



I shall ask God mercifully to protect us.
Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air,
administer medicine and take it.
I shall avoid places and persons where
my presence is not needed in order not to
become contaminated and thus perchance
inflict and pollute others and so cause
Their death as a result of my negligence.

If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me however, I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See, this is such a God-fearing faith because it is nether brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God.

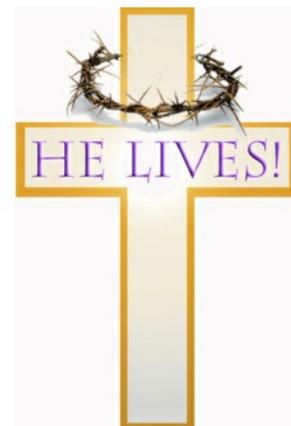
Martin Luther

“Whether One May Flee From a Deadly Plague”

1527

Here's what's on the Inside!

- P. 2 Pastor Maureen's Thoughts, Treasurer's Report
- P. 3 Ways to Stay Connected, April Birthdays
- P. 4 Letter from the Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton
- P. 5-7 Annual Meeting **unapproved** Minutes
- P. 8-9 Council Meeting Minutes,
- P. 10 Red Cross blood Drive, Jean Quilt Thank you
- P. 11 Rummage Sale - Cancelled :(



Thoughts from Pastor Maureen

¹The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

²When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes—they shall stumble and fall.

³Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.

Psalm 27:1-3

"Though an army encamp against me" sounds a bit like the Covid-19 viral army that is attacking us these days. The psalmist opens with a word of praise to the Lord, saying that there is nothing to fear when the Lord is the stronghold of our lives.

Martin Luther also lived in uncertain times 500 years ago. In 1527 bubonic plague broke out in Wittenberg, Germany, his home community. He was asked "whether one may flee from a deadly plague."

His response:

"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence....If my neighbor needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above."

We will continue to rely on God to protect us as God has so faithfully done for all of our lives. Then we will do what we can to help our neighbor. It might mean distantly socializing (or social distancing) or running errands or any of a multitude of other options.

We will get through this time of uncertainty. We will be better and stronger as people and as a community of faith when we are beyond the pandemic, but for now, we must all do the best and the right thing. Not so much for ourselves but for the sake of our neighbors.

For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.

Psalm 27:5

Be patient, be faith filled and trust in our Lord and Savior,
Pastor Maureen

Mark's Musings

Miracles

If you know me, you know that I don't believe in magic. God defined the laws of physics; and God never breaks these laws. If something appears magical it is because that thing is following physical laws we have not yet discovered.

But I do believe in miracles. It is my experience that God acts in our lives. But when God acts, God doesn't bend the laws of physics. So how does God's will get done? I have concluded that when God acts, it is always through the people around us.

I have no doubt that Joshua perceived that the sun stood still at Gibeon. (Joshua chapter 10.) Or that the guests at the wedding in Cana observed Jesus turning water into wine—the very best wine we are told. (John chapter 2.) It seems to me that the miracle that occurred at these events was a change in the hearts and understanding of the people involved.

So, if God is omnipotent, why would God choose to act through people? God acts in this way because that is where God can make the greatest impact in our lives. (I first heard this in a sermon by Rev. Gary Benson at Zumbro Lutheran in Rochester.) The Gospel has always been about the arrival of the "Kingdom of God." Jesus says all you have to do to experience this Kingdom is to repent your sins and act righteously. (Mathew 1:15)

There is a poster in the entryway at Vasa Church that says "God's work, our hands." Yep. We are the agents of God's will here on earth.

VASA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report

February 2020

For the Month of February:

Checkbook Balance, February 1, 2020	\$ 30,367.30
General Fund Contributions:	9,715.69
Mission Endowment Offering	9,500.00
Total Funds Available	49,582.99
Budget Approved Monthly Expenses:	17,951.83
Checkbook Balance, February 28, 2020	\$ 31,631.16
Mission Investment Fund, Jan 30, 2020	\$33,898.86
Mission Investment Fund, Feb 29, 2020	\$33,933.66

Ways We Can Stay Connected, Worship and Be the Church...

Even though in-person worship is cancelled for now,

- **Windows on Wednesdays will be posted on the Vasa Facebook page on Wednesdays.**
- **Worship services will be posted every Sunday via YouTube, with links available on Facebook, and through your email.**
- **There will be a Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services posted during Holy Week.**
- **Also during Holy Week, Pastor will read a portion of Scripture and post it online with a brief meditation.**

Emily will be in the office 1-2 hours on Tuesday and Thursday mornings only to check messages, collect the mail, work on special projects, etc. When this is over, she will return to normal hours.

If you need ANYTHING, call Pastor Maureen at 507-251-5270. Or, contact the office and Emily will forward messages as needed.

DO WHAT YOU CAN, WITH WHAT YOU HAVE, WHERE YOU ARE.

(Theodore Roosevelt)



Birthday List

- 1 - Michele Gardiner
Chris Pearson
Jack Stehr
- 3 - Tristan Rehder
Clara Hart
- 4 - Elizabeth Pearson
- 5 - Meagan Anderson
Jeremy Soine
- 6 - Quinn O'Reilly
Adeline Lindholm
- 9 - Anders Lindstrom
- 10 - Troy Lindblom
- 12 - Brian Lexvold
- 13 - Katelyn Pearson
- 15 - Geri Lindholm
Daniel Mann
- 16 - Ellie Clemens
Claire Samuelson
- 17 - Forest Evanson
- 22 - Bonnie Pagel
- 24 - Skylar Little Soldier
Max Fredin
- 25 - Cashton Hovel
- 26 - Eileen Anderson
- 29 - Vicky Bauch

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





ELCA presiding bishop addresses concerns about COVID-19

3/6/2020 4:55:00 PM

In 1527 the plague returned to Wittenberg, Germany. Two hundred years earlier the plague had swept across Europe killing up to 40% of the population. Understandably, people were anxious and wondered what a safe and faithful response might be. In answer to this, Martin Luther wrote "Whether One May Flee From a Deadly Plague." In it, he emphasized the duty to care for the neighbor, the responsibility of government to protect and provide services to its citizens, a caution about recklessness, and the importance of science, medicine and common sense.

To provide care for the neighbor, Luther recommended that pastors, those in public office, doctors and public servants should remain in the city. Luther himself remained in Wittenberg to care for his people. He recommended that public hospitals be built to accommodate those with the plague. He condemned those who took unnecessary risks that put themselves and others in danger of contagion. Luther also encouraged the use of reason and medicine, writing, "God has created medicines and has provided us with intelligence to guard and take care of the body. ... Use medicine; take potions which can help you; fumigate house, yard, and street; shun persons and places wherever your neighbor does not need your presence" ("Whether One May Flee From a Deadly Plague," 1527).

We are living in the time of the coronavirus. We are also living in the time of social media and constant, relentless news coverage. Many of our people have the same concerns as those in Luther's day. Many of our people are anxious. Luther's counsel, based on Scripture, is still sound. Respect the disease. Do not take unnecessary risks. Provide for the spiritual and physical needs of the neighbor. Make use of medical aid. Care for one another, especially the most vulnerable.

The churchwide organization recommends the following for churchwide staff: Wash your hands, stay home when you are sick, wear a mask if you have symptoms, consult your medical provider. Bishops and pastors will provide [guidelines](#) for worship and church gatherings.

Luther also reminded his people and us that we should trust God's faithfulness and promises, particularly the promise eternal life. Paul writes: "If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's" (Romans 14:8).

In peace,
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
February 23rd, 2020 Sunday @ Lutheran Center**

Call to Order; Meeting called to order at 10:15 by Greg Drewianka, President
Affirmation of Quorum: 55 voting members present
Adoption of the Agenda:

It was moved and seconded to accept the agenda as written.

MOTION CARRIED

Opening Devotions: Pastor Maureen Hagen

Appointment of the Tellers:
Five people volunteered to be tellers

Report of the Nominating Committee:
A revised ballot was handed out. Lora Gruber was added to the list for church council and Malissa Stahnke, Faye Drewianka and Rodney Nelson were added to the nominating committee.

It was moved and seconded to declare a unanimous ballot.

MOTION CARRIED

The following candidates were elected.

Church Council-2 year Term	Mid-term (Still Serving)
Greg Drewianka completed 2 nd term	Ben Norman in 1 st term
Kevin Eckblad completed 2 nd term	Mike Carlson in 3 rd term
Sid Featherstone completed 2 nd term	Dan Hedeem in 3 rd term
Duane Hanson completed 1 st term	Jim Hedeem in 3 rd term
Steve Hyllengren completed 2 nd term	Rick Samuelson in 3 rd term
Andrew Featherstone start of 1 st term	
<small>Jessica Anderson start of 1st term</small>	
Lora Gruber start of 1 st term	

Museum Board- 3 year Term	Year 2 of 3 yr term completed Still serving)
Randy Klein	Dan Evanson
Al Lindell	Dan Hedeem
Terri Mandelkow	Audrey Rosener

Year 1 of 3 yr term completed (Still serving)
Deb Donath; Faye Drewianka; Randy Lindholm
Rodney Nelson and B.J. Norman

ANNUAL MEETING UNAPPROVED MINUTES (cont)

Mission Endowment Board- 3 yr term

Martha Hanson – completed 1st term

Bruch Tilderquist – start of 3 yr term

Year 2 of 3 yr term completed (Still serving)

Lori Hyllengren – serving 1st term

Year 1 of 3 yr term completed (Still serving)

Bob Crouse – serving 2nd term and Sue Ness serving 1st term

Cemetery Board

Kevin Eckblad – Yr 1 of 5 yr term

Chuck Peterson – Yr 4 of 5 yr term completed (Still serving)

Rick Samuelson – Yr 3 of 5 yr term completed (Still serving)

Duane Hanson – Yr 2 of 5 yr term completed (Still serving)

Lyle Ness – Yr 1 of 5 yr term completed (Still serving)

Synod Assembly

Andrew Featherstone

Katie Skog Featherstone

Delegate to Gustavus Adolphus

Mike Bauch

Nominating Committee (1 yr term)

Gerri Lindholm

Marcia Featherstone

Gail Strusz-Klein

Malissa Stahnke

Faye Drewianka

Rodney Nelson

Approval of last years Annual Meeting minutes:

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the March 3rd, 2019 annual meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

Pastor's Report (See Attached Report Pg. 8)

- a. We currently have 370 members
- b. A community dinner video will be made for the synod assembly
- c. Will be working with PBS Finding Your Roots for John Hyllengren

President's Report (See Attached Report Pg. 9)

Team Reports

Finance (See Attached Report Pg. 11-14)

- a. We spent \$20,500 more than we took in for 2019
- b. Gail Strusz-Klein talked about a Family Carnival geared towards ages 3-12
- c. Rick Samuelson talked about doing a BINGO fund raiser after the community dinners

Parish Life (See Attached Report Pg. 15)

- a. Jim Hedeem said that we could use more sunday school teachers
- b. Talked about doing a new Church Directory in house

ANNUAL MEETING UNAPPROVED MINUTES (cont)

Property (See Attached Report Pg. 16)

WELCA Report (See Attached Pg. 17)

Cemetery Board (See Attached Report Pg. 18-19)

Mission Endowment Fund (See Attached Report Pg. 20-21)

a. A new Treasurer's Report was handed out

Vasa Museum Board (See Attached Report Pg. 22-24)

a. Audrey thanked Eileen Anderson for her many years on the board

Proposed 2020 Budget

Kathy Tilderquist talked about the proposed budget.

It was moved and seconded to approved the budget as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

Other Business

Greg and Pastor Maureen talked about the furnace and AC project for the Lutheran Center.

It was moved and seconded to proceed with the furnace and AC project for the Lutheran Center

MOTION CARRIED

Old Business (None)

New Business (None)

Report of the Tellers (None)

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:50am.

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting closed with a prayer by Pastor Maureen

Report submitted by:

Rick Samuelson, Secretary

VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

February 17, 2020 @ Lutheran Center

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:30pm by Greg Drewianka, President

Devotions: None

Members present and Absent:

Present: Pastor Maureen Hagen; Greg Drewianka, President; Jim Hedeem, Vice President; Rick Samuelson; Dan Hedeem; Gayle Strusz-Klein; Sid Featherstone; Ben Norman; Steve Hyllengren and Duane Hanson

Ten voting members present

Unable to Attend: Kevin Eckblad; Geri Lindholm and Mike Carlson

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 20, 2020 council meeting as written.

MOTION CARRIED

Reports Reviewed and Accepted:

1. Treasurer and Finance Team Report (Attached)
 - a. We were negative \$5400 for the month of January because of insurance payments
 - b. Office expenses were high because of copier issues
2. Parish Life (Attached)
3. Property Team Report. (Attached)
 - a. The ceiling is getting put back in the library
4. Museum Board (Attached)
5. Endowment Board Report (No Meeting)
6. Cemetery Board (No Meeting)
7. Executive Board Report (Attached)
8. Pastor's Report (Attached)

Tabled/Old Business (None)

New Business

Annual Congregational Meeting – February 23, 2020 @ 10:15 am

It was moved and seconded to designate the loose lenten offering to the Cannon Falls and Red Wing food shelves.

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion

Council members signed up for food to bring to the congregational meeting.

Ideas for fund raisers

- a. Family Carnival Aug 22nd geared towards ages 3-12

VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING FEB. 17, 2020 (cont)

Annual Congregational Meeting – February 23, 2020 @ 10:15 am

It was moved and seconded to designate the loose lenten offering to the Cannon Falls and Red Wing food shelves.

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion

Council members signed up for food to bring to the congregational meeting.

Ideas for fund raisers

- a. Family Carnival Aug 22nd geared towards ages 3-12
- b. BINGO after the community dinners

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:30 pm.

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Report submitted by:

Rick Samuelson, Secretary

**VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
February 23rd, 2020 after the annual meeting**

Call to Order: Meeting called or order at 11:30 by Greg Drewianka, President

Members Present and Absent:

Present: Pastor Maureen Hagen; Greg Drewianka, President; Jim Hedeem, Vice President; Sid Featherstone; Kevin Eckblad; Steve Hyllengren; Dan Hedeem; Rick Samuelson; Duane Hanson; Mike Carlson; Lora Gruber and Andrew Featherstone

Unable to attend: Jessica Anderson and Ben Norman

Election of Officers:

It was moved and seconded to elect Greg Drewianka as President.

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved and seconded to elect Jim Hedeem as Vice President.

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved and seconded to elect Rick Samuelson as Secretary.

MOTION CARRIED

Council members signed up for preferred committees.

Teams should select officers and decide on meeting times and if needed recruit volunteers to assist them.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 noon

MOTION CARRIED

Report submitted by:

Rick Samuelson, Secretary

VASA LUTHERAN IS SPONSORING AN AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE ON THURSDAY, APRIL 30 FROM 1-7 PM AT THE LUTHERAN CENTER

Special Blood Donation Precautionary Steps during COVID-19:

- Temperature screenings (temps greater than 99.5 will not be accepted)
 - Extra hand sanitizer available at check in and registration
 - Beds sanitized between each / every donor
 - Social-distancing protocols to be strictly followed
- All staff members will have temps checked beforehand and will wear gloves

Coronavirus has not slowed the need for blood donations. Yours is more essential than ever at this time. (Red Blood cells only have a shelf life of 30 days)



American Red Cross



Church Women

Thank you to everyone listed for the jeans donated to the church women for use in making quilts for the students graduating from high school this spring. We now have enough 6" squares cut from those jeans to make 7 quilts. It takes 140 6" squares of denim and the same for the flannel backing for each quilt – so that means the jeans you brought have been cut into 840 or more 6" squares and re-purposed for gifts for the grads.



Evans and Norlene

Terri Mandelkow

Sue Samuelson

Kathy Tilderquist

Ben and BJ Norman

Sue Hedeem

Audrey Rosener

Vivian Strusz

Merle and Rita Pearson

Coming 2020

VASA AND WELCH AREA

8-MILE RUMMAGE (& BAKE) SALE



THURSDAY, APRIL 23

12:00 PM - 7:00 PM

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

CANCELLED

(THURSDAY & FRIDAY ONLY AT VASA LUTHERAN CENTER)

SALES AT VASA LUTHERAN CENTER ON HIGHWAY 19 AND
CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH ON HIGHWAY 61 AND
AT VARIOUS HOMES ALONG COUNTY ROAD 7
& BETWEEN BOTH CHURCHES FOR OVER 8 MILES!

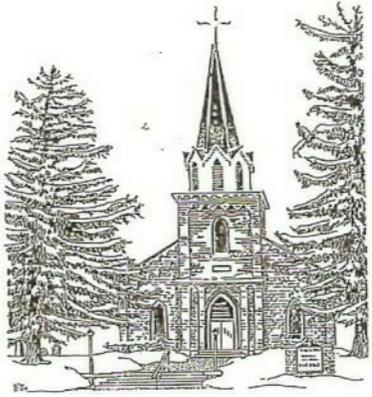
LUNCH SERVED DURING SALE HOURS EACH DAY AT BOTH CHURCHES.

FREE FOR THE TAKING

10-INCH BLACK WALNUT SEEDLINGS! YOU DIG, YOU TAKE!

Contact Wally Gardiner, 651-258-4358

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

Christian Education

9:00-10:00 am Sunday School

At the church

September thru May

Faith Formation Night

5:00-7pm Wednesdays, September-May

Vasa Lutheran Center (including Wed. Eve Worship
at 6:15)

Pastor Maureen Hagen

pastormaureen@sleepyeyetel.net

(Cell) 507-251-5270

Church Office 651-258-4327

Office Email: vasalutheran@sleepyeyetel.net

Website: vasalutheran.org

Church Staff

Kathy Tilderquist, Treasurer

Emily Peterson, Office Administrator

Melissa McCann, Custodian

Austin Ferguson, Worship Accompanist

Gail Strusz-Klein, Wedding Coordinator

Paul & Jay Mikaelson, Missionaries in LaPaz, Bolivia

pmikaelson@gmail.com

web site: 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!

Scatter seeds
of kindness
wherever you go