

Vasa Lutheran Church

A Voice in the Wilderness

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Anne Anderson pianist

Sunday, December 28, 2025

WELCOME

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C: The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness,
on them light has shined.

**C: We have beheld Christ's glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

P: To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**C: In the Word was life,
and the life was the light of all people.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,

**we yearn for your presence to transform
our grief, pain, and despair.**

**We confess that we have not always prepared
room in our hearts for your love;
we have not always recognized
your presence among us;
we have not always embraced your message of peace.**

**We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,
oppression, and fear.**

**We confess our failure to make room
for those seeking refuge;
our participation in violent systems
that harm your innocent ones;
our reluctance to embody your good news.**

**Be born in us today
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.**

God's grace upon grace flows over you.

✠ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

Amen.

GATHERING CAROL

GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who is Savior and Lord,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

CHRISTMAS CAROL:

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Glorious God, **Help us to hear when your chosen voices proclaim the work of your son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns in this world and the next. Amen.**

Psalms 32:1-2

P: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

**C: Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

SCRIPTURE READING John 1:19-34

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." 22 Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 23 He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.

24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. 25 They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" 26 John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, 27 the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." 28 This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' 31 I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." 32 And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the

Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

CHRISTMAS CAROL:

MEDITATION

CHRISTMAS CAROL:

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Each petition will end with the words: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

GENEROSITY MOMENT

SENDING CAROL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The triune God,
glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One,
abiding Comforter,
✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

Amen.

L: Glory to God in the highest!

C: And peace to God's people on earth!

L: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

C: Thanks be to God.



Wendy Anderson, Jay
Mikaelsen, Scott
Sorenson, Lorrie
Samuelson, Lynda
Rosener Sack, Terri
Fredin, Terri
Mandelkow, Jake
Jacobson, Connor
Michalicek (Rosann
Pearson's grandson),
and Roger Guttromson.

Parish Pulse:

Dec. 21

Participating in Worship: **131**

+ **15** Live Streams

Total Offerings:

December 21 \$ 6,874.76

Worship Assistants Today:

Usher: Duane Hanson

Lector: Sasha Diercks

Hospitality: Audrey Rosener

Worship Assistants Next Week

January 4

Usher: Duane Hanson

Lector: Stuart Samuelson

Hospitality: Marilyn Hanson

Communion Asst.: Stuart Samuelson

We will worship
in the Lutheran
Center beginning
next Sunday,
January 4th
through March
22.

TEAM MEETINGS

January 4/2026

Finance @ 10:30am

January 5/2026

Property @ 4:00pm

January 12/2026

Parish Life @ 5:30pm

Church Council @ 6:00pm



American Red Cross

The next Vasa Lutheran Church
Blood Drive is scheduled for
TUESDAY, January 20, 2026
from 1:00 –7:00pm. PLEASE
NOTE THIS IS A ONE-DAY
DRIVE ONLY!

Heating the Church Sanctuary and Lutheran Center each winter is a significant expense. Vasa Congregation will gratefully receive any donations given to help cover these costs. Simply put the words "fuel fund" in the memo line of your check.

The Pierce County Ecumenical Choir is inviting anyone who loves to sing to join them for the upcoming season. The choir is open to all voices. The concert theme for 2026 is Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God Alone).

The choir rehearses on Sunday afternoons starting January 4, 2026. Rehearsals are at the Ellsworth Senior High School in the choir room at 1:30 P.M.

Concerts are held in area churches on Sunday afternoons and evenings in April except for Easter Sunday. The choir also performs at a Haitian benefit concert in River Falls that is held in late February or early March.

Singers of all levels and abilities are encouraged to participate.

The ability to read music is helpful but not required.

People interested in joining the choir should contact the director for more information, **Jan Hansmeier** at jansmeier62@gmail.com or 320-241-1829.



Registration for Good Earth Village Summer 2026 is now open. If your child would like to attend the summer camp call or email Preston in the office. The Vasa Congregation subsidizes families sending kids to this summer camp so that more are able to participate in the camp experiences along with deepening their faith.