

Volume 57 No. 5

The Vasa Voice



May 2021

Highlights of Life at Vasa in May

May 2 Museum Reopens!!

After a year of being essentially closed by COVID restrictions, the museum is happy to announce that it will be open for regular hours on Sundays from 11:30 - 4:00, and also by appointment. Doors open May 2!

May 9 Mothers Day

A special day for Mothers, Grandmothers, Great-Grandmothers, Godmothers, and every mother figure! Today is also "Undie Sunday" so please bring new packages of ladies and children's underwear, children's socks and packages of toilet paper for the women's shelters.

May 12 Community Dinner

This is the LAST community dinner until September. **Drive Through** opens at 5:30pm at the Vasa Center. Enjoy some pulled pork sandwiches, chips, baked beans and a cookie!
Meal Reservations are due in the office by NOON on May 5!

Here's what's on the Inside!

- P. 2 Pastor Maureen's Article, Thank Yous, Treasurer's Report
- P. 3 Service Assistant Schedule, May's Birthdays, Thank Yous
- P. 4-5 Council Meeting Minutes
- P. 6 Mark's Meditation, Wednesday Evening worship
- P. 7 Good Earth Village Summer Camps, Vacation Bible School, Community Dinner
- P. 8 About the Virus
- P. 9 Undie Sunday
- P. 10 Rummage Sale Highlights, Thanks Yous
- P. 11 May Calendar



"When you are a mother, you are never really alone in your thoughts. A mother always has to think twice, once for herself and once for her child." - Sophia Loren

"When your mother asks, 'Do you want a piece of advice?' It is a mere formality. It doesn't matter if you answer yes or no. You're going to get it anyway." - Erma Bombeck

Thoughts from Pastor Maureen

Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- 9 not the result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

By God's unmerited love we have been saved. It was not and never has been our own doing. Our salvation is a gift from God and did not come to us as result of any work that we have done. These verses from Ephesians are often considered a rally cry for Lutherans: for by grace alone we have been saved.

We often get so focused on the first two verses that we ignore the third: "For we are what he has made us, *created in Christ Jesus for good works*, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life."

"*Created in Christ Jesus for good works.*" Once the realization of salvation by grace has sunk into our heart, mind, and soul; we are set free to accomplish mighty acts which are viewed by others as good. Here's what I mean:

- We provided 328 meals during the March Community Dinner and 300 meals during the one in April.
- We received vast donations of household goods and clothing for the annual rummage sale. In selling these items inexpensively we provide for others. The proceeds of the sale will help us do some work in the kitchen which will help us to feed more people.
- In addition, a representative of the Nerstrand United Methodist Church approached us on the second day of the sale. Turns out the church freely gives away donated clothing once a week. They took all of the clothing that we didn't sell so that it can be shared with people in need.

Helping our neighbors are the good works that we are set free to accomplish as we bathe in the knowledge that our salvation has been given to us as a gift. Helping our neighbors provides us with a taste of God's heavenly kingdom; a taste of what it is that God has in mind for the flourishing of all of God's people.

*Grace and Peace to you,
Pastor Maureen*



I would like to thank everyone who sent me cards and letters while I was in the hospital and rehab. When you cannot have visitors, time moves slowly, so it was especially nice to

get the cards. Thank you Pastor Maureen for your calls. God bless you all and I am so glad to be a part of the Vasa Family. Linda Thompson



To Sue and Kitchen, Delivery and all volunteers:

Thank you so much for the delicious meals you serve us monthly. I look forward to it is always toothsome (I found that word in my thesaurus!) It's much appreciated to have it delivered to my doorstep too~ Sharyn Sorenson



VASA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Treasurer's Report March 2021

For the Month of March:

Checkbook Balance, March 1, 2021	\$ 46,344.18
General Fund Contributions:	16,545.80
Offering from Cemetery Assn	1,200.00
Total Funds Available	64,089.98
Budget Approved Monthly Expenses:	<u>19,103.00</u>
Checkbook Balance, March 30, 2021	\$ 44,986.98

Mission Investment Fund, Feb 28, 2021	\$20,623.84
Mission Investment Fund, March 30, 2021	\$20,632.58

Volunteers for May

USHERS

2 Randy Klein
9 Jason Pagel
16 Chuck Peterson
23 Kevin Eckblad
30 Steve Hyllengren

READERS

2 Mark Hagen
9 Jim Hedeem
16 Geri Lindholm
23 Kathy Tilderquist
30 Duane Martinson

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

2 Malissa Stahnke
16 Sid Featherstone
30 Mark Hagen

thank
you!



This Month's Birthdays

- 2 - Gabriel Bauch
Sarah Jo Hedeem
- 5 - Owyne Gillis
Vivian Strusz
- 6 - Josh Hanson
- 7 - Chris Mann
- 10 - Ron Scripture
- 11 - Jim Hedeem
- 12 - Merle Pearson
- 14 - Martha Hanson
- 16 - Ross Fredin
Bob Stahnke
Bruce Tilderquist
- 18 - Nora Featherstone
Ezekiel Pearson
- 19 - Brady Bosshart
- 26 - Gabriel Rehder
- 27 - Theresa Fredin
Julia Stahnke
- 28 - Parker Nelson
- 29 - Anthony Mann
Brian Schmidt
- 30 - Lisa Bosshart
Ryan Rehder
Kathy Tilderquist
- 31 - Gerald McRae
Audrey Rosener

When I asked my youngest nephew, Joshua, if he would be in church that coming Sunday, he replied: "Oh, yes. Because my brother is going to be the pilot light."

~ Laughing with Lutherans

thankyou

April 15, 2021

Dear Friends at Vasa Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for your prayers for us,
the work we are involved with at RTC in
Bolivia, and especially for Paul's healing.
We appreciate your friendship and
encouragement and we definitely feel part
of the "family" at Vasa. Thank you for
the many years you have supported our
work in Bolivia through monetary gifts,
help for projects, and teams that have come
down to Bolivia to help us. You have been a
big part of this ministry and getting God's
Word out to listeners throughout Bolivia.
Blessings to you - Paul (Jay) Mikaelson

VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

March 15, 2021 @Lutheran Church

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:10pm by Barbara Weigman, President

Devotions: Sid Featherstone

Members present and absent:

Present: Pastor Maureen Hagen; Barbara Weigman, President; Sid Featherstone, Vice President; Bryan Diercks; Duane Hanson; Greg Drewianka; Jessica Anderson; Kent Volz; Randy Klein; Steve Hyllengren; and Andrew Featherstone

Eleven voting members present

Unable to attend: Ben Norman; Kevin Eckblad; Lora Gruber and Missy McCann

Also Present: Kathy Tilderquist and Mark Hagen at end of meeting.

Adoption of the Agenda:

The agenda was revised to put Loose/undesignated Lenten offerings under financial report. Gazebo will be moved to April's agenda. Church interior, playground climber, and LC kitchen will be in Pastor's report.

It was moved and seconded to approve the revised agenda.

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Minutes:

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2021 council meeting as written.

MOTION CARRIED

Reports Reviewed and Accepted:

1. Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes (Attached)
2. Council Organizational Meeting (Attached)
 - a. It was moved and seconded to replace Greg Drewianka with Kathy Tilderquist as a General Fund designated check signer.

MOTION CARRIED

- b. It was moved and seconded to replace Jessica Anderson with Kathy Tilderquist as a Designated Fund check signer.

MOTION CARRIED

3. Treasurer's Report (Attached)
 - a. March Community Dinner was the biggest on record and has close to \$500.00 in designated fund.
4. Finance Report (Attached)
 - a. It was moved and seconded to designate the Lenten offerings of 'loose and designated' funds to be given to local food shelves at this time.

March 15 Church Council Meeting Minutes (cont.)

1. Property Team Report (Attached)
 - a. It was moved and seconded for property team to discuss and do more figuring out with north doors on church. **MOTION CARRIED**
2. Cemetery Board(Attached)
3. Executive Board Report (Attached)
4. Pastor's Report (Attached)
 - a. It was moved and seconded to approve volunteer teams for property projects such as gazebo, redecorating the interior of the sanctuary, playground climber for preschool age children, and remodeling work on the LC kitchen. **MOTION CARRIED**
5. Parish Life (unavailable)
6. Museum Board (N/A)
7. Endowment Board Report (N/A)

Tabled/Old Business:

(Gazebo update April)

New Business:

Duane Hanson brought up replacing roofs on museum with Randy Lindholm. Museum Board will decide what to do with the roofs next meeting.

Jessica Anderson talked to Spring Garden Church about the Tractor Parade and Pancake Dinner. Pastor Maureen will have sermon prepared for outdoor service.

Mark Hagen had images to show of sanctuary with four new cameras on two poles for live streaming the worship service.

Kent Volz will donate WiFi booster to LC get better WiFi reception thru building.

April Meeting Dates: (Tentative schedule)

Property: Monday April 5 @9:30am

Finance: Monday April 5 @5:00pm

Parish Life: Monday April 5 @6:00pm

Executive: Monday April 12 @6:00pm

Council: Monday April 19 @6:00pm Devotions: Kent Volz

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:25 PM. **MOTION CARRIED**

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Report submitted by: Andrew Featherstone, Secretary



"Motherhood: All love begins and ends there." - Robert Browning

"All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel mother." - Abraham Lincoln

"A mother understands what a child does not say." - Jewish Proverb

"I realized when you look at your mother, you are looking at the purest love you will ever know." - Mitch Albom

"Mother love is the fuel that enables a normal human being to do the impossible." - Marion C. Garretty

Mark's Meditation

By Mark Hagen

What is Fundamentalism?

Recently someone asked me if the pastor at Vasa Lutheran Church was a fundamentalist. The answer is no. But it got me thinking about what the difference is between a fundamentalist Christian and a "modern" one.

Christian fundamentalism in its present form began in the late 19th and early 20th centuries among British and American Protestants as a reaction to scientific and theological discoveries in the 18th and 19th centuries. Discoveries included such things as dinosaur fossils of great age, and linguistic techniques that demonstrated multiple authors and time periods of the bible. Fundamentalists argue that these discoveries are misinterpretations, and that certain doctrines, especially biblical inerrancy, is "fundamental" to the Christian faith. Fundamentalists are almost always described as having a literal interpretation of the Bible. That is, they see the stories presented in Scripture as accurate history, particularly verses that pertain to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

However, there is a problem with placing so much emphasis and status on the Bible. Pete Enns, in his podcast "The Bible for Normal People" points out that placing the Bible above all reasoning is a form of idolatry. We are not meant to gather to worship the Bible; we gather to worship the triune God. (Father, Son and Holy Spirit.) Enns goes on to say that although the Bible is a very helpful reference, it is the Holy Spirit that should be our guide when we make decisions about how to act. In fact, we do this all the time. The Bible is silent on things like automobile travel and internet etiquette. Yet, if we appeal to the Holy Spirit (through prayer), we can act righteously.

If we accept that many parts of Scripture should be read metaphorically, not literally, does that mean that the Bible is false? Absolutely not! David Lose (one of Maureen's seminary professors) writes "I know the bible is true. And it might have happened that way." There are deeper truths to be found in the bible than arguing whether or not the sun truly stood still for Joshua.



Wednesday Evening
Worship + Everyday Bible
Conversations

Wednesdays 6:30pm in the
Fellowship Room of the
Lutheran Center



"A mother is a person who seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie." - Tenneva Jordan

"Mothers hold their children's hands for a short while, but their hearts forever." - Unknown

"A mother's love endures through all." - Washington Irving



Good Earth Village is alive and well and has plans for the summer of 2021. They are Family Focused and include:

- **Intergen Camp:** Also known as Family Camp or Grandparent Camp. These camp sessions will include activities for families, time for the children to interact with camp counselors and evening worship time led by staff.
- **Themed Day Camps:** Rather than staying overnight, campers can participate in a variety of day camps including: K-12 options, Staff in Training for HS Youth, Art, Fishing, Nature and fantasy specialized programs
- **Virtual Village:** The camp will also provide six weeks of online programs with the “cast being the summer staff. Activities will include Bible studies, songs, nature exploration, crafts and recipes. This camp is designed to encourage being in nature and walking closer with God, creating community wherever you are.



Vacation Bible School will be held from **August 23-26** at the Lutheran Center. The time will be determined soon, but it **WILL** be in the evening.

All children, ages 3 through 5th grade are encouraged to attend and bring a friend.

Students grade 6 and above are welcome to attend as helpers. We always need extra hands and eyes to supervise. Adult helpers will be welcomed also.

Community Dinners

May 9th Pulled pork sandwiches, chips, baked beans and a cookie!
The donation list and the work schedule for this season's LAST Community Dinner will be on the table in back of church on Sundays and at the Vasa Center during the week.

Everyone is welcome to reserve meals for the Community Dinner at no charge! Meal reservations are due May 5 at Noon! And, if you're interested in helping, please reach out to Sue Hedeem or Kerry Finne.

Community Dinners will start again in September.

Free Community Dinner



About the Covid Virus

Many of my immigrant ancestors are buried in Pleasant View Cemetery in Norman County. There are two tombstones marking the graves of children who died very young and both died in the late summer. I don't know their cause of death, but it's certainly possible that it was diphtheria, measles, or polio. Most old cemeteries have markers for children who died young. If you walk in those same cemeteries, you won't see markers for young children after about 1955. Why? Starting in the 1950's childhood death from viruses basically stopped in the U.S. as children were vaccinated against these commonly fatal diseases.

Here are some practical factoids about viruses.

- Viruses never go away. They are always present in our environment. One good example is tetanus. If you go in for stitches due to a cut from a piece of metal, they will almost certainly give you a tetanus booster shot. Why? because that virus is still commonly present in soil.
- Vaccination is like an advance warning system. It prepares the body's immune system so that when it is exposed to the virus it knows how to react. Most of us have been vaccinated against polio, diphtheria, tetanus, and rubella. We may have been exposed to these viruses but because of our vaccinations our body's immune system recognizes these viruses and attacks them quickly. We don't generally get sick from them any more.
- The virus does not have a brain. It is not scheming. But it is opportunistic. If it finds a warm moist place in a body that cannot mount an immune response it will multiply like wildfire. Because we humans strive to care for other humans that are sick, the chance that the virus will spread to a caregiver is high unless precautions are taken.
- Being vaccinated against the Covid-19 virus will limit the severity of the disease should we be infected because our early warning system will have been activated. (I think we all agree we would rather not die.....)
- Being vaccinated will NOT prevent us from being carriers of the virus. We may be asymptomatic (have no symptoms) because our body is mounting that immune response. It is possible that we will still infect others.
- Since viruses never go away we must remain vigilant. That's why we should continue to wear masks and wash our hands frequently. Since we don't know if the person in the pew in front of us has been vaccinated we can display Christian love toward them by practicing these two habits. Doing so will go a long way toward protecting them.

We have learned so much about this virus over the last year. We now know more about how the Covid-19 virus is spread and about its potency. Remember how we limited the use of the church sanctuary so that the virus would have a chance to die? We made this decision because we didn't want to be named as a super spreader site or event. In retrospect, some of the choices we made may have been excessive, but always these decisions were made with an abundance of Christian love for one another.

We also must remember that not everyone is as ready to open back up or "return to normal" as quickly as we might be. This is another opportunity for us to demonstrate Christian love as we look and listen with compassion to their point of view.





Vasa's



Undie



Sunday

SUNDAY, May 9th

Mother's Day



At times, women in abusive relationships and their children arrive at domestic violence shelters with almost nothing.



Nothing says you care like Underwear!

Please bring new, unopened women's & children's underwear and socks, and toilet paper to worship on Sunday, May 9th to benefit the Red Wing Women's Shelter.





HIGHLIGHTS!!

Here are some of the highlights from the rummage sale.

- The amount of donated goods was almost beyond belief. We think that the heightened numbers came about in part because there were basically no garage sales in 2020.
- The amount of donated time was almost beyond belief. Volunteers spent many, many hours sorting, pricing, selling, and packing away afterwards.
- By the time the dust settled on Friday afternoon, sales amounted to \$5900 which the organizers designated for work on the Lutheran Center kitchen.
- A representative of the Nerstrand United Methodist Church came to the sale and asked if we had a plan for the leftover clothing. He took all of the clothing and it will be made available through their *Wednesday Wear* program. If you want more information, google Nerstrand United Methodist Church/Wednesday Wear.
- A member of Wangen Prairie Lutheran gathers bedding and pots and pans which are sent to areas that have experienced natural disasters.
- When I announced the sales amount during the generosity moment on Sunday, April 25th, a visitor was moved to write a check so that we could say that we had collected \$6000!



Thank you
again for
another great
Meal!!
Gods Blessings
to you all!

*Your special ways
and generous heart
make a beautiful difference.
Thank you so much.*

Sincerely,
Randy + Jo
Walker
- plaza -
604

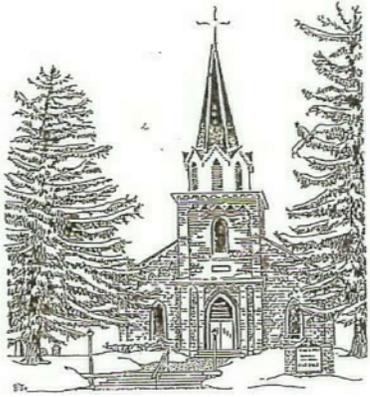
HELLO VASA CHURCH FAMILY!
WE WANT TO TAKE THIS TIME TO
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR PRAYERS,
MEMORIALS IN MEMORY OF MARY ANN
WONDERFUL FOOD YOU SHARED WITH
ME. IT MAKES OUR LOSS MORE
BEARABLE. WE LOVE YOU ALL.
GOD BLESS YOU!
Kerry Nelson
& Family

MAY 2022



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
<p>9am Service of Holy Communion (also on Vasa Lutheran You Tube Channel)</p> <p>11:30-4:00 Vasa Museum Open</p>	<p>9:30am Property</p> <p>5:00pm Finance</p> <p>6:00pm Parish Life</p> <p>6:30 Museum Board (@Vasa House)</p>		<p>1:00 pm Reservations due for Community Dinner</p> <p>6:30pm Wednesday Evening Worship Fellowship Room</p>				Pastor's Day Off
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
<p>9am Service of The Word (also on Vasa Lutheran You Tube Channel)</p> <p>11:30-4:00 Vasa Museum Open</p>	<p>6:00pm Executive Council</p>		<p>5:30pm Vasa Comm Dinner</p>  <p>COMMUNITY DINNER</p> <p>Drive Through OPENS AT 5:30!</p>				Pastor's Day Off
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
<p>9am Service of Holy Communion (also on Vasa Lutheran You Tube Channel)</p> <p>11:30-4:00 Vasa Museum Open</p>	<p>6:00pm Church Council</p>		<p>6:30pm Wednesday Evening Worship Fellowship Room</p>				Pastor's Day Off
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
<p>9am Service of The Word (also on Vasa Lutheran YouTube)</p> <p>11:30-4:00 Vasa Museum Open</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Memorial Day</p>  <p>Flags will be replaced on May 30 after worship</p>		<p>6:30pm Wednesday Evening Worship Fellowship Room</p>				Pastor's Day Off
30							
<p>9am Service of Holy Communion And First Communion for Alivia Schaffer (also on Vasa Lutheran YouTube)</p> <p>11:30-4:00 Vasa Museum Open</p>							

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 (In-person with social distancing,
and via Vasa Lutheran YouTube channel)

Christian Education

9:00 via Vasa Lutheran YouTube channel thru May
23

Wednesday Evening Worship

6:30pm Holy Communion +Everyday Bible
Conversation on Wednesdays in the Fellowship Room
Vasa Lutheran Center

Executive Team

Barbara Weigman, Council Pres. 507.202.7880
Sid Featherstone, Council VP 651.214.7486
Andrew Featherstone, Council Sec. 651.470.9823

Pastor Maureen Hagen

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Church Staff

Kathy Tilderquist, Treasurer

Emily Peterson, Office Administrator

Melissa McCann, Custodian

Anne Anderson, Worship Accompanist

Gail Strusz-Klein, Wedding Coordinator

Paul & Jay Mikaelson, Missionaries in LaPaz, Bolivia

pmikaelson@gmail.com

web site: 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