



Volume 59 No. 5

May 2023



Vasa Happenings in May

May 7 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 10 Community Dinner

This is the LAST community dinner until September. Meal Pick-ups are available at 5:00pm at the Vasa Center. Those dining in will gather at 5:30. Enjoy some pulled pork sandwiches, baked beans, potato salad, cheese curds and a cookie! This dinner is courtesy of the Community Dinner Fund!

May 14 Mother's Day

A special day for Mothers, Grandmothers, Great-Grandmothers, Godmothers, and every mother figure!

May 21 Graduation Sunday

A day where we recognize all graduating High School Seniors.

May 28 Memorial Day Weekend

Pastor Mickey Dobbins will lead worship and bring the message that day.

Here's what's on the Inside!

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Worship Volunteers for May

USHERS

May 7 Kevin Eckblad May 14 Duane Hanson May 21 Randy Klein

May 28 Marv Fredrickson

READERS

May 7 Jeannette Anderson

May 14 Jim Hedeen

May 21 Sasha Diercks

May 28 Mo Hauck

COMMUNTION ASSISTANTS

May 7 Roger Guttromson

May 21 Geri Lindholm

HOSPITALITY

May 7 Arleen Stahnke

May 14 Faye Drewianka

May 21 Marilyn Hanson

May 28 Lora Gruber



Dear Vasa Lutheran,

On behalf of the Red Wing Food Shelf, please thank your congregation for helping to feed the hungry people in Red Wing. Together we raised over 12,000 pounds of food and nearly \$14,000!

Thank you so much for your support, and we look forward to partnering with you in the future.

Sincerely,

The Red Wing Area Food Shelf

Board of Directors



May 2— Gabe Bauch

Sarah Jo Hedeen

May 3 — Tanner Carlson

May 5— Owyne Gillis

Vivian Strusz

May 7 — Bentley Endres

Chris Mann

May 10 Indie Marie Lindholm

May 11 — Jim Hedeen

May 12 — Merle Pearson

May 16 Ross Fredin

Bruce Tilderquist

May 18 — Nora Featherstone

Jeff Nelsen

Ezekiel Pearson

May 20 — Katie Lindahl

May 26 — Gabriel Rehder

May 27 — Theresa Fredin

Julia Stahnke

May 28 — Nelson Parker

May 29 — Anthony Mann

Brian Schmidt

Kathy Tilderquist

May 31 — Gerald McRae

Audrey Rosener



Thoughts from Pastor Maureen

Greg Drewianka's death came as a shock to many of us in the congregation. He managed so many details quietly and without fanfare that we will be feeling his loss for a long time. But his death also spurred me to consider my end-of-life plans. Perhaps you are thinking along those same lines.

Some years ago I was introduced to a document called *The Five Wishes*. The purpose of the document is to help people think about sometimes difficult topics that come up toward the end of one's life.

The church has multiple copies of *The Five Wishes* and they are available up at the church and on the table by the front entry of the Lutheran Center. Feel free to take one.

Speaking as a daughter, I can assure you that it was helpful to have a sense of what my parent's intentions were as their lives wound down. Speaking as a pastor, it's helpful to know favorite Scripture lessons and hymns. *The Five Wishes* helps you to make your intentions known for those who will make decisions for the final stages of your life.

The apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 "For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for

our sins in accordance with the scriptures, 4 and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures," Just as Jesus was raised from the dead, we too believe in the resurrection of the dead. Death is not something to fear for we have the testimony of those early witnesses to Jesus' resurrection. We don't know what our heavenly bodies will look like, but we trust that someday we will greet our loved ones; that they will be healed of all that challenged them in their earthly lives and that the same will be true for us.

Jesus is risen! Alleluia! Grace and peace to you, Pastor Maureen



SUMMER SERMON SERIES...SUMMER SERMON SERIES...

Ever wonder about the theology behind bumper stickers you see on vehicles? Examples include: "Too blessed to be stressed." "God won't give you more than you can handle" "God is my copilot" and "Everything happens for a reason." For the 14 weeks of summer between June 4th and September 3rd we will consider common bumper stickers and the theology that goes along with them. Hope you're ready for a ride!



VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

March 20, 2023 @Lutheran Church

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm by Barb Weigman, President

Devotions: Pastor Maureen

Members present and absent:

Present: Pastor Maureen Hagen; Barb Weigman, President; Randy Klein, Vice President; Brian Diercks; Duane Hanson; Kent Volz; Mo Hauck; Ben Norman; Chris Finne; Kevin Eckblad; Roger Guttromson; and Andrew Featherstone, Secretary; Twelve voting members present

Unable to attend: Missy McCann; Kent Volz; and Jason Stahnke.

Also Present: Kathy Tilderquist

Adoption of the Agenda:

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

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Minutes:

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2023 council meeting as written.

MOTION CARRIED

Reports Reviewed and Accepted:

Treasurer's Report (Attached)

Offerings are up 5.8% so far this year.

Gazebo bill has been paid.

Finance Report (Attached)

We will be receiving a donation given for the Gazebo renovation.

Kathy reviewed the Treasurer's Report, Income & Expense Report and the designated Fund Report. The financial position of the church continues in good shape.

Parish Life (NA)

Pictorial directory is done.

VBS will take place August 14-17 5:00pm-7:00pm.

Property Team Report (Attached)

We will need to find a new plow driver for the Church. Kevin shared with us that it usually takes 2 hours and 15 minutes to plow each time. Most snow plowers are charging \$100/hr.

Roger Guttromson knows someone from his former congregation that has a business that does sound panels. He is going to contact him to see about the options for the gym.

Cemetery Board (NA)

Executive Board Report (NA)

Pastor's Report) Attached)

Volunteers have been very good lately.



Baptisms have been scheduled for April 23 and 30. Matt Larson will be a guest pastor for April 16.

Museum Board (N/A)

Endowment Board Report (N/A)

Tabled Business:

New Business: Elect Officers - Bryan Diercks has been elected President. Randy Klein will continue to be Vice President. Andrew Featherstone will continue to be Secretary.

Sign up for Action Teams – Teams have been assembled.

Window Task Force – They gave there recommendation to have Joe Diethelm to repair the two stain glass windows.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:10 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer Report submitted by: Andrew Featherstone, Secretary

VASA	EVANGELICAL	. LUTHERAN (CHURCH

Treasurer's Report

March, 2023

For the Month of March:

Checkbook Balance, March 1, 2023	\$ 61,147.98
General Fund Contributions:	17,940.95
Total Funds Available	79,088.93
Budget Approved Monthly Expenses:	16,922.84
Checkbook Balance, March 31, 2023	\$ 62,166.09

Mission Investment Fund, March 1, 2023 \$8,790.39 Mission Investment Fund, March 31, 2023 \$8,793.37

CHURCH	COUNCIL

President: Bryan Diercks 507-259-3909

Vice President: Randy Klein 651-212-8045

rdklein@mmm.com

Secretary: Andrew Featherstone 651-470-9823

rwfeatherstonepainting@gmail.com

Kevin Eckblad	651-380-7849
Chris Finne	651-380-3690
Roger Guttromson	651-308-6349
Duane Hanson	651-380-1763
Maureen Hauck	651-331-8593
Missy McCann	651-307-2274
Ben Norman	651-208-7124
Kent Volz	651-402-0942
Barbara Weigman	507-202-7880

WHO TO CONTACT IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

 Indoors:
 Jim Hedeen
 651-380-6054

 Kitchen:
 Sue Hedeen
 651-380-6270

 Faye Drewianka
 651-212-3209

 Outdoors
 Duane Hanson
 651-380-1763

 Steve Hyllengren
 651-258-4338



May 14th!

"Motherhood: All love

begins and ends there.." Robert Browning

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





FUEL FUND DONATIONS WELCOMED

The extended winter weather has depleted the fuel fund. If you are interested in supporting the ministry of Vasa in a specific way, please consider designating gifts to the fuel fund.

The Vasa Church Directory is nearly complete. It is being proofed and will be ready for print the first week in May. They will be available at church on Sunday Mornings. Black and white copies are free, but we are asking for a \$3.00 donation for color copies. Sign up sheets for directories will be available on Sunday morning. Or, you can call the office and request one.

A note from Nancy Nord:

Dear Vasa Lutheran Church Members:

Yumm! Your meals are wonderful! I haven't been cooking much yet so the meals are a treat. Thank you so much.

I think it's time to discontinue delivering the meals to me. I hope to drive out to Vasa and join the crowd. It would be good to be with many of Don's friends.

With gratitude,

Nancy Nord

A note from The Mills' Family:

Dear Vasa Church Community,

Thank you so much for your continued support in bringing our mother meals! We are not sure of names of all that prepare the meals. Please give a BIG thank you to them and let them know their efforts are very much appreciated. Also, a big THANK YOU to the drivers, Kent Volz and Jim Hedeen for dropping them off. It means A LOT!

The Mills' Family



MANY HANDS... MAKE LIGHT WORK...

The Vasa Rummage Sale was, once again, a huge success! Thanks to everyone who donated rummage and baked goods, helped sort rummage, worked at the sale, and helped to clean up! So many people gave so much time to this fund-raiser which the committee greatly appreciated.

Total earnings from the sale were \$5, 915.00. Part of this money will be used to purchase some new 8-foot tables to replace some of the heavy ones which we have been using at the Lutheran Center for so long. Some of the proceeds will also go toward our church's stained glass window repair. When we told people that, many gave individual donations to that project alone. And the baked goods were so popular, one lady came back on Saturday to buy more, but we were closed, and all the bake goods had sold out!

UPDATE! A L

CLOTHING DONATIONS:

Vasa will continue to accept clothing, shoes, purses, and bedding donations through the end of May. Bag these items in large garbage bags and bring them to classroom #3, (the split classroom) in the Lutheran Center. The Epilepsy foundation will pay us for these items, with all funds going toward the repair of the stained glass windows.

MARK'S MEDITATION

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE RAPTURE?

In the Apostle Paul's early epistles, he wrote that he believed that Jesus would soon return—in his lifetime. The expectation of Christ's return has remained a tenet of Christian thought ever since. We recite as much every Sunday in the Apostles Creed.

"...and he will come to judge the living and the dead."

But what are the events that will surround the "second coming?" Paul wrote about the faithful meeting Jesus "in the air" when he returns. (1 Thessalonians 4:17.) In 1831, John Nelson Darby, a Calvinist Anglican priest from Ireland, proposed the idea that this and similar biblical texts describe a "rapture" of the "elect" before a seven-year tribulation; a sequence of horrible events as described in the book of Revelation. Later, in 1917, Cyrus Scofield, published a version of the King James bible that contained copious notes alongside the text. These notes outlined Darby's theory of "dispensationalism." This is the idea that history is divided into seven ages or "dispensations" in which God acts toward humanity in different ways. Among the ideas put forth in this line of thinking is that several things have to happen before Christ's return. Among them: the restoration of the nation of Israel, rebuilding the Jewish temple in Jerusalem (thus, destroying the Dome of the Rock Muslim shrine), and the rapture of a predetermined group of 144,000 "true believers" before the tribulation. These events are then followed by a 1000-year reign of Christ on earth (a millennium), followed by a final battle with Satan at Armageddon. Taken on the whole, this concept is called "pre-millennial dispensationalism."

But were Darby and Scofield (and Hal Lindsey, Edgar Whisenant, and Tim LaHaye) correctly interpreting the bible? UNC Chapel Hill scholar Bart Ehrman has recently published a book that argues they got this wrong.

Ehrman says that when Paul talks about meeting Jesus "in the air," he is describing Jesus as a king. When a king comes to a town, the leaders of that town come out to meet the king; to escort him into their home. If this is what Paul had in mind, then the people meeting Jesus in the air are not leaving; they are there to escort Christ from heaven to his rightful place on the earth. Another passage purported to point to The Rapture is in Matthew 24. Here, an end-time apocalypse is described where: "40 two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. 41 Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left." However, in the passage right before this, Matthew says the apocalypse will be like Noah and the flood. In other words, those "taken" are the ones who will be drowned, not raptured to heaven.

For 1800 years "The Rapture" was not a thing. Yet, over the last 200 years, this idea has captured the minds of many Christians. But the events of the rapture, the tribulation, and Armageddon are about vengeance, not hope. Clearly, these (recent) ideas are at odds with a loving Christ Jesus that gives us the Beatitudes and the parable of the Good Samaritan.



BACKGROUND BIBLICAL TEXTS FOR MARK'S MEDITATION

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who *rescues us from the coming wrath*.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18, 5:1-3

¹⁵ For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

¹ Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!

1 Corinthians 15:20-26

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the *first fruits* of those who have died. ²¹ For since death came through a human, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human, ²² for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. ²³ But each in its own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Matthew 24:38-42

³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.







Vasa is in need of a person to mow the lawns this summer. This is a salaried position that goes from about May 1 through the end of September. Expect to commit between 15-18 hours per week. Mower and fuel are provided.

We will recognize our graduating seniors on Sunday, May 21st during worship! This year's class includes:

Lucas Anderson,

son of Jill and Shane Anderson

Braeden Gillis,

Son of Kyle and Paula Gillis

Carson Lind,

Son of Desiree Meyer and Kevin Lind

Treyton Lind

Son of Desiree Meyer and Kevin Lind

Zeke Pearson,

Son of Chris and Kathy Pearson

MiKyle Gossett

Son of Andrea Gillis and Rick Gossett



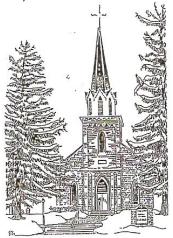


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday 7 9AM Service of Holy Communion	Monday 1 TEAMS MEET 4 PM Property 5 PM Finance 6 PM Parish Life 6:30 PM Museum 8	9:30 Coffee and Conversation	Community Dinner Reservations Due at NOON!! Wed Eve Worship 6:30pm 10 Community Dinner 5pm—Pick Up 5:30p Dine In	Thursday 4	Friday 5 Pastor's Day Off 12	Saturday 6 Synod Assembly in Mankato
			Wed Eve Worship 6:30pm		Pastor's Day Off	
9AM 9AM Service of The Word	6PM CHURCH COUNCIL	9:30 Coffee and Conversation	Wed Eve Worship 6:30pm	18	19 Pastor's Day Off	20
9AM Service of Holy Communion & Graduation Sunday	22	9:30 Coffee and Conversation	24 Wed Eve Worship 6:30pm	25	Pastor Maureen Away	Pastor Maureen Away
9AM Service of The Word (with Pastor Mickey Dobbins) Pastor Maureen Away	29	9:30 Coffee and Conversation	Wed Eve Worship 6:30pm			

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 507.269.3909
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

Church Staff

Kathy Tilderquist, Treasurer
Emily Peterson, Office Administrator
Melissa McCann, Custodian
Anne Anderson, Worship Accompanist
Gail Strusz-Klein, Wedding Coordinator
Paul & Jay Mikaelsen, Missionaries in La
Paz Bolivia Contact: pmikaelsen@gmail.com

Website: 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!