



Summer Sermon Series



This summer we will spend time considering two books of the Bible: Job and Second Corinthians. We'll end our summer with a four week series on the Lord's Prayer.

The Old Testament book of Job will be the focus of sermons for five weeks beginning on June 7. Job is considered one of the oldest books of the Bible. The story of Job should be read as a parable, not a historical account. Like a parable, the book of Job ends with distinct lessons for the reader.

- June 7 J Job 1:1-22
- June 14 Job 3:1-10; 4:1-9; 7:11-21
- June 21 Job 14:7-15; 19:23-27
- June 28 Job 31:35-37; 38:1-11
- July 5 Job 41:1-8; 42:1-17

Following the dive into an Old Testament book, we will spend the next five weeks in the book of 2 Corinthians. Both letters to the Corinthians were written by the apostle Paul. In them he addresses the challenges of living together in Christian community.

- July 12 2 Cor 1:1-11 – Consolation
- July 19 2 Cor 2:1-10 – Forgiveness
- July 26 2 Cor 4:1-18 – Treasure in Clay Jars
- August 2 2 Cor 5:1-21 – Walk by Faith not Sight
- August 9 2 Cor 8:1-15 – Generosity

As we wrap up our summer we will spend the last three Sundays of August and the first Sunday of September looking in depth at the Lord's Prayer as it is written in Luke 11:2-4. Meda Stamper, who created this four week series wrote, we begin "with a week for the address [Our Father] and for each of the first two petitions, then a week for the three petitions related to love for neighbor and self."

Here's what's on the Inside!

- P. 2 Pastor Maureen's Message, Vasa Summer Worship Plans
- P. 3 Farewell note from Austin, June Birthdays, Treasurer's Report
- P. 4 Gowns for Good, Good Earth Village, Midsommar
- P. 5 Letter from Bishop Regina Hassanally
- P. 6 Thank you notes
- P. 7 Graduate Recognition



A Message from Pastor Maureen



Memorial Day is a day for remembering and honoring military personnel who died in the service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle. In spite of rain a group of Vasa members gathered near the flagpole on May 25th to remember. Standing in the rain seems a small sacrifice on our part compared to the sacrifices made by many in service to our country. The current flag was retired and replaced. Later in the morning the flag at the Lutheran Center was also retired and replaced.

Both flags will be appropriately disposed of by the American Legion Post in Red Wing.

Thank you to Troy and Karen Lindblom who provided Vasa with new flags.

Thank you to Steve and Coty Hyllengren who brought the bucket truck and replaced the rope for the flagpole.



Vasa Summer Worship Plans

Worship Plans for June and July 2020

The Executive team met on Wednesday, May 27 to continue planning for Vasa's return to worship in the sanctuary. The team decided:

1. Pre-recorded worship will be posted for June 7, 14, and 21.
2. Vasa will gather for worship in the sanctuary on Sunday, June 28th, at 9:00. This will be Austin Ferguson's last Sunday with us and we want to acknowledge the musical gifts that he has shared with us.
3. Vasa will return to pre-recorded worship for July 5 and 12 so that Pastor Maureen may take some vacation time.
4. June 28th will be an opportunity to try out our social distancing plans. We want to see what works and what does not. Here's what we know so far:
 - a. Everyone is expected to wear a face mask.
 - b. We will have pews blocked off so that we maintain safe social distances. (Allowances will be made for family groups.)
 - c. We will pray and we will confess our faith.
 - d. We will hear Scripture and there will be a sermon preached.
 - e. We will share communion using prepackaged communion portions and everyone will remain in their seats.
 - f. We will not sing.
 - g. We will not have a children's message.

So much changes so quickly it isn't wise to predict what our worship plans will be on July 19th and the Sundays following.

Interim Musician:

Anne Anderson has agreed to act as Vasa's interim musician beginning on July 1st. Plans for hiring a permanent musician are still pending.



Birthdays of the Month

May 27, 2020

Dear Vasa Community—

I'm sure you've heard by now that I have accepted a new position as Co-Director of Music at the First Unitarian Universalist Church in Rochester. This was not an easy decision, but all the factors lined up enough that it was too good an offer to turn down. (My poor parents—I must have called home a dozen times asking for advice!)

The congregation here has been, without a doubt, the most welcoming I have ever been fortunate enough to serve. Each and every one of you has made me feel so incredibly at home over my last two and a half years here, and I will truly never forget the kindness I have been shown. You've all probably heard me say it multiple times, but there is something special at Vasa that I can't quite describe... It's a place I will look on fondly, and I hope that when I have a Sunday off at First UU I can make it up to a service on the hill.

If you'd like to keep in touch, my email address is austinferguson@utexas.edu and I welcome friend requests on Facebook; you can find me at www.facebook.com/fergiethelonghorn if you'd like to stay in contact there.

In the words of the great Ira Gershwin, "...the way you've changed my life; no, they can't take that away from me."

Thank you, Vasa. I'm grateful for the opportunity to have gotten to know this wonderful place. I don't think I'll ever love a congregation as much as I do this one.

Austin

Birthdays

- 1 Andrea Hyllengren
- Vanessa Parrott
- 2 Tyler Klein
- 4 Jeremiah Bauch
- 7 Ames Anderson
- 8 Kate Hart
- 10 Stella Lyden
- 13 Emily Nelson
- 14 Kent Volz
- 15 Cheri Otto
- 15 Kerry Sorenson
- 16 Wendy Anderson
- Marshall Burke
- Darrell Carpenter
- Rosann Pearson
- 18 Jennifer Bauch
- 20 Arleen Stahnke
- 23 Morgan McCann
- 24 Lacey Hart
- 24 Ty Lindahl
- 29 Tom Ekblad
- 29 Melissa McCann

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

VASA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report

April 2020

For the Month of April:

Checkbook Balance, April 1, 2019	\$ 25,177.28
General Fund Contributions:	27,471.89
Mission Endowment Offering	7,187.00
Total Funds Available	59,836.17
Budget Approved Monthly Expenses:	<u>14,388.87</u>
Checkbook Balance, April 30, 2020	\$ 45,447.30
Mission Investment Fund, Mar 30,2020	\$33,970.90
Mission Investment Fund, Apr 30, 2020	\$34,004.21



News from Good Earth Village

Gowns for Good



After hearing about a push to get more personal protective equipment into the hands of health care workers through a group called gowns4good.net, I asked Pastor if Vasa would be interested in donating the choir robes which we aren't using. Pastor took the request to the Parish

Life committee who agreed this donation would be fine, and also suggested that we donate the confirmation gowns since another plan is being discussed for confirmation robes.

After washing, drying, mending, and packaging robes, as of this writing, Vasa has sent 6 gowns to Northwest Georgia Oncology Centers in Carrollton, GA and 4 gowns to Birmingham VA Medical Center in Birmingham, AL. I tried to choose recipients in states where Covid is still hitting hard.

Seven gowns will be taken to a retirement community in the Minneapolis area which has asked for gowns. There are 183 medical places from all over the US which have asked the Gowns4good group for gowns to act as personal protective equipment. While the idea originally was to encourage high school and college seniors who had to purchase their graduation gowns to donate them to a good cause, choir robes also will fill the need. Go to the above website if you have a graduation gown at your house which needs a new home.

~ Kathy Tilderquist

May 9, 2020

From Executive Director Dianna Parks:

"Today we write to you as servants to this community and to deliver the difficult and sad news that the staff and board of directors have decided that we will be unable to offer our currently scheduled summer programming in light of the Covid-19/coronavirus pandemic. Our camper and staff safety has always been our first priority in our programs, and this decision is based primarily on our concern for the health and well-being of our community."

If you are looking for a taste of camp from home for your children, the camp is offering a "Camp at Home" event every Thursday. Go to the Good Earth Village facebook page for more information.



Vasa-Spring Garden Midsommar Worship and Tractor Parade

Like so many other events, it is necessary to cancel the Midsommar Festival for 2020. Yes, the tractor parade could be held without serious concern for people's safety. But the breakfast, the worship services and the noon meal simply can not be managed. Consider what it is that you enjoy: is it the parade or it spending time with friends? We must keep our eyes on the prize. If gathering this year causes harm to friends, they won't be present for us to see next year.

Southeastern Minnesota Synod

of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



May 26, 2020

“All things are lawful,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful,” but not all things build up. Do not seek your own advantage, but that of the other.
1 Corinthians 10:23-24

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become servants to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
Galatians 5:13-14

Dear Leaders and Congregations of the Southeastern MN Synod,

As I am sure you are well aware, guidance from the office of Governor Walz, the Minnesota Department of Health, the CDC and President Trump has evolved quickly over the past few days.

Beginning May 27, religious organizations may gather for worship services in their buildings at 25% of capacity if they maintain physical distancing protocols for the duration of their time in the building, have a *COVID-19 Preparedness Plan* in place and follow MN Department of Health and local guidelines. The newest guidance from the MN Department of Health can be found [here](#) and updated guidance from the CDC for faith based organizations is [here](#). Be sure to consult your county public health resources as well. It is important to recognize that while guidance has been updated, there are things that have not yet changed.

The number of COVID-19 cases in Minnesota continues to rise as do hospitalizations and fatalities. Transmission of the virus is still occurring and, as Governor Walz repeatedly pointed out during his press conference on May 23, we have not yet hit the peak number of infections in Minnesota. This is the backdrop for conversations about when and how we will begin to gather again for in-person worship services.

The leadership in each congregation of this synod will need to work collaboratively to discern the best way forward. The choices made in one congregation will not be the same as those made in another. Please also note that all congregations must have a *COVID-19 Preparedness Plan* in place before returning to in-person gatherings. Parking Lot Worship Services and Outdoor Worship Gatherings continue to be options for many of our congregations. Those possibilities were discussed more thoroughly in my [letter on May 21](#).

As you continue to engage in conversation remember your neighbor and the wisdom from the apostle Paul, quoted above and paraphrased here: our choices, as followers of Christ, are not simply about what we can do but about what we can do to build up the whole body. Our choices, as followers of Christ, are never just about each of us as individuals but about our neighbors too.

There are many faithful ways to continue offering worship services at this time. Remember even when we do begin to gather in-person there are those who will not, for a variety of reasons, be able to join us. Remember too, that many of our pastors and deacons have health concerns which must, along with the concerns of the wider community, be considered.

I am thankful for your wise, courageous and patient leadership as you discern how to move forward. Do so with care, consider the needs of others, be thoughtful and incremental. If another partner in the conversation would be helpful, please contact an Assistant to the Bishop or myself. Much has changed in the past months and when your congregation does gather in-person again there will be things that are not the same as they once were.

Above all, I join you in giving thanks to God who is an ever present help in a time of need.¹

In Christ,

Bishop Regina Hassanally

¹ Psalm 46:1



MAY
kindness
RETURN TO YOU
IN THE SAME
beautiful way
THAT IT WAS GIVEN.

Thank you
Pastor Maureen and all
the Church Volunteers!
Thank you for the beautiful
flowers on Mother's Day!
It was such a nice surprise and
made my day! And thank you
for the bags of Easter treats
for the kids! The girls loved
them! We love our Vasa Church
and feel the love back!
Thank you for thinking of us!
Love,
Brian, Andrea
Malena, Miranah
Marissa
I enclosed
a check
for offering.

Thank you - again! -
for thinking of me
on Mother's Day.
You are so thoughtful
it will enjoy the
beautiful party
all summer!
Sincerely,
Sharyn

RED WING AREA FOOD SHELF
Goodhue County Christmas Project, Inc.

1755 Old West Main, Red Wing MN 55066

Founded in 1983,
to help others,
all year 'round.

Date 4.3.20

Dear Vasa Lutheran,

Thank you very much for your donation of
\$ 200.00 Ck. 20895

to the Red Wing Area Food Shelf.

With assistance from people like you, we can continue to meet

the temporary hunger needs of families in our area

Sincerely,

Feb D
For the Red Wing
Food Shelf

RED WING AREA FOOD SHELF
Goodhue County Christmas Project, Inc.

1755 Old West Main, Red Wing MN 55066

Founded in 1983,
to help others,
all year 'round.

Date 4/2/2020

Dear Vasa Lutheran,

Thank you very much for your donation of
77 # food

to the Red Wing Area Food Shelf.

With assistance from people like you, we can continue to meet

the temporary hunger needs of families in our area.

Sincerely,

Sue Kelly
For the Red Wing Area
Food Shelf

Thank you
so much !!

THANK YOU FOR THE many thanks!
EASTER BASKET AND
ALL THE GOODIES
INSIDE, THANKS
FOR ALL THE MEALS
YOU HAVE PROVIDED.
I ENJOYED ALL AND
IT IS VERY MUCH
APPRECIATED!
Nancy Mills





Dylan Anderson - headed for University of Wisconsin, River Falls to study Sports Science and Business.



Max Evenson and his Dad, Dan...Max is considering DCTC to learn the HVAC trade.



Tony Mann and his Dad, Chris. Tony is considering attending DCTC to study automotive engineering.



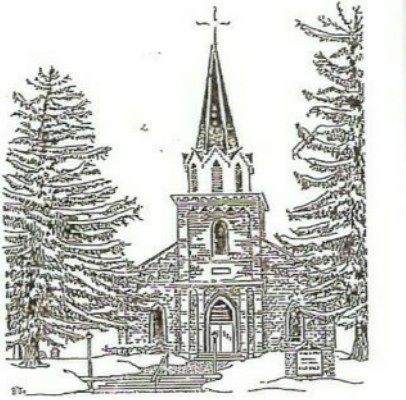
Kailynn Lind, and her Mom, Des Meyer. Kailynn is going to Minnesota State, Mankato to study pre-law and business.



Hailey Mann and Mom, Jesse Otto. Hailey is going to Minnesota State, Mankato to study Criminal Justice.



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 during Covid 19

9:00 am Sundays - see Vasa Lutheran website
(www.vasalutheran.org) for online YouTube link

Wednesday Window Meditations (uploaded weekly) - found on Vasa Lutheran Facebook page.

Pastor Maureen Hagen

pastormaureen@sleepyeyetel.net

(Cell) 507-251-5270

Church Office 651-258-4327

Office Email: vasalutheran@sleepyeyetel.net

Website: vasalutheran.org

Facebook: facebook.com/Vasa-Lutheran-Church

Executive Team

Greg Drewianka 651-301-2472

Jim Hedeem 651-380-6054

Rick Samuelson 651-380-9150

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