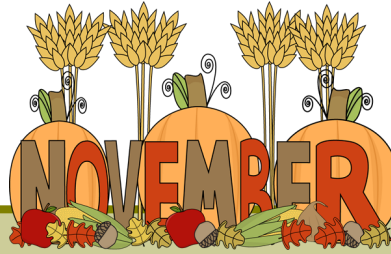




The Vasa Voice



VOLUME 61 No. 11



NOVEMBER 2025

What's Happening This Month at Vasa

November 1—Vasa Bazaar 9:00-3:00

November 2—All Saints Sunday

This service will remember the saints from our congregation who have passed away during the past year as we light a candle in their memory. Everyone is invited to come forward and light a votive in memory of a loved one.

November 12th — Vasa Family Fun Night 5:30PM

All are invited to join in fun and fellowship.

November 16th—Affirmation of Faith

Join Bella Otto, Kennedy McCann, and Marissa Mandelkow as they affirm their faith during worship on November 16th.

November 23th—Thankful Sunday

Although we give thanks to God weekly, this is a special opportunity to remember our blessings — from God and from members of our own congregation. Treats will be provided after the service.



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

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Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal Dates*

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Worship Volunteers for November

USHER

November 2	Mike Bauch
November 9	Rick Samuelson
November 16	Volunteer Needed
November 23	Rick Samuelson
November 30	Volunteer Needed

HOSPITALITY

November 2	Audrey Rosener
November 9	Sue Ness
November 16	Mo Hauck
November 23	Lora Gruber
November 30	Volunteer Needed

READERS

November 2	Sid Featherstone
November 9	Mark Hagen
November 16	Barry Skog
November 23	Mo Hauck
November 30	Volunteer Needed

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

November 2	Barry Skog
November 16	Volunteer Needed

November birthdays

2	Brenner Pagel
6	Malena Mandelkow Miranda Mandelkow
8	Steve Hyllengren Donna Anderson
9	Cassidy Smith
12	Miley Clemens
15	Dan Evenson
17	Andrew Featherstone
21	Charlie Peterson
22	Barbara Flueger
23	Teresa Schmidt
26	Alivia Schaffer
27	Kodee Lindahl Laurie Poole
28	Suzanne Ness
30	Christopher Poole

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDARS!

Calling all Vasa children! The Children's Christmas program will be on Sunday, December 21 at 10:00am in the Lutheran Center, followed by a potluck meal of egg bakes and cinnamon rolls. Rehearsals will be held during Sunday School on **November 16th & 23rd, and December 7th and 14th**. In addition to rehearsals during the Sunday School Time, there will also be work on set decorating. Make sure to come to Sunday School in November and December!



Thoughts from Pastor Maureen

The 2025 pastor's theological conference was organized around the theme *Baptism in Muddy Waters*. Our keynote speaker was Rev. Leila Ortiz. Rev. Ortiz used the image of an estuary in her presentations. What is an estuary? An estuary is the place where a river meets the sea. It is a place where fresh river water mixes with salt water. One of the characteristics of this brackish water is that its saltiness varies. The plants and animals who live in this environment have evolved mechanisms that allow them to tolerate the changing conditions. Another of the characteristics of this water is that it is cloudy. The cloudiness means that the animals that live in an estuary cannot see very far. If they are to survive they must adapt to thrive in muddy water.



Rev. Ortiz challenged us to recognize that we are creatures of the estuary. We are called to live in an environment that var-

ies in its saltiness. Our charge as children of God is to adapt to the changing water conditions: sometimes salty, sometimes fresh. We are also called to live in an environment that doesn't allow us to see very far ahead. This means that we must put our trust in God especially when we can't see very far ahead. The future may be cloudy and uncertain, but God's love for us and claim on us is unchanging.

Genesis 28:15 records words that God spoke to Jacob when he was fleeing from his brother Esau. Jacob was sleeping in the wilderness and he was afraid. God said to him, "Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Jacob couldn't see far into the future but he had this firm promise from God. This is a promise that we can claim for our own even when we are swimming in cloudy, brackish water.

God is with you.

Pastor Maureen



Sunday November 2nd at the 9AM worship Service, all saints will be honored, especially those whom we have lost since last year's Feast of All Saints.

Jim Hedeem

Paul Mikaelson

Connie Gillis

Carolyn Lindstrom

Yvonne Belin

Education Award Application

MISSION ENDOWMENT
FUND



The Mission Endowment Committee is now taking applications for Education Awards. The application deadline is Sunday, November 30th. You can download an application form from the Vasa Website (vasalutheran.org), or request one from the office by email (office@vasalutheran.org) or phone (651-258-4327.) To qualify for an award, you or your parents must be active members of Vasa Lutheran.



The Hedeem family planted a maple tree in Jim's memory on October 13th. We will pray a blessing on the tree after worship on All Saints' Day, Sunday, November 2nd. The Vasa Congregation gives the family thanks for Jim and for all that he did for this congregation over his life.

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**

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VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Sep 15, 2025 @ Lutheran Church

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:10 pm by Bryan Diercks, President

Devotions: Bryan Diercks

Members present and absent:

Present: Pastor Maureen Hagen, Pastor; Bryan Diercks, President; Randy Klein, Vice President; Kent Volz; Mo Hauck; and Andrew Featherstone, Secretary;

6 voting members present

Unable to attend: Tim Carlson; Barbara Weigman; Sue Samuelson; Missy McCann; and Chris Finne;

Also Present: Kathy Tilderquist

Adoption of the Agenda:

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda for the Sep 15, 2025 council meeting. **MOTION CARRIED**

Approval of Minutes:

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2025 and August 18, 2025 council meeting as written.

MOTION CARRIED

Reports Reviewed and Accepted:

1. Treasurer's Report (Attached)

- a. Checkbook stayed even for the month.
- b. A new fund was formed for Church doors.

2. Finance Report (Attached)

- a. It was moved and seconded to give Sasha Diercks authorized permission to have online access to Vasa Lutheran Parsonage Account

MOTION CARRIED

- b. Offering envelopes for 2026 will not be ordered. We have a three year supply for blank envelopes for the people who use

them. Users will need to add their number to the envelopes. We'll also order blank check size envelopes for the occasional users. This will save about \$240 per year.

3. Parish Life (Attached)

- a. Family night will be on Oct 8th.
- b. Pastor Appreciation day will take place Oct 12th.
- c. A letter for night to unite was sent to the township. Vasa Lutheran can host but the Church will not be the planners.

4. Property Team (NA)

5. Cemetery Board (NA)

6. Executive Board Report (NA)

7. Pastor's Report (Attached)

- a. Reallocation of money designated for World Mission Prayer League/ Radio & Television Caranavi: Council will discuss in a future meeting for where the \$1,500.00 will go to.

- b. 7th and 8th grade confirmation will begin on Wednesday September 17th.

8. Museum Board (NA)

9. Endowment Board Report (NA)

Tabled Business:

New Business:

August meeting Dates: (Tentative schedule)

Property: Monday October 6th @4:00pm

Finance: Monday October 6th @5:00pm

Parish Life: Monday October 13th @5:15pm

Council: Monday October 13th @6:00pm Devotions: Andrew Featherstone

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:20 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Report submitted by: Andrew Featherstone, Secretary

VASA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report September 30, 2025

For the Month of September:

Checkbook Balance, Sept 1, 2025	\$ 75,760.40
General Fund Contributions:	6,784.91
Total Funds Available	82,545.31
Budget Approved Monthly Expenses:	<u>(14,030.08)</u>
Checkbook Balance, Sept 30, 2025	\$ 68,515.23

The annual Vasa Museum Pancake breakfast was held on Saturday, October 25, 2025. They served about 100 meals and raised \$1752 toward the restoration and protection of an 1877 Goodhue County map that is housed at the museum.

Many thanks to those who worked in the kitchen:



L to R: B-J Norman, Bryan Diercks, Al Lindell, Audrey Rosener, Rodney Nelson, Ben Norman, Marvin Fredrikson, Faye Drewianka, and Dan Evanson.

CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Bryan Diercks, 507-259-3909
bryanddiercks@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

Also on Wednesday, October 8th we held another Family Fun Night. The highlight of the event was a hayride around the Vasa neighborhood. This picture shows the exuberance of the kids! Eventually there were about 40 kids and grownups on the wagon.



Our theme for the year is the Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23 and we emphasized joy this month. As you can see there was lots of joy for the kids as they got ready to go on the ride. When they returned they ate walking tacos and thought about joy by singing "The Fruit of the Spirit" and "I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy Down in My Heart."

MARK'S MEDITATION

BY MARK HAGEN

The content of the Bible goes something like this: God created the world--twice. (First on a human scale in chapter 2-3 with Adam and Eve. Then on a cosmic scale in chapter 1.) Then we get the story of the Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Then the Israelites become enslaved in Egypt and God raises up Moses to lead them to freedom. It is through Moses that Israel receives "The Law." All this takes place in the Pentateuch; the first five books of the Bible.

Later, we learn of the monarchs (kings) of Israel and Judah. This is told in 1st and 2nd Samuel and 1st and 2nd Kings. (Then the story of the monarchs is repeated in 1st and 2nd Chronicles.) After that we get the words of the prophets, wisdom literature, and Daniel. Next comes the epistles of Paul, the Gospels of Jesus Christ, and Revelation. (In order of the chronology in which they were written.)

Sandwiched between the books of Moses and the books chronicling the Judahite monarchy are the books of Joshua and Judges. These books tell a story of the conquest of Canaan by Joshua and the Israelites. However, these stories are problematic. We read about the capture of Jericho by miraculous means. But, although Jericho was defeated and destroyed many times (it is one of the oldest cities on the planet), none of the archeological layers of ash correspond with the biblical timeline. The story of Samson is strikingly similar to the stories of Greek heroes like Hercules. It says that God "held" the sun still in the sky for Joshua. There is a passage where the men of Israel circumcise themselves a *second* time. (How does that work?) Finally, what do we do with passages that have God demand that Joshua kill or destroy *every* person and thing after winning a battle? (Joshua 6:17-21, 8:24-29, 9:24, 10:28-40, 11:11-23, etc.)

Although there are multiple places in the Bible where the events described don't make logical sense, the books of Joshua and Judges are the worst offenders. Professor Chauncey Handy says that when you read these passages you need to understand that the Bible tells stories about the past that are not the same as the past. The biblical author's goal was not 'let me tell you exactly how it happened' as much as, 'let me tell you why it matters to us now.'

This is incredibly important to keep in mind when sharing your faith. We teach our children a literal version of the biblical stories so that they can know and remember them. But if we stop there, we run the risk of losing our faith when we encounter these incongruities. As one Evangelical preacher said "If Jericho was not razed, how can I believe that Jesus was raised?" Many of our children and grandchildren have followed this line of thinking and walked away from the Church.

The bible includes stories of great battles won, wondrous miracles, and healing, not as history, but as signs (to use the Gospel of John's terminology) to give us courage to hear Jesus. As Christians, we are asked to believe what cannot be seen; to have faith that selflessly giving of ourselves will reap future blessings. This is not rational; it cannot be measured scientifically. Maybe that is why the Bible includes irrational stories like the ones in Joshua. They give us courage to believe in, and work towards, what Jesus called 'the Kingdom of God.'



**American
Red Cross**

GIVE SOMETHING THAT
Means Something®
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Vasa Lutheran Center Blood Drive

15235 Norelius Rd
Welch, MN 55089

Thursday November 20th, 2025

9:00 am—3:00pm

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: vasa lutheran to schedule an appointment.



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RapidPass®



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+ Red Cross socks, ltd qty. Keep one, gift one!**



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an appointment.

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VASA FAMILY NIGHT

Wednesday, November 12th

5:30-7:00 pm

Fruit of the Spirit: Peace

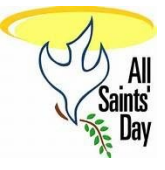
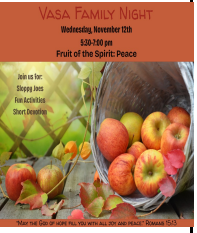
Join us for:
Sloppy Joes
Fun Activities
Short Devotion



"MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE." ROMANS 15:13



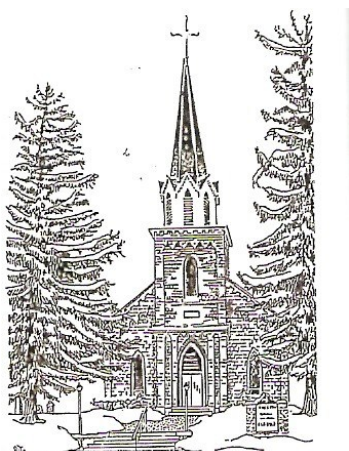
On Wednesday, October 8, Vasa hosted a tour group from St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church of Plymouth. Audrey Rosener joked that "she can get a group of Lutherans to sit at the front of the sanctuary!" This group had toured several congregations in the Red Wing area and agreed that our sanctuary is one of the prettiest they've seen, especially in a rural church.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Vasa Bazaar 9:00am-3:00pm
2  9AM All Saints Sunday Worship and Sun- day School @ Lu- theran Center	3 TEAM MEETINGS 4:00 Property 5PM Finance	4  9:30	5 All Stages Women's Bible Study 9:30- 11:00am 7/8 Confirmation 5:45pm--6:45pm 6:45PM WEDNES- DAY EVE WORSHIP	6	7 Pastor's Day Off	8  Cannon Falls High School
9 9AM Worship with Sunday School	10 5:30PM PARISH LIFE 6PM CHURCH COUNCIL	11  9:30	12 	13	14 Pastor's Day Off	15
16 9AM Worship with Affirmation of Faith Holy Communion & Christmas Program rehearsal @ Luther- an Center	17	18  9:30	19 All Stages Women's Bible Study 9:30- 11:00am 7/8 Confirmation 5:45pm--6:45pm 6:45pm Wednesday Eve Worship	20 RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE! 9:00pm-3:00pm	21 Pastor's Day Off	22
23 Thanksgiving Wor- ship 9:00 AM Christmas Pro- gram rehearsal @ Lutheran Center	24	25  9:30	26 NO ADULT OR YOUTH FAITH FORMATION EVENTS	27 	28	29 9:30AM Christmas Tree Set Up
30 9:00 am Worship (NO SUNDAY SCHOOL)			11			

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)

Wednesday Evening Worship

6:30pm Holy Communion + Everyday Bible Conversation
(Fellowship Room of Lutheran Center)

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 Office

651.258.4327

Church Staff

Kathy Tilderquist, Treasurer

Preston Parks, 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!