



VOLUME 59 No. 4

The Vasa Voice



APRIL 2023

What's Happening This Month at Vasa

April 5—Community Dinner Reservations are due in the office by NOON.

April 6—Maundy Thursday Worship at 7:00pm, with First Communion for Allison Finne, Larissa Fredin, and Avery Schaffer.

April 7 —Good Friday Worship at 7:00pm

April 9—Easter Sunday Worship at 9:00AM

April 16—19 —Rummage Sale Drop-offs (see details on p5)

April 20-21—Vasa Rummage Sale

April 27-28— American Red Cross Blood Drive at Vasa

Last Minute Announcement!

Wally Gardiner has Black Walnut seedlings available and free for the taking—if you do your own digging! They are anywhere between 6" and 12" right now.



Call Wally at 651-258-4358 if you're interested!

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

P. 2 Worship volunteers, April Birthdays, Calendar Updates

P. 3 Thoughts from Pastor Maureen

P. 4 Holy Week At Vasa

P. 5 Vasa Rummage Sale Details

P. 6-7 Church Council Highlights, Treasurer's Report

P. 8 American Red Cross Blood Drive

P. 9 Mark's Meditation

P. 10 Community Dinner, First Communion

P. 11 April Calendar



Worship Volunteers for April

USHER

April 2	Volunteer Needed
April 9	Kevin Eckblad
April 16	Roger Guttromson
April 23	Randy Klein
April 30	Bruce Tilderquist

READERS

April 2	Tim Carlson
April 9	Melanie Carlson
April 16	Marcia Featherstone
April 23	Sid Featherstone
April 30	Kathy Tilderquist

HOSPITALITY

April 2	Sue Hedeem
April 9	Volunteer Needed
April 16	Marcia Featherstone
April 23	Mo Hauck
April 30	Marilyn Hanson

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

April 2	Bruce Tilderquist
April 9	Melanie Carlson
April 23	Volunteer Needed
April 30	Volunteer Needed



And Wednesday Evening Worship Updates:

THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on April 2 (Palm Sunday, or April 9 (Easter). Sunday School will resume on April 16. The last day of Sunday School will be on April 30, and the

teachers have promised a party!

THERE WILL BE NO WEDNESDAY EVENING WORSHIP on April 12. We will resume worship on April 19th at 6:30pm in the Lutheran Center Fellowship Room. This service is very informal, includes conversation about the upcoming Scripture text, and always includes communion. As we move into the variable schedules of summer, we welcome you to consider this alternative service.



April 1	Michele Gardiner Chris Pearson Jack Stehr
April 3	Clara Hart Tristan Rehder
April 4	Liz Pearson
April 5	Megan Anderson Jeremy Soine
April 5	Adeline Lindholm
April 9	Anders Lindstrom
April 10	Troy Lindblom
April 11	Becca Erhart
April 12	Brian Lexvold
April 13	Katelyn Pearson
April 15	Geri Lindholm Daniel Mann
April 16	Ellie Clemens Claire Samuelson
April 17	Forest Evenson
April 20	Lincoln Poole
April 22	Bonnie Pagel
April 24	Max Fredin
April 25	Cashton Hovel
April 26	Eileen Anderson
April 28	Bodin Smith
April 29	Vicky Bauch

Thoughts from Pastor Maureen

It has been a long winter. As I write, the snow is still deep and the small patches of grass that I can actually see are dull and brown. The calendar may say that spring has arrived, but the view from my window does not support that premise. That's human nature: we use our eyes and ears and other senses and make judgments about what's going on in the world.

In Ezekiel 37:1-14 the prophet shares a vision of a valley filled with dry bones. While from a human perspective there appears to be no hope, God sees things differently. God sees the potential for life. God promises to breathe new life into seemingly dead bones.

To be clear, I'm not suggesting that Vasa Congregation looks like a valley of dry bones!

In the last few weeks my spirit has been renewed by the many Vasa members that have stepped forward to take on parish challenges. When the directive came out of the annual meeting to create a task force to handle renovations and remodeling of the church sanctuary; within an hour eight volunteers stepped forward. On March 19 when I passed around the sign-up sheets for assisting with worship the sheets returned filled! And of course there are the many people who volunteer on a monthly basis to help with the community dinner preparation and serving.

Ezekiel closes his prophetic vision with a promise: I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

The dry bones were restored to life through God's Spirit. Spring will come, the snow will melt, and the grass will turn green, in part because of the way God shaped creation. God's Spirit exists within each of us. God's Spirit breathes in and through us to volunteer in these many ways. God's Spirit continues to breathe in and through us to accomplish God's work in the world.

Peace to you,

~Pastor Maureen





...At Vasa



MAUNDY THURSDAY worship will be held at 7:00pm on Thursday, April 6th in the Sanctuary. Worshippers hear the words of individual absolution as well as receive an anointing with oil. We will celebrate Holy communion as we remember that it was on this night Jesus instituted the sacrament. Finally, the altar area will be stripped of furnishings as a sign of Jesus' abandonment by his followers and friends.



As we gather to remember **GOOD FRIDAY**, we will use a model for worship called "The Way of the Cross." The Way of the Cross is a devotion adapted from a custom observed by Christian pilgrims who said prayers in Jerusalem at a series of places in that city associated with the passion of Jesus.

Traditionally, there have been as many as fourteen stations of the cross. Of these, eight are based directly on events of scripture and are included in this rite. Each station includes sentences and responses, scripture verses, a prayer, and a hymn. Various crosses gathered from Vasa buildings will be on display as we visually move from station to station.

2023

VASA AND WELCH AREA

8-mile RUMMAGE (& BAKE) SALE

Donation Drop -off Dates and Times:

Saturday, April 15th 10-3
Sunday, April 16th 10-2
Monday, April 17th Noon-5
Tuesday, April 18th Noon-5
Wednesday, April 19th 9-7
Bake Sale Items ONLY

Thursday, April 20, 9 am-7 pm

Friday, April 21, 9 am-4 pm

Saturday, April 22, 8am-Noon

- (Thursday and Friday only at Vasa Lutheran Center)



BAKE SALE

All types of baked items are welcome: Pies. Cakes. Coffee Cakes. Rolls. Bars. Cookies. Breads. Buns. Please package your items on paper plates with clear wrapping.

**DROP OFF on Wednesday
April 19th ONLY!**

Sales to be held at Vasa Lutheran Center on HWY 19, Cross of Christ Lutheran Church on HWY 61, and at various homes along County Rd 7 & between both churches for over 8 miles! Lunch served Thurs/Fri at both churches.

Items Needed:

- Gently used clothing, sorted by gender and size.
- Books/Toys
- Small furniture items and tools
- Baby clothing and other baby items.
- Kinck-Knacks, linens, jewelry
- Small appliances
- Seasonal Holiday items
- Home decorations

If you are interesting in volunteering, Contact Faye Drewianka at 651-212-3209

PLEASE—NO Exercise Equipment, mattresses, TVs or large electronic items.



VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

February 20, 2023 @Lutheran Church

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm by Randy Klein, Vice President

Devotions: Pastor Maureen

Members present and absent:

Present: Pastor Maureen Hagen; Randy Klein, Vice President; Brian Diercks; Duane Hanson; Kent Volz; Mo Hauck; Ben Norman; Missy McCann; Lora Gruber; and Andrew Featherstone, Secretary;
Ten voting members present

Unable to attend: Barbara Weigman, President; Chris Finne; and Jason Stahnke.

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 January 16, 2023 council meeting as written.

MOTION CARRIED

Reports Reviewed and Accepted:

Treasurer's Report (Attached)

Fuel fund will have around \$2,000.00 after bill has been paid.

Storm damage bill has been paid.

Finance Report (Attached)

Gazebo bill has been paid.

It was moved and seconded to close The Youth Checkbook fund and move the funds to the designated fund Camperships & Youth Travel.

MOTION CARRIED

Parish Life (NA)

Pastor Maureen will conduct training for Protected in Christ Name.

Annual meeting is Feb 26. It will be the last Sunday to get your photo into the directory. The church will ask for a \$3 donation for color copy of directory. We will look into the possibility of having two options with black & white or color.

First Communion will be held on April 6.

Property Team Report (Attached)

Mark Hagen and John Hauck are looking into installing 4 Bose speakers in gym to help with sound.

We will discuss the bids for the church windows at the annual meeting. We are currently waiting for Joel Dithem to take a look at the windows after he gets back from vacation.

Cemetery Board (NA)

Executive Board Report (NA)

Pastor's Report (Attached)



**VASA CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
(CONTINUED)**

Parents want First Communion class to start 5:30 PM Wednesday March 8th. There will be 4 classes.
Ash Wednesday will be cancelled due to the current storm.
There will be a link for the Annual meeting to take place on Zoom for members that can't make it to church that day.
Museum Board (N/A)
Endowment Board Report (N/A)

Tabled Business:

New Business:

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:50 PM.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Report submitted by: Andrew Featherstone, Secretary

MOTION CARRIED

VASA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report
February, 2023

For the Month of February:

Checkbook Balance, February 1, 2023	\$ 67,301.52
General Fund Contributions:	17,214.06
Total Funds Available	84,515.58
Budget Approved Monthly Expenses:	23,367.60
Checkbook Balance, February 28, 2023	\$ 61,147.98
Mission Investment Fund, February 1, 2023	\$8,787.70
Mission Investment Fund, February 28, 2023	\$8,790.39

CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Bryan Diercks	507-259-3909
Vice President: Randy Klein rdklein@mmm.com	651-212-8045
Secretary: Andrew Featherstone rwfeatherstonepainting@gmail.com	651-470-9823
Kevin Eckblad	651-380-7849
Chris Finne	651-380-3690
Roger Guttromson	651-308-6349
Duane Hanson	651-380-1763
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	Greg Drewianka	651-301-2472
	Duane Hanson	651-380-1763
	Steve Hyllengren	651-258-4338



Good Earth Village Wish list

Program Supplies

- Tents - new or used 2-4 person tents Eureka or Coleman brand preferred)
- Life Jackets - new PFDs all sizes (Type 2 and Type 3 preferred)
- Outdoor Games/Equipment - frisbees, volleyball net, kickballs, soccer balls, footballs, beach balls, volley balls.
- Health Supplies - general first-aid supplies for the Health Office
- Tarps - All sizes used for wood, camping, and hauling
- Water shoes - all sizes
- Arts and Crafts Supplies - markers, pens, pencils, colored pencils, tape, glue etc...
- New or used Canoe
- Hammocks and straps

Property Supplies

- New matching couch and chair sets (2)
- New 10-15 passenger van
- New or used AWD vehicle
- Side by side or stackable washer and dryer
- Wolmans natural stain and brushes
- New deck furniture
- New truck for plowing snow
- Hand battery-powered tools (Milwaukee brand)
- Gravel and wood chips for camp roads and other projects

Retreat Ministry Supplies

- Bluetooth Stereo PA System (PBX-800TWS 8-Inch)
- Blu Ray Player (Sony BDP BX370)

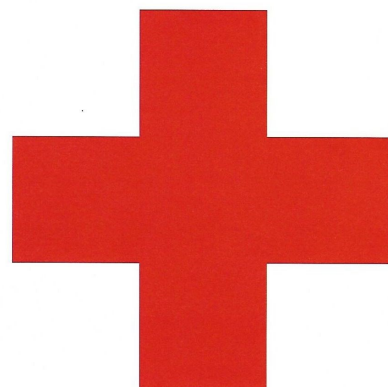


DONATIONS WANTED!

Give blood.

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

American Red Cross



DONATIONS WANTED!

Blood Drive **Vasa Lutheran Center**

15235 Norelius Rd

Thursday, April 27, 2023
1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Friday, April 28, 2023
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.



Scan to be directed to
RedCrossBlood.org



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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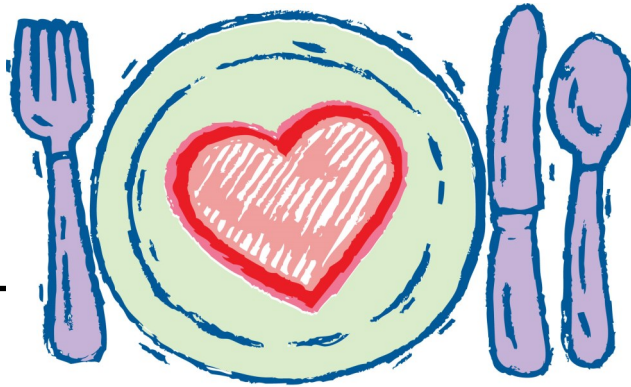
MARK'S MEDITATION

THE PASSION OF CHRIST

Every year during holy week we hear the passion of Christ read in church. But the lectionary, which follows a three-year cycle, gives us just one account in a given year. How do the four Gospel accounts of this story compare? The Gospel of Mark, which was written first (~40 years after the event) has Jesus in despair on the cross, crying, "Why have you forsaken me?" Matthew, written later, has Jesus give a loud cry. Later still, Luke has Jesus speaking of heaven to the thieves also crucified. Finally, sometime in the early 2nd century (~80 years after the event), the author of John has Jesus being stoic. Proclaiming "It is finished." Very different descriptions indeed.

The table below compares the passion account in all four Gospels. Critics like to point out the differences. But, laid out like this, you can see that there is general agreement. The main difference I see is in the telling of events after the resurrection. The Synoptic gospels (Mark, Matthew & Luke) have the disciples meeting Jesus way up in Galilee, but John places these events in Jerusalem. (All passages are from the NRSV.)

Topic	Mark 15-16	Matthew 27-28	Luke 23-24	John 19-20
Jesus' words on the cross	³⁴ "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"	³⁷ Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.	(To one of the two rebels:) "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."	²⁶ He said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." ²⁸ "I am thirsty." ³⁰ When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished."
Words of the white robed messenger at the empty tomb	go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you."	go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.'	Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again."	Woman, why are you weeping?"
Meeting Jesus	After this he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. ¹³ And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them.	Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."	¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some doubted.	"Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him "Rabbouni!"



COMMUNITY DINNER

The April Community Dinner is on April 12th. Be sure and get your reservations in by April 5th, at noon, either by email, phone or online (If you have trouble with the online one, please let the office know!) The menu features: Chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas and carrots, tossed salad, dinner roll, and a mini candy bar for dessert.

Also, remember to bring your food shelf donations with you! Vasa is collecting all year. Here are some suggested items:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| *Cereal | *Snack crackers |
| *Canned Chicken | *Cookies |
| *Canned Fruit | *Pasta |
| *Chili | |
| *Diced Tomatoes | |
| *Sloppy joe sauce | |
| *Hamburger Helper | |

If you are interested in volunteering to help with the meal preparations, sign up sheets are available in the back of the sanctuary and in the Lutheran Center.



Faith Formation



FIRST COMMUNION STUDENTS:

We rejoice with the following students who will have completed their first communion classes and will celebrate their first communion on Maundy Thursday, April 6th.

Allison Finne, daughter of Chris and Kerry Finne

Larissa Fredin, daughter of Ross and Terry Fredin

Avery Schaffer, daughter of Chris and Amy Schaffer



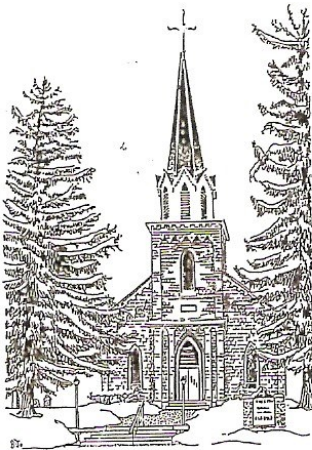
There will be no Wednesday Evening Faith Formation on April 12, the Community Dinner night. Faith Formation will continue on April 19th and 26th, with April 26th being the end of the education season for this school year.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<div>1</div> 
<div>2</div> <p>9AM Service of Holy Communion</p> 	<div>3</div> <p>TEAMS MEET 4 PM Property 5 PM Finance 6 PM Parish Life 6:30 PM Museum</p>	<div>4</div>  <p>9:30 Coffee and Conversation</p>	<div>5</div> <p>Community Dinner Reservations Due</p> <p>NO Faith Formation NO Wed Eve Worship</p>	<div>6</div> <p>Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00PM</p>	<div>7</div> <p>Good Friday Worship 7:00PM</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<div>8</div>
<div>9</div> <p>9AM Service of Holy Communion</p> 	<div>10</div> <p>Pastor Maureen on Vacation</p>	<div>11</div>  <p>9:30 Coffee and Conversation</p> <p>Pastor Maureen on Vacation</p>	<div>12</div> <p>Community Dinner 5pm—Pick Up 5:30p Dine In</p> <p>NO Faith Formation NO Wed Eve Worship</p> <p>Pastor Maureen on Vacation</p>	<div>13</div> <p>Pastor Maureen on Vacation</p>	<div>14</div> <p>Pastor Maureen on Vacation</p>	<div>15</div> <p>Pastor Maureen on Vacation</p>
<div>16</div> <p>9AM Service of the Word (with Sunday School at the Lutheran Center)</p>	<div>17</div> <p>6PM CHURCH COUNCIL</p>	<div>18</div>  <p>9:30 Coffee and Conversation</p>	<div>19</div> <p>Faith Formation 5:30-6:30 pm Wed Eve Worship 6:30pm</p>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<div>22</div>
<div>23</div> <p>9AM Service of Holy Communion with Baptism</p> <hr/> <div>30</div> <p>9AM Holy Communion with Baptism</p>	<div>24</div> <p>Endowment Team 6:30pm</p>	<div>25</div>  <p>9:30 Coffee and Conversation</p>	<div>26</div> <p>Faith Formation 5:30-6:30 Wed Eve Worship 6:30pm</p>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<div>29</div>

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

Barbara Weigman, Council President 507.202.7880

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

office@vasalutheran.org

Church Staff

Kathy Tilderquist, Treasurer

Emily Peterson, Office Administrator

Melissa McCann, Custodian

Anne Anderson, Worship Accompanist

Gail Strusz-Klein, Wedding Coordinator

Vasa Mission Statement

We, the Vasa Congregation,
Called by God, commit to:
Worshipping together,
Growing in Faith,
Serving Others, and
Welcoming and loving all!