



Vasa Happenings in March

Wednesday Evenings in March - Lenten Worship: Holy Communion + Holden Evening Prayer. 7:00 PM each Wednesday through March 24.

March 6—Vasa Museum Soup Luncheon - Soups to Go! This is the 34th annual Vasa Museum Soup Fundraiser! All proceeds will go toward new windows for the museum. Plan to Drive Through and pick up your soups anytime between 11:00 and 1:00 on Saturday, March 6. **Reserve your soups by March 3 by calling or emailing the church office: 651-258-4327 / vasalutheran@sleepyeyetel.net.**

March 10 - Vasa Free Community Dinner returns! Drive Through or Delivery (just like last fall.) Call or email the office with your meal reservation. **Drive through opens at 5:30.**

First Communion Instruction begins on March 7, after worship, at the Lutheran Center, Classroom #3. It will continue every Sunday through March 28. See Page 4 for details.



Here's what's on the Inside!

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Pastor's Thoughts for March

Recently I came across John 15:1-2. It is part of Jesus' teaching about vines and branches. John 15:1-2 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit."

What struck me as significant is when Jesus says, "Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit." Vasa Congregation has long been a branch that bears fruit. Looking back over the last 160+ years the fruit that Vasa has borne is really quite incredible. Our branch was pruned way back in March of 2020 and, at first, the pruning was frightening. But new growth is starting to poke up and the most obvious new growth is in our recorded worship services.

Our recorded worship services are reaching people that we have never met. Somehow the word has gotten out there, and people are finding us on the internet. This would never have happened if it weren't for the pruning that occurred last March. The inability to meet in person forced us to create a new way of gathering for worship—on line. Putting our modest recordings on the internet makes them available for anyone to view and new shoots are sprouting from the vine.

Remember that Jesus' expectation is that we will share the good news of his death and resurrection with as many people as possible. Through our recordings we are doing just that....nothing fancy....just confession & absolution, some music, some Scripture reading, a sermon, and Holy Communion. We may never know what a difference our services make in other people's lives, but God knows. It's not about what we "know" or don't know. It's about being faithful in the ways that God places in front of us and trusting that God will empower the vine to grow and bear more fruit.

Grace and peace to you,

~Pastor Maureen



Farmer, Faith, Family

Planting seeds
Is an act
Of faith.

It is trusting
In something
That's a gray
Vapid
Wraith.

But
Every farmer
Does it
Every
Single
Spring.

Getting on their tractor
On dark mornings
Before the birds can sing
Telling

Their family,
"This
Is the thing
We must do."

And when
The harvest comes
And that faith
Has found
Its reward
It is gathered
And stored
And that gray,
Vapid
Wraith
Is once again
Adored.

This poem was written by Rev. Mike Vetsch. He solicits people for three words and then creates a poem. The three words for this poem are farmer, faith, and family. They were suggested by Cheryl Brommer Denny.



Volunteers for March

READERS

- 7 Mark Hagen
- 14 Jim Hedeem
- 21 Sandy Wallschlager
- 28 Katie Lindahl



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

March 14, 2021



- 1 - Bella Otto
- 2 - Krystin Anderson
- 3 - Mike Carlson
- 4 - Norlene Josephson
- 5 - Marilyn Burke
- 6 - Madilyn Stehr
- 7 - Kevin Eckblad
- 9 - Dan Hedeem
Theresa Josephson
Brian Mandelkow
Rita Pearson
Duane Thompson
- 12 - Cathy Peterson
- 13 - Marilyn Hanson
Linda Thompson
- 16 - John Gardiner
- 18 - Melvin Trelstad
- 20 - Andrew Bauch
- 21 - Caleb Hovel
Amy Schaffer
- 24 - Barbara Weigman
- 26 - Chris Bosshart
- 27 - Chris Finne
Dave Gardiner
- 28 - Emmett Poole
- 29 - Shane Clemens
Lily Rosener
Sharyn Sorenson
- 30 - Andrew Weigman
- 31 - Sid Featherstone



Scatter seeds
of kindness
wherever you go



Put this advice to test this month:

Give someone an honest compliment or a Thank You, who is not expecting it. That could **MAKE THEIR DAY!**

Something to think about...

"When I was 15, I spent a month working on an archeological dig. I was talking to one of the archeologists one day during our lunch break and he asked those kind of "getting-to-know-you" questions you ask young people: "Do you play sports? What's your favorite subject?" And I told him, "No, I don't play any sports. I do theater, I'm in choir, I play the violin and piano, and I used to take art classes."

And he went, "WOW! That's amazing!" And I said, "Oh no, but I'm not any good at ANY of them."

And he said something then that I will never forget and which absolutely blew my mind because no one had ever said anything like it to me before. He said, "I don't think being good at things is the point of doing them. I think you've got all these wonderful experiences with different skills, and that all teaches you things and makes you an interesting person, no matter how well you do them."

And that honestly changed my life. Because I went from a failure, someone who hadn't been talented enough at anything to excel, to someone who did things because I enjoyed them. I had been raised in such an achievement-oriented environment, so inundated with the Myth of Talent, that I thought it was only worth doing things if you could 'win' at them.

Kurt Vonnegut, author

Community Dinners Resume on March 10!

March 10th	Ham and Scalloped Potatoes
April 14	Tater Tot Hot Dish
May 13th	Pulled Pork

If you're interested in helping, please reach out to Sue Hedeon or Jeannette Anderson. There are many things to do including donations of menu items, serving & clean up, and delivery of meals to our shut-ins.

Sign up sheets are on the table at the back of the church on Sundays, and in the lobby of the Lutheran Center during the week.

Free Community Dinner



First Communion instruction begins on March 7 at 9:45, after worship. Classes will be held at the Lutheran Center in Classroom #3 and will go through March 28.

Typically, students' First Communion occurs on Maundy Thursday during evening worship, which is April 1st this year. However, for families with Covid-19 concerns, Pastor Maureen is very comfortable making alternate arrangements.

Consider one of these options as an alternative:

- Worshiping on Easter Sunday OR
- Participating as a family group for First Communion when we record worship for those who worship with us virtually. We will likely record the Easter Worship Service on Friday, April 2 at some point in the afternoon.

You can let Pastor Maureen know your preference as the time draws closer.

Mark's Meditation: Crucifixion

By Mark Hagen

One of the most difficult topics in the Christian church is how to understand the crucifixion of Jesus. One branch of Christian thought, called "substitutionary atonement," understands Jesus' execution as a transactional event. This interpretation sees Christ's suffering as *payment* for our sins.

But when you drill down, substitutionary atonement gets confusing. As Lutherans, we profess Jesus as equal to God and to the Holy Spirit. If that is true, who is this payment being made to? Himself? But, if the crucifixion is not a payment,; akin to the sacrifices performed in the Jewish temple, how are we to understand it?

The Romans designed crucifixion to be the ultimate humiliation. It was reserved for those who promoted sedition against the Empire. The condemned were stripped naked and hung at eye level near busy roads so that everyone who passed had to look them in the eye and experience their shame. How do we get from here to proclaiming Jesus as "Christ", which means "the anointed one"—that is, "king"?

For the Apostle Paul, the crucifixion of Jesus is definitely a sacrifice, but not in a transactional way. It is not a bad thing that the resurrection fixes. Instead, the crucifixion is a valuable model of how followers of Jesus are to behave. Christ humbles himself on the cross. This is unique in the history of the world. Up until that point in time, no one would have equated a humiliating execution with glory.

In Philippians 2:3-4, Paul admonishes his readers, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others." Then Paul quotes a poem, sometimes called the Christ Hymn.

Who, though he was in the form of God,
Did not regard being equal with God
Something to be grasped after.
But he emptied himself
Taking on the form of a slave,
And coming in the likeness of humans.
And being found in appearance as a human
He humbled himself
Becoming obedient unto death— even death on a cross.

This is the importance of the crucifixion. It's not about victory, or blessing, or a debt paid. Jesus was shamed and humiliated on the cross, and the God of Israel willingly aligned Himself with that shame. Paul writes that when you consider this, you will want to center your life needs to reflect that kind of humility.



¹Peter Enns. Episode 152 of the podcast "The Bible for Normal People." <https://peteenns.com/episode-152-what-makes-christianity-different/>

²Philippians 2:5-11, this translation by Bart D. Ehrman

VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

January 18, 2021 @ Lutheran Center

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:30pm by Greg Drewianka, President

Devotions: Lora Gruber

Members present and Absent:

Present: Pastor Maureen Hagen; Greg Drewianka, President; Jim Hedeem, Vice President; Rick Samuelson; Dan Hedeem; Duane Hanson; Andrew Featherstone; Sid Featherstone; Jessica Anderson; Ben Norman; Steve Hyllengren and Lora Gruber
Twelve voting members present

Unable to Attend: Kevin Eckblad and Mike Carlson

Also Present: Kathy Tilderquist

Adoption of the agenda:

The agenda was revised to add review of the new proposed budget under new business.

It was moved and seconded to approve the revised agenda.

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Minutes:

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2020 council meeting as written.

MOTION CARRIED

Reports Reviewed and Accepted:

1. Treasurer and Finance Team Report (Attached)
 - a. Mark Hagen was paid \$2000.00 for doing the recording and editing of the on line service.
2. Parish Life (Attached)
 - a. There were 1,471 meals served at the Community Dinner in 2020.
3. Property Team Report. (Attached)
 - a. The repair company was here twice to fix the dish washer but did not charge for 2nd trip.
4. Museum Board (No Meeting)
5. Endowment Board Report (No Meeting)
6. Cemetery Board (No Meeting)
7. Executive Board Report (Attached)
8. Pastor's Report (Attached)
 - a. The Pastor has returned to visiting shut-ins
 - b. Team reports are due by Jan. 28th

Tabled/Old Business (Gazebo update April)

New Business

In-person Worship

It was moved and seconded to resume in person worship on January 24th with singing but masks and social distancing will be required.

MOTION CARRIED

Annual Meeting

It was moved and seconded to have the annual meeting after church on February 28th about 9:45 to vote on the new budget and elected positions.

MOTION CARRIED

Internet/email & Live streaming

Not all emails are being delivered

Kathy will check with Nuvera for a better plan

Pastor dealt with a scam email requesting gift cards

Mark Hagen will experiment with video equipment and live streaming

It was moved and seconded to move 2 more church emails through WIX.

MOTION CARRIED

New Budget

The council reviewed the proposed budget and made several changes.

It was moved and seconded to approve the proposed new budget with a video person and office expense change.

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion

There will be no phone change at this time

Council members will deliver offering envelope boxes

February Meeting Dates: (Tentative schedule)

Parish Life: Monday February 1st @ 6:30pm

Finance: Monday February 1st @ 1:00pm

Property: Monday February 1st @ 9:30am

Executive: Monday February 8th @ 1pm

Council: Monday February 15th @ 6:30pm Devotions: Dan Hedeem

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:00 pm.

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting closed with a special prayer by the pastor and the Lord's Prayer

Report submitted by:

Rick Samuelson, Secretary

VASA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report

January, 2021

For the Month of January:

Checkbook Balance, January 1, 2021	\$ 46,382.87
General Fund Contributions:	12,034.23
Mission Endowment Offering	9,730.00
Total Funds Available	68,147.10
Budget Approved Monthly Expenses:	<u>14,218.50</u>
Checkbook Balance, January 31, 2021	\$ 53,928.60

Mission Investment Fund, December 31, 2020	\$20,598.96
Mission Investment Fund, January 31, 2021	\$20,612.03



WE'RE BACK!



MENU

MARCH 10, 2021

HAM

SCALLOPED POTATOES

GLAZED CARROTS

VALENTINE SALAD

DINNER ROLL

FUN-SIZE CANDY BAR



Call the Church office to reserve your meal.

651-258-4327

Meal reservations due by NOON, MAR 3, 2021

(Be sure to specify Pick-up or Delivery)

MARCH FREE VASA COMMUNITY DINNER COVID-19 STYLE!



OR

5:30-6:30 PM





SOUP MENU

Vegetable Beef

Chicken Wild Rice

Chili (w/ crackers)

French Bread

Ellsworth Cheese Curds

Dessert



MARCH 2021

34th ANNUAL SOUP LUNCH
FUNDRAISER FOR THE
VASA MUSEUM!
COVID -19 STYLE!

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



March 6th
11:00AM-1:00 PM

Call the Church office to reserve your
Soup Lunch!


651-258-4327

Meal Reservations due by NOON, March
3, 2021





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



U.S. Severe Storms

Beginning Feb. 14, a polar vortex descended over the United States. It was responsible for subfreezing temperatures and heavy snow across the country, impacting millions of people. The harsh conditions severely impacted Southern states, such as Texas, which lack the infrastructure to handle the freezing temperatures and record-setting snow and ice. This has led to power, food and water shortages throughout the region. At the peak of power shortages, 4.5 million homes and businesses in Texas were without electricity and heat. Around 13 million Texans are also facing water disruptions due to bursting pipes and damaged water systems. As temperatures rise, melting ice and snow is expected to cause even more water damage.



Lutheran Disaster Response is communicating with and standing ready to support the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, the Southwestern Texas Synod, the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod, and Lutheran Social Services Disaster Response. Congregations are already conducting relief efforts such as supplying water, food and generators to those in need and opening their doors to serve as shelters. With such extensive damage, long-term recovery may include repairing water-damaged homes, disaster case management and supporting vulnerable populations.

Your gifts will support storm survivors. Gifts to "U.S. Severe Storms" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by severe storms. Please mail contributions to:

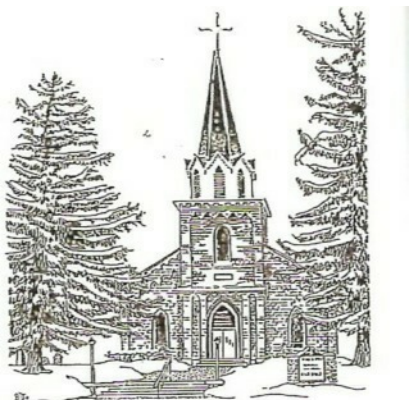
Lutheran Disaster Response, ELCA Gift Processing Center, PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.

Put U.S. SEVERE STORMS on the Memo line.

MARCH 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 7:00pm Lenten Worship + Holden Evening Prayer	4	5	6 Vasa Historical Museum 34 th Annual Soup Luncheon and Fundraiser 11:00-1:00 Drive Through Only! Pastor's Day Off
7 9am Service of Holy Communion (also available on Vasa Lutheran You Tube Channel) 10:00AM First Comm. Inst. LC, Classroom #3	8 6:30 Museum Board	9	10 5:30pm Vasa Comm Dinner  COMMUNITY DINNER Drive Through OPENS AT 5:30! 7:00pm Lenten Worship + Holden Evening Prayer	11	12	13 Pastor's Day Off
14 9am Service of Holy Communion (also available on Vasa Lutheran You Tube Channel) 10:00AM First Comm. Inst. LC, Classroom #3	15 6:30pm Church Council	16	17 7:00pm Lenten Worship + Holden Evening Prayer St. Patrick's Day 	18	19	20 Pastor's Day Off
21 9am Service of Holy Communion (also available on Vasa Lutheran You Tube Channel) 10:00AM First Comm. Inst. LC, Classroom #3	22	23	24 7:00pm Lenten Worship + Holden Evening Prayer	25	26	27 Pastor's Day Off
28 9am Service of Holy Communion (also available on Vasa Lutheran You Tube Channel) 10:00AM First Comm. Inst. LC, Classroom #3	29	30	31	APRIL 1 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship	APRIL 2 7:00pm Good Friday Worship	APRIL 3

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 (In Person and Online, via Vasa Lutheran You Tube Channel)

Christian Education

9:00-Online on Vasa Lutheran You Tube Channel

Wednesday Evening Lenten Worship

7:00 PM Service of Holy Communion

+ Holden Evening Prayer

First Communion Instruction

10:00-10:45 Sunday Mornings through March 28
Vasa Lutheran Center, Classroom 3

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

Anne Anderson, Worship Accompanist

Gail Strusz-Klein, Wedding Coordinator

Paul & Jay Mikaelsen, Missionaries in LaPaz, Bolivia

pmikaelsen@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

