



The Vasa Voice



VOLUME 60 No. 2

FEBRUARY 2024



What's Happening This Month at Vasa

Februaury 7th & 21st

Women of all Ages and Stages Bible study meets at the Lutheran Center, 9:30-11:00AM. All are welcome!

February 14nd—Vasa Family Night and Ash Wednesday worship

On Ash Wednesday, February 14 We will meet in the gym at the Lutheran Center at 5:30 for Family Fun Night. The event will close with "Pastor Time" which will include the imposition of ashes. Chili will be on the menu with pb&j for kids who don't eat chili. As usual there will be a kid friendly craft and an activity we are calling "Win it in a Minute." At about 6:30 we will quiet our minds for a kid friendly worship time with the imposition of ashes.

February 25—Annual Meeting

See page 2 for details.

VASA'S LENTEN FOCUS: Perspectives of Lesser-Known People in the Bible.

Beginning on Wednesday, February 21st we will have Lenten worship in the church sanctuary at 7:00. As is our practice we will sing Holden Evening Prayer and offer communion to all in attendance. Each week during Lent, we will hear a monologue written from the perspective of a less well known character from the life of Jesus.

February 21: Peter's Mother-in-Law
February 28: Mary Magdalene
March 6: Thomas

March 13: Martha
March 20: Lazarus

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

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Worship Volunteers for FEBRUARY

USHER

February 4 Rick Samuelson
 February 11 Randy Klein
 February 18 Rick Samuelson
 February 25 Roger Guttromson

READERS

February 4 Roger Guttromson
 February 11 Jessica Anderson
 February 18 Katie Featherstone
 February 25 Roger Guttromson

HOSPITALITY

February 4 Audrey Rosener
 February 11 **volunteer needed**
 February 18 B-J Norman
 February 25 Gail Strusz Klein

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

February 4 Roger Guttromson
 February 18 Tim Carlson

February birthdays

Riley Munson	Feb 2
Josie Finne	Feb. 3
Connor Hyllengren	Feb. 3
Chantz Nelson	Feb. 3
Parker Anderson	Feb. 5
Gloria Featherstone	Feb. 6
Cynthia Gianoli	Feb. 6
Mike Bauch	Feb. 7
Elleanor Diercks	Feb. 7
Ben Norman	Feb. 7
Lorrie Samuelson	Feb. 8
Taylor Carlson	Feb. 10
Shelley Evanson	Feb. 10
Maddisyn Safe	Feb. 10
Donna Bignell	Feb. 12
Jessica Anderson	Feb. 15
Garrett Samuelson	Feb. 15
Kathi Pearson	Feb. 18
Dora Boe	Feb. 19
Josh Erhardt	Feb. 19
Faye Drewianka	Feb. 21
Larissa Fredin	Feb. 22
Chance Rehder	Feb. 22
Michele Rehder	Feb. 22
Kyle Gillis	Feb. 23
Dawn Lindstrom	Feb. 24
Bob Sammelson	Feb. 25
Lucy Sense	Feb. 26
Oliver Erhardt	Feb. 26
Emmett Pearson	Feb. 27

ANNUAL MEETING

Vasa's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, February 25 right after church. We need a quorum of 40 people in order to approve the budget for the next year, so please plan to attend! Rolls and coffee will be provided.

DALE ANDERSON
 will be in a swing
 bed in Cannon Falls
 Hospital for a few
 weeks. Get Well
 Greetings can be
 sent to him at his
 home address:
**31292 160th Ave,
 Welch, MN 55089.**

faith
family
 friends



Thoughts from Pastor Maureen

Recently I came across a post on Facebook that said, “Brave birds still fly through fog.” This saying has been resonating in my mind ever since because it reminds me of all the times that I have been faced with a situation that I didn’t know how to handle. I knew I had to handle it, but I didn’t know for sure what to do. All that I could do was step out in faith and trust that one way or the other it would work out positively.

Recently I returned to St. Paul’s Lutheran in Lime Springs IA to attend a funeral and was reminded of a time while I was pastor there when I was a brave bird flying through fog. While I was serving there the congregation received a very large bequest—over \$1 million dollars. A task force was formed to figure out what to do with the gift and the decision was made to create an endowment fund. Two advisors representing different financial institutions were called upon to provide guidance but it was clear to me that the task force was unsure about what to do. As luck or the intervention of God would have it I had a meeting at the synod office and during lunch I met another pastor who had experience with setting up endowments for churches. He was able to provide sound advice and clarity so that the task force might move forward. An endowment was established and in the last seven years it has given away thousands of dollars to at least 28 different organizations.

Now when I was eating lunch after the funeral three different people came up to me to thank me for everything that I did to help them establish the endowment. But it wasn’t really me: I was simply the conduit through which God acted. I was the brave bird who wanted to honor the gift, God’s providence, and help the congregation move with assurance through the fog and into the future.

Yes, brave birds still fly through fog and sometimes I have to remind myself to be a brave bird. As the apostle Paul said to the church in Philippi “I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” The most important word in this sentence is “him.” The him is God. We are empowered by God to fly through fog and do things that we might never consider possible because we are strengthened by God.

Are you a brave bird? Are you flying through some fog right now? Just because you cannot see due to the fog, that doesn’t mean that you cannot hear. Nor does it stop you from speaking to God in prayer. Pray my friends and ask for guidance. Then be sure to stop talking long enough to listen for the still small voice of God. In 1 Corinthians 10:13 the apostle Paul writes, “God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.” God is faithful. God will support and sustain you as you fly through the fog.

Brave birds still fly through fog.





Faith Formation



First Communion classes for current 5th graders begin March 3rd at 10:15am at the Lutheran Center. Mark your calendars!!

April 25th-26th



Rummage Sale

Plans are underway for the next Vasa Rummage Sale! Tell your neighbors, relatives and friends! Questions? Call Faye Drewianka—651-212-3209

VASA MEMBERS... receive thanks



Dear Vasa Lutheran,

Thank you for your gift of \$522.50 to the Cannon Falls Food Shelf!



Dear Vasa Lutheran,

Thank you for your gift of \$522.50 to the Red Wing Area Food Shelf!

*you
make a
DIFFERENCE*



Thank you Pastor Maureen and Everyone at Vasa Lutheran Church. Your donation of \$275 is transformative!. With your help, victims of abuse and violence now see a brighter future, Your kindness not only rebuilds lives but tackles the root issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse.

The impact we can make together is amazing. Thank you for being a beacon of hope.

Warmest Regards,

Sara Kern, Executive Director



SOUP'S ON!



MARCH 2ND
11:00am-1:00pm
DINE-IN ONLY

**VASA MUSEUM'S 37TH ANNUAL
SOUP LUNCH FUNDRAISER!**

SOUP MENU
BEAN & HAM
**CHICKEN WILD
RICE**
**CHILI (w/
CRACKERS)**
FRENCH BREAD
**ELLSWORTH
CHEESE CURDS**
**DESSERT (BARS
AND ICE CREAM!)**

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
☆☆ We will gratefully be ac- ☆☆☆
☆☆ cepting Free Will offer- ☆☆☆
☆☆ ings at the time of the ☆☆☆
☆☆ meal. All proceeds will ☆☆☆
☆☆ go toward landscaping ☆☆☆
☆☆ on the museum ☆☆☆
☆☆ grounds. ☆☆☆
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VASA LUTHERAN CENTER

15235 Norelius Rd. Welch, MN

55089





VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

December 18, 2023 @Lutheran Church

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

Devotions: Andrew Featherstone

Members present and absent:

Present: Pastor Maureen Hagen; Bryan Diercks, President; Ben Norman; Chris Finne; Mo Hauck; Duane Hanson; Roger Guttromson; Barbara Weigman; Missy McCann; Kevin Eckbald; and Andrew Featherstone, Secretary;
Ten voting members present

Unable to attend: Randy Klein, Vice President; and Kent Volz;

Also Present: Kathy Tilderquist

Adoption of the Agenda:

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda for December 18, 2023 council meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Minutes:

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 27, 2023 council meeting as written.

MOTION CARRIED

Reports Reviewed and Accepted:

Treasurer's Report (Attached)

Food shelf money went to food shelf.

Internet went down and Kathy couldn't finish bills in November. Kathy finished bills in December. Mark juggled cables and got the internet to work. Internet bill is the same price since Church hasn't had the internet connected yet.

Finance Report (Attached)

A second insurance quote from Brotherhood Mutual is not forthcoming. They require a higher deductible for all buildings.

The 2024 mileage reimbursement budget will increase from \$2,800 to \$3,800.

Parish Life (Attached)

Eight turkeys were donated from Family Fare. They will be used for the Family fun night on January 10th.

147 people were at the Christmas Program. The food was very good.

Sunday school will start on Sunday January 7th.

Ash's Wednesday will take place on Valentines Day. It will be held in the gym for family fun night.



**VASA CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
(CONTINUED)**

Property Team Report (Attached)

Insurance will be increasing to \$25,675.00 for 2024. We will decrease the yearly maintenance to \$9,000. Utilities will be around the same as 2023. Snow removal budget will be \$4,000.

Carpet cleaning will take place December 18th for the gym, hallways, and fellowship room.

Cemetery Board (NA)

Executive Board Report (NA)

Pastor's Report) Attached)

Confirmation will resume on January 3rd. Postcards have been sent to parents.

The Children's Christmas Program went very well. Mo Hauck and Missy McCann did a good job preparing the children for the program.

Museum Board (N/A)

Endowment Board Report (N/A)

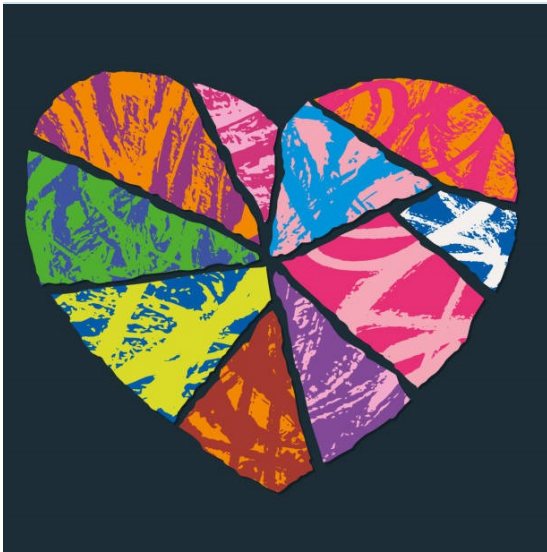
It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:00 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Report submitted by: Andrew Featherstone, Secretary

VASA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH		<u>CHURCH COUNCIL</u>	
Treasurer's Report December, 2023		President: Bryan Diercks	507-259-3909
		Vice President: Randy Klein rdklein@mmm.com	651-212-8045
		Secretary: Andrew Featherstone rwfeatherstonepainting@gmail.com	651-470-9823
For the Month of December:		Kevin Eckblad	651-380-7849
Checkbook Balance, December, 1, 2023	\$ 63,616.55	Chris Finne	651-380-3690
General Fund Contributions:	34,442.13	Lora Gruber	51-212-3216
Mission Endowment Offering	6,600.00	Roger Guttromson	651-308-6349
Total Funds Available	104,658.68	Duane Hanson	651-380-1763
Budget Approved Monthly Expenses:	24,558.82	Maureen Hauck	651-331-8593
Checkbook Balance, December 31, 2023	\$ 80,099.86	Missy McCann	651-307-2274
		Ben Norman	651-208-7124
Mission Investment Fund, December 1, 2023	\$0.00	Kent Volz	651-402-0942
Mission Investment Fund, December 31, 2023	\$0.00	Barbara Weigman	507-202-7880
		<u>WHO TO CONTACT IN CASE OF EMERGENCY</u>	
		Indoors:	Jim Hedeem 651-380-6054
		Kitchen:	Sue Hedeem 651-380-6270
			Faye Drewianka 651-212-3209
		Outdoors	Duane Hanson 651-380-1763
			Steve Hyllengren 651-258-4338



GRIEFSHARE, a Christian grief support group, will begin a new session on Monday March 4th from 6:30-8:00pm at First Covenant Church in Red Wing. Registration is appreciated so that an adequate supply of workbooks is available. Register online at griefshare.org (find a group). Griefshare is non-denominational and welcomes people of all faiths to participate.

For more information, contact:

Doris Wenzel
dorismwenzel@gmail.com
651-380-3402

Cathy Goggin
cathy.goggin@gmail.com
651-301-9616

Flo is flourishing...



Flo the Philodendron arrived in Vasa in May, 2023. She lived in the Church Sanctuary during the summer, and at the end of the summer Flo was moved down to the mailroom at the Lutheran Center. But she wasn't thriving there so Pastor Maureen put her in the care of Wendy Anderson. Look how Flo is thriving! From two leaves to six with a seventh on the way.

Thank you Wendy.

MARK'S MEDITATION

THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY

A standard part of Lutheran liturgy is to recite either the Apostles or Nicene Creed. The Nicene Creed dates from the council of Nicaea in 325 CE. The Apostles Creed, as we have it today, dates to the 5th century. But it is based on an even older creed called the Old Roman Creed that dates to before 200 CE. All three creeds uphold the doctrine of the Trinity and are composed of three parts. The ending lines of each creed are very similar, as shown in the table below. What does it mean to say "we look for the *resurrection of the body*?" To understand the importance of this statement it is helpful to review some history.

Roman Creed	Nicene Creed	Apostles Creed
...the resurrection of the flesh	...we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.	...the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

It turns out that the ancient Hebrews and the ancient Greeks had very different ideas of what happens to a person when they die. The Greek philosophers, most importantly Plato and Aristotle, thought that everything in the world had two "essences." 1) A perfect, incorruptible, archetype; and 2) a (corruptible) physical manifestation. For instance, Aristotle thought that a chair has a perfect, eternal essence that defines its "chair-ness" and a physical manifestation that is subject to deformity, corruption and decay. This idea extended to people. The Greeks believed that a person consists of two essences: an eternal soul, and a corruptible body. Upon death, the body decays, but the soul lives on. Because our culture is a descendant of the "Western Civilization" begun by the Greeks, many Americans think this is the only concept of what constitutes a person.

However, the ancient Hebrews had a different idea of the soul. The Hebrew word for soul is "nephesh" which means "breath". They thought that a person's soul and their breath were one in the same. When a person stopped breathing, the soul stopped as well. That means that to an Iron-age Jew, a person's soul could not exist without a body. When you stop breathing, you cease to exist. This was the understanding from ancient times until about 200 BCE.

In the 200 years before Jesus, new ideas about death came into being. The Sadducees, who controlled the Temple in Jerusalem, held the old view that death is the end of a person. However, the Pharisees developed a new idea. They agreed that your conscious-self stopped living when you die. However, there would be a resurrection of all who died at the end of time. This resurrection would need a body because you need a body to breath. A third group, the Essenes, who produced the Dead Sea Scrolls, also believed in an end-time resurrection. What differentiated the Essenes from the Pharisees is that they thought that the end of the world was happening now!

The Apostle Paul tells us he is a Pharisee. Jesus likely claimed that label as well. (In John 11:24, upon the death of Lazarus, Martha says "I know that <Lazarus> will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." To which Jesus responds "I am the resurrection.") In 1 Corinthians chapter 15 (often called the resurrection chapter) Paul lays out what this bodily resurrection looks like. He says that Jesus is the first person, the "new Adam", to be resurrected. That "soon" we would all be given new, imperishable "spiritual bodies." Paul is a little unclear where these bodies would reside. He seems to be saying that the "Kingdom of God" where these bodies will live is here on earth.

These days most people imagine their loved ones immediately ascending to heaven when they die. It is a comforting thought. But that would likely be a surprising idea to Paul and Jesus.

you
make a
A DIFFERENCE



**Lutheran
Social Service**
of Minnesota

Thrivent Choice Dollars



Procedure to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Vasa:

1. Open your computer browser and enter: Thrivent.com
2. Log in to your personal account
3. Select: Membership Overview
4. Select: Thrivent Choice
5. Select: Direct Choice Dollars
6. Check your eligibility
7. Direct your choice dollars to: Vasa Lutheran Church
 1. If possible, print the Donated Dollars page from the Printer Friendly box
 2. Put your name at the top of the page as well as how you want your dollars directed—giving to the Gazebo fund would be much appreciated right now.
 3. Give a copy to the church treasurer or leave it in the church office.
9. Log out

Ready to give back?

The choice is yours.

Questions about Directing your Thrivent Choice Dollars?
Contact Faye Drewianka: 651-212-3209.

If you prefer to give your Choice Dollars by phone, call: 1-800-847-4836.

Even if you have done this before, you need to re-do it every year. Dollars must be designated for 2023 by March 31, 2024.

Dear Vasa Lutheran Church,

Together we are neighbors helping neighbors. Thank you for your generous gift to support the services of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota.

Your contribution of \$525.00 was received on 12/30/2023.

From adoption and foster care to shelter and safety for youth experiencing homelessness to support for people with disabilities to nutritious, home-delivered meals for older adults, LSS impacts 1 in every 65 Minnesotans. I invite you learn more about our services and see how your generosity is already inspiring hope, changing lives and building community at lssmn.org.

With gratitude,

Jesse M. Stremcha

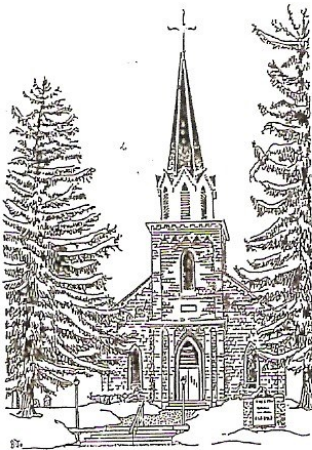
Vice President of Development

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 
4 9AM Service of Holy Communion (with Sunday School at the Lutheran Center)	5 <u>TEAMS MEET</u> 4 PM Property 5 PM Finance 6 PM Parish Life	6  9:30 Coffee and Conversation	7 9:30-11:00AM Women's Bible Study 5:30-6:30 Faith Formation 5:45-6:45 7/8 Confirmation 6:45pm Wednesday Eve Worship	8	9 Pastor's Day Off	10
11 9AM Service of the Word (with Sunday School at the Lutheran Center)	12	13  9:30 Coffee and Conversation	14 5:30-7:00pm Vasa Family Night + Ash Wednesday Service at the Lutheran Center	15	16 Pastor's Day Off	17
18 9AM Service of Holy Communion (with Sunday School at the Lutheran Center)	19 6PM CHURCH COUNCIL	20  9:30 Coffee and Conversation	21 9:30-11:00AM Women's Bible Study 5:30-6:30 Faith Formation 5:45-6:45 7/8 Confirmation 7:00 pm Lenten Worship + Holden Evening Prayer (Sanctuary)	22	23 Pastor's Day Off	24
25 9AM Service of the Word (Service + Sunday School at the LC) Annual Meeting follows the church service	26	27  9:30 Coffee and Conversation	28 5:30-6:30 Faith Formation 5:45-6:45 7/8 Confirmation 7:00 pm Lenten Worship + Holden Evening Prayer (Sanctuary)	29	1 Pastor's Day Off	2 

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

Emily Peterson, 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!