

# The Vasa Voice

Volume 57 No. 8

# August

August 2021



For about the past 4-5 years, Vasa has sponsored Red Cross Blood Drives. There are 4 drives per year and the total pints collected so far exceeds 600. The Red Cross makes blood available to any patient who needs it. Patients are not required to find donors to replace the blood they use, thereby allowing the patient and family to focus on recovery. Here are a few fun facts about Blood needs, the US blood supply, and blood donors in general:

## Blood Needs:

- Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.
- More than 38,000 blood donations are needed every day.
- A total of 30 million blood components are transfused each year in the U.S.
- The average red blood cell transfusion is 3 pints.

## Blood Supply

- Blood cannot be manufactured—it can only come from generous donors.
- Type O-negative blood (red cells) can be transfused to patients of all blood types. It is always in great demand and often in short supply. Only 7% of the US population is O-negative.
- Type )-negative blood is needed in emergencies before the patient's blood type is known, and with newborns who need blood.
- Type AB-positive plasma can be transfused to patients of all other blood types. AB plasma is also usually in short supply.

## Blood Donors

- One donation can save the lives of up to three people.
- If you began donating blood at age 17 and donated every 56 days until you reached 76, you would have donated 48 gallons of blood, potentially helping save more than 1000 lives!



## HERE'S WHAT'S ON THE INSIDE!



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## Thoughts from Pastor Maureen...

Mark and I vacationed in the Boundary Water Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) in mid-July just before the wildfire threat shut down many of the campsites. There is lots of rock in the BWCAW and not a lot of dirt. In spite of the harsh conditions trees manage to grow and this one was growing right out of a rock!

God is described as a rock or strong foundation over twenty times in the psalms. One example is *Psalm 18:2 The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my*

*God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.* Psalm 18 is attributed to David and it is said that he sang this psalm song to God on the day when God delivered from the hand of all his enemies. David knew the source of his success and gave praise where praise was due. David saw God as a strong rock upon which he could rely with utter trust.

Jesus also used the image of a rock in his teaching about building one's house on a rock and not on sand. (See Matthew 7:24-25) Jesus relied upon God as his fortress and stronghold all the way to the cross and encourages us to do the same.

The tree in my picture provides a visual reminder that we should strive to take root on the strongest thing around: the rock of our salvation. Friends, build your house on the rock of Jesus. Have faith in him, and when the floods come (because they most certainly will) trust your foundation: Jesus.

Stay safe,  
~Pastor Maureen



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

For the Month of June:

Checkbook Balance, June 1, 2021	\$ 48,288.63
General Fund Contributions:	8,973.97
Total Funds Available	57,262.60
Budget Approved Monthly Expenses:	<u>14,857.14</u>
Checkbook Balance, June 30, 2021	\$ 42,405.46

Mission Investment Fund, May 30, 2021	\$20,649.79
Mission Investment Fund, June 30, 2021	\$20,658.26

Dear Friends,

Words cannot express my thankfulness for your kind cards and gifts as you acknowledged my birthday. My heart was touched by your generosity. Vasa is a special place and I am grateful to be a part of this community of faith.

Many thanks,  
Pastor Maureen"



# Volunteers for August

## USHERS

- 1 Rick Samuelson
- 8 Duane Hanson
- 15 Bruce Tilderquist
- 22 Rodney Nelson
- 29 *Volunteer Needed*

## READERS

- 1 BJ Norman
- 8 Mark Hagen
- 15 *Volunteer Needed*
- 22 *Volunteer Needed*
- 29 *Volunteer Needed*

## COMMUNION ASSISTANT

- 1 Joe Wollschlager
- 15 BreAnnHanson

**\*\*If you would like to volunteer to be an USHER or a READER 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 Corey McCann
- 7 Kevin Hanson
- 8 Callie Schmidt
- 9 Madison McCann
- 13 John Flueger  
Christopher Schaffer
- 14 Carolyn Gardiner  
Jaxson Safe
- 15 Lucas Anderson
- 17 Rose Lexvold
- 18 Jake Jacobson
- 19 Duane Hanson  
Avery Schaffer
- 20 Ainslie Hanson  
Evans Josephson  
Megan Lindstrom
- 21 Pauline Carlson  
Susan Samuelson
- 22 Brad Anderson  
Kayla Eckblad  
Kerry Finne  
Nicholas Weigman
- 23 David Carlson  
Dustin Lindahl
- 24 Warren Schmidt
- 28 Carolyn Lindstrom
- 31 Marvin Fredrickson  
Allyssa Lee



Coffee and Conversation continues to meet during the summer. We meet in the Fellowship Room at 9:30 every Tuesday!

**Wednesday Evening Worship  
+Bible Conversation**

Wednesday evening worship continues with communion at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Room of the Lutheran Center.

If you are busy on the weekend or away with travel, you are invited to join us.



# Mark's Musings

## Progress toward Live Streaming Worship

When the pandemic hit, Pastor Maureen asked "How can I reach the Vasa congregation?" I said "YouTube!" The first week that we could not meet we recorded the service on an iPad and uploaded the recording. I made a wooden bracket to hold the iPad on a tripod and Maureen gave her sermon. The video was OK, but the sound was poor—difficult to understand. So, I purchased a small audio mixer and hooked some of the good church microphones to the mixer. Then I made up a cable to pipe the sound from the mixer into my digital SLR camera. This is the setup you saw in the front row of the church all last year. We would record the service, a bit at a time, on Friday, then stitch it together at home to make a video file that could be uploaded to YouTube.

We had to record the service in pieces because my camera will only record up to 14-minute at a time. Also, although I have a "pretty good" tripod, it is designed for taking still pictures and it was rather herky-jerky when trying to tilt and pan the camera. By recording in segments, I could set up the lights and camera for a particular part of the service, then not touch the camera while we recorded.

The end result was pretty good. We had lots of positive comments about our services; and people from all over the country found us on YouTube. But, recording on Friday was a lot of work. The musicians and pastor had to be prepared and present twice (counting Sundays.) And creating the edited video file to upload usually took all Friday afternoon. Therefore, when we returned to worshipping in person, I started looking into live-streaming our Sunday church service.

The first attempt at live-streaming used some inexpensive security cameras for the video. This turned out to be a flop. The cameras connected over WIFI and overloaded the system. The picture was distorted and lagged the audio by up to 15 seconds. After a couple of weeks, I gave up and removed the cameras. Clearly, we needed better cameras and they had to be hard-wired to a PC that was streaming to YouTube.

In June the church council gave me authorization to go find the equipment to do live streaming. I bought a PC and had it souped up (more, faster memory) by a guy I worked with in Rochester. I bought two cameras that can be remote controlled to pan, tilt and zoom; I bought an audio interface that feeds the audio from the church sound system into the PC. I also bought a remote-controlled audio mixer so that we can control the sound from the back of the church. Lastly I bought a program to feed titles, video and audio to YouTube.

To see if this set-up would work, we needed to pull internet and audio cables from the sound system and internet router at the front of the church. Last Friday Greg Rathman (and Ben Norman and myself) snaked the cables through the basement. When we hooked it up...it worked! In fact, it appears to work pretty well. Below is a picture of the PC on a temporary table in the back of the church. This will get replaced with a narrow shelf. The second picture is a screen-shot of the program used to control the cameras, add titles, announce hymns, adjust the audio, and feed the results to YouTube.

It has been a lot of work to figure out what is needed to live-stream. Some things that have become apparent going through this process: 1) Having an internet presence is the "new normal." 2) People don't watch if they cannot see clearly or hear clearly what is happening during the service. 3) It's a big time commitment managing the video for a church service. Over the next few weeks, I'll be working to make running the streaming program as simple as I can. If you or someone in your family are interested helping run the PC during Sunday morning services, please let me know.

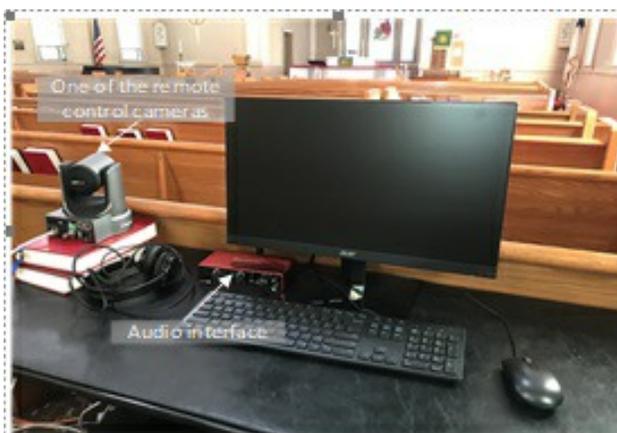


Figure 1 - Live-streaming PC

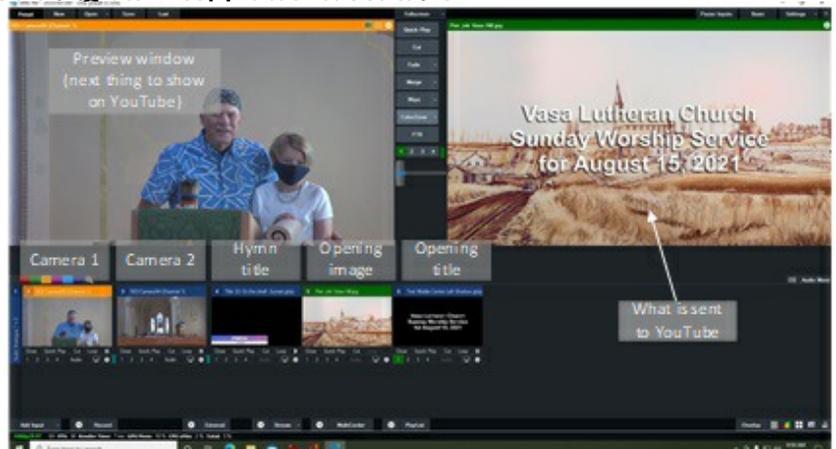


Figure 2 - Screen shot of Camera Control Program

## VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

June 21, 2021 @Lutheran Church (Unapproved)

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 6:15pm by Barbara Weigman, President

**Devotions:** Randy Klein

### **Members present and absent:**

**Present:** Pastor Maureen Hagen; Barbara Weigman, President; Sid Featherstone, Vice President; Brian Diercks; Missy McCann; Jessica Anderson; Duane Hanson; Greg Drewianka; Lora Gruber; Kent Volz; Randy Klein; Steve Hyllengren; and Andrew Featherstone, Secretary;  
Thirteen voting members present

**Unable to attend:** Kevin Eckblad and Steve Hyllengren

**Also Present:** Kathy Tilderquist

### **Adoption of the Agenda:**

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Presentation:** Mark Hagen re: livestreaming Sunday services.

It was moved and seconded to form a sub committee with Barb Weigman, Brian Diercks, Ben Norman, Kent Volz, and Mark Hagen, for worship service decisions on the Internet streaming.

**MOTION CARRIED**

It was moved and seconded to allow an allowance up to \$10,000 for cameras, computer, workstation, labor for wiring cable, and remote control audio mixer.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **Approval of Minutes:**

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2021 council meeting as written.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **Reports Reviewed and Accepted:**

1. Treasurer's Report (Attached)

Bob Josephson submitted his bill for snow removal and Kathy paid bill.

2. Finance Report (Attached)

a.

3. Parish Life (Attached)

a. Will be discussing Sunday School situation in August meeting.

b. A new commercial "Bunn" type unit is still under discussion and consideration. The reason for new coffee maker is it's faster.

4. Property Team Report (Attached)

Climber has been ordered and will take 8 weeks to come in.

5. Cemetery Board(N/A)

6. Executive Board Report (N/A)

1. Pastor's Report (Attached)

- a. Two baptisms scheduled
- b. Maureen has been asked to be a mentor/internship supervisor for a woman currently serving as a vicar at a two-point parish near Sargeant, MN. Her name is Jackie Short. Being a vicar is a way to acknowledge that she is serving as a pastor but has not yet been ordained. She will meet in person or have phone conversations every week. There is no cost to Vasa.

2. Museum Board (N/A)

3. Endowment Board Report (N/A)

**Tabled Business:**

North doors on Church

**New Business:**

1. Pastor Maureen will be on vacation in mid July and beginning of August.
2. Designated Signers for Mission Investment Fund

It was moved and seconded to have Brian Diercks and Barbara Weigman for designated check signers for Mission Investment Fund.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**June Meeting Dates:** (Tentative schedule)

Property: Monday August 9th @4:00pm

Finance: Monday August 9th @5:00pm

Parish Life: Monday August 9th @6:00pm

Executive: No meeting

Council: Monday, August 16th @6:00pm Devotions: Duane Hanson

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:05 PM.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Report submitted by: Andrew Featherstone, Secretary



Dear Pastor Maureen and Friends at Vasa,

Thank you so much for your generous help and gift of \$3,000 for the medical needs for Gregorio, the contractor who fell and badly broke his wrist while working on some construction for us.

Your gift and kindness came at just the time the funds were needed to pay for the surgery and medical needs. In Bolivia there is no health insurance so it is extremely difficult for the family when accidents happen. Gregorio has worked with RTC for years and as a Christian, has helped many small communities by using his time and funds to build churches in the country. He has always been a very giving and caring person.

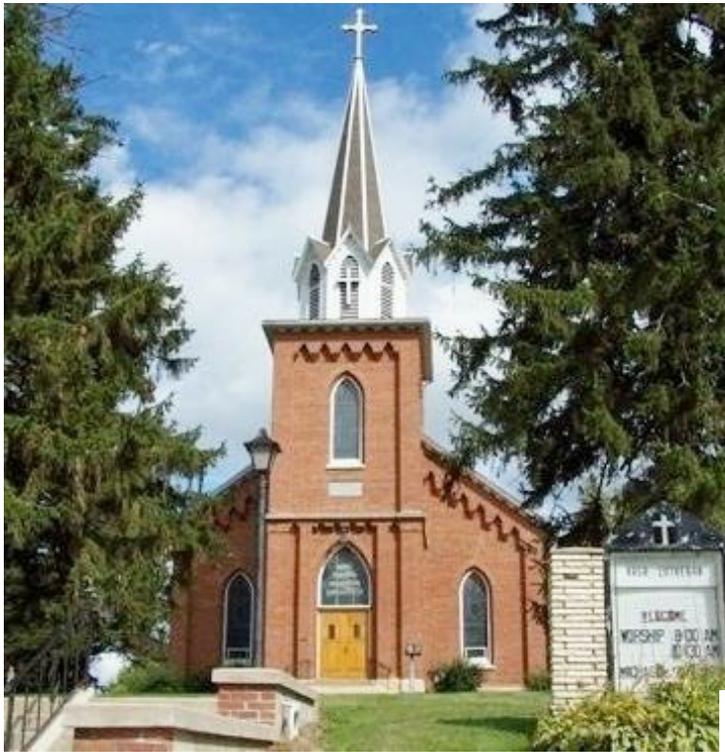
Thank you for blessing Gregorio with your help for his medical needs. Thank you for helping us with this much needed concern. Thank you for your prayers.

Paul and Jay (Mikaelsen)



**Vasa's July 4th Parade was a big hit!**





# Free Vasa Community Dinner

Starting our 10<sup>th</sup> Year!

Meals served The 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday  
of every month between 5:30-  
6:30 beginning September 8!

Vasa Lutheran Center

15235 Norelius Road

Welch, MN

## MENU

**Brats, potato salad (or chips—please  
specify with your order), baked beans,  
cookie**

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

**651-258-4327**

**office@vasalutheran.org**

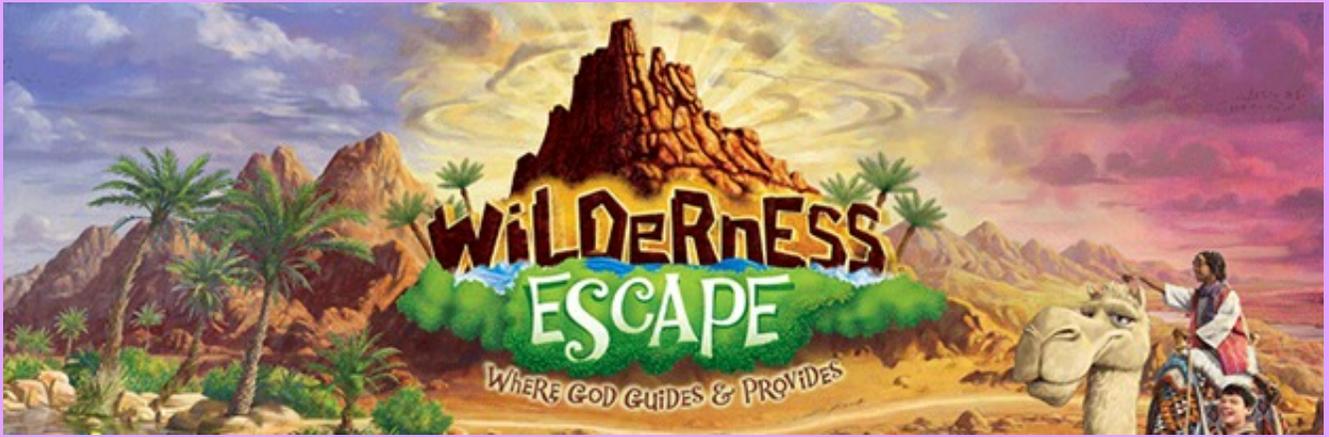
**Meal reservations due by NOON,  
SEPT 1, 2021**

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

**(Be sure to specify Pick-up or Delivery)**



**THRIVENT  
FINANCIAL®**



Vasa Lutheran Vacation Bible School will be held from August 23-26, 2021, from 5:00-6:30pm at the Lutheran Center. The theme this year is Wilderness Escape: Where God Guides and Provides. Each day will focus on how God is always with us every day, strengthening us and giving us what we need.

All children, ages 3 through 5th grade are encouraged to attend and bring a friend. Children may be dropped off any time between 4:30 and 5:00 for supervised play and a snack. There is a registration form on page 10, and they are also available in the office, on the Vasa Lutheran website, or Emily can email one to you.

Students grade 6 and above are welcome to attend as helpers. We always need extra hands and eyes to supervise. Adult helpers will be welcomed also.

## **VBS Daily schedule**

Day 1 - God is With Us, so...Trust God!

Key Verse: "God answered, 'I will be with you.'" (Exodus 3:12)

Bible Story: The Israelites cross the Red Sea (Exodus 14:1 - 15:21)

Day 2 - God gives us what we need, so...Trust God!

Key Verse: "For your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!" (Matthew 6:8)

Bible Story: God provides manna and quail (Exodus 16)

Day 3 - God saves us, so...Trust God!

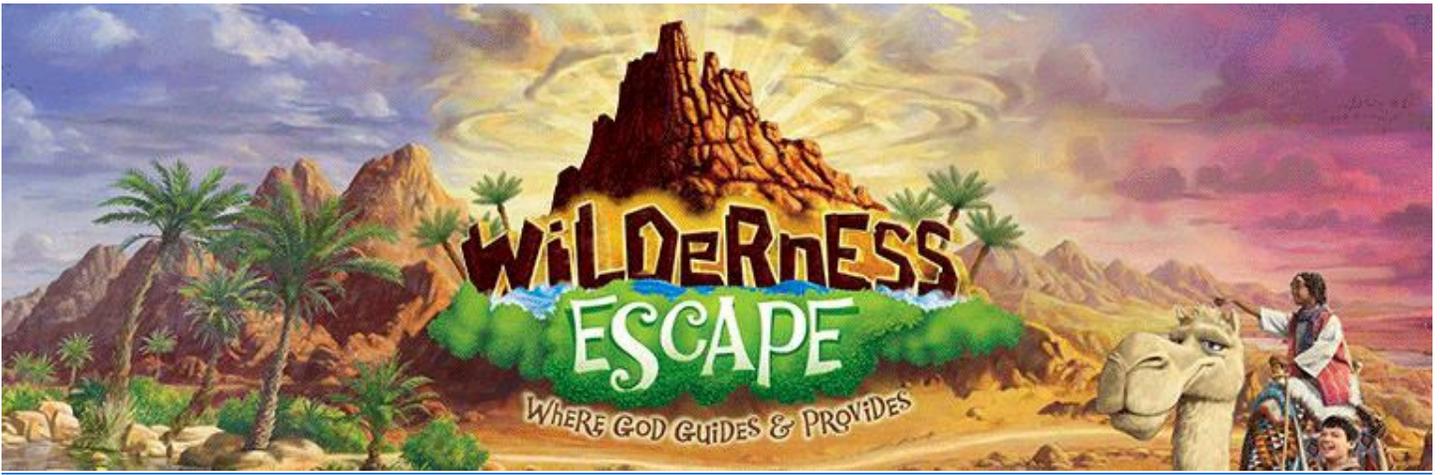
Key Verse - "For I am with you and will save you," says the Lord (Jeremiah 30:11)

Bible Story: Moses remembers Passover (Exodus 12:1-30)

Day 4 - God guides us, so...Trust God!

Key Verse: "I will bless the Lord who guides me." (Psalm 16:7)

Bible Story: God gives the Ten Commandments. (Exodus 20)



## 2021 Vasa Vacation Bible School Registration

Please complete for each child:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Entering Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Known Allergies/Medical Concerns \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Entering Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Known Allergies/Medical Concerns \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Entering Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Known Allergies/Medical Concerns \_\_\_\_\_

### Parent/Guardian Information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

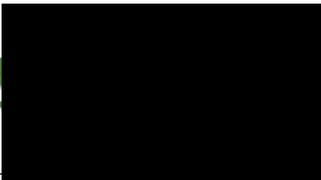
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

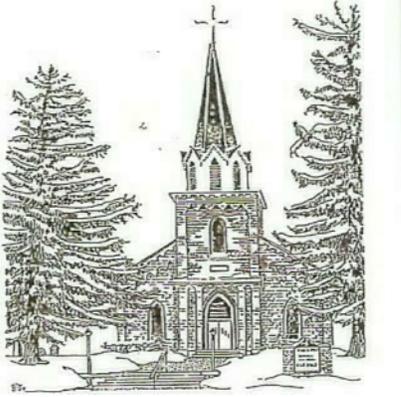
Health Care Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

# AUGUST 2020



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			6:30pm Wednesday Evening Worship Fellowship Room		Pastor's Day Off	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9am Service of Holy Communion  11:30-4:00 Vasa Museum Open	4PM Property Team  5PM Finance Team  6pm Parish Life Team	9:30 	6:30pm Wednesday Evening Worship Fellowship Room		Pastor's Day Off	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9am Service of The Word  11:30-4:00 Vasa Museum Open	6:30pm Church Council	9:30 	6:30pm Wednesday Evening Worship Fellowship Room		Pastor's Day Off	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9am Service of Holy Communion  11:30-4:00 Vasa Museum Open	5:00-6:30pm Vacation Bible School	5:00-6:30pm Vacation Bible School  9:30 	5:00-6:30pm Vacation Bible School  6:30pm Wednesday Evening Worship Fellowship Room	5:00-6:30pm Vacation Bible School	Pastor's Day Off	
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
9am Service of The Word  11:30-4:00 Vasa Museum Open		9:30 	6:30pm Wednesday Evening Worship Fellowship Room		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

### **Wednesday Evening Worship**

6:30 pm Wednesdays

Vasa Lutheran Center Fellowship Room

### **Executive Team**

Barbara Weigman, Council Pres 507.202.7880

Sid Featherstone, Council VP 651.214.7486

Andrew Featherstone, Council Sec. 651.470.9823

### **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)

### **Church Staff**

Emily Peterson, Office Administrator

Kathy Tilderquist, Treasurer

Melissa McCann, Custodian

Austin Ferguson, Worship Accompanist

Gail Strusz-Klein, Wedding Coordinator

Paul & Jay Mikaelson, Missionaries in LaPaz, Bolivia

[pmikaelson@gmail.com](mailto:pmikaelson@gmail.com)

web site: [www.caranavi.net/rtc.htm](http://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