goal was to reach \$20,000 and as of Saturday afternoon, (May 11) they were at \$19,500. The money was designated to go toward a program of Gustavus Adolphus called Continuous Growth Pathway, to the Region 3 Archives, and Luther Seminary.

Pastor currently has a list of 20 names on the shut-in list. Of those 20 names about half (10) do not have access to the Vasa worship online. Pastor allows an hour for each visit, although several are so glad to have company that the visit is often longer. Pastor always offer communion.

Museum Board (Attached)

Soup Luncheon was a big success. It brought in around \$2,064.00.

\$20,000.00 were put into a C.D at First Farmers and Merchants Bank.

Endowment Board Report (N/A)

**Tabled Business:**

**New Business:**

World Mission Prayer League

Endowment Fund Money

Habitat for Humanity – It was moved and seconded to approve Unitarian Church Work team from Illinois stay in the Lutheran Center from July 7 through the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**MOTION CARRIED**

<u>CHURCH COUNCIL</u>		VASA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH	
<b>President:</b> Bryan Diercks	507-259-3909	Treasurer's Report May 31, 2024	
<b>Vice President:</b> Randy Klein rdklein@mmm.com	651-212-8045	For the Month of May:	
<b>Secretary:</b> Andrew Featherstone rwfeatherstonepainting@gmail.com	651-470-9823	Checkbook Balance, May 1, 2024	\$ 69,925.72
Tim Carlson	651-442-5066	General Fund Contributions:	10,201.16
Kevin Eckblad	651-380-7849	Mission Endowment Offering	9,385.00
Chris Finne	651-380-3690	Total Funds Available	89,511.88
Roger Guttromson	651-308-6349	Budget Approved Monthly Expenses: <u>21, 615.84</u>	
Maureen Hauck	651-331-8593	Checkbook Balance, May 31, 2024	\$ 67,896.04
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>			
<b>Indoors:</b>	<b>Jim Hedeem</b>	<b>651-380-6054</b>	
<b>Kitchen:</b>	<b>Sue Hedeem</b>	<b>651-380-6270</b>	
	<b>Faye Drewianka</b>	<b>651-212-3209</b>	
<b>Outdoors</b>	<b>Duane Hanson</b>	<b>651-380-1763</b>	
	<b>Steve Hyllengren</b>	<b>651-258-4338</b>	



# July 4th!

## 7:00 PM



Come celebrate Vasa's Swedish heritage at 1:00 on the 4th of July at the Vasa Museum! Root Beer Floats, along with hot chicken sandwiches and chips will be available for purchase with all proceeds going to landscaping projects around the museum and to offset general operating expenses.

# MUSEUM WILL BE OPEN!



The Historic Vasa Museum was built in 1862. It is open from the first Sunday in May through the second Sunday in October, or by appointment.

All monetary donations received by the Museum are used for improvements and upkeep of the Museum. Three fundraisers are held yearly: the first Saturday in March is the Annual Museum Soup Luncheon. July 4th features Root Beer floats and sandwiches served during the Vasa Parade, and the last Saturday in October is the annual Swedish Pancake Breakfast.

The Museum Board thanks everyone for their support!



# MIDSOMMAR TRACTOR PARADE



June 23 was the 14th annual Vasa Spring Garden Tractor parade. The morning began at Vasa with coffee and cinnamon rolls, followed by an outdoor worship service. At 11:00 AM, 70 tractors were blessed and sent on their way to Spring Garden Lutheran. While en route they were joined by an additional 22 tractors for a total of 92 making the journey. Spring Garden Lutheran entertained over 300 people with games, live music and lunch! **Heads Up Vasa Folks: Next year the route will reverse and Vasa will host the luncheon at the end of the parade!**

## Ash Trees Pose no Immediate Threat



The Property team is aware that we have dead ash trees between the parsonage and the museum. The going rate for taking down these big trees is about \$1000/tree. A member of the Vasa congregation is willing to take them down for free but wants to wait until it freezes to minimize the mess that his skid-loader will cause to the grass. Since the trees do not pose an immediate threat to any of our buildings the Property team agreed to his proposal. Be patient folks, the trees will come down eventually.

## Epilepsy Foundation Clothing Drive a Success!

On Tuesday, June 11, the Epilepsy Foundation truck came and took away this mountain of clothing and bed linens that had been gathering on the stage since the rummage sale. Many thanks to everyone who donated to the cause. The Epilepsy Foundation delivers these items to "Savers" stores who then sells them to the public at a discount. Epilepsy Foundation gains funding and so does Vasa, since the Foundation pays us by the pound for these items. It's a win for most everyone. Thank you to the Tuesday morning coffee guys who helped carry all of these bags outside.



*you  
make a  
DIFFERENCE*

# Vasa's Vacation Bible School!

## Life With Jesus in the Great Outdoors

August 12th-15th



Vasa Lutheran's Vacation Bible School will be held on Monday, August 12th through Thursday, August 15th, from 5:30-7:00. Children ages 3 through 6th Grade are welcome to attend. Older youth are also welcome to attend as helpers. If you are interested in helping, contact Pastor Maureen.

This summer we will study stories about Jesus and how he met and spent time with people, not in buildings like churches, but OUTDOORS! We hope to do the same by spending as much time outdoors as possible, hiking, telling stories, sharing snacks and singing songs! A Registration Form will be available on the Vasa website in July. ([www.vasalutheran.org](http://www.vasalutheran.org))



### Vasa's Softball Schedule

Thursday 7/11	St. Joe's 6:30
Thursday 7/18	St. John's 7:30
Thursday 7/25	St. Joe's 6:30

### FEED THE FUEL FUND!



Vasa's Fuel fund is getting a little low. Later this summer we will receive our "summer fill" to top off the tanks on the property. If you are able to donate toward this need, it will be gratefully received.

## 2024 National Night Out



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**AUGUST 6TH –**

**6:00-7:00PM**





**Vasa Lutheran Center  
Blood Drive**

15235 Norelius Rd  
Welch, MN 55089

**Thursday, July 25, 2024  
1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Friday, July 26, 2024  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

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



Scan to be directed to RapidPass!

**Be a force for good: Come give blood in July for a Fandango Movie Ticket by email to see TWISTERS on us. Terms at [rcblood.org/Twisters](http://rcblood.org/Twisters).**



Scan to schedule an appointment.

**Be part of something big. Make an appointment.**

1-800-RED CROSS | [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

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## MARK'S MEDITATION

BY MARK HAGEN

All four Gospels describe John the Baptist as a forerunner of Jesus. In addition, Jewish/Roman historian Flavius Josephus (37-100 CE) writes about both John and Jesus in *Antiquities of the Jews*. Therefore, we can be quite certain that John was a historical figure. But what was John's ministry? How did that compare to Jesus' teaching? Here are some details.

Both John and Jesus were Galileans. Galilee is not Judea. It is north of Jerusalem and was separately administered by Herod Antipas, one of the sons of Herod the Great. Both of these "kings" were installed by the Romans who controlled all of Syria, of which the Romans considered Galilee and Judea to be a part.

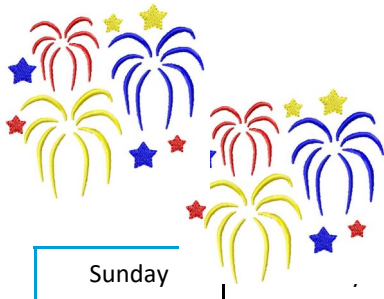
Both John and Jesus offered a ministry of "repentance and forgiveness" that included ritual immersion (baptism) in the Jordan River. Although the Gospels never describe Jesus personally baptizing anyone, it is implied that he did, because the gospels say that his disciples baptized. This practice was *radical!* It was a direct assault on the "business" that was sacrifice and worship at the Temple in Jerusalem. The temple priests, and much of the text of the Old Testament, insisted that God grants forgiveness only through animal sacrifice in the Temple. This is undoubtedly why John was executed by Herod Antipas. It also sheds light on Jesus' act of overturning the tables in the

Temple. (The Synoptic gospels pin the blame for John's execution on Herodias, Herod's wife. It may be that she was more concerned with Temple practice than Herod.)

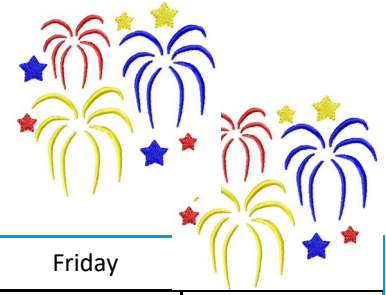
What was the relationship between John and Jesus? It's hard to say. Jesus' ministry appears to pick up right after John's execution. Some scholars think this suggests Jesus was originally a disciple of John. But they could have been rivals. We know from Paul's epistles that there were still groups dedicated to John, not Jesus, decades later.









I think it makes sense that Jesus was originally a disciple of John. That makes his ministry a continuation of what John started. However, over time John was depreciated. Mark, our earliest gospel, paints a relatively flattering picture of John the Baptist. Thirty years later, the gospel of John has John the Baptist declare "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." (John 1:30)

It appears that both John the Baptist and Jesus believed that God is willing to meet us where we are, and forgive our sins apart from a Temple or church hierarchy. Pastor Maureen says as much every time we have communion when she says "Everyone is welcome at the Lord's Supper."



# July

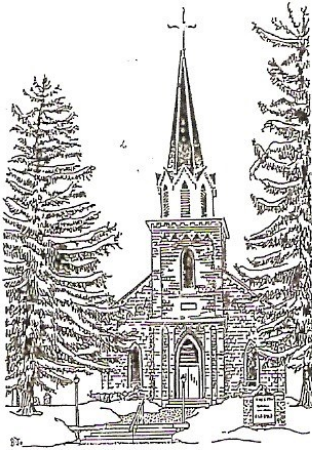


Sunday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><b>NO TEAM MEETINGS IN JULY!!</b> <b>(except Endowment)</b></p>	<p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p> 9:30 am Coffee and Conversation</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:30pm Wednesday Evening Wor-ship</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Happy July 4th ! 1:00 pm Vasa Museum Fund-raiser Vasa Office Closed</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6</p>
<p>7</p> <p>9AM Communion Worship</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p> 9:30 am Coffee and Conversation</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30pm Wednesday Evening Wor-ship</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Pastor Maureen Away</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>
<p>14</p> <p>9AM Worship (Dahmon Romness)</p> <p>Pastor Maureen Away</p>	<p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p> 9:30 am Coffee and Conversation</p>	<p>17</p> <p><b>NO Wednesday Evening Worship</b></p>	<p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p> <p>9AM Communion- Worship (Cindy Fisher – Broin)</p> <p>Pastor Maureen Away</p>	<p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p> 9:30 am Coffee and Conversation</p>	<p>24</p> <p><b>NO Wednesday Evening Worship</b></p>	<p>25</p> <p> American Red Cross 1pm-7pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>27</p> <p> American Red Cross 9am-2pm</p>
<p>28</p> <p>9AM Worship</p> <p> <b>Endowment Team</b> <b>6:30PM</b></p>	<p>29</p> <p>30</p> <p> 9:30 am Coffee and Conversation</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:30pm Wednesday Evening Wor-ship</p>		

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](mailto:pastor@vasalutheran.org)

(Cell)507.251.5270

### **Church Office**

651.258.4327

[office@vasalutheran.org](mailto:office@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 La Paz Bo-  
livia Contact: [pmikaelson@gmail.com](mailto:pmikaelson@gmail.com)

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