



## Highlights of Life at Vasa in July

### July 2-15

Pastor Maureen will be on vacation from Thursday, July 2 through Wednesday, July 15. As has been customary during this Covid 19 time, services will be pre-recorded. The service on July 5 will be led by Pastor Maureen and will conclude the sermon series on Job. The service on July 12 will be led by the Southeast Minnesota Synod, with Bishop Hassanally preaching on The Good Samaritan.

### July 19

We will officially resume worship in our sanctuary on July 19 and will follow the CDC guidelines for gathering in indoor spaces. See additional article on p. 6. Also, check the scheduled list of Worship Volunteers on p. 3 to see if you're on it!



### HOW TO STAY SAFE WHEN WORSHIPPING

- Sit with members of your household and keep at least 6 feet of space between households. There should be at least 6 feet of space on the sides, in front, and behind.
- Wear a mask or cloth face covering at all times: when you arrive, when you leave, and during the service.
- Do not shake hands, hold hands, or have other physical contact with people outside of your household.
- Avoid gathering with others before or after the service.



### *Here's what's on the Inside!*

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## Pastor's Thoughts for July



Most people enter Vasa Church through the south doors and in doing so pass under this window that quotes part of **Psalm 100:4** "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. "

On Sunday, June 21, I had the opportunity to deliver Father's Day packages to eight dads in Red Wing. Several of them asked, "Pastor, when are we going to worship at the church again?" I was pleased to be able to say, "Next Sunday." And the response was, "Good. We plan to be there!"

Gathering as we did on June 28th to worship was a delight. For those who were able to attend it was a joy to "enter his gates" and worship once again.

Why so wonderful? In part because we miss Vasa. In part because we miss our friends. But another big part is because when we gather for worship there we are reminded that "the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations." (Psalm 100:5)

We have been through some trying times over the last few months. In regard to the Covid-19 virus, there is a strong possibility that the virus will return with a vengeance in the fall. Yet, on this day we will enter His gates with thanksgiving and sit in the sanctuary with praise in our hearts. We will bless God's name and remember that the Lord is good, that God's love is steadfast, and eternal, and that God has always been and will continue to be faithful to us and to the generations that follow.

Enjoy the warmth of summer,  
*Pastor Maureen*

## Jesus Would Wear a Mask

Mark Hagen

Humans have a generosity gene. We are the only animal on the planet that can work together and support each other in large numbers. Ants and bees may live in large colonies, but they don't create and thrive in cities of 20 million or more.

Every parable that Jesus told, every sermon that he taught, is centered on the idea that you should believe that you will be rewarded for loving your neighbor. This is the belief that the Apostle Paul was talking about when he said "Believe in Jesus."

So, how should we act today; in the summer of 2020?

Epidemiologists tell us that we should wear a mask in public, not to protect ourselves, but to safeguard others in case we are in the short window of time when you are infectious, but not symptomatic. This is perfectly aligned with what Jesus taught. As Paul wrote: For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Galatians 5:14)

Again, and again, we are reminded how true and right are the words of Jesus.

### VASA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

#### Treasurer's Report

May, 2020

For the Month of May:

Checkbook Balance, May 1, 2020	\$45,447.30
General Fund Contributions:	13,785.00
Total Funds Available	59,232.30
Budget Approved Monthly Expenses:	18,112.58
Checkbook Balance, May 31, 2020	<u>\$41,112.58</u>
Mission Investment Fund, April 30, 2020	\$34,004.21
Mission Investment Fund, May 31, 2020	\$34,038.66

## Volunteers for July

### USHERS

Marv Fredrickson  
Kevin Hanson  
Mike Carlson  
Jason Stahnke

### READERS

19 Sid Featherstone  
26 Marcia Featherstone

### COMMUNION ASSISTANT

19 Kevin Eckblad

### COMMUNION SET-UP

Bruce Tilderquist

thank  
you!

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

~Emily



## Birthdays

2 Mary Nelson  
5 Bryan Anderson  
6 Zachary Carlson  
8 Fiona Diercks  
9 Maureen Hagen  
10 Patrick Rehder  
12 Steven Thomforde  
19 Joel Hyllengren  
20 Karen Lindblom  
Beibhinn Winn  
27 Emmitt Featherstone  
28 Dylan Anderson  
Kelsey Lindholm  
Jedd Otto  
31 Nancy Trelstad



### Father's Day Gifts

Vasa is a generous congregation. We had a lot of fun delivering Easter bags to our children and shut-ins, as well as flowers to our moms on Mother's Day. We didn't want to forget the fathers so on Father's Day weekend we delivered packages to the dads in our congregation who still have children in school. Pop-tarts, Pop-chips, Tootsie Pops, and Pop-secret popcorn were bagged up, delivered, and received with delight.



Thanks To Vasa Church for the lovely Mother's Day plant. It's thriving!

Deb Donath



Empowering lives through HOPE

Vasa Lutheran Church  
15235 Norelius Road  
Welch, MN 55089

June 4, 2020

Dear Pastor Maureen:

You made my day! Today I came across your generous donation. I can't tell you how much I appreciate your support for our advocacy work with those who have experienced trauma from violence, abuse or poverty.

One of the people you helped is Jesse. She fled a violent home life with her 4-year-old son. She'd been controlled and traumatized for several years. "People tell you to leave, but do not understand the huge difficult process that is after you've been isolated and under someone else's control." Our advocates were there for Jesse and her son through the court case, finding a new place to live, getting her son into Head Start, and getting her into college. "I'll get thru today because you gave me strength." Pastor Maureen, it's because of you we were able to help.

Our mission is to empower the lives of our clients with hope so they can live safe, successful and independent lives. Your generous donation goes a long way to helping us make that mission a reality. Thank you! You make a real difference in people's lives.

With gratitude,

Kris Kvols  
Executive Director  
651-388-9360, Ext. 9, kkvols@hope-coalition.org

Below is the information for your records:

Date: May 29, 2020 Check No: 20929 Amount: \$275.00

To learn more about HOPE Coalition: visit our website at: [www.hope-coalition.org](http://www.hope-coalition.org), watch client stories on our YouTube channel at: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCScWv7degrcw8LnOCqRH2vw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCScWv7degrcw8LnOCqRH2vw), or follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/MNhopecoalition>.

HOPE Coalition is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and our tax ID number is 41-1720180. No goods or services were exchanged for the above-listed contribution(s).

*Many thanks to the congregation for this generous gift as well as all of your past support! As we celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the midst of a pandemic, our services are more important than ever. Thank you for helping us continue our work!*

HOPE Coalition, P.O. Box 247, Red Wing, Minnesota 55066  
Business (651) 388-9360, [www.hope-coalition.org](http://www.hope-coalition.org)  
Equal Opportunity Employer / ADA

*thank you*



Dear Pastor Maureen + Vasa Church  
Thank you for the very nice quilt and thinking of me on my graduation.  
I'm going to UW-River Falls this fall to major in Exercise + Sports Science.  
Thank you  
Dylan Anderson





**American Red Cross**

The next blood drive at Vasa will be held on August 6 from 1-7 pm. There are plenty of spots still available if you are able to donate. For more information or if you have donated previously, contact Kathy Tilderquist. OR, feel free to sign up at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).



Tuesday Morning Coffee will resume on August 4. Men will gather in the gym, and women will gather in the fellowship room.



Pastor Maureen is planning to offer a Vacation Bible School program during the week of August 24-27, from 9:00-11:30. Each day will highlight a day of Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. If you are interested in helping, contact Pastor Maureen.



**Wednesday Faith Formation Night**

Wednesday Evening worship with communion will resume on August 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 pm 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.





## A BUNCH OF WACKY GUYS!

Thanks to these wonderful men who lovingly care for the Vasa Cemetery.

Pictured L to R:

Charlie Peterson, Wally Gardiner, Duane Martenson, Kevin Eckblad, Kent Volz, Lyle Ness. (Ben Norman, Photographer)

## Vasa Masks Up for Worship!

46 members of Vasa joined together for worship in the Sanctuary for the first time since March 15.

Many Thanks to Jeannette Anderson, Terri Mandelkow, Linda Thompson, and Kathy Tilderquist for sewing the masks. A SPECIAL thanks to LoriRae Anderson for machine embroidering "Vasa" on each mask.



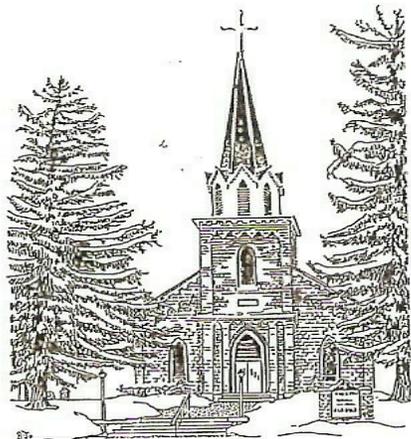
Mark Hagen, BJ Norman and Audrey Rosener are working on digitizing several photos like this one—from the museum collection. They believe this is the Rev. E.A. Lindgren and a group of orphans circa 1915. (Lindgren served 1914-'21).



Vasa Museum is OPEN for the Summer by appointment for individuals and small groups of 5 or fewer. Contact the church office at 651-258-4327 to schedule a tour.



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**

9:00-10:00 am Sunday School

At the church

September thru May

### **Faith Formation Night**

5:15-7pm Wednesdays, September-May

Vasa Lutheran Center

-

6:15pm Wednesdays **resuming**

**August 5, 2020** at Vasa Lutheran

Center

### **Pastor Maureen Hagen**

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(Cell) 507-251-5270

Church Office 651-258-4327

Office Email: [vasalutheran@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:vasalutheran@sleepyeyetel.net)

Website: [vasalutheran.org](http://vasalutheran.org)

### **Church Staff**

Kathy Tilderquist, Treasurer

Emily Peterson, Office Administrator

Melissa McCann, Custodian

Anne Anderson, Interim Worship Accompanist

Gail Strusz-Klein, Wedding Coordinator

Paul & Jay Mikaelsen, Missionaries in LaPaz, Bolivia

[pmikaelsen@gmail.com](mailto:pmikaelsen@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!