

Vasa Happenings in May

May 5 Vasa Museum Opens for The Summer

Regular Hours will be Sundays, 11:30-4:00, or by appointment. Just call or email the church office and Emily will contact a member of the museum board to accommodate your request. 651-258-4327 or office@vasalutheran.org.

May 8 Vasa Family Fun Night

This is the LAST Family Fun Night until September. We will gather at 5:30, enjoy some pulled pork sandwiches, baked beans, potato salad, cheese curds and a cookie! This dinner is courtesy of the Community Dinner Fund!

May 12 Mother's Day & Undies Sunday!

A special day for Mothers, Grandmothers, Great-Grandmothers, Godmothers, and every mother figure! See details on P. 2

May 19 Graduation Sunday

A day where we recognize all graduating High School Seniors.

May 26 Memorial Day Weekend

Changing of the Flag ceremony will immediately follow worship.

Here's what's on the Inside!

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P. 3 Thoughts from Pastor Maureen

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P. 11 May 2024 Calendar

Worship Volunteers for May

USHERS

May 5	Chuck Peterson
May 12	Marv Fredrickson
May 19	volunteer needed
May 26	Duane Hanson

READERS

May 5	Sid Featherstone
May 12	Marcia Featherstone
May 19	Barry Skog
May 26	Sasha Diercks

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

May 5	Katie Featherstone
May 19	Barry Skog

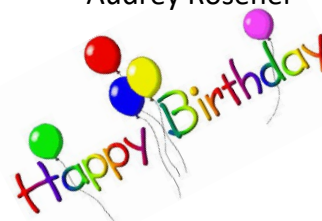
HOSPITALITY

May 5	Audrey Rosener
May 12	volunteer needed
May 19	Gail Strusz-Klein
May 26	Marilyn Hanson



BIRTHDAYS

May 2—	Gabe Bauch
May 3 —	Tanner Carlson
May 5—	Owyne Gillis
May 7 —	Bentley Endres
	Chris Mann
May 10	Indie Marie Lindholm
May 11 —	Jim Hedeem
May 12 —	Merle Pearson
May 16	Ross Fredin
	Bruce Tilderquist
May 18 —	Nora Featherstone
	Ezekiel Pearson
May 19 —	Jeff Nelsen
May 20 —	Katie Lindahl
May 26 —	Gabriel Rehder
May 27 —	Theresa Fredin
	Julia Stahnke
May 28 —	Nelson Parker
May 29 —	Anthony Mann
	Brian Schmidt
	Kathy Tilderquist
May 31 —	Audrey Rosener



May 12th!

“Motherhood: All love begins and ends there..” *Robert Browning*

“A mother understands what a child does not say.” *Jewish*



At times, women and their children arrive at The Haven of Hope Domestic violence shelter in Red Wing with almost nothing. This Mother’s Day (May 12) we will honor our mothers with a collection of **new underwear, socks or TP**. We will recognize the children that often accompany their moms by **also collecting packages of children’s underwear and socks**.

When I was a child I remember my mother carefully warming jars of baby food in a little kettle filled with water on the stove so as to feed my younger brother. The process took time. Microwave ovens changed all of that: food could be warmed within seconds.

We live in a society that encourages speed and quick results. Have a question? Look it up on the internet. You will have an answer in seconds.

Recently, my spiritual director showed me this quote from Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, a French Jesuit priest, paleontologist, and philosopher.

“Above all, trust in the slow work of God

This quote reminds us that God moves at God’s pace and sometimes God’s work is slow. Watching children grow and nurturing them, watching a tree grow to maturity, watching faith grow in someone that we never expected would make the faith connection, watching a person practice sobriety every day....these are all times when we recognize that God’s work is slow.

We are on the edge of spring. A month ago, spring seemed to be in a hurry, but it has slowed down and we have no choice except to wait and watch. Even when seeds are finally planted, the farmer knows that it will take months for that seed to produce a crop. God’s work just takes time.

Trust in the slow work of God my friends, trust in God’s timing.

Happy Spring,
Pastor Maureen



Photo by [Simon Wilkes](#) on [Unsplash](#)



Church Council

VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

March 18, 2024 @Lutheran Church

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:07 pm by Bryan Diercks

Devotions: Ben Norman

Members present and absent:

Present: Pastor Maureen Hagen; Bryan Diercks, President; Randy Klein, Vice President; Chris Finne; Missy McCann; Kevin Eckbald; Kent Volz; Ben Norman; Mo Hauck; and Andrew Featherstone, Secretary;
Nine voting members present

Unable to attend: Barbara Weigman and Roger Guttromson

Also Present: Kathy Tilderquist

Adoption of the Agenda:

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda for the March 18, 2024 council meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Minutes:

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2024 council meeting as written.

MOTION CARRIED

Reports Reviewed and Accepted:

Treasurer's Report (Attached)

We will need more money in the fuel fund. The fund is around \$3,000.

Ikon reports were confusing and Kathy went back to using Excel reports.

Finance Report (Attached)

One fourth of the insurance premium, \$6,105, was paid March 1. This accounted for most of the checkbook decline from about 80 thousand to about 73 thousand. The financial position of the church remains strong.

A \$3,025 deposit for the first stained glass window is being paid.

Parish Life (NA)

May 5th will be the last day of Sunday School.

Palm Sunday was good turn out.

Property Team Report (Attached)

Bruce Tilderquist and Randy Lindholm will move eternal candle with led light that will be on all the time.

John said the sound deadening panels in gym will cost around \$12,000 dollars. He will get second quote.

Cemetery Board (NA)

Executive Board Report (NA)



Pastor's Report) Attached)

Under Deb Donath's capable leadership we had another successful Family Fun Night on March 8. 50 people attended and many went to Lenten worship because we had 40 at the service and ran out of bulletins!

When Austin uses the Organ we will ask him how the Organ is performing.

Museum Board (N/A)

Endowment Board Report (N/A)

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

March 31, 2024

For the Month of March:

Checkbook Balance, March 1, 2024	\$ 73,001.12
General Fund Contributions:	22,462.58
Total Funds Available	95,463.70
Budget Approved Monthly Expenses:	18,719.12
Checkbook Balance, March 31, 2023	\$ 76,744.58

CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Bryan Diercks 507-259-3909

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

WHO TO CONTACT IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Indoors: Jim Hedeem 651-380-6054

Kitchen: Sue Hedeem 651-380-6270

Faye Drewianka 651-212-3209

Outdoors Duane Hanson 651-380-1763

Steve Hyllengren 651-258-4338

SUMMER SERMON SERIES...SUMMER SERMON SERIES...

Beginning on April 28th and continuing through the next eight weeks, Vasa will be reading and considering passages from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. Here is the schedule through the end of May:

- April 28: 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18 *The Church in Corinth*
May 5: 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20 *Who's in Charge?*
May 12: 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31 *Living in a Messianic Time*
May 19: Acts 2: 1-4; 1 Corinthians 12: 1-13 *The Gifts of the Spirit*
May 26: 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13 *Limits to Liberty*

FLO'S JOURNEY CONTINUES



Flo the philodendron began as a cutting from a plant in Bishop Hassanally's office. Emily Carson, assistant to the bishop, propagated dozens of these cuttings and made them available for churches and delegates at the 2023 synod assembly. I took one home and settled it in the Vasa sanctuary for the summer of 2023. Flo did not thrive in the sanctuary so come September Flo was moved to the mailroom of the church offices. She did a little better, maybe she added a leaf or two.



In late December I learned that Wendy Anderson has a green thumb. At that time Wendy had experienced some life challenges and as a result was rather withdrawn. But Flo the philodendron needed her care and Wendy was willing to give it a try. The second picture was taken in mid January and it shows Wendy with Flo which now has at least 6 leaves!



The third picture was taken on April 10 and two things were noticeable. First, look at Wendy! Smiling! Second look at how much Flo has grown. Twelve leaves!

Sometimes it takes a long time for change to become noticeable: months, if not years. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, a French Jesuit priest, wrote the following, "Above all, **trust in the slow work of God.**" That's what we all are doing; trusting in God and in God's slow work.



MANY HANDS... MAKE LIGHT WORK...

The Vasa Rummage Sale was, once again, a huge success! Thanks to everyone who donated items to sell and baked goods, helped set up, worked at the sale, and helped to clean up! So many people—5 of whom weren't even members of our church— gave so much time to this fund-raiser which the committee greatly appreciated.

Total earnings from the sale were \$6,706.76. Bake sale proceeds were \$1,314—a new high for baked goods! Lunch sales were \$821.75. The rummage items brought in \$4,571.01.

The money will be used to purchase new flooring in the church.

Left-over items that weren't sold were donated to Bridging, Wise-Penny in Red Wing, The Salvation Army, Savers and several libraries.

UPDATE!

CLOTHING DONATIONS TO BE PURCHASED BY EPILEPSY FOUNDATION

Vasa will continue to accept clothing, shoes, purses, belts and bedding donations until June 10th. Bag these items in large garbage bags, bring them to the Lutheran Center and put them on the stage. They will be sold to the Epilepsy Foundation fundraiser which is later in June.

Dear Community Partners,
-To anyone who is grieving,

We would like to invite you to participate in the upcoming Mayo Clinic Hospice Grief Support Groups. This summer we are offering the option of both Zoom or in-person Grief Support Groups in multiple locations. Our six-week specialized Grief Support Groups will begin the week of July 15th and go through the week of August 19th, 2024. The enclosed flier provides information regarding these groups and information about how to register.

We ask that you complete the entire form and include any additional information you think will be important for us to know. The group facilitators and bereavement coordinators will keep this information confidential.

When we receive your completed registration, you will then be sent a confirmation. Included will be a personal well-being checklist.

Participants who choose to attend their Grief Support Group on Zoom will need access to a computer with internet access, a microphone, and a camera. Participants also need to be able to meet in a private place without other people present because the conversations during grief group are to be kept confidential. You must provide an email to send materials for the meeting.

Because space can become limited, we encourage you to complete your registration prior to June 10th. Those who have attended these support groups rate them as very helpful.

Please email us at RSTHOSPICEBEREAVEMENT@mayo.edu or call us at 507-284-4002 or 1-800-679-9084 for any questions or concerns that you may have.

Sincerely,

Ann Siverling
Ana Wilson
Mayo Clinic Hospice
Bereavement Team

Mayo Clinic Bereavement Team
Phone: 507-284-4002 Fax: 507-284-0220
rsthospicebereavement@mayo.edu

GRIEF SUPPORT AVAILABLE



Mayo Clinic Hospice

Hospice adult grief support groups

Available for either in-person or online Zoom attendance

If a significant person in your life has died within the past three years, please consider being a part of an upcoming six week in-person or online Zoom grief group. These groups provide a safe way to connect with other people who are grieving, to be understood, and to share needs, concerns and feelings. Grief Group participants should be at least three months into their journey with grief after the death of their loved one.

Summer 2024: Week of July 15 – Week of August 19

ROCHESTER

Mondays, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Tuesdays, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Mayo Clinic Hospice Office
3425 40th Avenue NW
Rochester, MN

CANNON FALLS

Wednesdays, 10:30 – Noon

Mayo Clinic Health System
32021 County Road 24 Blvd.
Cannon Falls, MN

AUSTIN

Tuesdays from 1-2:30 p.m.

First Congregational Church
1910 3rd Ave NW
Austin, MN

ONLINE ZOOM*

Mondays, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

*To attend via Zoom you will need:

- Access to a computer with internet access, microphone and camera
- A private place without other people present because the conversations during grief groups are to be kept confidential
- An email address for receiving materials and the Zoom link



DETAILS

To register for a group, please contact us or use the QR code below:

(507) 284-4002
(800) 679-9084 (toll-free)
rsthospicebereavement@mayo.edu



Registration closes June 10

COVID-19

For the health and safety of yourself and others during in-person attendance, we ask that you follow current Mayo recommendations.

Vasa Family Night



Wednesday, May 8th
5:30-7:00pm
Vasa Lutheran Center

Light Meal – Tacos
Activities
Short Devotional

All are welcome!

We will recognize our graduating seniors on Sunday, May 19th during worship! This year's class includes:

Kate Hart,

Daughter of John and Lacey Hart

Morgan McCann,

Daughter of Missy and Corey McCann

Kaelie Nelson,

Daughter of Amber and Jeff Nelson

Chance Rehder,

Son of Patrick and Michele Rehder




TO OUR GRADUATING SENIORS

**VASA VBS IS AUGUST 12-15!
SAVE THE DATE!**

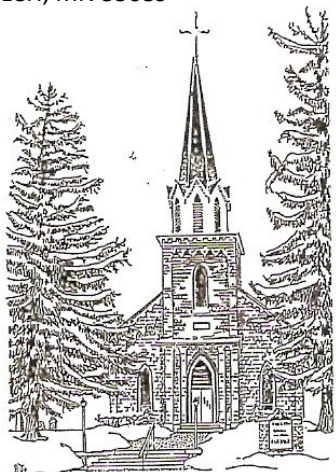


CAN YOU PREDICT THE STORIES?



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11:00 5:30-6:30 Final Faith Formation Wed Eve Worship 6:30pm	2	3 Pastor's Day Off	4
5 9AM Service of Holy Communion Last day of Sunday School (& PARTY!)	6 <u>TEAMS MEET</u> 4 PM Property 5 PM Finance 6:30 PM Museum	7 9:30 Coffee and Conversation	8 <i>Vasa Family Night</i>  Wednesday, May 8th 5:30-7:00pm Vasa Lutheran Center Light Meal - Facos Activities Short Devotional All are welcome!	9	10 Pastor's Day Off	11 Synod Assembly in Mankato
12 9AM Service of The Word & Undies Sunday!	13 5 PM Parish Life 6PM CHURCH COUNCIL	14 9:30 Coffee and Conversation	15 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11:00 Wed Eve Worship 6:30pm	16	17 Pastor's Day Off	18
LUTHERAN CENTER KITCHEN CLOSED FOR REMODELING						
19 9AM Service of Holy Communion & Graduation Sunday	20	21 9:30 Coffee and Conversation	22 Wed Eve Worship 6:30pm	23	24 Pastor's Day Off	25
LUTHERAN CENTER KITCHEN CLOSED FOR REMODELING						
26 9AM Service of The Word + Flag Ceremony following worship	27	28 9:30 Coffee and Conversation	29 Wed Eve Worship 6:30pm	30	31 Pastor's Day Off	
LUTHERAN CENTER KITCHEN CLOSED FOR REMODELING						
			11			

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 (in 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 Office

651.258.4327

Church Staff

Kathy Tilderquist, Treasurer
Emily Peterson, Office Administrator
Melissa McCann, Custodian
Anne Anderson, Worship Accompanist
Gail Strusz-Klein, Wedding Coordinator
Paul & Jay Mikaelsen, Missionaries in La Paz Bolivia Contact: pmikaelsen@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!