

# The Vasa Voice

Volume 55 No. 7

July 2019

## Highlights of Life at Vasa in July

### **July 4 - Independence Day**

The Vasa Museum will be open on July 4, from 1-2:30 pm for anyone who wants to look around. Root beer floats at the Gazebo will start at 1 pm also. This is one of the Museum's annual fund-raisers. The annual Vasa parade starts at 3 pm. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and find a good spot along Norelius Road early! See you there!

### **July 7 - Belgian Waffle Breakfast**

Sunday, July 7, 2019 from 8am until Noon at First Lutheran Church in Red Wing - 615 W 5<sup>th</sup> St. Adults \$7 in advance, \$8 at the door; Children age 6-10 \$4.50, 5 and under eat free. All you can eat menu: 9" Malted Belgian Waffles with all the fixings, Syrups: Maple, Apricot, Blueberry Pecan, Strawberry, Boysenberry, Blackberry, and sugar free Maple, Non-Dairy Whipped Cream, Sausage, and Beverages.

### **July 9 - 20**

Pastor Maureen will be on vacation from Tuesday, July 9 through Saturday, July 20. Dahmon Romness will bring our message at the July 14<sup>th</sup> worship service.

### **July 15-20**

Habitat for Humanity will use the Vasa Lutheran Center as "home-base" for their group of volunteers who will be helping with the build in Red Wing. The group is made up of about 30 Unitarian Youth Group volunteers and chaperones. They will use our space to return to after a hard day's work each evening.

### **July 25**

Women's Bible Study meets each month over the summer and early fall. Come and join the fun at 9:30 am.

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

- P. 2 Pastor's Thoughts, Council Pulse, Treasurer's Report
- P. 3 Service Assistants List, July Birthdays, Ladies Bible Study
- P. 4-5 Council Minutes
- P. 6-7 Vacation Bible Study 2019
- P. 8 Thrivent Choice Dollars, ELCA Good Gifts Thank You
- P. 9 Habitat for Humanity, Bloodmobile
- P. 10 Midsommar pictures
- P. 11 Mark's Meditation
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## Pastor's Thoughts for July

Sunday, June 2 dawned fair and beautiful. It promised to be an ideal early summer day. When I arrived at the church I propped open both the east doors and the south doors so that the sunlight and fresh air could enhance our worship. It turns out that a barn swallow also decided to join us for worship that day!

The swallow became disoriented and overly excited as more and more people entered the sanctuary. It flew up to the ceiling and circled around, sometimes landing on a blade of a ceiling fan and sometimes perching on the top of the pipes for the organ.

Did you know that swallows and sparrows are mentioned in the Bible? Psalm 84:3 says, *"Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God."* What a lovely line assuring us that God's house has a place for swallows to nest!

I'm not advocating that we should allow sparrows and swallows to live inside the Vasa sanctuary. But knowing that God has an eye on the swallow and the sparrow reassures us that God has a loving eye on us as well. We can claim for ourselves verse 4, "Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise." Happy are we who live in a tight knit relationship with God, knowing that God loves us and cares for us. From the safety of that reassurance we can continue to sing God's praise.

So, what's the rest of the story about the swallow? After everyone left, we shut off the lights and purposefully left the east doors propped open. With the sanctuary dim and sunlight glowing through the open doors we hoped that the swallow would be attracted to the light and fly outside. After all, swallows eat flying bugs and we guessed that when she got hungry enough she would fly out through those open doors. Which is exactly what happened.

Happy summer! Bask in the warmth and sunshine!

*Pastor Maureen*

Psalm 84:1-4 How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

2 My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD;

my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

3 Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,

where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

4 Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.



*Image taken from shutterstock.com*

## Museum Notes

The Vasa Museum will be open on the 4th of July from 1-2:30 pm so that anyone who wants to see all the treasures inside may come and browse.

Root-beer floats will be served as one of the museum's annual fund-raisers starting at 1 pm at the Gazebo. Money is needed at the museum to replace a furnace which has failed.

Mark Hagen has made a replacement storm window for the window which was broken. The committee is also working on finding out how much it would cost to restore the Gazebo to a better condition.

There were 20 visitors at the museum on Father's Day, June 16, and several groups during the week before Father's Day also. It is exciting for the museum committee to be able to share what has been donated with people who stop by.

The museum is open on Sundays from 11:30-4 throughout the summer, and other times by appointment.



Stop by and check out the fascinating history of Vasa.

### VASA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

#### Treasurer's Report

May 2019

For the Month of May:

Checkbook Balance, May 1, 2019	\$ 52,846.68
General Fund Contributions:	7,716.66
Total Funds Available	60,563.34
Budget Approved Monthly Expenses:	<u>15,566.17</u>
Checkbook Balance, May 31, 2019	\$ 44,997.17

Mission Investment Fund, Apr 30, 2019	\$110,614.82
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Mission Investment Fund, May 31, 2019	\$80,727.35
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## Volunteers for July

### USHERS

Marv Fredrickson  
Kevin Hanson  
Mike Carlson  
Jason Stahnke

### READERS

7 Jessica Anderson  
14 Marilyn Hanson  
21 Sid Featherstone  
28 Marcia Featherstone

### GREETER

Deb Donath

### COMMUNION ASSISTANT

7 Chuck Peterson  
14 Dan Hedeon

### COMMUNION SET-UP

Chuck Peterson



- 2 Mary Nelson
- 5 Bryan Anderson
- 6 Zachary Carlson
- 8 Fiona Diercks
- 9 Maureen Hagen
- 10 Patrick Rehder
- 12 Steven Thomforde
- 16 BJ Norman
- 19 Joel Hyllengren
- 20 Karen Lindblom
- 26 Bonnie McNamara
- 27 Emmitt Featherstone
- 28 Dylan Anderson  
Jedd Otto
- 29 Jeanette Larson
- 31 Nancy Trelstad

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



## Ladies Bible Study

Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am at the Lutheran Center. The date has been changed from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday to the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of July because of Pastor Maureen's vacation.

All are welcome!!

New parents take note:

When your child says something that might be sort of amazing, jot it down on paper and put it where you will find it later.

The following I found in the recipe box under "Cookies." It could be a family recipe!!

Gretchen—making cookies with green play-doh. "What's the recipe?" I asked. "Marshmallows and chocolate chips all mixed up with tartar sauce. You should bake it."

—submitted by Mary Nelson

# Minutes from May Church Council Meeting, May 20, 2019

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:30pm by Greg Drewianka, President

Devotions: Gayle Strusz-Klein

Members present and Absent:

**Present:** Pastor Maureen Hagen; Greg Drewianka, President, Jim Hedeem, Vice President; Gayle Strusz-Klein; Rick Samuelson; Steve Hyllengren; Kevin Eckblad; Dan Hedeem; Sid Featherstone; Ben Norman; Geri Lindholm; Duane Hanson and Mike Carlson

Thirteen voting members present

**Unable to Attend:** None

Kathy Tilderquist was unable to attend

## **Adoption of the agenda:**

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **Approval of Minutes:**

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2019 council meeting as written.

**MOTION CARRIED**

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2019 special congregational meeting as written.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **Reports Reviewed and Accepted:**

1. Treasurer and Finance Team Report (Attached)
  - a. The finance committee recommended that we use Vanco Give Plus and Give Plus Online for Debit and credit card giving.

It was moved and seconded to approve Vanco for electronic giving.

**MOTION CARRIED**

2. Parish Life (Attached)
  - a. Vacation Bible School is from June 24<sup>th</sup> through June 27<sup>th</sup> this year.
3. Property Team Report. (Attached)
  - a. Greg and Dan met with Fischer Company on May 20, 2019 and gave them a down payment for the roof project.
4. Museum Board (No Meeting)
5. Endowment Board Report (Attached)
6. Cemetery Board (No Meeting)

7. Executive Board Report (Attached)

8. Pastor's Report (Attached)

a. Kathy Tilderquist is filling in as Office Administrator and Shelly was done as of May 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Tabled/Old Business (None)**

### **New Business**

a. The council reviewed the proposed Employment Policy Handbook

b. It was moved and seconded to remove the walk-in cooler at the Lutheran Center.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **Discussion**

Sid Featherstone and Kevin Eckblad were chosen as point persons for the roof project at the Lutheran Center.

June Meeting Dates: (Tentative schedule)

Parish Life: Monday June 3rd @ 6:30pm

Finance: Monday June 3rd @ 7:30pm

Property: Tuesday June 4th @ 5:30pm

Executive: Monday June 10th @ TBD

Council: Monday June 17 @ 7:30pm Devotions Steve Hyllengren

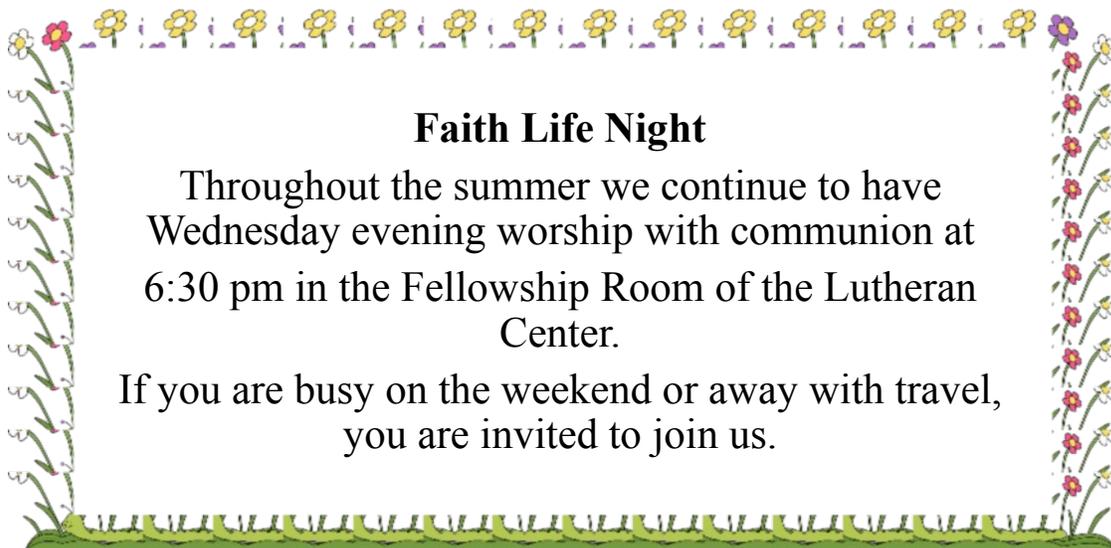
It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 9:00 pm.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Report submitted by:

Rick Samuelson, Secretary



### **Faith Life Night**

Throughout the summer we continue to have Wednesday evening worship with communion at 6:30 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.

# Vacation Bible School 2019

"To Mars and Beyond!!" Over 50 kids and youth attended Bible School in Vasa at the end of June! A few pictures.....



The VBS children learned about science, played outside, made crafts, sang, ate lots of snacks, and generally had a great time. Unfortunately, the water fight was cancelled early due to bad weather. The themes for the days were "Go Beyond with Faith, Boldness, Kindness, and Thankfulness." They practiced kindness by rolling 79 bandages for Global Health Ministries to send to Africa, and raised \$25 to help with shipping costs. They also made "Thank you" for the police in Red Wing. Painting rocks was a favorite activity. The rocks are to share to make others happy. Thanks to all who helped in any way.

# Vacation Bible School 2019

The children were asked, as a part of Bible School this week, to tell when they had seen God go beyond (whatever that meant to them). Here are some of their answers:

“God was with me on the first day of school when I was scared.”

“I saw God at work when people get dogs out of kill shelters.”

“I saw God go beyond when not a lot of people got hurt when the Dairy Inn in Cannon Falls had a fire.”

**“God will always love everyone on earth, even though we sin.”**

“When our cows came home.”

“I saw God working at the hospital to heal people.”

“I saw God go beyond when the tractor driver didn't get hurt.”

“I saw God at work when they showed a tornado on tv and said no one got hurt.”

“God gives our Earth life.”

God gives us:  
Families  
Food  
Shelter  
Puppy dogs  
Clothes  
Life

As you can see, the children of the Vasa congregation have done lots of thinking about when they see God at work in their lives and the lives of other people. They know they have a lot to be thankful for and express themselves quite well.

Here are the words to one of the favorite songs we learned this week which actually apply to everyone—the young and the young at heart:

“Be brave, be strong, the Lord your God is with you.

Put faith in Him; there's nothing He can't do.

God walks with you like a mighty warrior,

He surrounds you with His favor like a shield.

He has put you here for such a time as this.

Now trust Him 'til His plan is revealed. Be brave, be strong!”

Taken from YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vI75AQvTAXs>

## Thrivent Choice Dollar Option for Disaster Relief

If you have Thrivent Choice Dollars and are wondering how to best spend them, Thrivent has a campaign right now to help those who were impacted this spring by tornados and flooding. For every \$2 donated to a specific list of organizations, Thrivent will add \$1 up to \$250,000. This will happen until the \$250,000 is used up or August 1, whichever happens first.

The list of organizations that will provide aid for either tornado damage or flooding is: Convoy of Hope, LCMS Disaster Response, Lutheran Disaster Response, and Samaritan's Purse. Also, for only flood relief, you can give to Orphan Grain Train or WELS Christian Aid and Relief. Go to [Thrivent.com](http://Thrivent.com), [What We Offer, For Members, Thrivent Choice](#), and then you can choose [Personal Donations](#). Choose the organization you wish to donate to, and Thrivent will take care of the rest. Thrivent also pays the processing fees so that 100% of your donation goes to help those who have been impacted by our spring weather in the Midwest and Central US.

If you want to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Vasa Church, that's fine too. Thanks in advance for your thoughtful giving.



*Picture taken from [www.undark.org](http://www.undark.org)*

### Thanks for Giving to ELCA Good Gifts

The offering of the Sunday School children for the last few years has been sent to the ELCA Good Gifts program and was used to purchase a piglet, 10 chicks, and a rooster.

Here is a thank you letter we received for that donation:

“What a gift you’ve given! Thank you for your recent gift of \$55 to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) ministries through ELCA Good Gifts.

Your Good Gift is a very good gift, indeed. With resources like seedlings and seminary courses, vaccinations and vegetable gardens, Bibles and blankets, you’re equipping God’s people—around the world and around the corner—with what they need to live abundant lives.

Thank you for your support of the vital ministries that we do together—and for your very good gift.”

### Kitchen Work Area Gets Remodel

The property committee of the Church Council has been hard at work tearing out the leaking ceiling in the kitchen work area, as well as disassembling the cooler which has been used since the building was built in 1955. They are now down to rafters and bare walls. Money from the Holiday Bazaar and the Rummage Sale will be used to purchase new refrigeration equipment. The ceiling will be replaced as soon as the flat roof area is repaired.

Thanks to these handy guys who have given of their time and talents to make Vasa more energy efficient and a cleaner place to work.

# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

We have exciting news: we have chosen a family to live in the 21st home in Red Wing. Cassandra Conroy and her two beautiful children. She is the Executive Director with the Humane Society here in Red Wing.

I am also thrilled to have a couple of the Blessing Boards back at the office and United Lutheran is already in place at the 21st Street House. I would like to have a group of volunteers from your church return it and stay to help with the build. We are working most Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4-8 but we can arrange a little later start time if need be.

I am also looking for some help from churches to bring a lunch to our Go to Crew that only works on Mondays. There are about 10 volunteers at the most on an average Monday. Habitat provides the paper products and water for the meal.

Please let me know if you can arrange a lunch or two for the crew.

Thank you for all of your support with Habitat.  
~Jodi Beach

Current Habitat for Humanity projects in Goodhue County:

- Two rehab units in Red Wing for two families
- Bob Bidon was hired as p/t construction manager
- 2019 schedule includes a Unitarian Church youth group coming for a week of service. This group will be staying at Vasa Lutheran Church in the Vasa Lutheran Center while they are here in July.
- Teen Serve will be working out of Pine Island—a program that brings several hundred youth to work from the town to help people across several communities with light house maintenance (painting, wheel chair ramps, light repairs). GCHfH can use their help in the “Brush With Kindness” program.



Director: John Parkes; 651-327-2282

## BLOODMOBILE AT VASA ON AUGUST 8

Did you know??

One donation can potentially save up to 3 lives.



Every 2 seconds someone in the US needs blood.

Less than 38% of the population is eligible to give blood or platelets.

Blood and platelets can not be manufactured. They can only come from living donors.

Without **A**, **B**, and **O**, we can't save anybody.

~The Red Cross

The Bloodmobile will be here at Vasa on August 8, 1-7 pm. Help is needed: 1-4 and 4-7 to sign people in. Let the church office know if you can help please.



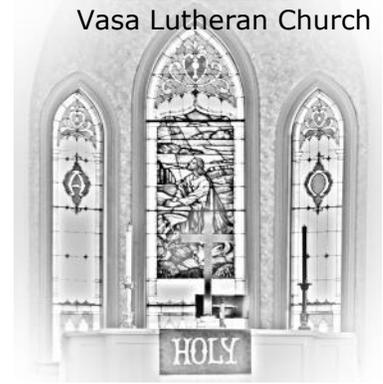
# Mid-Sommar Celebration 2019

Swedish Pancake Breakfast, Worship & Tractor Parade beginning with a Blessing of the Tractors was held on Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> ! Rain forced the worship service inside but a good time was had by all.

## Faith Alone

June 2019

Mark Hagen



The congregation at Vasa is Lutheran. That means we follow Martin Luther's understanding of "justification." That God declares we are righteous by *faith alone*, through His grace. But this concept has been problematic from the start. Luther formulated his understanding from Apostle Paul's letters to the Galatians, to the Romans; and from the book of Hebrews. In Paul's letters he addresses the question: If we are saved by God's grace, why not go on sinning? His answer (in Romans 6), is that if you consider what Jesus has done for you, you will naturally want to be a follower of Jesus and not a "slave to sin." Obviously this question of grace versus righteous living has been around for a long time.

When Martin Luther published his 95 theses, he was mainly concerned about the corrupt practice of selling indulgences. At that time, the Roman Catholic Church promoted the idea that you could buy your way into heaven by purchasing favor (indulgences) with the church. Luther rejected this. He taught that redemption is a gift of God's grace, attainable *only through faith* in Jesus. "This one and firm rock, which we call the doctrine of justification, is the chief article of the whole Christian doctrine." Yet some Christians (notably American Evangelicals) argue that this means that righteous works are unnecessary; that your relationship with other persons is unimportant. Only your personal belief in Jesus as savior matters.

But what did Paul mean when he used the word "faith?" He was writing in Greek and the Greek term he used was *pistis* (πιστις). *Pistis* is not quite the same thing as the English word *faith*. The Greek word *pistis* is not so much about what you believe as it is about your relationship with others. To have *pistis* means to have trust. Like the devotion between a husband and wife; or the trust between soldiers and their commander; or the allegiance of subjects to their king.

What Paul is saying (and Martin Luther said 1500 year later) is that what redeems us is our *trust* in the message of Jesus. This is profound! Understanding *pistis* as "trust in my relationship to Jesus" instead of "having a proper belief" solves the question of do I receive salvation through grace or through righteous living. Paul says "have *pistis* in the message of Jesus. And what is that message: Jesus said "Be righteous (generous). Trust me, you will be rewarded." This means there is no conflict between faith and righteousness. To believe Jesus is to have faith that being generous will not lead to impoverishment; that we will be rewarded here and hereafter. It is to express *allegiance* to Jesus and his message.

This description of the meaning of the Greek word *pistis* is from a podcast called "The Sinnergists", which is presented by Nick Quient, a Baptist minister in California, and Thomas Horrocks, a minister in Indiana.

*“ . . . What redeems us is our trust in the message of Jesus ”*

# 2019 Night to Unite



Join us for the annual former **National Night Out party!**

Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019

6:00pm – 8:00pm

***Bring your Lawn Chairs!!***



Hosted by Vasa Lutheran Church and Vasa Township

located at County Rd 7 & Hwy 19

Build neighborhood involvement by bringing our Local **Fire & Police** Departments and other **Township** officials together.



Enjoy **Food, Games, & Fun** with your neighbors!  
Get to know one another in your neighborhood.

Please consider bringing an item for our local Food Shelves

Call us with Questions: 651-258-4327 or Email: [vasalutheran@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:vasalutheran@sleepyeyetel.net)



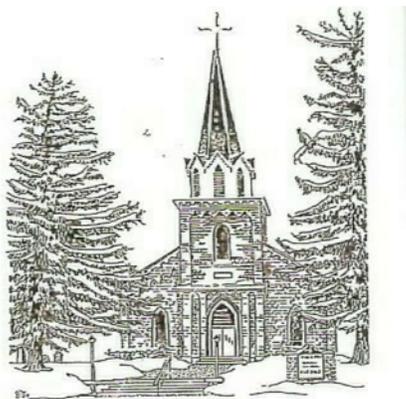
# July

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 Email: [vasalutheran@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:vasalutheran@sleepyeyetel.net)  
 Web: [www.vasalutheran.org](http://www.vasalutheran.org)  
 Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Vasa-Lutheran-Church](http://www.facebook.com/Vasa-Lutheran-Church)

## 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
9:00 am Service of Holy Communion 11:30 am Museum Open	9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Coffee with Pastor Maureen	9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Coffee Pastor on vacation	9:00 am Office Hours 6:15 pm Worship	1:00 pm Root beer floats at the Gazebo 1:00 Museum open to visitors 3:00 pm Vasa Parade	Pastor's Day off	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:00 am Service of the Word-Dahmon Romness preaching 11:30 am Museum Open Pastor on vacation Habitat for Humanity group at the VLC	9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Coffee	9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Coffee Pastor on vacation	9:00 am Office Hours 6:15 pm Worship	9:00 am Office Hours 6:30 & 7:30 pm Softball game		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:00 am Service of Holy Communion 11:30 am Museum Open	9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Coffee with Pastor Maureen	9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Coffee with Pastor Maureen	9:00 am Office Hours 6:15 pm Worship	9:00 am Office Hours 8:30 pm Softball game		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:00 am Service of Holy Communion 11:30 am Museum Open	9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Coffee with Pastor Maureen	9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Coffee with Pastor Maureen	9:00 am Office Hours 6:15 pm Worship	9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Women's Bible Study	Pastor's Day off	
28	29	30	31			
9:00 am Service of the Word 11:30 am Museum Open	9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Coffee with Pastor Maureen	9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Coffee with Pastor Maureen	9:00 am Office Hours			

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—will resume in September**

**Faith Life Night children's classes—will resume in September**

### **Wednesday Night Worship**

6:15 pm Wednesdays

Vasa Lutheran Center

**Confirmation—will resume in September**

7pm Wednesdays

Vasa Lutheran Center

### **Pastor Maureen Hagen**

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

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

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

### **Church Staff**

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