



The Vasa Voice



VOLUME 61 No. 10

OCTOBER 2025



2025 THIRD GRADE BIBLE RECIPIENTS

HERE ARE OTHER VASA HIGHLIGHTS FOR OCTOBER:

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------|---|
| ♦ October 1 & 15 | 9:30-11:00 | Women (of all ages and stages) Bible Study |
| ♦ October 8 | 5:30-7:00 pm | Vasa Family Fun Night |
| ♦ October 18 | 2:00-4:00 pm | Audrey and Murlyn Rosener 60th Anniversary Celebration!! |
| ♦ October 26 | 9:00-11:00 | Swedish Pancake Breakfast Museum Fundraiser |
| ♦ October 30 | 10:00am | Pastor Maureen Leads Worship at Cannon Rivers |
| ♦ October 30 | Time TBD | Set Up for Vasa Bazaar |
| ♦ October 31 | Time TBD | Set up for Vasa Bazaar |

Here's what's on the inside...

P. 2 Worship volunteers, October Birthdays ,

P. 3 Thoughts from Pastor Maureen

P. 4-5 Church Council Minutes, Treasurer's Report

P. 6 Swedish Pancake Breakfast details

P. 7 Taste of Welch, Feed My Starving Children , Living Well...Finishing Strong

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P. 10 Mark's Meditation

P. 11 October 2025 Calendar



Worship Volunteers for October

USHER

October 5	Ben Norman
October 12	Duane Hanson
October 19	Marv Fredrickson
October 26	Duane Hanson

HOSPITALITY

October 5	Kent Volz
October 12	Marilyn Hanson
October 19	B-J Norman
October 26	Lora Gruber

READERS

October 5	Mark Hagen
October 12	Jeannette Anderson
October 19	Barry Skog
October 26	Kathy Tilderquist

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

October 5	B-J Norman
October 19	volunteer needed



2	Edward Gruber
5	Jason Stahnke
	Bryan Diercks
6	Braeden Gillis
8	Jeannette Anderson
	Rebecca Fleming
11	Camden Smith
13	Elijah Bauch
	Jenna Montey
	Lyle Ness
	Judy Scripture
19	Michael Rosener
20	Cary Clemens
21	Caleb Diercks
23	Allen Peterson
	Ben O'Connor
24	Julia Fleming
26	Tim Carlson
27	Coty Hyllengren
	James Gruber
28	Murlyn Rosener
30	Dale Anderson
	Doris Munsen
31	Jillian Anderson

Dear Vasa Members and Friends!

Just over six years ago, when I needed a job with enough flexibility to allow me to care for my parents, Vasa was in need of someone to work in the church office. I could not have asked for a better place to be. My years here have given me privilege of getting to know some of the finest people I have ever met. Solid, dependable, gracious, resilient, caring and compassionate are words that immediately come to mind when I think of the Vasa Community.

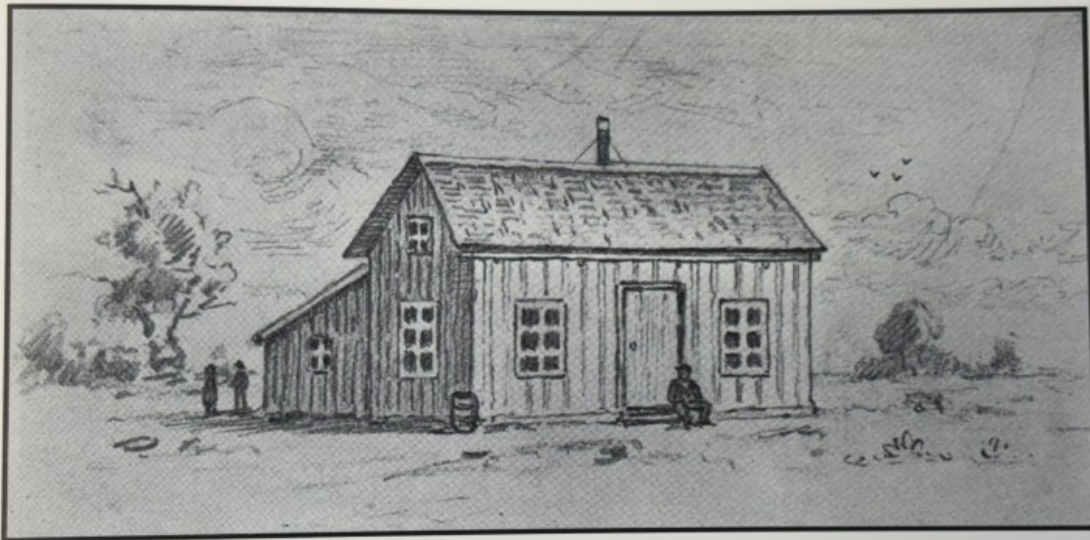
My decision to “retire” was not one I made lightly. But with my husband, Bill, FINALLY retired (after THREE attempts), and my parents now reunited and enjoying their next adventure in the afterlife, I thought it was the right time to begin to explore other things and places that have been on hold...until now. My final day in the office will be October 30th.

I’m sure I’ll be “in and out” as I help transition whoever is lucky enough to be here after I go, so I won’t say goodbye just yet. Instead, I look forward to our paths crossing as they may.

With abundant gratitude,

Emily

Thoughts from Pastor Maureen



THE FIRST CHILDREN'S HOME BUILDING.

Matthew 17:20 For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

I honestly don't know if Dr. Eric Norelius had faith the size of a mustard seed or if his faith was larger but I can tell you that his work here in Minnesota in the second half of the 19th century moved mountains. Here's one example:

On Saturday, September 20, 2025, Mark and I were invited to attend the Lutheran Social Services of MN (LSS) Fall Gala at the Minneapolis Depot. This event is a major fundraiser for this organization with over 900 people in attendance. Part of the intent of a gala is to raise money for a worthy cause and we witnessed people making pledges in abundance. The final tally was in excess of \$1.4 million dollars. The energy in the room was electric.

My point is not about the money that was raised. My point is that LSS traces its roots to a need that Vasa Congregation filled back in 1865. A Swedish family had emigrated to Vasa township. Unfortunately the parents died and their four children were left as orphans. Dr. Norelius with the support of the congregation hired a caregiver and arranged for a house to be built to shelter the family. It is from this modest beginning that LSS traces its roots.

Mother Teresa wrote: "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." The mystery is that God will most certainly use those small things to accomplish amazing things in the world. The origin story of LSS is a testament to that possibility and Vasa Congregation played a role in that.

Trust that you have faith the size of a mustard seed. Be a part of small things done with great love,

~Pastor Maureen



CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

August 18, 2025 @ Lutheran Church

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:12 pm by Bryan Diercks, President

Devotions: Sue Samuelson

Members present and absent:

Present: Pastor Maureen Hagen, Pastor; Bryan Diercks, President; Kent Volz; Tim Carlson; Barbara Weigman; Sue Samuelson; Mo Hauck; and Andrew Featherstone, Secretary;

8 voting members present

Unable to attend: Randy Klein, Vice President; and Chris Finne;

Also Present: None

Adoption of the Agenda:

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda for the August 18, 2025 council meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Minutes:

Not Reviewed.

Reports Reviewed and Accepted:

- **Treasurer's Report** (Attached) Church finances are in good position.
There were no camperships for Good Earth Village over the summer for children.
- **Finance Report** (Attached) The LP contract for the winter will be signed for 7,000 gallons at \$1.56 per gallon.
Greg Rathman was paid for updating the Lutheran Center wiring system. Spencer O'Reilly was paid \$500.00 for final kitchen remodeling items out of the bazaar funds and \$500 out of the general account maintenance account for fixing the pull down ladder to the steeple in the bride's room of the church.
- **Parish Life** (Attached) Family fun nights will be on September 10th. A year long theme will be on Fruit of the Spirit. There are 9 "fruits", one for each month of the program year.
Womans Bible Study 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM.
January thru March worship services will take place in the Lutheran Center. Easter is on April 5th and will be held in the Church.
- **Property Team** (NA)
- **Cemetery Board** (NA)
- **Executive Board Report** (NA)
- **Pastor's Report** (Attached)

There have been no inquires about the office administrator position. We have purchased "help needed" ads in local papers. St Ansgar's will be looking for a new office admin. St. Ansgar's will need 20hrs/week. Vasa will need 12hrs/week. Pastor emailed interim Pastor Paul Graham for a possible partnership

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Confirmation classes start for 7th and 8th graders on Wednesday evenings 5:45-6:45. Confirmation classes for the 9th graders will be held on Sunday mornings after worship beginning September 14th.

- **Museum Board (NA)**
- **Endowment Board Report (NA)**

Tabled Business:

New Business:

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

VASA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report

Aug 31, 2025

For the Month of August:

Checkbook Bal. Aug 1, 2025	\$ 75,163.44
General Fund Contributions:	8,619.20
Mission Endowment Offering	8,300.00
Total Funds Available	92,082.64
Budget Approved Monthly Exp:	(16,322.24)
Checkbook Bal, Aug 31, 2025	\$ 75,760.40

CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Bryan Diercks, 507-259-3909
bryandiercks@protonmail.com

Vice President: Randy Klein 651-212-8045
rdelmark@outlook.com

Secretary: Andrew Featherstone 651-470-9823
rwfeatherstonepainting@gmail.com

Tim Carlson	651-442-5066
Chris Finne	651-380-3690
Maureen Hauck	651-331-8593
Missy McCann	651-307-2274
Sue Samuelson	907-250-4103
Kent Volz	651-402-0942
Barbara Weigman	507-202-7880

WHO TO CONTACT IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Indoors:	Andrew Featherstone	651-470-9823
Kitchen:	Sue Hedeon	651-380-6270
	Faye Drewianka	651-212-3209
Outdoors:	Duane Hanson	651-380-1763
	Steve Hyllengren	651-258-4338



OCTOBER 25TH

9:00-11:00AM



SWEDISH PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Vasa Lutheran Center

15235 Norelius Road

Welch, MN 55089



**DINE IN!
NO RESERVATIONS
REQUIRED!**



**Swedish pancakes
Sausage patties
Lingonberries**

Proceeds will be used to restore a very rare, original 1877 map of Goodhue County. This map was likely used in school (s) at the time, which makes it a valuable primary source. All donations are greatly appreciated as we continue to preserve our history here!





The Mobile Pack for Feed My Starving Children will be held at Cannon Falls High School on Saturday, November 8 with set-up on Friday, Nov 7.

Last year over 100,000 meals were packed which went to Cuba and Guatemala. However, with the rise in costs, this year the goal is to pack 85,500 meals which will cost \$25,000. In order to try to help with these costs, the Cannon Falls committee for Feed My Starving Children decided to sell t-shirts and chances to win a quilt donated by Val Haggstrom of Spring Garden. There will be a table in the gathering space for the next few weeks to purchase either t-shirts for \$20, or donations for the quilt. For \$5, you would get 1 chance for the quilt while \$10 gets you 3 chances and \$20 gets 6 chances. For a donation of \$30, you get 7 chances for the quilt plus a t-shirt. Free-will donations are always accepted. The sign-up sheet for working at the event will also be on the table. See Kathy Tilderquist with any questions.

**34th Annual
Taste of Welch
Bake Sale
Lunch**

Homemade Chicken Wild Rice Soup
Homemade Vegetable Soup
Roast Beef Sandwiches
Coleslaw
Assorted Desserts
Hot and Cold Beverages

Raffle
Quilt
Many other items including
Gift Cards and Gift Certificates
Sign up for FREE drawings! Some Crafts available

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
24036 Co. Rd. 7 Blvd., Welch, MN
Saturday, October 11th, 2025
9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Partially funded by a
Thrivent Action Grant

LIVING WELL, FINISHING STRONG

**PLANNING FOR THE FINAL
THIRD OF LIFE:**
-ESTATE PLANNING
-AGING IN PLACE
-END OF LIFE ARRANGEMENTS

WEDNESDAY OCT. 22ND, 2025
CHECK-IN: 4:30 PM
MEAL: 5:00PM
PROGRAM TO FOLLOW

CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
24036 COUNTY 7 BLVD WELCH, MN 55089

RSVP BY OCTOBER 15TH TO:
PASTOR@CCCRCHURCH.COM

VASA FAMILY NIGHT

Wednesday, October 8th

5:30-7:00 pm

Fruit of the Spirit: Joy

Join us for:
Walking Tacos
Fun Activities
Short Devotion

"MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD." PSALMS 100:1



VASA BAZAAR

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 1st

9 AM - 3 PM

Located at the Vasa Lutheran Center on
the corner of Hwy 19 and County Rd 7, east
of Cannon Falls

**SOMETHING
FOR EVERYONE**

Crafters: Jewelry, home
decor, holiday decor, knit &
crochet items &
miscellaneous crafts

Vendors: Norwex,
Tupperware, apples,
Wellness Support
Products, Scentsy

**FOOD AND BEVERAGES
BAKE SALE**

MARK'S MEDITATION: A TRUE CHRISTIAN

What makes you a Christian? A Catholic (and a Lutheran) might respond by saying that baptism marks a person as belonging to Christ. An Evangelical might respond by quoting John 3:3 which has Jesus say "no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." That is, Evangelicals believe a personal conversion is necessary to be a true Christian. But what about our earliest (written) evangelist, the Apostle Paul. What does he say marks a person as a Christian?

Paul's longest and most systematic epistle is the letter he wrote to the church in Rome. Unlike his other letters, which were written to churches he had founded, the epistle to the Romans is addressed to an already existing church. In this letter he lays out Christian theology as he understands it in the hope that they would fund his planned evangelistic mission to Spain. In the 12th chapter (Romans 12 9:21), Paul describes how to be a "good Christian."

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with true affection; take delight in honoring each other. Do not be lazy; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of God's people; pursue hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but consider what is noble in the sight of all. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

Beloved, never take revenge upon yourselves, but leave room for the

wrath of God. For it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals [of shame] on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Notice that Paul says nothing about what to believe; only how to act. Of course, earlier in the epistle (chapter 6) Paul argues that it is Christ's death and resurrection that gives us the courage to act righteously in a sinful world.

We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin.... Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life.... Well then, since God's grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not! Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.

Paul clearly believes that being a Christian entails a "new life." Whether this re-birth occurs because of the sacrament of baptism or because of a conscious acceptance of Christ is immaterial to Paul. As he points out in chapter 12, it is a means to an end; and that end is righteousness.

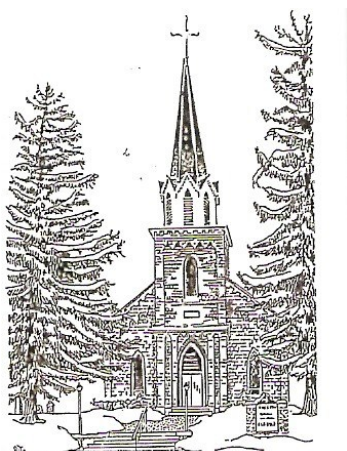
"Vengeance is mine" is a quote from Deuteronomy 32:35. Here Paul is quoting Proverbs 25:21-22

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30-11:00 Women's Bible Study	2	3	4
5 9AM Communion Worship and Sunday School @ Lutheran Center 10:15 9th Grade Confirmation	6 TEAM MEETINGS 4PM Property 5PM Finance 6:30 Museum Board	7  9:30	8 5:45-6:45 7th/8th Confirmation Class 5:30-7:00 	9	10 Pastor's Day Off	11
12 9AM Worship & Sunday School @ Lutheran Center 10:15 9th Grade Confirmation Pastor Maureen at Theological Conference	13 5:15PM Parish Life 6PM CHURCH COUNCIL	14  9:30	15 9:30-11:00 Women's Bible Study 5:45-6:45 7th/8th Confirmation Class 6:45 Wednesday Evening Worship	16	17 Pastor's Day Off	18
19 9AM Communion Worship and Sunday School @ Lutheran Center 10:15 9th Grade Confirmation	20	21  9:30	22 5:45-6:45 7th/8th Confirmation Class 6:45 Wednesday Evening Worship	23	24 Pastor's Day Off	25  9:00-11:00 AM Swedish Pancake Breakfast
26 9AM Worship & Sunday School @ Lutheran Center 10:15 9th Grade Confirmation	27	28  9:30 31	29 5:45-6:45 7th/8th Confirmation Class 6:45 Wednesday Evening Worship	30 Pastor Maureen at Cannon Rivers 10:00 AM 7:00pm Endowment Team	31 Winter Bazaar Set Up 6-9 Happy Halloween!  Pastor's Day Off	NOVEMBER 1 

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

9:00AM Sundays (also live-streamed)

6:30pm Wednesday Evening Worship + Everyday Bible Conversation

Executive Team

Bryan Diercks, Council President 507.259.3909

Randy Klein, Council Vice President 651.212.8045

Andrew Featherstone, Council Secretary 651.470.9823

Pastor Maureen Hagen

pastor@vasalutheran.org

(Cell)507.251.5270

Church Staff

Kathy Tilderquist, Treasurer

Emily Peterson, Office Administrator

Melissa McCann, Custodian

Anne Anderson, Worship Accompanist

Gail Strusz-Klein, Wedding Coordinator

Vasa Mission Statement

We, the Vasa Congregation,
Called by God, commit to:
Worshipping together,
Growing in Faith,
Serving Others, and
Welcoming and loving all!