



## *A Note on Communion Inclusion*

As we continue worship under Corona virus restrictions I am deeply aware that there are members who are reluctant to gather in the sanctuary for worship. Be assured that Vasa will continue to provide recorded worship services for the foreseeable future.

What do we do about Holy Communion?

1. We will offer communion at every worship service so that those who are able to come to worship will receive the sacrament.
2. We are using pre-packaged communion portions for communion on Sunday morning. These portions are easy to transport. Call the church office and we will deliver portions to you.
  - a. If you are watching the Vasa worship service you may use the portions at the designated time.
  - b. You may also provide your own. Soda crackers, or any other unleavened bread are suitable as the body of Christ. Grape juice, or wine are appropriate for the blood of Christ.
3. As long as the weather is moderate, I will visit you, should you desire. Call and I will schedule a visit using appropriate social distancing precautions. We can sit on a deck or a driveway.



We cannot predict the future. Many of us fear that come late fall and winter, things will shut-down again. Then again, perhaps only those at greatest risk will need to continue with precautions. We just don't know.

Vasa Congregation is committed to supporting as many of our members as possible. It will mean new patterns and ways of living out the life of faith; but God hasn't changed. God is with us through these challenges and I am confident that we will come out on the other side stronger and more vibrant.

*~Pastor Maureen*

## **August 2020 Happenings**

- P. 2      Pastor's Message, Treasurer's Report**
- P. 3      Coffee with Pastor/Wednesday Evening Worship Resumes in August**
- P. 4      Sunday School Update, Direct your Dollars Update**
- P. 5      What's Going On?**
- P. 6      Vasa Community Dinner Update**
- P. 8      August 6: Bloodmobile-1-7 pm**
- P. 9-10    Vacation Bible School August 24-27 -**

## Pastor's Thoughts for August

Sometimes we need to look at something from a different perspective in order to have a new insight or experience a deeper meaning. Recently I had that experience with the sentence, "I am with you." God says this often in the Bible, but it's easy to gloss over it.

What happens when we rearrange the sentence and say, "With you, I am?" Try it. Say it slowly, and pause between the two parts. "With you.....I am." All of a sudden, the "I am" portion begins to resonate with more meaning. Instead of providing comfort we start to think more deeply about God's power in our lives.

Remember that Moses asks God for God's name at the burning bush. (Exodus 3:13-14) God's response is cryptic. God says, "I am who I am." Other translations say, "I will be what I will be." Either way, God simply is and God is not to be defined or limited or captured within boundaries or images.

When we consider the sentence, "With you, I am." we begin by personalizing God in relationship with us. To begin we hear that God is with me. As we continue to the second phrase our focus moves to think about the identity of God. It's not just that God is with me. It's that God is "I am." God is big, almighty, omniscient, omnipresent, wise, and all of the other adjectives that we use to try and describe God.

"With you, I am" your creator, your redeemer, your savior, and your advocate. "With you, I am" always, to the end of time and beyond.

With you, I am. Hold tight to these words,

*Pastor Maureen*

### VASA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Treasurer's Report June, 2020

For the Month of June:

|                                   |                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Checkbook Balance, June 1, 2020   | \$ 41,119.72     |
| General Fund Contributions:       | 10,518.07        |
| Total Funds Available             | 51,637.79        |
| Budget Approved Monthly Expenses: | <u>13,102.93</u> |
| Checkbook Balance, June 30, 2020  | \$ 38,534.86     |

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Mission Investment Fund, May 30, 2020  | \$34,038.66 |
| Mission Investment Fund, June 30, 2020 | \$34,070.67 |



## Volunteers for August

### READERS & COMMUNION SET UP

- 2 BJ Norman
- 9 Mark Hagen
- 16 Duane Martenson
- 23 Sandy Wallschlager
- 30 Marilyn Hanson



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



### Birthdays

- 2 Corey McCann
- Gloria Skog
- 7 Kevin Hanson
- 8 Callie Schmidt
- 9 Madison McCann
- 12 Dustin Carpenter
- 13 John Flueger
- Christopher Schaffer
- 14 Carolyn Gardiner
- 15 Lucas Anderson
- 17 Rose Lexvold
- 18 Jake Jacobson
- 19 Duane Hanson
- Avery Schaffer
- 20 Ainslie Hanson
- Evans Josephson
- 21 Pauline Carlson
- Susan Samuelson
- 22 Brad Anderson
- Kayla Eckblad
- Kerry Finne
- Nicholas Weigman
- 23 David Carlson
- Dustin Lindahl
- 24 Warren Schmidt
- 28 Carolyn Lindstrom
- 31 Marvin Fredrickson
- Allyssa Lee

## Making a comeback...slowly...



Coffee with the pastor resumes on August 4 at 9:30am. Guys will meet in the gym and gals will meet in the Fellowship Room. Both spaces now have air conditioning!

### Wednesday Evening Worship

Wednesday evening worship resumes with communion 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.





## Sunday School for the Fall Season

As we move into August it is time to give thought to Sunday School and Wednesday Evening Faith Formation for Vasa's children.

Education in the faith and knowledge of stories from Scripture are important. Under the current Covid-19 conditions and recognizing the limitations of our facility, it will be extremely difficult to provide a safe environment for our children and teachers. For this school year we are going to ask that parents take primary responsibility for raising their children in the faith.

Parents, you won't be alone. There are things that Vasa can do to support your efforts:

1. Families can and should come to worship. There will always be a message geared for the young as a part of our worship service. Children will remain with their family for the entire service.
2. At this writing a decision has not been made about how to provide learning opportunities for children. We are considering two options and will make an announcement in mid-August.



## Save your Family Fare receipts! We're STILL raising money for Vasa through Direct Your Dollars!!

If you come into the church office at the Lutheran Center, you'll see a large pile of receipts on the bookshelf that have been accumulating since sometime last summer and right now there's about \$\_\_\_\_\_ worth.

Direct Your Dollars is a receipt-based program, meaning that we can raise money simply by doing something we all do each week – going to the grocery store.

Every time you shop at your local **Family Fare** store, save your receipts – and encourage your friends and family to do the same. Once we've collected \$150,000 in receipts from these stores, we can turn those slips of paper into a \$1,000 check for **Vasa**!

To reach our goal of \$150,000 in receipts, we'll continue to collect eligible receipts in our Direct Your Dollars envelope. The envelope has the DYD logo on it, and it's located at the **entrance to our Church and the Lutheran Center**. Please make sure you drop off the original receipt – that's how we earn our \$1,000 check.

If you aren't able to drop your receipts off in person, you can also mail them to **15235 Norelius Road, Welch, MN 55089**.

Through the Direct Your Dollars program, we can turn YOUR **Family Fare** receipts into cash!



Find us on  
**Facebook**

### **What's going on at the Ball Field?**

As you drive past Vasa and turn toward Welch on County Rd 7 you may be wondering what is going on with the grass on the ball field. At the June 29th council meeting we heard a proposal from Deb Donath to convert the area into native prairie grass. Deb has volunteered to coordinate the whole project, with the council's approval. Herbicides have been applied to kill the grasses and weeds. In late November, ideally just before a snowfall, the prairie grass seed will be spread on the ground. Then we just wait until next spring for the grass to germinate and grow. No more mowing. No more chemical application. A bit of a warning: during the first year the grass may not look like much but by the second year we will certainly have prairie grasses waving in the wind. In planting a bit of prairie near the museum we will have a sense of what the Vasa Prairie looked like 175 years ago. This bit of prairie will also be a good place for insect pollinators which need as much support as we can provide.



### **What's going on with the Gazebo?**

The steps and railings on the gazebo have been removed because they were rotting away and unsafe. Because of liability we needed to block it off and hang a sign. We are seeking bids to find out what it would cost to replace the gazebo and will report any new information to the council at their August meeting.



### **What's going on with the Air Conditioning at the Lutheran Center?**

The new furnaces and air conditioners for the gym and the fellowship room were installed in April. We turned the air conditioners on around the first of July and are very happy with the results. The building feels much drier and more comfortable.



# The Tragedy of the Commons

## Meditation for August, by Mark Hagen

In 1833, the English economist William Forster Lloyd published a pamphlet which included a hypothetical example of over-use of a common resource. This was the situation of cattle herders sharing a common parcel of land on which they were each entitled to let their cows graze, as was the custom in English villages. He postulated that if a herder put more than his allotted number of cattle on the common, overgrazing could result. For each additional animal, a herder could receive additional benefits, while the whole group shared the resulting damage to the commons. If all herders made this individually rational economic decision, the common could be depleted or even destroyed, to the detriment of all.

In 1968, ecologist Garrett Hardin explored this social dilemma in his article "The Tragedy of the Commons", published in the journal Science. The essay derived its title from the pamphlet by Lloyd on the over-grazing of common land. Hardin's paper focused on human population growth, the use of the Earth's natural resources, and the welfare state. Since Hardin's essay the term "Tragedy of the Commons" has been applied to many more situations where a common resource is exploited.

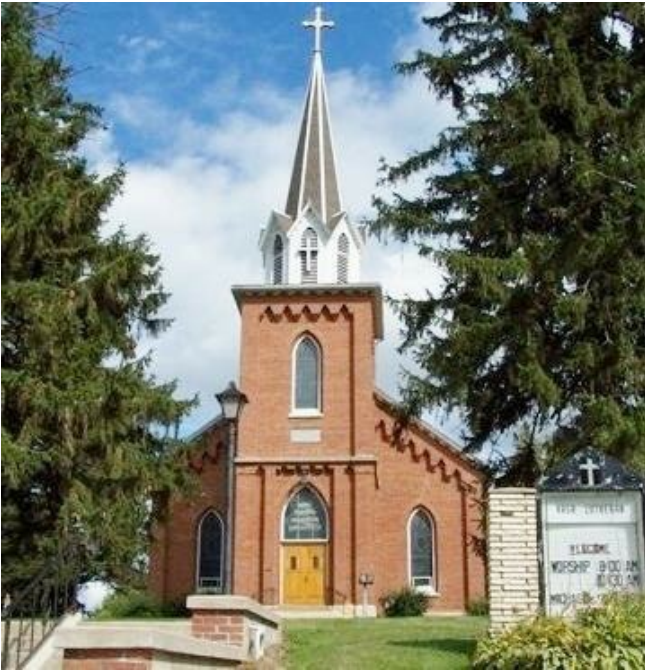
it seems to me this is exactly the problem Jesus is getting at in many of his parables. It is clear that acting selfish produces an immediate benefit to the person acting selfish. But Jesus says "Take the long view." Paul sums this up in his first letter to Timothy, chapter 6:

*<sup>17</sup> Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup> Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. <sup>19</sup> By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.*



Dear Vasa friends, Many thanks to the WELCA for giving me a gift card to Hallstrom's Floral. I decided to brighten my home with a bouquet of flowers. They lifted my spirits every time I looked at them. As a congregation you have been so kind to me! I love being your pastor and I look forward to many more years of ministry together with you.

Blessings,  
*Pastor Maureen*



# Free Vasa Community Dinner

Are you hungry for conversation  
and neighborliness?  
Fall 2020

Join us on the  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of  
every month this fall!  
5:30pm – 6:30pm

Vasa Lutheran Center  
15235 Norelius Road  
Welch, MN

**Like everything else, Covid-19 is causing us to re-imagine how we will do this and we are still in the planning stages.**

**We are committed to offering a meal on September 9th, and hopefully will be able to continue throughout the fall. Stay tuned for further details in the September Vasa Voice.**

We have happily served over 10,000 FREE meals since we started 9 years ago!



*Give blood.*

Every 2 seconds someone  
in the U.S. needs blood.

**American Red Cross**



*1 or 2 helpers still needed! Contact Kathy  
Tilderquist if you are interested!*

**Blood Drive**  
**Vasa Lutheran Church**

American Red Cross Bus  
15235 Norelius Rd

**Thursday, August 6, 2020**  
**1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) and  
enter: vasalutheran to schedule an appointment.



Scan to schedule  
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | [redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

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## Vasa Vacation Bible School

August 24-27

6:00-7:30 p.m.



**Journey with Jesus**

### Vasa VBS –Journey with Jesus through Holy Week

- VBS will be from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, August 24-27.
- Registration deadline is Sunday, August 23 by 7:30 p.m.
- There is no registration fee but we need to have a completed registration form with appropriate emergency contact information.
- The event will *begin at the picnic shelter* near the east parking lot.
- If possible (and because we can use the help) parents or guardians should plan to stay with their children.
- From the picnic shelter the children will go into the church sanctuary. From there the children will walk down to the Lutheran Center for the rest of the evening's activities. Parents should plan to *pick up their child(ren) at the Lutheran Center.*

## Thank You from World Mission Prayer League

Dear Vasa Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your prayers and gift of \$375 to Radio TV Caranavi. Your financial contribution helps advance the King's work as your missionaries bring the Gospel to those least likely to have heard, believed, or benefitted from its saving and transforming power. Our monthly newsletter is a quality mission and prayer resource which brings you the latest news on your 100 missionaries in 20 countries. Write [mobilize@wmpl.org](mailto:mobilize@wmpl.org) or phone 612-871-6843 to request a free subscription. We'll be happy to send it via postal mail, e-mail, or both.

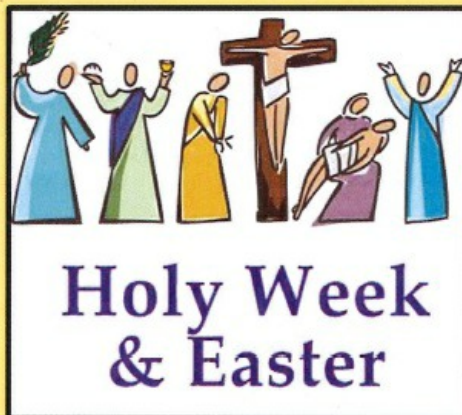


# Vasa Vacation Bible School

August 24-27

6:00-7:30 p.m.

For ages 3 - grade 5



Journey with Jesus

All are Welcome!!

## Vasa Vacation Bible School Registration

Please complete for each child:

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date\_\_\_\_\_ Entering Grade\_\_\_\_\_

Known Allergies/Medical Concerns\_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date\_\_\_\_\_ Entering Grade\_\_\_\_\_

Known Allergies/Medical Concerns\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Information:

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone\_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone\_\_\_\_\_

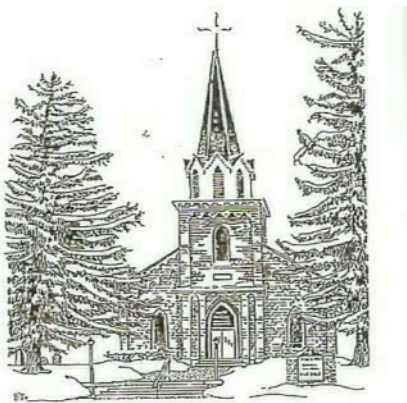
Emergency Phone\_\_\_\_\_ Health Care Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Church\_\_\_\_\_

# AUGUST 2020

| SUNDAY                              | MONDAY  | TUESDAY                         | WEDNESDAY                                | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY                 | SATURDAY |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|---|------------------------|----------|
|                                     |   |                                 |  |   |                        | 1        |
| 2<br>9am Service of Holy Communion  | 3<br>1:00pm Finance Team<br>6:30pm Parish Life Team | 4<br>9:30am Coffee with Pastor  | 5<br>6:15 Wed Eve Worship + Communion    | 6<br><br>American Red Cross<br>Blood Drive<br>1-7<br>Lutheran Center | 7<br>Pastor's Day Off  | 8        |
| 9<br>9am Service of Holy Communion  | 10  | 11<br>9:30am Coffee with Pastor | 12<br>6:15pm Wed Eve Worship + Communion | 13  | 14<br>Pastor's Day Off | 15       |
| 16<br>9am Service of Holy Communion | 17<br>6:30pm Church Council                         | 18<br>9:30am Coffee with Pastor | 19<br>6:15pm Wed Eve Worship + Communion | 20  | 21<br>Pastor's Day Off | 22       |
| 23<br>9am Service of Holy Communion | 23<br>9am Service of Holy Communion                 | 25<br>9:30am Coffee with Pastor | 26<br>6:15pm Wed Eve Worship + Communion | 27  | 28<br>Pastor's Day Off | 29       |
| 30<br>9am Service of Holy Communion | 31  |                                 |  |   |                        |          |

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

### **Wednesday Evening Worship**

6:15 pm Wednesdays

Vasa Lutheran Center

### **Executive Team**

Greg Drewianka 651-301-2472

Jim Hedeem 651-380-6054

Rick Samuelson 651-380-9150

### **Pastor Maureen Hagen**

[pastormaureen@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:pastormaureen@sleepyeyetel.net)

(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**

Emily Peterson, Office Administrator

Kathy Tilderquist, Treasurer

Melissa McCann, Custodian

Austin Ferguson, Worship Accompanist

Gail Strusz-Klein, Wedding Coordinator

Paul & Jay Mikaelson, Missionaries in LaPaz, Bolivia

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

Scatter seeds  
of kindness  
wherever you go

