

Vasa Lutheran Church

A Sunday for Giving Thanks

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist: Anne Anderson

Sunday, November 23, 2025

ANNOUNCING THE DAY: Vasa Lutheran Church wishes to acknowledge and honor the Bdewakantunwan (Mdewakanton) Band of Eastern Dakota Oyate (people) who were the first to gather, pray, dance, and sing on this land. We want to lift up the importance and necessity of acknowledging the land and the original peoples whose stories are rooted in this place. May we honor them not just with these words, but with actions that work for justice; leading to the peace and wholeness of all peoples. *This acknowledgement originated with Bishop Felix Malpica of the La Crosse area synod of the ELCA.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,
**you have shown us the ways of your heart,
yet we stray from your paths.
We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression
and do not embrace the freedom of your faithful promises.
We ignore our neighbors. We exploit the earth.
We reject your abundance,
trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love.
Repair our relationships, restore what we have broken,
renew our hearts, and bring us to new life. Amen.**

Hear the good news:
God the Faithful One loves you,
☩ in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN O GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING

ELW 880

GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: and also with you.

THANKSGIVING READINGS and HYMNS:

1. MARTIN LUTHER'S EXPLANATION TO THE FIRST ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLE'S CREED

The First Article: On Creation

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

What is this? or What does this mean?

I believe that God has created me together with all that exists. God has given me and still preserves my body and soul: eyes, ears, and all limbs and senses; reason and all mental faculties.

In addition, God daily and abundantly provides shoes and clothing, food and drink, house and farm, spouse and children, fields, livestock, and all property; along with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life. God protects me against all danger and shields and preserves me from all evil. And all this is done out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all! For all of this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.

2. Psalm 100:1-5 <A Psalm of thanksgiving.>

L: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

**C: Worship the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.**

L: Know that the LORD is God.

**C: It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

L: Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.

C: Give thanks to him, bless his name.

L: For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever,

C: and his faithfulness to all generations.

3. **READING:** from *Ladder to the Light: An Indigenous Elder's Meditation on Hope and Courage* by Bishop Steven Charleston, retired Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska.

HYMN:

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

ELW 879

We will sing verses 1, 2, and 4.

4. **READING:** Wendell Berry, Untitled poem from his collection *Leavings*

5. **READING:** Carrie Newcomer, portions of the poem *Three Gratitudes*

HYMN:

COME YE THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME

ELW 693

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Almighty God, **we thank you for your goodness to us and to all that you have made. We praise you for your creation, for keeping us and all things in your care, and for all the blessings of life. Above all, we bless you for your immeasurable love in redeeming the world through Christ Jesus. Give us such an awareness of your mercies that with thankful hearts we praise you, not only with our lips but in our lives, by loving our neighbors and giving ourselves to your service through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING: Jeremiah 29:1 and 4-14 These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. 7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. 8 For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, 9 for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the LORD.

10 For thus says the LORD: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. 11 For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. 12 Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. 13 When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, 14 I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

L: Word of God, word of life,

C: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON:

HYMN

WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD

ELW 870

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

WE ARE BAPTIZED IN CHRIST JESUS

ELW 451

We will sing verses 1 and 2.

BAPTISM OF HAZEL CATHERINE ROHLOFF

Pastor: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you Cooper and Krystin, desire to have your daughter baptized into Christ? If so say, "I do."

Response: I do.

As you bring Hazel to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the word of God and the holy supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that she may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Hazel grow in the Christian faith and life? If so say, "I do."
Cooper and Krystin respond: I do.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Hazel in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? If so say, "I do."

Mitch and Meagan respond: I do.

Pastor: People of God, do you promise to support Hazel and pray for her in her new life in Christ? **We do.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

If so answer, "I renounce them."

Response: **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

If so answer, "I renounce them."

Response: **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

If so answer, "I renounce them."

Response: **I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

Pastor: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

BAPTISM Hazel Catherine Rohloff is baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Hazel with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen.

Hazel Catherine Rohloff, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen.

WELCOME

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and
redeeming word to all the world.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

WE ARE BAPTIZED IN CHRIST JESUS

ELW 451

We will sing verse 3.

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION: Each petition will end with the words: Hear us,
O God. Please respond with: **your mercy is great.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

GENEROSITY MOMENT:

SENDING HYMN:

NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

ELW 840

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you,
God the Son save you,
and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead.

The holy Trinity bless you ☩
and grant you a faithful and courageous heart
now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God

Parish Pulse:

Nov. 16

Participating in Worship: **106**

+ **13** Live Streams

Total Offerings:

November 16th \$ 2,415



Wendy Anderson, Jay Mikaelson,
Scott Sorenson, Lorrie Samuelson,
Lynda Rosener Sack, Murlyn
Rosener, Terri Fredin, Terri
Mandelkow, Jake Jacobson,
Connor Mikolichuk (Rosann
Pearson's grandson), and Roger
Guttromson.

Worship Assistants Today:

Usher: Rick Samuelson

Hospitality: Lora Gruber

Worship Assistants Next Week

November 30

Usher: Bruce Tilderquist

Reader: Katie Featherstone

Hospitality: Sue Ness



Christmas Poinsettias

This year's Poinsettias order forms are available.

Deadline for the order forms is Dec. 4th. Forms are
located at the back of the Church and by the office
in the Lutheran Center. If there are no forms
available call or email the office your order and
Preston will prepare it

MUSIC FOR NOVEMBER 23, 2025

O GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING

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FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt.
Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

COME YE THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.
Music: George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

WE ARE BAPTIZED IN CHRIST JESUS

Text and music © 1985 John Ylvisaker

WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD

Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882-1963
Music: A. Valerius, Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck, 1626

NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth,
1827-1878
Music: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

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The Sheldon Theatre Brass Band is thrilled to invite the community to its annual Holiday Concert kicking off the Christmas Season. The concert is on Saturday, November 29th at 3:00 PM at the historic Sheldon Theatre in downtown Red Wing. This beloved seasonal event promises an afternoon of joyful music, festive spirit, and cherished holiday classics performed by one of the region's premier brass ensembles.