

# The Vasa Voice

Volume 57 No. 10

October 2021



## Highlights of Vasa in October

### October 13- Community Dinner

This month's community dinner occurs on Wednesday, October 13<sup>h</sup> with Tater Tot Hot dish. As we did in September, meals will be for Pick-Up or Delivery only, with reservations required in advance (for prep purposes.) Reservation forms are available at the Lutheran Center or at Church, OR, you can also call or email the church office and leave your name, number of meals desired and whether you prefer pick-up or delivery. If you can help with food preparations, serving or delivering meals, please see the sign up sheets posted at the Lutheran Center during the week and at the Church on Sundays. ALSO!! PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING AN ITEM FOR THE FOOD SHELF WHEN YOU COME PICK UP YOUR MEAL!

### October 17 - Pastor Appreciation Sunday

This is a time to thank our Pastor and to show our gratitude for all of the hard work that she does here at Vasa and in the community.

### October 30 - Vasa Museum Swedish Pancake Breakfast

Come out and support the Vasa Museum Board's annual Swedish Pancake Breakfast fundraiser on October 30 from 9:00-11:00 AM. Free-will offerings will be gratefully accepted, with all proceeds going toward the installation of new windows in the Museum. Due to ongoing Covid -19 concerns, and for everyone's safety, breakfasts will be available for **pick-up only**, and advance reservations are required (for prep purposes.) Call or email the church office with your name, and number of meals desired. [office@vasalutheran.org](mailto:office@vasalutheran.org) or 651-258-4327.

### *Here's what's on the Inside!*

- P. 2 Pastor's Thoughts and Thank You note, Treasurer's Report
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Pastor Appreciation Sunday
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## Pastor's Thoughts for October

**John 13:34-35** "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Sometimes it's hard to love one another; especially when two people disagree on a topic. There's plenty to disagree on these days and it seems that each side can cite statistics and rationales for the "correctness" of their position.

One perspective in all these disagreements is the way of Jesus. Jesus' command is that we are to love one another. He goes on to say, "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." Recognizing that Jesus goes all the way to the cross as he demonstrates his love for all of the world means that he is speaking of a sacrificial type of love. Sacrificial love is expressed by a GI who throws himself on a hand grenade so that his buddies are protected. Sacrificial love is expressed by a parent who gets up every hour or two to feed a hungry newborn. Sacrificial love is expressed by a child who takes a long term family leave to care for an elderly (and perhaps dying) parent.

These are big and obvious examples of sacrificial love. But sacrificial love is also expressed when we continue to love one another while knowing that we disagree with that other person about a political stance, or a vaccination position or an immigration policy. These are the hot button items of our day. Can we continue to work side by side in love with that other person, even when we disagree? Can we agree to disagree?

I hope so and here's why. The world is hungry for love. People desperately want to see churches following the way of Jesus and loving one another. We don't need to talk evangelism through our words. As Jesus said, "[E]veryone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Grace and peace to you,  
~Pastor Maureen

in a world  
where you can  
be anything.  
BE KIND.

*And speaking of loving your neighbors...*



Dear Vasa Friends,

A little gift in appreciation of the good meals delivered by a good man. It's a nice thing you do, making the community feel cared about during this difficult year.

God bless you for the work you do.

With gratitude,

Nancy and Don Nord (9/23/21)



### VASA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Treasurer's Report August, 2021

For the Month of August:

Checkbook Balance, August 1, 2021	\$39,615.26
General Fund Contributions	24,132.40
Mission Endowment Offering	10,138.00
Total Funds Available	73,885.66
Budget Approved Monthly Expenses:	18,515.00
Checkbook Balance, August 31, 2021	\$55,370.66
Mission Investment Fund, July 31, 2021	\$20,6667.01
Mission Investment Fund, July 30, 2021	\$20,675.77

# Worship Volunteers for October

## USHERS

- 3 Steve Hyllengren
- 10 Duane Martinson
- 17 John Featherstone
- 24 *Volunteer needed*
- 31 *Volunteer needed*

## READERS

- 3 Kathy Tilderquist
- 10 Jessica Anderson
- 17 Jeannette Anderson
- 24 Duane Martinson
- 31 *Volunteer needed*

## COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

- 3 Greg Drewianka
- 17 BJ Norman
- 31 *Volunteer needed*



If you would like to volunteer to assist with worship during this month, please contact Pastor Maureen or Emily in the church office so you can be added to the schedule.

Apologies for mistakes or omissions. If you know of any birthdays that are missing or wrong, please contact the Vasa church office. THANKS!



## Birthdays

- 2 Edward Gruber
- 5 Jason Stahnke  
Bryan Diercks
- 6 Braeden Gillis
- 8 Jeannette Anderson  
Rebecca Fleming
- 9 Irene Carpenter
- 11 Camden Smith
- 13 Elijah Bauch  
Jenna Montey  
Lyle Ness
- 15 Grace Nelson  
Judy Scripture
- 19 Michael Rosener
- 20 Cary Clemens
- 21 Caleb Diercks
- 23 Allen Peterson
- 24 Julia Fleming
- 27 Coty Hyllengren  
James Gruber
- 28 Murlyn Rosener
- 30 Dale Anderson  
Doris Munsen
- 31 Jillian Anderson

Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matt. 6:21

## My Offering

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount \_\_\_\_\_



Envelopes are being ordered now for 2022.

If you haven't been using them and wish to start doing so, please let Kathy Tilderquist know. Likewise, if you no longer wish to use them, let Kathy know that too so she can adjust the order. Thanks!

**Sunday October 17 is Pastor Appreciation Day! This is a time to thank our Pastor and to show our gratitude for of the hard work she does here at Vasa and in the community. There will be a basket for cards and COVID-FRIENDLY refreshments after the service!**

## Free Community Dinner



Thank you to everyone who helped with our first Community Dinner in September. It was a huge success! On September 8 we prepared 303 meals, 102 of which were delivered. Thanks

to Lorentz Meats for the donation of Brats, and also to our drivers, food preparers and servers.

We will be doing the same take-out/delivery options on **October 13** where the menu is Tater Tot Hot Dish. Reservations are still required for the meals so we know how much food to prepare and so we can pack up the meals with accuracy. You can pick up reservation forms at church on Sundays, at the Vasa Center during the week, or by calling or emailing the church office. **The deadline for October reservations will be Wednesday, October 6, at NOON.** We will also be delivering to **farmers** who are working the harvest, and those **will require reservations too**. Last year, we delivered 68—so please let us know as soon as possible if your farmer wants a meal that night!

Lastly, please bring a donation for the food pantry when you come pick up your meal.



Tutors are sought for middle- and high-school Hispanic students in Red Wing public schools. There are two options for service:

**Academic support Tutor:** Math, Language Arts, and Science.

**Mentor:** comprehensive support in social, emotional, and cultural engagement. Mentor activities include: outdoor (hiking, exploring), indoor, mindfulness and Hispanic cultural activities.

The optimum time commitment is two days per week, 1-2 hours per day during school hours or after-school hour. No Spanish is necessary.

This volunteer opportunity is part of the SE MN Synod's Outreach Ministry called AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation, and Opportunities). If you are interested, or would like more information, please contact Brian McDonald, member of the Synod task force for this ministry. He can be reached at: [brmcdonald@frontier.com](mailto:brmcdonald@frontier.com).



Dear Pastor Maureen and all of Vasa Congregation,

Thank you so much for baptizing Raymond Lupia and sharing your church with us. It was such a special day. Wish we lived closer so we could attend every Sunday service. Vasa has always held a place in my heart, and now it does even more. We'll see you next time we're in town. Love every single one of you.

Love,

Megan, Aaron, Vinny and Ray (Lupia)

## Tutoring Opportunities in Red Wing Public Schools



# VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

August 16, 2021 @Lutheran Church

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 6:10pm by Barbara Weigman, President

**Devotions:** Duane Hanson

## **Members present and absent:**

**Present:** Pastor Maureen Hagen; Barbara Weigman, President; Bryan Diercks; Duane Hanson; Jessica Anderson; Ben Norman; Greg Drewianka; Lora Gruber; Steve Hyllengren; and Andrew Featherstone, Secretary;  
Ten voting members present

**Unable to attend:** Sid Featherstone, Vice President; Randy Klein; Missy McCann; Kent Volz; and Kevin Eckblad;

**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 June 21, 2021 council meeting as written.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **Reports Reviewed and Accepted:**

### 1. Treasurer's Report (Attached)

It was moved and seconded to lock in price for fuel contract at \$1:49/gallon at 7,400 gallons from September 1 – March 1.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### 2. Finance Report (Attached)

- a. Stamps will be going up to 58 cents. Going to invest by buying 3 years of stamps before price goes up.
- b. Bryan Diercks will sign papers for new check signers for Mission Investment Fund.
- c. Mark will put together invoice for live streaming equipment and cameras.
- d. \$66,000 is in general fund at the moment. Discussions about whether to move some money to a fund to earn interest. It was decided to keep the money where it is now for future expenses and such.

### 3. Parish Life (N/A)

- a. Next blood drive will be November 18 and 19.
- b. September 1 is the deadline for placing orders for community dinner.
- c. It was discussed to have Sunday School at the Lutheran Center during the church service, starting the fourth Sunday in September. Every Third Sunday would be family worship.

## August 2021 Church Council Meeting Minutes (cont.)

1. Property Team Report (N/A)
  - a. Duane and Steve took trees down and hauled away from Lutheran Center.
  - b. Sid Featherstone will look for wood shingles to finish museum buildings.
  - c. Another engineer will be hired from insurance company to come inspect church roof and steeple. Previous engineer doesn't work for insurance company anymore.
  - d. John Otto has run into extra cost for the lift and the windows and steeple are in rougher shape than originally expected.

It was moved and seconded to pay John Otto what the original bid for the painting the steeple and windows, when he is finished. Then reimburse John for the extra cost of the lift rental.

**MOTION CARRIED**

2. Cemetery Board(N/A)
3. Executive Board Report (N/A)
4. Pastor's Report (Attached)
  - a. Discussion about getting different bids for insurance from someone local. Jessica Anderson will contact Vasa Spring Garden for quote and Kathy Tilderquist will contact Ali Peters for a quote.
5. Museum Board (N/A)
6. Endowment Board Report (N/A)

### **Tabled/Old Business:**

North Doors on Church

### **New Business:**

Vasa Trail by Greg Drewianka. Moved to tabled business for September meeting.

### **September Meeting Dates:** (Tentative schedule)

Property: Monday September 13 @9:30am

Finance: Monday September 13 @5:00pm

Parish Life: Monday September 13 @6:00pm

Executive: TBD

Council: Monday, September 20 @6:00pm Devotions: Missy McCann

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:30 PM.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Report submitted by: Andrew Featherstone, Secretary

# Mark's Meditations...

## Thoughts on Original Sin

The doctrine of original sin began to emerge in the 3rd century, but only became fully formed with the writings of Augustine of Hippo (354–430), who was the first author to use the phrase "original sin". Augustine's formulation of original sin became popular among Protestant reformers, such as Martin Luther and John Calvin, who equated original sin with "hurtful desire," (that is, lust,) stating that it persisted even after baptism. Calvin went further and taught that original sin involved a loss of free will except to sin.

The Apostle Paul wrote "Through the sin of one man, death comes to all." (See Romans 5 text below.) This passage is often linked to the story of Adam and Eve eating from the *tree of knowledge*.

**Genesis 2, 3** ...<sup>2:9</sup> In the middle of the garden he placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ...<sup>16</sup> But the Lord God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden—<sup>17</sup> except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die."

...<sup>22</sup> Then the Lord God said, "Look, the humans have become like us, *knowing both good and evil*. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!"<sup>23</sup> So the Lord God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made.

Implied in this story is the notion that before their "eyes were opened," Adam and Eve did not know what sin was. Then, after this event, they accrued the *responsibility* of recognizing sin. Likewise, in the story of Cain and Able, God does not say that Cain is helpless against sin because of Adam. God admonished Cain to struggle with sin and to master it.

**Genesis 4** When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground.<sup>3</sup> When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the Lord.<sup>4</sup> Abel also brought a gift—the best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The Lord accepted Abel and his gift,<sup>5</sup> but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.

<sup>6</sup> "Why are you so angry?" the Lord asked Cain. "Why do you look so dejected?"<sup>7</sup> You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. *But you must subdue it and be its master.*"

Which brings us to Paul. Theologian Peter Enns points out that Paul says Adam's disobedience did have a universal effect. But that effect is "death" not "inherited sinfulness."

**Romans 5**<sup>12</sup> When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.<sup>13</sup> Yes, people sinned even before the law was given. But it was not counted as sin because there was not yet any law to break.

In Deuteronomy, God doesn't say that sin is inevitable. Righteous is not beyond our reach—it is a choice.

**Deuteronomy 30**<sup>11</sup> "This command I am giving you today is not too difficult for you, and *it is not beyond your reach*.<sup>12</sup> It is not kept in heaven, so distant that you must ask, 'Who will go up to heaven and bring it down so we can hear it and obey?' ...<sup>14</sup> No, the message is very close at hand; *it is on your lips and in your heart* so that you can obey it.<sup>15</sup> Today I am *giving you a choice* between life and death, between prosperity and disaster.

Original sin has long been a tradition in the Christian faith, and a tenet of the Lutheran Church. (I can assure you that Pastor Maureen works hard to be an orthodox Lutheran.) But personally, I've concluded that this is a concept that should be tossed out. The idea that we are damned because of the sins of our ancestors is the very definition of racism. I suspect that the 4th century concept of Original Sin was, at best, a marketing ploy; an argument that only through a specific set of beliefs do we receive God's grace. This puts unnecessary limits on God. Jesus' message of salvation stands on its own, regardless of our actions or sins.



## [ *at a glance* ] GIFTS OF GRAIN



### WHAT IS A GIFT OF GRAIN?

"Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce." –Proverbs 3:9

If you farm, your crops are your life and the livelihood for which you work so hard. You nurture them from the time you plant until the time you harvest. Sharing your gifts of grain to support the ELCA ministries you care about most – your congregation included – is a meaningful way you can share your harvest with others.

#### Here's how it works:

If you are a producer of a marketable commodity, you can make a gift with your unsold inventory. Whether the commodity gift is corn, wheat, almonds, avocados or cattle, the ELCA Foundation is prepared to partner with you, the producer, to make the gift happen.

Upon receiving intent of this gift, the ELCA Foundation will establish an account at the appropriate elevator or processor and work to receive and sell the inventory. We'll distribute the gift according to your wishes, benefiting the ELCA ministries or congregation(s) of your choice. A gift of grain can be used as an outright gift, to establish or grow a donor advised fund, or to establish or grow a named endowment fund with the ELCA Foundation.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:



Hold or harvest your unsold crop inventory.



Inform the ELCA Foundation of your gift intention.



Coordinate with the ELCA Foundation on your delivery of grain/commodity to the elevator or processor. The ELCA Foundation will handle the sale and distribute your gift to ministry.



## WHY SHOULD I MAKE A GIFT OF GRAIN?

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Using stored commodities or unsold inventory to make a current gift, you can maximize the benefit to ministry while reducing taxable income. No income is recorded on a gift of grain, but production costs remain as part of the farmer's overall deductible expenses.

The chart below gives a simple example of how a gift of grain can have greater impact than a cash donation.

	<b>DONATING CASH</b>	<b>DONATING GRAIN</b>
Grain Value	\$10,000	\$10,000
Income to Farmer	\$10,000	\$0
Federal Income Tax (28%)*	\$2,800	\$0
State Income Tax (7%)*	\$700	\$0
Self-employment Tax (15.3%)	\$1,530	\$0
<b>TOTAL DONATION</b>	<b>\$4,970</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>

## RULES TO KEEP IN MIND:

- At least 70% of the distribution of your gift must benefit ELCA-related ministries, congregations and/or organizations.
- The ELCA Foundation will provide you with a donation receipt for the gift. The gift is not considered tax-deductible, but the donor will not have to declare this amount as income to their farming operation.
- The donor cannot control when or where the ELCA Foundation sells the commodity, and the ELCA Foundation will receive all sale proceeds.

## WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Find your regional gift planner at [ELCA.org/foundation](http://ELCA.org/foundation) or call 800-638-3522.

The examples and information provided are for illustrative and educational purposes only and should not be considered tax or legal advice. Please consult with your tax or legal adviser about proceeding with your gift plan.

\*The 28% federal income tax rate and 7% state income tax rate are used for illustrative purposes only. Individual federal income tax and state income tax rates may vary.





**Come Support the Vasa  
Museum!**

**OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup>  
SWEDISH  
PANCAKE  
BREAKFAST  
FUNDRAISER FOR  
THE VASA**



**\*\*We will gratefully be accepting  
free will offerings at the time of pick  
up. All proceeds will go toward  
installation of new windows in the  
Vasa Museum\*\***



**ONLY  
OCTOBER 30, 2021  
9:00-11:00 AM**

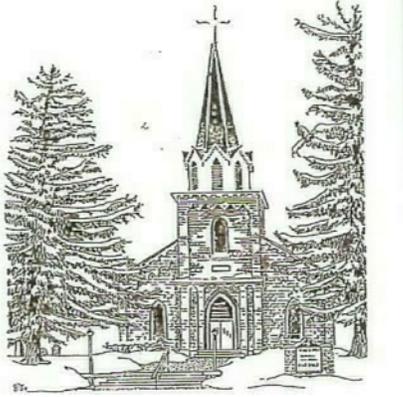
- MENU**
- SWEDISH  
PANCAKES**
- SAUSAGE PATTIES**
- LINGONBERRIES**

**Call OR email the Church office to  
reserve your Swedish Pancake  
Breakfasts.  
651-258-4327 or  
office@vasalutheran.org  
Meal Reservations due by NOON,**

# OCTOBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 2
3 9am Service of Holy Communion 9am Sunday School (Lutheran Center)	4 9:30 AM Property Team 5:00PM Finance Team 6:30pm Parish Life	5 9:30 am 	6  MEAL RESERVATIONS DUE TODAY! *5:30 Faith Formation (& Conf.) 6:30 Wed Eve Worship + Communion	7	Pastor's Day Off	8 9 Pastor's Day Off
10 9am Service of The Word 9am Sunday School (Lutheran Center)	11 5:00pm Exec Team	12 9:30 am 	13  PICK-UP or DELIVERY ONLY 5:30-6:30 PM *5:30 Faith Formation (& Conf.) 6:30 Wed Eve Worship + Communion	14	Pastor's Day Off	15 16 Pastor's Day Off
17 9am Intergenerational Service with Holy Communion 9am No Sunday School	18 6:00pm Church Council	19 9:30 am 	20 *5:30 Faith Formation (& Conf.) 6:30pm Wed Eve Worship + Communion	21	Pastor's Day Off	22 23 Pastor's Day Off
24 9am Service of The Word (and SS @ LC) <hr/> 31 9am Service of Holy Communion (and SS @LC)	25 7:00pm Endowment Team	26 9:30 am 	27 *5:30 Faith Formation (& Conf.) 6:30pm Wed Eve Worship + Communion	28  Pancake Breakfast Reservations due today at Noon	29 Pastor's Day Off	30  Swedish Pancake Breakfast for Vasa Museum Fundraiser 9:00-11:00

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

**Sunday School 9am at the Lutheran Center**

### **Wednesday Evenings**

- **Faith Formation for children** 5:30pm
- **Worship and Everyday Bible Conversations** 6:30pm Wednesdays

Vasa Lutheran Center

### **Pastor Maureen Hagen**

[pastor@vasalutheran.org](mailto:pastor@vasalutheran.org)

(Cell) 507-251-5270

Church Office 651-258-4327

Office Email: [office@vasalutheran.org](mailto:office@vasalutheran.org)

Website: [vasalutheran.org](http://vasalutheran.org)

### **Executive Team**

Barbara Weigman      507-202-7880

Sid Featherstone      651-214-7486

Andrew Featherstone      651-470-9823

### **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