

The Vasa Voice



Volume 57 No. 9

What's Happening This Month at Vasa

September 5 - 9:00AM Outdoor worship at the East side Picnic shelter

September 08 - Community Dinner

Our first community dinner of the fall occurs on Wednesday, September 8th. Brats and Potato Salad (or chips) are on the menu. With the presence and persistence of the Covid 19 Delta variant, we will again be offering only Pick-Up or Delivery options throughout the fall. It is our continued hope that you will gather with a small group (your bubble) to share the meal together. The deadline for meal reservations is Wednesday Sept 1 at NOON. Call or email the church office with your name and number of meals desired. If you want them delivered, please include your address and phone number!

September 15 - Confirmation Classes begin for 7th-8th graders. Meet at the Lutheran Center from 5:30-6:30pm, Classroom #3.

September 19- 9:00 AM Intergenerational Worship Service

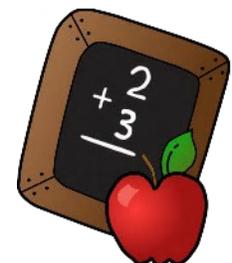
September 26 Sunday School Classes Begin. Meet at Lutheran Center just before worship.

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

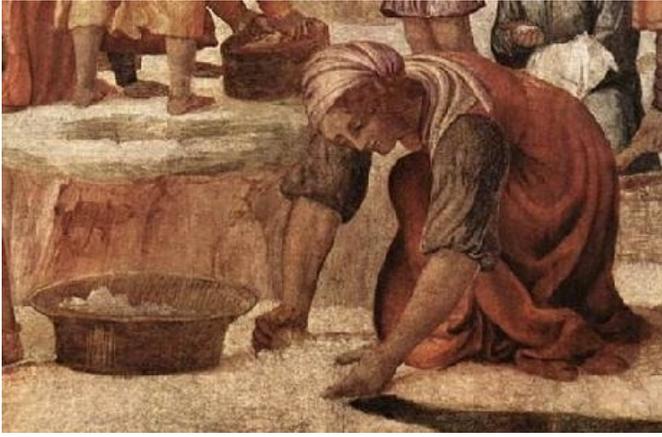
Every year the Vasa Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund awards scholarships to students pursuing post-secondary education. We have included the education application form on page 7 of this month's Vasa Voice. The deadline for application is Sunday, November 28, 2021. Applications will be considered in December, with awards being made by the first of the year. Application form is on page 6.

Here's what's on the Inside!

- P. 2 Pastor's Thoughts
- P. 3 Worship Service Assistants, Birthdays, Treasurer's Report
Email address update
- P. 4 Mark's Meditation
- P. 5 Adult and Youth Faith Formation opportunities
- P. 6 Vasa Mission Endowment Education Award Application Form
- P. 7 Vacation Bible School Photos
- P. 8 Community dinner - Last Reminder!
- P. 9 Taste of Welch
- P. 10 Prayers to Live By
- P. 11 September Calendar



Pastor's Thoughts for September



Exodus 16:13-15 In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. 14 When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. 15 When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. [manna]

The title of this year's Vacation Bible School was *Wilderness Escape*. The Bible lessons came out of the book of Exodus and told exciting stories of how God provided for the Israelites. Each day the kids had a theme like: "God gives us what we need, so.....TRUST GOD!"

After God freed the ancient Israelites from slavery in Egypt, they wandered in the wilderness for forty years. They needed food every day. The food that God provided was manna. Part of the point of the story of manna in the wilderness is that God was not distant, but intimately aware of the needs of God's people and graciously supplied them. At the same time, God's people were learning a lesson about trusting God. Forty years of daily practice meant that the habit of trusting God became deeply engrained.

Manna is the consummate faith food. If God doesn't give it—you don't have it. You have to trust—no hoarding. Therefore to live by manna is to live by faith.

God knows our needs and is committed to us personally. God will provide. God is also committed to organizations like Vasa Congregation. Vacation Bible School is a good example because through the movement of the Holy Spirit we had plenty of help and enough supplies for everyone. Our challenge is to trust that God will deliver as promised and that it's going to happen day after day after day. Living by manna (aka living by faith) isn't easy. It's something that we practice every day of our lives.

Joshua 5:12 The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Blessings,
~Pastor Maureen



SEPTEMBER



Volunteers for September

USHERS

- 5 Randy Klein
- 12 Jason Pagel
- 19 Chuck Peterson
- 26 Kevin Eckblad

READERS

- 5 Katie Lindahl
- 12 **TBD (vounteer needed)**
- 19 Jim Hedeem
- 26 Geri Lindholm

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

- 5 Mike Carlson
- 19 Martha Hanson



Birthdays

- 2 Piper Hanson
- John Hart
- Greg Hovel
- 3 Scott Romness
- Barry Skog
- 7 Jenny Hedeem
- 9 Jessie Otto
- Lora Gruber
- Carson Lind
- Treyton Lind
- Kyleigh Wetzstein
- 11 Malissa Parrott-Stahnke
- 12 Steve Lindstrom
- 13 Rodney Nelson
- 16 Marcia Featherstone
- Allison Finne
- 18 Sawyer Gesme
- 19 Mitchell Anderson
- Al Lindell
- Megan Widstrom
- Michael Widstrom Jr
- 21 Rick Samuelson
- 23 Amanda Sense
- 26 Amber Nelsen
- 28 Mya Montey
- 29 Sasha Diercks

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

New email addresses For Church and Pastor

As many of you may have noticed, Pastor Maureen and the Vasa Church Office have new email addresses. Please make the appropriate changes in your address books as the sleepyeyetel address is slowly being phased out and will cease to exist after December 31, 2021. The addresses are:

pastor@vasalutheran.org

office@vasalutheran.org

VASA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report

July, 2021

For the Month of July:

Checkbook Balance, July 1, 2021	\$ 42,405.46
General Fund Contributions:	14,301.25
Total Funds Available	56,706.71
Budget Approved Monthly Expenses:	17,091.45
Checkbook Balance, July 31, 2021	\$ 39,615.26
Mission Investment Fund, June 30, 2021	\$20,658.26
Mission Investment Fund, July 30, 2021	\$20,667.01

Mark's Meditation

I believe...

Believing "In" Jesus

We say it nearly every Sunday when we recite the Apostles or Nicene Creed: "I believe *in* God..., I believe *in* Jesus Christ..., I believe *in* the Holy Spirit... Why this wording?

The history of the Nicene Creed is unambiguous. It was debated and agreed to at the First Ecumenical Council in the city of Nicaea (present day İznik, Turkey), which was convened by Emperor Constantine in AD 325. It was amended at the Second Ecumenical Council in 381 at Constantinople (present day Istanbul). This is largely the version we recite in church. The history of the Apostles Creed is a bit murkier. It is sometimes considered older than the Nicene Creed because it is similar to the "Old Roman Creed" that can be traced to the 2nd century. But the version we recite on Sunday probably dates to 6th or 7th century Gaul (France).

So, why say "I believe *in* Jesus Christ" instead of simply "I believe Jesus?" What does it mean to believe *in* something? Are we saying we believe in the existence of Jesus? That hardly needs a statement of faith. There is ample extra-biblical and archeological evidence that Jesus was a historical person. I suspect this phrase comes from the Apostle Paul, who used this phrase repeatedly. Below is an example from the 3rd chapter of his letter to the Romans. (New Living Translation.)

²¹ But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. ²² We are made right with God by placing our *faith in Jesus Christ*. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

²⁵ For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, ²⁶ for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

I think Paul's wording is shorthand. When he says "believe in Jesus," he means "believe in *the message* of Jesus." What is that message? When Jesus was asked what are the most important commandments to keep (believe) he said that there are just two. (Matthew 22)

³⁷ "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

I think Jesus is right. If I follow this advice, God will be fair and just with me. If you stand next to me in the pews at Vasa, you might hear me skip over the word "in." I believe Jesus.

YOUTH & ADULT OPPORTUNITIES

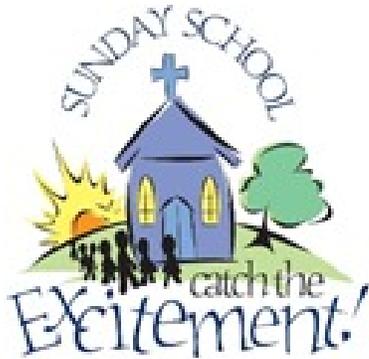


Faith Formation

SUNDAY SCHOOL HAS A NEW FORMAT

After a year long hiatus due to Covid-19 restrictions and after considerable discussion, the Parish Life team decided to try something new with Sunday School.

Beginning September 19, the third Sunday of each month will be intergenerational worship at the church. Families will assist in multiple aspects of the service including assisting with communion, reading Scripture and reading the prayers of the congregation. We will kick this off on Sunday, September 19th: a communion Sunday. There will be no organized Sunday School on this day.



A more traditional Sunday School program will be held at the LUTHERAN CENTER during worship on the first, second, and fourth Sundays of the month. Parents will be invited to drop their children off at the LC and then come up to the sanctuary for worship. The primary rationale for this change is that the classroom space at the church is simply inadequate, not allowing for the typical noise and movement that comes with children learning. By moving to the LC the children will receive a more robust musical program. In addition, we can divide the classes into more appropriate age groupings.



BOOK STUDY: Pastor Maureen will be leading a book study on The Heart of Christianity, by Marcus Borg. The first gathering will be at the Lutheran Center on Sunday, September 19th at 10:15, right after worship. At that meeting the participants will decide whether to continue meeting at that time or if another day and time is more suitable.



Confirmation classes for incoming seventh and eighth grade students will begin on Wednesday, September 15th from 5:30 to 6:30. Class will be held for nine consecutive Wednesdays with a theme of "Super Heroes of the Old Testament."

**Vasa Evangelical Lutheran Church
Mission Endowment Fund Education Award Application**

Applicant's Name _____
(first, middle, last - no nicknames)

Applicant's Address _____

(likely home address - permanent) Phone# _____

Father/Guardian Name _____ Phone# _____
Address _____

Mother/Guardian Name _____ Phone# _____
Address _____

School Name _____
School Address _____ Phone# _____

Program (Occupational Objective) _____

Length of Program in years to completion _____ Years/Months

Degree Sought _____ If not a degree, describe completion recognition in terms such as: certificate, diploma, license, etc.)

Starting Date (month and year) _____ Completion Date _____

Describe any special needs, circumstances, responsibilities, handicaps you have that will add to the cost and/or time needed to complete your program (reach your goal):

Use the space below to write a description of your school plans and occupational goals following completion of your schooling. Include the major(s) and minor(s) that will be a part of the program. Incorporate any work experience(s) that may be a part of your school program. Reveal how you see yourself advancing and progressing in your occupational field and in the community as a whole.

(over)

Leave this section blank.

Length of program _____ Completed _____

Starting Date _____ Completion _____

I understand that I must be an active member of Vasa Lutheran Church to receive an education award.
I understand that this award is intended to financially assist me in my pursuit of a post-secondary education.
If approved, I understand that I am eligible for a maximum of 5 awards and only one award per year.

My signature attests to the correctness of the information provided and to my understanding of the scholarship program.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Return your application to:

Trustees: Mission Endowment Fund
Vasa Evangelical Lutheran Church
15235 Norclius Road
Welch, Minnesota 55089

VBS 2021!!!





SEPTEMBER, 2021
FREE VASA COMMUNITY
DINNER
STARTING OUR
10TH YEAR!



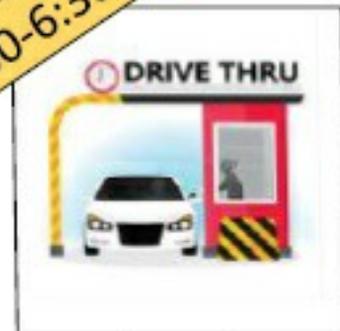
MENU

SEPTEMBER 8, 2021

*brats, potato salad,
baked beans, cookie*



5:30-6:30 PM



OR



Call or email the Church office to
reserve your meal(s).

651-258-4327

office@vasalutheran.org

Meal reservations due by NOON,
SEPT 1, 2021

Leave your name, phone number and
how many meals you would like.

(Be sure to specify Pick-up or Delivery)



30th Annual

Taste of Welch

WELCA Mission Fundraiser

Bake Sale

This year we will not have our usual in-person event. Instead, we will be taking pre-orders for the bake sale: Cookies, Bars, Breads, Sweet Breads, Chicken Noodle Soup & Chili.

Go to ccchurch.us or <https://www.facebook.com/CrossOfChristLutheranChurch/> to find the order form. Please return the form by September 25th. Pick up items in church parking lot on Oct. 9th. Delivered to your vehicle.

Raffle

Queen-Size Quilt 98" x 82"

Many other items including

Gift Cards and Gift Certificates

Order tickets on bake sale form, purchase tickets when you pick up your order, or from a WELCA member.

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

24036 Co. Rd. 7 Blvd. – Welch, MN

Saturday, October 9, 2021

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

I used to pray that God would feed the hungry, or do this or that, but now I pray that he will guide me to do whatever I'm supposed to do, what I can do. I used to pray for answers, but now I'm praying for strength. I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us and we change things.

Mother Teresa

Almighty God, you have so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

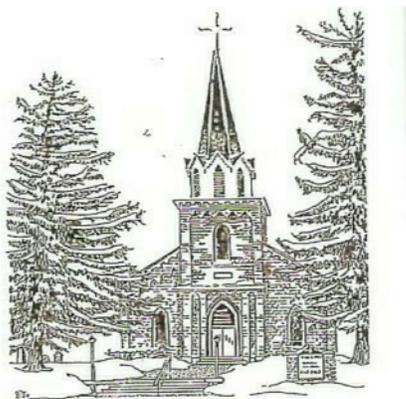
Prayer for Labor Day

Episcopal Book of Common Prayer p.261

SEPTEMBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<p>1</p> <p>Free Community Dinner</p>  <p>MEAL RESERVATIONS DUE TODAY!</p> <p>6:30pm Wednesday Evening Worship Fellowship Room</p>	2	3	4
<p>5</p> <p>9am Service of Holy Communion (Outdoor Worship at the Eastside Picnic Shelter)</p> <p>11:30-4:00 Vasa Museum Open</p>	6	7	<p>8</p> <p>Free Community Dinner</p>  <p>Pick up or Delivery 5:30-6:30</p> <p>6:30pm Wednesday Evening Worship Fellowship Room</p>	9	10	11
	LABOR DAY	 <p>9:30</p>			Pastor's Day Off	
<p>12</p> <p>9am Service of The Word</p> <p>11:30-4:00 Vasa Museum Open</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30AM Property Team</p> <p>5PM Finance Team</p> <p>6pm Parish Life Team</p> <p>6:30pm Museum Board</p>	14	<p>15</p>  <p>5:30-6:30 7th-8th Grade Confirmation LC – Classroom #3</p> <p>6:30pm Wednesday Evening Worship Fellowship Room</p>	16	17	18
		 <p>9:30</p>			Pastor's Day Off	
<p>19</p> <p>9am Intergenerational Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>11:30-4:00 Vasa Museum Open</p>	20	21	<p>22</p>  <p>5:30-6:30 7th-8th Grade Confirmation LC – Classroom #3</p> <p>6:30pm Wednesday Evening Worship Fellowship Room</p>	23	24	25
	6:30pm Church Council	 <p>9:30</p>			Pastor's Day Off	
<p>26</p> <p>9am Service of The Word</p> <p>Sunday School Begins – Lutheran Center</p> <p>11:30-4:00 Vasa Museum Open</p>	27	28	<p>29</p>  <p>5:30-6:30 7th-8th Grade Confirmation LC – Classroom #3</p> <p>6:30pm Wednesday Evening Worship Fellowship Room</p>	30	Oct 1	Oct 2
		 <p>9:30</p>			Pastor's Day Off	

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 am Sundays - Meet at the Lutheran Center

Wednesday Evening Worship + Communion

6:30pm Vasa Lutheran Center

Executive Team

Barb Weigman 507-202-7880

Sid Featherstone 651-214-7486

Andrew Featherstone 651-470-9823

Pastor Maureen Hagen

pastor@vasalutheran.org

(Cell) 507-251-5270

Church Office 651-258-4327

Office Email: office@vasalutheran.org

Website: www.vasalutheran.org

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

pmikaelson@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!



Scatter seeds
of kindness
wherever you go