

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS AT VASA!



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

- P. 2 Worship volunteers, October Birthdays
- Swedish Pancake Breakfast details
- P. 3 Thoughts from Pastor Maureen
- **P. 4-5 Church Council Minutes, Treasurer's Report**
- P. 6 Vasa Bazaar, Taste of Welch, Feed My Starving Children

P. 7 Peace of Mind Seminar, LC Gym Quilt Project, Food Shelf Support, Edstrom Family Thanks Vasa

P. 8 Downtown Plaza Thanks Vasa for Community Dinners

- P. 9 Vasa Family Night Details
- P. 10 Mark's Meditation
- P. 11 October 2023 Calendar



Worship Volunteers for October			
<u>USHER</u>			
October 1	Duane Lindstrom		
October 8	Marv Fredrickson		
October 15	Duane Hanson		
October 22	Rick Samuelson		
October 29	Bruce Tilderquist		
HOSPITALITY			
October 1	Roseann Pearson		
October 8	Audrey Rosener		
October 15	Mo Hauck		
October 22	volunteer needed		
October 29	Marcia Featherstone		
READERS			
October 2	B-J Norman		
October 8	Sid Featherstone		
October 15	Kathy Tilderquist		
October 22	Mo Hauck		
October 29	Marcia Featherstone		
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS			
October 1	Katie Featherstone		
October 15	Katie Featherstone		



For the first time since the pandemic shutdown, the Swedish Pancake breakfast will be DINE-IN only! NO RESERVATIONS NECESSARY! Come share this fellowship opportunity with your Vasa Friends and Neighbors!



2	Edward Gruber
5	Jason Stahnke
	Bryan Diercks
6	Braeden Gillis
8	Jeannette Anderson
	Rebecca Fleming
9	Irene Carpenter
11	Camden Smith
13	Elijah Bauch
	Jenna Montey
	Lyle Ness

- 15 Grace Nelson Judy Scripture
- 19 Michael Rosener
- 20 Cary Clemens
- 21 Caleb Diercks
- 23 Allen Peterson
- 24 Julia Fleming
- 26 Tim Carlson
- 27 Coty Hyllengren James Gruber
 - James Gruber
- 28 Murlyn Rosener
- 30 Dale Anderson Doris Munsen
- 31 Jillian Anderson

Thoughts from Pastor Maureen

In mid-September I told a farmer acquaintance of mine that I was conflicted over how to write my Sunday prayers. On the one hand I wanted to pray for the safety of all farm workers during harvest. On the other hand I knew the deep need for rain to replenish the sub-soil moisture. I asked her advice on this matter and she said to pray for safety because the rain won't help this year's crop.

So that's what I did. But God didn't exactly listen because we have instead received several inches of rain over the last few days. Now, I'm very glad for the rain, for all agree that we needed it. It put harvest on hold—which effectively keeps our farmers safe. So I guess God answered my prayers on both counts by reminding me that God's ways are not my ways.

Isaiah 55:8-11 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Fortunately it's still early in the harvest season and there is still plenty of time to bring the harvest home. In addition the forecast is for heat which will dry out the land and get the farmers back out in their fields.

As we wait for the land to dry and for harvest to continue, Jesus' words in verse Matthew 6:34 seem timely: "Do not worry about tomorrow....Today's trouble is enough for today." We do not need to worry about bringing in the harvest. God knows our need and the needs of our neighbors. All will be well.

Blessings, Pastor Maureen





August 21, 2023 @Lutheran Church

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm by Bryan Diercks, President **Devotions:** Kent Volz

Members present and absent:

Present: Pastor Maureen Hagen; Bryan Diercks, President; Barbara Weigman; Duane Hanson; Chris Finne; Mo Hauck; Kent Volz; Kevin Eckbald; and Andrew Featherstone, Secretary; Nine voting members present

Unable to attend: Vice President, Randy Klein; Ben Norman; Missy McCann; and Roger Guttromson;

Also Present: Kathy Tilderquist

Adoption of the Agenda:

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

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Minutes:

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2023 council meeting as written.

MOTION CARRIED

Reports Reviewed and Accepted:

Treasurer's Report (Attached)
Nothing unusual while looking at the treasure report.
Very nice IRA distributions.
Made a half down payment (\$3,050.00) for the third window that Joel is going to repair.
Finance Report (Attached)
The 2024 envelopes have been received.
The final 5 rectangular tables were purchased at Menards.
Parish Life (NA)
Presenting bibles to the third graders will take place September 10 at 9 o'clock worship.
Wednesday Family Events will take place instead of the Community Dinners. We are
looking forward to each month's event.
Property Team Report (NA)
We are pleased with the lawn mowing service we have had this year by Kyle Gillis and
his son. We are in the process of finding a person to plow the parking lots. Kyle has
shared that he would be interested.
Joel is working on the third window and is going to try and get the window done before
the wedding. Randy Lindholm is going to repair the window wood to help speed the
process up for Joel.
Cemetery Board (Attached)
We talked about the lost revenue if cemetery monuments contain niches for cremated re-
mains because there would not be cremation opening fees paid. The fee will be \$350
per niche for members and \$450 per niche for non-members.
per mene for members and \$450 per mene for non-members.



Anderson Lawn Care will spray for Creeping Charlie. Executive Board Report (NA) Pastor's Report) Attached)

- Vacation Bible School was a great success. With the help of John and Mo Hauck, Deb Donath, Kent Volz, and Mark Hagen they touched the lives of about 20 students.
- Vasa Congregation has multiple checking accounts. The Museum, the Cemetery, the Endowment fund and the Parsonage each have their own account. It is good fiscal policy that each account have two signers. With the exception of the cemetery, all accounts have two signers.

Museum Board (N/A) Endowment Board Report (N/A)

Tabled Business:

CCIC Revamp- It was moved and seconded that we will not join CCIC at this time. MOTION CARRIED

New Business:

Cemetery checkbook-2ND Signatory. It was moved and seconded to have Duane Hanson as a 2nd Signatory for Cemetery checking account

MOTION CARRIED

Wednesday family events- Family night will begin September 13 at 5:30 PM and go to 7:00 PM. It will take place the second Wednesday of each month for the rest of the year. Tacos in a bag will be the meal and with nice weather will take place outside.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:25 PM. MOTION CARRIED Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

CHURCH COUNCIL

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

Vice President: Randy Klein 651-212-8045 rdklein@mmm.com

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

651-380-7849
651-380-3690
651-308—6349
651-380-1763
651-331-8593
651-307-2274
651-208-7124
651-402-0942
507-202-7880

WHO TO CONTACT IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Indoors:	Jim Hedeen	651-380-6054
Kitchen:	Sue Hedeen	651-380-6270
	Faye Drewianka	651-212-3209

VASA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report August, 2023

For the Month of August:

Checkbook Balance August 1, 2023	\$61,349.98
General Fund Contributions:	8,090.77
Mission Endowment Offerings	9,000.00
Total Funds Available	78,440.75
Budget Approved Monthly Expenses:	16,840.72
Checkbook Balance, August 31, 2023	\$61,600.03

Mission Investment Fund, August 1, 2023 \$2,894.65 Mission Investment Fund, August 31, 2023 \$2.895.63



32nd Annual Taste of Welch Bake Sale Lunch



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

Raffle

"Going Back in Time <u>"Queen</u>-Size Quilt 84"x95" Many other <u>item</u> 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 14th 2023 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Make a difference in the life of a starving child. It just takes two hours!

VOLUNTEER AT THE CANNON FALLS FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN PACKING EVENT Saturday, November 11, 2023

3 shifts available! 8 -10 am packing shift 11 am -1 pm packing shift 12:30 - 2:30 pm clean up shift If you're interested in volunteering, contact Kathy Tilderquist at 507-263 -2190. Churches have first dibs for signing up to volunteer at a specific time. After October 14, sign-ups will be open to the general public.



Peace of Mind Seminar

Lundberg Funeral Home is hosting a Peace of Mind Seminar on Thursday, Oct. 5, at 11:00. A free light lunch will be provided while participants learn more about planning for their loved ones final wishes. Call 507-216-8136 to reserve your seat!







Calling all Quilters! On Wednesday, October 25 from 9:30-11:00AM come help assemble quilts (top layer/ batting/backing) which will eventually be displayed on the LC gym walls to improved the sound quality of that space.

Local Food Shelves STILL Need our Help!

Nationwide, food shelves are struggling. The food bank in Rochester, one of the main food sources for smaller, local Food Shelf operations, is severely under-resourced. In addition, food manufacturers no longer do product overruns specifically for donating. And then, there are the usual supply chain issues. All of this means that our donations are more critical than ever. Here is a list of the most essential items needed:

FOOD ITEMS

- Cereal and powdered milk
- **Canned Tuna/Chicken**
- Canned fruit, especially pears, oranges

and peaches.

- Canned vegies, especially corn, peas and green beans.
- Pasta
- Hearty Soups (Progresso is an excellent choice)
- Hamburger Helper
- Crackers/Cookies

NON-FOOD ITEMS (these are no longer carried at the food bank in Rochester, making the local need even greater):

- **Toothbrushes** Dish Detergent
- Shampoo
- Laundry detergent **Toilet Paper**
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste

A Thank You note from the Edstrom Family



Thank you Dastor Ragen and all the great people in Vasa, who keep the big, beautibal Church operating ..

Edstroms have a long history with the church. I was baptised and Confirmed here. My great grandparents, lefel and Hilda Edstrom, as well as my parents, Oscar and Edith Edstron are resting in the Cemetary. God Bless you all -

Margaret Edstrom Underdake and Family

Dear Vasa Volunteers, the Downtown Plaga residents & 2 have Ravonne Schafer greatly appreciated your time care, ancyle anot the Vasa & hard work to make Waluki Meals possible. you will find a donation enclosed, which was Your thoughtfulness given upon delivery the last means so much-May? April? to meal last more than words can ever say feeling a gat who had wasut had set dit Thank you Evil aside for "next time" until our paths Peckina cross again, we will think of you all power THANK YOU SO Thank power hank you Berg. Wenk you & Vasa Church fondly & Siouxse Coordinator found w celinst ulhni "Thanks be to God, who gives us Housing Manage thank upy somuch. the victory . . ." 1 Corinthians 15:57 (L.B.) The appreciate gon Dois Burnes 30 much Thank you, Sue Karow

you as Praying Joir you see for next step Jomarie meals Ralph + Doworky Schiller trankyou for your time and Delverez a your fellowsky Thank you 4

less you Joni Sargett

HELP THE CHILDREN, GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA 91209

23541-1W



Downtown Plaza residents express their appreciation for all the years of Community Dinners!

To Vasa Congregation Thank you for your many years of dedication to Serving meals to thousands of people over many years. You blessed many of us at the Powntown Plazz, We thankyou for your delicious meals and dedication to serving others. May Bad bless you in the coming years and always See + Menda Capier your hem Man Vaca Spearal to me. I enjoyed mill Asaami Elecon with your anono moreighin ey banson Thank you

1.75 SA0-0 01990 LINE IS L.S.A.

Vaza Family Night

SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH LUTHERAN CENTER - 5:30-7PM

LIGHT MEAL

In September, we enjoyed walking tacos and homemade bars.

Join us in October for some warm "comfort food" and tasty desserts.





DEVOTIONAL

Toward the end of the evening, Pastor rallied up all the kids to do a short devotional. She brought milkweed seeds and talked about monarch butterflies needing this as caterpillars. They spread the fluffy white seeds. Just like these seeds are spread, we too should spread our faith!



FUN ACTIVITIES

In September, we socialized outside, played yard games and on the play equipment, made crafts, and were pleasantly surprised by the Miesville Fire Department.

In October, weather permitting, we plan to be outside again. You can expect Pumpkin Painting and other fun activities.



MARK'S MEDITATION

The week of September 11th, eight of us did a Boundary Waters canoe trip. There were four guys from Vasa church and four guys from the Red Wing community. We had a range of skills among the crew. Ken Volz and I have done many canoe trips. Ben Norman and John Hauck have done several trips and know the ropes. (If you travel with me, you need to know how to tie a bowline knot.) Two of the remaining four were on their second-ever trip and two were having their first BWCA experience. We had a good trip. Everyone leaned some new skills. I learned that I need to go through the newbie guy's kit of gear and throw out unnecessary things before we leave. It's easy to forget what it is like doing something completely new.

We had a beautiful campsite with a sandy beach. (If you don't know, that is extremely rare in the BWCA.) As the week progressed, we had the full range of weather and wilderness scenery. The week started out cool, then warmed. We had bright sunshine; we had morning fog over the lake; and we had a brief shower sending us under the dining fly (tarp) during supper. It was a complete wilderness experience. I enjoyed every minute of it.

So, you would think that I would feel closer to God when I am six portages into the federal wilderness. But that is not the case. I've come to believe that wilderness is *not* divine.

Years ago, when I was a Boy Scout scoutmaster, I had a revelation about wilderness. Our troop was very active, that means they camp almost every month of the year—including the winter months. On this particular campout, we were at the Girl Scout camp in a valley east of Houston, MN. It is a beautiful setting: tall limestone bluffs capped with stately white pines, with a clear-running stream defining the valley. This particular group of Scouts liked to sleep out under the stars in winter. After all, there are no bugs, and little chance of getting rained on. They would just dig a depression in the snow, lay out a piece of plastic, then lay out a foam pad and their mummy-style sleeping bag. On this night I joined them under the stars.

It was a beautiful, spiritual experience lying there watching the stars slowly turn past the valley bluffs.

But it was *cold*. Really *cold*. So cold that I started to think "What if I freeze to death!" Then I had my revelation. These beautiful trees, bluffs and stars; they don't care if I expire. God doesn't abide in these things! The way to experience God's love is through the people around me, not in nature.

I still like wilderness canoe trips. But I cherish the people in my life: my wife, my family, my friends, and the community that is Vasa Lutheran Church.

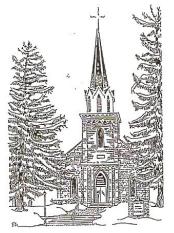


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				6		
1 9AM Communion Wor- ship and Sunday School @ Lutheran Center	2 TEAM MEETINGS 4PM Property 5PM Finance 6PM Parish Life 6:30 Museum	9:30	4 9:30-11:00 Women's Bible Study 5:45-6:45 7th/8th Confirmation Class 7:00-8:00pm 9th Grade Confir- mation Class	5	6 Pastor's Day Off	7
8 9AM Worship & Sunday School @ Lutheran Center	9	9:30	11 5:45-6:45 7th/8th Confirmation Class 7:00-8:00pm 9th Grade Confir- mation Class	12	13 Pastor's Day Off	14
15 9AM Communion Wor- ship and Sunday School @ Lutheran Center	16 6PM CHURCH COUNCIL	9:30	18 9:30-11:00 Women's Bible Study 5:45-6:45 7th/8th Confirmation Class 7:00-8:00pm 9th Grade Confir- mation Class	19	20 Pastor's Day Off	21
22 9AM Worship & Sunday School @ Lutheran Center	23	9:30	9:30-11:00 QUILTING GROUP	26	27 Pastor's Day Off	28
29 9AM Worship & Sunday School @ Lutheran Center	30	31	5:45-6:45 7th/8th Confirmation Class 7:00-8:00pm 9th Grade Confir- mation Class			

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)

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 Paul & Jay Mikaelsen, Missionaries in La Paz Bolivia Contact: pmikaelsen@gmail.com Website: 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!