

## Vasa Happenings in May

### May 4 Vasa Museum Opens for The Summer

Regular Hours will be Sundays, 11:30-4:00, or by appointment. Just call or email the church office and Emily will contact a member of the museum board to accommodate your request. 651-258-4327 or office@vasalutheran.org.

### May 14 Vasa Family Fun Night

This is the LAST Family Fun Night until September. We will gather at 5:30 for a cook-out, have some activity time (and maybe some games!) and conclude with a short devotion.

### May 18 Graduation Sunday

A day where we recognize Vasa's graduating High School Seniors.

### EASTER SEASON SERMON SERIES...EASTER SEASON SERMON SERIES...

Beginning on May 4, and continuing through the next SIX weeks, Vasa will be reading and considering passages from The Book of Acts, and Paul's Letter to the Galatians. Here are the passages from Acts:

- |         |                           |   |
|---------|---------------------------|---|
| May 4:  | Acts 6:1-7:2a and 7:44-60 | <i>Stephen's Witness</i>                |
| May 11: | Acts 8:26-39              | <i>The Ethiopian Eunuch is Baptized</i> |
| May 18: | Acts 15:1-18              | <i>The Council at Jerusalem</i>         |

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

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>P. 2</b> Worship volunteers, May Birthdays, Scam Alert       | <b>P. 7</b> Rummage Sale Update  |
| <b>P. 3</b> Thoughts from Pastor Maureen                        | <b>P. 8</b> Mark's Meditation  |
| <b>P. 4-5</b> March Council Meeting Minutes, Treasurer's Report | <b>P. 9</b> May Family Fun Info, Graduating Seniors Recognition Sunday |
| <b>P. 6</b> Midsommar Tractor Parade Details /Save the Date !   | <b>P. 10</b> Thoughts from Pastor Maureen (cont.)                      |
|   | <b>P. 11</b> May 2025 Calendar   |

## Worship Volunteers for May

### USHERS

May 4	Rick Samuelson
May 11	Marv Fredrickson
May 18	<b>volunteer needed</b>
May 25	Duane Hanson

### READERS

May 4	Mark Hagen
May 11	Sasha Diercks
May 18	Mo Hauck
May 25	Katie Featherstone

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

May 4	Geri Lindholm
May 18	Katie Featherstone



## BIRTHDAYS

May 2	Gabe Bauch
May 3	Tanner Carlson
May 5	Owyne Gillis
May 7	Bentley Endres Chris Mann
May 10	Indie Marie Lindholm
May 12	Merle Pearson
May 13	Samuel Lindstrom
May 16	Ross Fredin Bruce Tilderquist
May 18	Nora Featherstone Ezekiel Pearson
May 20	Katie Lindahl
May 26	Gabriel Rehder
May 27	Theresa Fredin Julia Stahnke
May 28	Parker Nelson
May 29	Anthony Mann Brian Schmidt Kathy Tilderquist
May 31	Audrey Rosener

## SCAM WARNING!!

Please be aware that there has been an increase in the number of emails and texts from people who are trying to take advantage of church members and their giving nature.

The Bishop, Synod Offices, Pastor Maureen, Church Council Members and Church Staff WILL NOT email or text Vasa church members asking for the purchase of money orders, or for them to buy gift cards and then give out the numbers and codes.

If you receive *any* "emergency" donation requests, please call the church office or Pastor Maureen directly to verify the information. DO NOT use the phone number or email address in the scam message.



## WALKING A LABYRINTH

### Reflections from Pastor Maureen

When I was on retreat in mid-March I walked a labyrinth at Shalom Hill Farm. Here are some of the musings that came to me as I walked that path.

At first, as I entered the labyrinth, I was in a hurry. Instead of focusing on the path, I was focused on the destination. My mind was on accomplishing the task. As I wound around and around I found myself slowing down and then I started to wonder, when will I be done? When will I be free from the constraints of the rocky path?

There were some small branches that had blown off the trees laying on the pathway. They didn't hinder my walk but it was ohhhh so tempting to stop and pick them up. So tempting to do, to take action, to end the walk with an arm full of branches and say, "Look what I accomplished." I had to force myself to stay focused on the assignment: to walk, to ponder, and to listen. Those were the things I was supposed to do. But the longer I spent time on retreat I discovered that being productive in ways that someone else can measure doesn't leave room for the pondering and the listening.



There had been some snow and wind a few days earlier and as a result some of the rocks were buried by a snowdrift and the path was obscured. I fretted about making a wrong turn. But I was not the first person to walk the path and there were foot steps to guide me. I could follow them knowing (trusting) that the person ahead of me knew the way. (Think Jesus!)

There are many rocks that line both sides of the path. Keith, our host, told us that all of the rocks were gleaned from rock piles on various farms in the area and represent hours of labor of early farmers picking rocks so that they could plant their crops. These rocks were impediments to farmers, they also damaged equipment. But as a part of the labyrinth they were guides and helped me to stay on the path: to stay on course.

*(continued on page 10)*





## VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

March 10, 2025 @ Lutheran Church

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 6:06 pm by Bryan Diercks, President

**Devotions:** Randy Klein

**Members present and absent:**

**Present:** Pastor Maureen Hagen, Pastor; Bryan Diercks, President; Randy Klein, Vice President; Kent Volz; Tim Carlson; Missy McCann; Barbara Weigman; Mo Hauck; Sue Samuelson; and Andrew Featherstone, Secretary;

10 voting members present

**Unable to attend:** Ben Norman and Chris Finne;

**Also Present:** Kathy Tilderquist

**Adoption of the Agenda:**

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda for the March 10, 2025 council meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Approval of Minutes:**

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2025 council meeting as written.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Reports Reviewed and Accepted:**

Treasurer's Report (Attached)

Everything in the budget is within reason for the year.

The financial position for the Church remains strong.

Finance Report (Attached)

The sanctuary remodeling cost is expected to exceed the budget by \$2,000.00 to \$5,000.00.

Decorating committee is currently looking at getting bids for new pew covers.

Parish Life (Attached)

First Communion Instructions: begins on March 23.

Palm Sunday April 13: children will sing.

Maundy Thursday is April 17: First communion occurs during worship 7:00 PM.

Good Friday worship is April 18 7:00 PM.

Decorating of the Church sanctuary on Saturday morning April 19 at 9:30.

Last Day of Sunday School: May 11, also Mother's Day.

Property Team (NA)

Cemetery Board (NA)

Executive Board Report (NA)

Pastor's Report) Attached)

Pastor has completed two three-year long terms on the Board of Directors of Good Earth Village, including one year as President.

Museum Board (NA)

Museum Board is going to put up display boards with old pictures of Church Sanctuary over the years.

Endowment Board Report (NA)



**New Business:**

Insurance questions for Ali Peters- It was moved and seconded to approve Professional Liability Insurance for \$923.00 Annual cost. We will hold off on Director and Officer Insurance.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Furnace Update- Furnace are running good. Will monitor as time goes on.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:32 PM.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Report submitted by: Andrew Featherstone, Secretary

<b>VASA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b>	
March 31, 2025	
For the Month of March:	
Checkbook Balance, March 1, 2025	\$ 69,780.22
General Fund Contributions:	18,171.87
Total Funds Available	87,952.09
Budget Approved Monthly Expenses:	(20,700.52)
Checkbook Balance, March 31, 2025	<b><u>\$ 67,251.57</u></b>

<b><u>CHURCH COUNCIL</u></b>		
<b>President:</b>	Bryan Diercks	507-259-3909
<b>Vice President:</b>	Randy Klein rdklein@mmm.com	651-212-8045
<b>Secretary:</b>	Andrew Featherstone rwfeatherstonepainting@gmail.com	651-470-9823
	Tim Carlson	651-442-5066
	Kevin Eckblad	651-380-7849
	Chris Finne	651-380-3690
	Maureen Hauck	651-331-8593
	Missy McCann	651-307-2274
	Sue Samuelson	907.250.4103
	Kent Volz	651-402-0942
	Barbara Weigman	507-202-7880
<b><u>WHO TO CONTACT IN CASE OF EMERGENCY</u></b>		
<b>Indoors:</b>	<b>Andrew Featherstone</b>	<b>651.470.9823</b>
<b>Kitchen:</b>	<b>Sue Hedeem</b>	<b>651-380-6270</b>
	<b>Faye Drewianka</b>	<b>651-212-3209</b>
<b>Outdoors</b>	<b>Duane Hanson</b>	<b>651-380-1763</b>
	<b>Steve Hyllengren</b>	<b>651-258-4338</b>

# Tractor Parade reverses route this year!!

**Sunday, June 22, 2025**

VASA-SPRING GARDEN  
Annual Tractor Parade  
and  
Midsommar Festival



**Spring Garden Lutheran Church**  
10239 County 1 Blvd. Cannon Falls, MN

## **SPRING GARDEN CHURCH**

**9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast Picnic**

**10:00 a.m. Outdoor Church Service**  
(Weather Permitting)

**11:00 a.m. Blessing of the Tractors**

**Parade Departs at 11:00 a.m. & will  
Arrive at 12:00 at Vasa Lutheran Church**

**Vasa Lutheran Church**  
15235 Norelius Road, Welch, MN 55089

## **VASA CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

**10:00 a.m. Church at Vasa Lutheran**

**11:00 a.m. Midsommar Activities**

**11:00 - 1:00 p.m. Swedish Meatball  
Lunch Served (free will offering)**

**Games for Kids including  
a Kids Tractor Parade**

**11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Live Music  
at the Lutheran Center**

**1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Live Music at  
the Gazebo (near the museum)**

*Vasa Church & Museum will be open for tours  
all day. Golf cart transportation available to  
all locations. Details at [www.vasalutheran.org](http://www.vasalutheran.org)*

For Entry Information, contact VSGMI Office: 507-263-0174

**SPONSORED BY Vasa-Spring Garden Mutual Insurance**



**community grown insurance**





**THE ANNUAL  
VASA RUMMAGE SALE  
ONCE AGAIN IS A HUGE  
SUCCESS!**

Thanks to everyone who donated items to sell and baked goods, helped set up, worked at the sale, and helped to clean up! Special thanks, also, to Family Fare and Thrivent, for their contributions.

Total earnings from the sale were \$7,308.00. Bake sale proceeds were \$1,220.00. Lunch and snack sales were \$795.00. The rummage items brought in \$5,293.00.

Left-over items that weren't sold were donated to Wise-Penny in Red Wing, The Salvation Army (Hastings), Savers (Rochester), and Sift Thrift (Kenyon).

Vasa hosts this rummage sale every year during the 4th weekend in April. Mark your 2026 calendars to help out next year! As the saying goes, "many hands make light work", especially as none of us is getting any younger!!

**UPDATE!**

**CLOTHING DONATIONS TO BE  
PURCHASED BY EPILEPSY  
FOUNDATION**

**Vasa will continue to accept clothing, shoes, purses, belts and bedding donations until June 9th.** Bag these items in large garbage bags, bring them to the Lutheran Center and put them on the stage. They will be sold to the Epilepsy Foundation fundraiser which is later in June.

## MARK'S MEDITATION

### THE CREEDS SAY WHAT?

The Nicene Creed came out of the Council of Nicaea, called by Roman emperor Constantine in 325 CE. At that time there were many Christian sects, each with a different idea of the substance and character of Jesus. To Constantine, the competing ideas and bickering between these groups hampered the administration of the empire. He wanted one "orthodox" faith. Hence his edict for a catholic (universal) creed. The resulting creed was amended in 381 and has remained largely unchanged ever since. The Apostles Creed dates from around the same time. It might be older (this is what Maureen was taught in Seminary), but recent evidence suggests it originated in Gaul (France) sometime in the fifth century. It remains popular, I suspect, because it is shorter.

Much of the wording in the creeds is due to the main debate in Nicaea: What is the origin of Jesus? Many eastern Mediterranean churches thought that God was transcendent—literally above the world. That he abides in the "heaven of heavens." As such, he needed an emissary, Jesus, who was an earthly "creature." Therefore, Jesus must have been created at some point by God. This makes Jesus a subordinate being to God. Arius of Alexandria was the chief proponent of this view of God.

However, others at Nicaea found fault in this view. Chief among them was Athanasius, also from Alexandria. He argued that if salvation is a direct union with God, how could this work if Jesus was a created creature? Only God can unite creatures to Himself. So, if Christ can unite us to God, he must truly be God. And if the spirit can unite us to Christ, the spirit must also be God. This is the argument that won the day in Nicaea.

Along with the debate about Jesus, there was a debate about salvation. You see, the Greeks and the Jews had very different ideas about the after-life. The

Greeks (philosophers like Plato and Aristotle) taught that everything (a rock, a chair, a person) has two versions: a corruptible earthly version that decays and dies, and a perfect eternal version that abides in the heavens. Whereas, first century Jews equated a person's breath with their soul. Therefore, the soul cannot exist without a breathing body. This led to the idea that there would be a bodily resurrection at the "end of days." A person will go to heaven, not when they die, but at the end of time; delivered there by their resurrected body. This is what the Apostle Paul proclaimed in his early epistles—when he thought Jesus' resurrection signaled the beginning of the "end of days." An event that would surely conclude within weeks. However, when this did not happen, Paul later wrote that he expected to be with Christ soon after his death.

The Apostle's creed and Nicene creed codify this idea of a bodily resurrection. Scholars are not sure why. Most likely it was tied up in the "Arian Controversy" about the origin of Jesus. However, this is not what most Christians believe. Most people's vision of heaven follows the Greeks and is immediate—a bright light and stairway to heaven seen from a hospital bed. Accordingly, I often skip saying this part in church.

These two creeds have been with us for 1700 years, and represent a strong tradition in Catholic, Greek Orthodox and Lutheran churches. However, many protestant churches do not consider them authoritative. A common complaint is that they only describe what to believe, not how to act. And, they fail to acknowledge God's love. I was happy that Maureen chose to use an alternative creed during lent. (I swear I did not coerce her.) It is my understanding that First English Lutheran in Cannon Falls occasionally uses the *Ionian Creed* as part of their service. Maybe we can consider that in the future. Changing up how we profess what we believe forces us to think about, and therefore strengthen, our faith. That is surely a good thing.



# VASA FAMILY NIGHT

## "Grow in Faith"

Join us for the last family night  
before summer.

Cook Out  
Fun Activities  
Short Devotion

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14  
5:30-7PM

VASA LUTHERAN CENTER



We will recognize our graduating seniors on Sunday, May 18th during worship! This year's class includes:

Owyne Gillis

Son of Kyle and Paula Gillis

Ava Stehr

Daughter of Jenna Montey



TO OUR GRADUATING SENIORS

*(WALKING A LABYRINTH, continued from page 3)*

This labyrinth was located in a shelter belt of trees. On the day I walked the labyrinth the wind was blowing and you could hear it up in the tree tops. Down at ground level there was no air movement and our group basked in the early spring sunshine. There is a strong connection between wind and the movement of the Holy Spirit in the Bible. It seems to me that the Holy Spirit is always at work even if we can't feel her at that particular moment.

As I walked further and deeper into the labyrinth I was led to the outer edges of the circle and I started to think I was nearly done. But staying on the path was important and surprisingly the path led me back in deeper. I felt disappointed and then it occurred to me that this is like the spiritual journey of life, just when one thinks that one is nearly done, has learned it all, that there's nothing left, life takes an unexpected turn and one is led back in deeper again. And all you can do is shrug your shoulders and say, "Oh well, God. It's not about me, it's about your



intent for my life. I will go where you lead."

Eventually the path took a turn and I ended up in the center where there was a heart shaped rock. And I thought about the power of that image: at the center, at the core of who we are is our heart, our soul and maybe also the Holy Spirit.

Blessings ~

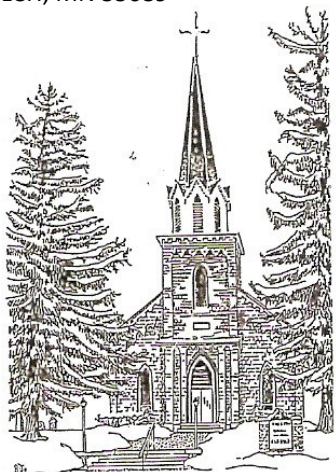
*Pastor Maureen*





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 9AM Service of Holy Communion Last day of Sunday School (& PARTY!)	5 <b>TEAMS MEET</b> 4 PM Property 5 PM Finance 6:30 PM Museum (at Vasa House)	6 9:30 Coffee and Conversation	7 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11:00 Wed Eve Worship 6:30pm	8	9 Pastor's Day Off	10
11 9AM Service of The Word	12 5:30 PM Parish Life 6PM CHURCH COUNCIL	13 9:30 Coffee and Conversation	14  VASA FAMILY NIGHT	15	16 Pastor's Day Off	17
18 9AM Service of Holy Communion & Graduation Sunday	19	20 9:30 Coffee and Conversation	21 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11:00 Wed Eve Worship 6:30pm	22	23 Pastor's Day Off	24
25 9AM Service of The Word 10AM Memorial Day Remembrance at the Flagpole	26	27 9:30 Coffee and Conversation	29 Wed Eve Worship 6:30pm	29	30 Synod Assembly Mankato	31 Pastor's Day Off

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 (in 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  
office@vasalutheran.org

**Website:** vasalutheran.org

### **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!