



VOLUME 61 No. 4



APRIL 2025

What's Happening This Month at Vasa

- April 2 9:30AM Ages and Stages Women's Bible Study (meets 1st & 3rd Wednesdays through May)
- April 2 6:30PM Lenten Worship + Holden Evening Prayer
- April 3 NOON Easter Garden Flower Orders due
- April 9 5:30PM Vasa Family Night
- April 9 6:30PM Lenten Worship + Holden Evening Prayer
- April 16 9:00AM-7:00PM AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
- April 17 7:00PM Maundy Thursday Worship (IN THE SANCTUARY!)
- April 18 9:00AM-2:00PM RUMMAGE SALE SET UP (volunteers needed!)
- April 18 7:00PM Good Friday Worship (IN THE SANCTUARY)
- April 19 9:00AM-2:00PM RUMMAGE SALE SET UP (volunteers needed!)
- April 20 9:00AM EASTER WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY
- April 21 NOON—7:00PM RUMMAGE SALE SET UP (volunteers needed!)
- April 23 9:00AM—7:00PM DROP OFF BAKE SALE ITEMS (ONLY) & FINAL TOUCHES ON SET UP!
- April 24 9:00AM—6:00PM VASA RUMMAGE SALE!
- April 25 9:00AM—4:00PM VASA RUMMAGE SALE!

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

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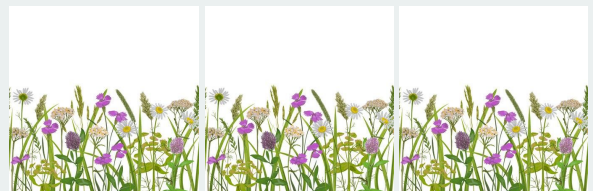
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Worship Volunteers for April

USHER

April 6 Ben Norman
April 13 Rick Samuelson
April 20 **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
April 27 **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

READERS

April 6 B-J Norman
April 13 **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
April 20 **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
April 27 **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

HOSPITALITY

April 6 Kent Volz
April 13 **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
April 20 **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
April 27 Audrey Rosener

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

April 20 (EASTER) Megan Carlson
Tanner Carlson



VASA MEMBERS!! There are more (SEVERAL MORE) opportunities to help with worship in April! Please take time to sign up on Sunday so

Emily can make a complete list.

SANCTUARY REMODEL SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION BY APRIL 16TH!

Which means it will be ready for worship beginning on Maundy Thursday when 2 Vasa 5th graders will also receive their First Communion!

The repainting, floor replacements and pew reupholstering processes began back in early January. Many thanks to those with the vision and the time to bring this to completion.



April 1 Michele Gardiner
Chris Pearson
Jack Stehr
Megan Carlson
April 4 Liz Pearson
April 5 Megan Anderson
April 5 Adeline Lindholm
April 9 Anders Lindstrom
April 10 Troy Lindblom
April 11 Becca Erhart
April 12 Brian Lexvold
April 13 Katelyn Pearson
April 15 Geri Lindholm
Daniel Mann
April 16 Ellie Clemens
Claire Samuelson
April 20 Lincoln Poole
April 22 Bonnie Pagel
April 24 Max Fredin
April 25 Cashton Hovel
April 26 Eileen Anderson
April 28 Bodin Smith
April 29 Vicky Bauch



Thoughts from Pastor Maureen

Recently I visited my spiritual director Lois, and she told me the following story. She opened by saying that she had decided it was time to install grab bars in her shower. She hired a carpenter to come and do the work. It happened that she also needed some assistance with her computer so her friend Brian came to her home and was there at the same time as the carpenter. There was chatter back and forth between the three of them when suddenly the computer friend said, "I think we all need grab bars right now." According to Lois, those words resonated deeply in the room.

Lois expanded on the idea when she told me this story. What might be our spiritual grab bars? Her answer was pretty straightforward.

Bible reading. When we feel like we are floundering we should turn to the Scriptures for something solid to hang onto. The story of Jesus' temptation is recorded in **Luke 4**. In each instance he countered the words of Satan with words from Scripture. Scripture is a spiritual grab bar.

Prayer. It is always appropriate to be in communication (prayer) with God. In **Luke 18:1-6** Jesus tells the parable of the persistent widow who continually goes to a judge asking for justice. Eventually he answers her plea. Jesus told his disciples this parable to emphasize the disciple's need to pray always and to remain brave. Prayer is a spiritual grab bar.

Community. When challenges invade our lives we will do better when surrounded by a community of faith-filled friends who will support us and pray for us; especially when we cannot find the words for ourselves. **Galatians 6:2** "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." A community of friends is a spiritual grab bar.

Are your spiritual grab bars securely mounted? The carpenter came to Lois' home to make sure those grab bars were attached to studs in the wall and not just sheet rock. When we hang on tight to Scripture, prayer, and a community of faithful friends we can be confident that our grab bars are secure.



Holding on tight!

Pastor Maureen

WHY CHURCH MATTERS

*Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde,
Episcopal Diocese of Washington DC*

Feb. 6, 2025

Sustain us, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give us inquiring and discerning hearts, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. (The Book of Common Prayer)

Where do we turn in times of change and great uncertainty for refuge, wisdom and strength?

May I gently suggest that this is a good time to show up in church. Don't be surprised when others show up, too, searching for, in the words of Anne Lamott, "what we have found in the world, which is to say a path and a little light to see by." How might we share with others what we ourselves need?

Lamott writes:

*"Most of the people I know who have what I want—which is to say, purpose, heart, balance, gratitude, joy—are people with a deep sense of spirituality. They are people in community, who pray, or practice their faith... ..people banding together to work on themselves and for human rights. They follow a brighter light than the glimmer of their own candle; they are part of something beautiful... When I was at the end of my rope, the people at my church tied a knot in it for me and helped me hold on."*¹

Last Sunday Washington National Cathedral welcomed our new Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Sean Rowe. In his sermon, he reminded us of how important we are to one another.

"We need our Christian community, week in and week out. To remember whose we are, we need to

*hear the story of the elders. We need to greet with a sign of peace those who voted for the candidate we couldn't stand. And to be in the communion line alongside people who don't live like us or look like us or even love like us. We find the face of Christ in the most vulnerable in our communities."*²

As he spoke, I realized that we are all vulnerable. Christian community is one place we can go to draw from the well of grace upon which our lives depend, and remember that the spirit of Christ dwells in us all.

This week I have been spending time with the words we say every time we renew the promises made at our baptism.³ We begin with a call and response version of the Apostle's Creed.

Do you believe in God the Father?

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

The word "believe" in this context doesn't refer to an intellectual assertion of what we insist is true despite evidence to the contrary, or our opinion about the existence of God. Rather it is an affirmation of where we choose to place our trust.

As Rowan Williams observes in *Tokens of Trust: An Introduction to the Christian Faith*, "The question, 'Do you believe in God' isn't the same as asking 'Do you believe in ghosts, or in UFOs?'" For such beliefs don't really change anything. In contrast, Rowan suggests that what we say we believe about God can make a real difference "in how the world feels and how we feel."⁴ In God, we can take refuge, find solid

Vasa Family Night

On the Hunt for Easter



Wednesday, April 9th
Vasa Lutheran Center
5:30-7:00pm

Pulled Pork Sandwiches
Scavenger Hunt
Short Devotional

All are welcome!

ground, and a sense of home.

In my moments of vulnerability, I need to remember where I take refuge. I find myself asking God to help me lean on Christ amid all that is beyond my control. I pray the same for those I love, that they may place their trust in Christ as they face situations from which I cannot spare them and find solace in community. I pray the same for you, beloved of this diocese, that in all that your lives require of you now you may find refuge in God and one another.

Sustain us, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give us inquiring and discerning hearts, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. Amen.

See you in church.

1. Anne Lamott in *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith* (New York: Random House, 1999) 99.
2. Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe's Sermon at Washington National Cathedral
3. "Holy Baptism," *The Book of Common Prayer*, 304.
4. Rowan Williams, *Tokens of Trust: An Introduction to the Christian Faith* (Louisville: Westminster Press, 2007), 6.

(Bishop Mariann Budde served St. John's Episcopal Church in Minneapolis for 18 years, prior to being elected Bishop in 2011. This writing is used with her permission.)



**Church Council
Highlights!**

VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

February 10, 2025 @ Lutheran Church

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:07 pm by Bryan Diercks, President

Devotions: Pastor Maureen

Members present and absent:

Present: Pastor Maureen Hagen, Pastor; Bryan Diercks, President; Randy Klein, Vice President; Kent Volz; Ben Norman; Barbara Weigman; Mo Hauck; and Andrew Featherstone, Secretary;

8 voting members present

Unable to attend: Tim Carlson; Roger Guttromson; Missy McCann; and Chris Finne;

Also Present: Kathy Tilderquist

Adoption of the Agenda:

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

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Minutes:

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2025 council meeting as written.

MOTION CARRIED

Reports Reviewed and Accepted:

1) Treasurer's Report (Attached) Kathy paid for Envelopes under the Stewardship fund.

Kathy also paid for paper and stamps under office expense.

Utility bill is higher due to the painting of the sanctuary.

2) Finance Report (Attached) The checkbook balance remains strong. January ended on a strong note.

\$50,000 will be moved from Endowment to Designated Fund first week in February. The money will be used towards the remodel efforts.

3) Parish Life (Attached) The 170th Anniversary Celebration. Tim & Mel Carlson and Dawn & Steve Lindstrom are the organizers. It will held June 22nd.

Ash Wednesday worship will be on March 5th.

Last day of Sunday School will be on May 12th.

First Communion will begin on March 23.

Lenton worship will be six sessions starting at 6:30 on Wednesdays.

Family fun night will be held on March 12th.

4) Property Team (NA)

5) Cemetery Board (NA)

**Church Council
Highlights!**

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

6) Executive Board Report (NA)

7.)Pastor’s Report (Attached)Confirmation for 7&8 grade students began on January 8. We have 8 students in class. Our Lenten theme is “Ambassadors of Kindness.” All Wednesday Lenten worship services will be held in the Lutheran Center gym this year.

8) Museum Board (NA) Soup Luncheon will be held on March 1.

9) Endowment Board Report (Attached) Endowment Education Awards were given to: Morgan McCann \$500.00 and Lucas Anderson \$500.00. \$9,000.00 was approved for Vasa Lutheran Church, to be given on Dec 29th.

Tabled Business:

New Business:

Insurance Update- Ali Peter’s for is working on property insurance for parsonage. Pastor will call Ali to schedule meeting for next council meeting.

Annual meeting- will need to talk about insurance at meeting.

Updated budget- Kathy will connect with Sasha and will talk about the change at the Annual Meeting. Repeat questions into microphone when asked at meeting.

**VASA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Treasurer’s Report
February 28, 2025**

For the Month of February:

Checkbook Balance, February 1, 2025	\$ 75,945.58
General Fund Contributions:	7,228.79
Total Funds Available	83,174.37
Budget Approved Monthly Expenses:	(13,394.15)
Checkbook Balance, February 29, 2024	\$ 69,780.22

CHURCH COUNCIL

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
Tim Carlson	651-442-5066
Chris Finne	651-380-3690
Maureen Hauck	651-331-8593
Missy McCann	651-307-2274
Ben Norman	651-208-7124
Sue Samuelson	907-250-4103
Kent Volz	651-402-0942
Barbara Weigman	507-202-7880

WHO TO CONTACT IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Indoors:	Andrew Featherstone	651-450-9823
Kitchen:	Sue Hedeem	651-380-6270
	Faye Drewianka	651-212-3209
Outdoors	Duane Hanson	651-380-1763
	Steve Hyllengren	651-258-4338

2025

ANNUAL VASA AND WELCH AREA SPRING RUMMAGE (& BAKE) SALE

Donation Drop-off Dates and Times:

Friday, April 18 th	9-2
Saturday, April 19 th	9-2
Monday, April 21 st	Noon-7
Tuesday, April 22 nd	Noon-7
Wednesday, April 23 rd	9-7

Bake Sale Items ONLY

Thursday, April 24, 9 am-6 pm

Friday, April 25, 9 am-4 pm

Saturday, April 26, 8am-Noon

- (Thursday and Friday only at Vasa Lutheran Center)



BAKE SALE

All types of baked items are welcome: Pies. Cakes. Coffee Cakes. Rolls. Bars. Cookies. Breads. Buns.

DROP OFF on Wednesday April 23rd ONLY by 7 pm!

Sales to be held at Vasa Lutheran Center on HWY 19 and at various homes along County Rd 7 for over 8 miles! Lunch served Thurs/Fri at Vasa Lutheran Church.

Vasa is also running a fund-raiser through the Epilepsy Foundation. They will pay us according to the amount of donations we have. clothing, linens, shoes, purses, belts and bedding will be accepted through June 9th at the Lutheran Center.

Items Needed:

- Gently used clothing, sorted by gender and size.
- Books/Toys
- Small furniture items and tools
- Baby clothing and other baby items.
- Kinck-Knacks, linens, jewelry
- Small appliances
- Seasonal Holiday items
- Home decorations

If you are interesting in volunteering, Contact Faye Drewianka at 651-212-3209 or Dawn Lindstrom at 651-764-3112

PLEASE—NO Exercise Equipment, mattresses, TVs or large electronics



MARK'S MEDITATION

THE POLITICS OF THE PASSION

During Lent we often focus on the passion narrative; the story of the trial, execution, and resurrection of Jesus that makes up a large part of each of the four Gospels. Each gospel tells the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, his arrest and conviction, his execution, and then the marvelous realization by his followers that he had been resurrected.

Maureen's Easter sermon will surely focus on that first Sunday morning. Since that is a couple weeks away, let's back up and talk about what we know about his arrest.

This month we are reading from the Gospel of Luke. In Luke's telling of the passion, Jesus is betrayed by Judas and accused of blasphemy by the council of elders. ("Are you the Messiah?" "You say that I am.") Jesus is then handed over to the Roman authorities (Pontius Pilate). When Pilate learned that Jesus is from Galilee, he sends Jesus to Herod Antipas. When Jesus refused to perform a miracle, Herod sends Jesus back to the Romans, who execute Jesus by crucifixion. We have three different authorities here: the "council of elders," "king" Herod, and Pontius Pilate. To understand their authority, we need to review some history.

Judah lost its independence in 587 BCE when the Babylonians conquered Jerusalem. In 539 BCE, when the Persians overthrew the Babylonians, the Judahite elite families were allowed to return, but Judah remained a Persian province. When Alexander the Great conquered Persia in 320 BCE, Judah became a Greek province. In 167 BCE the current Greek ruler of Judah, Antiochus IV, tried to promote Greek religion in the Temple. This so enraged the Jews that they rose up and overthrew Antiochus. For the next 100 years Judah regained a degree of independence under the Hasmonaean dynasty. However, eventually the Hasmonaean became vassals of Syria. Then, in 63 BCE, as part of a larger war with Syria, the Ro-

man general Pompey conquered Jerusalem. Judah now became the Roman province *Judea* and the Hasmonaean ruling family became vassals of Rome.


The Jewish war of independence (from 167-160 BCE) is called the Maccabean Revolt after two brothers who were leaders of the revolt. This family, the Hasmonaean, became the rulers of Judah and Galilee. The most famous of these rulers being king Herod the Great. (Born in 72 BCE, reigned from 39 - 4 BCE.) He is the "king Herod" in Matthew's telling of Jesus' birth. When Herod the Great died, his "kingdom" was divided between his children. (Remember, the Romans are actually in charge.) Herod Antipas was the son given Galilee. Meanwhile, the Jews so frustrated the Romans with their obstinate religious practices that in 6 CE Rome installed a series of governors. Pontius Pilate was the fifth of these governors.

Both John the Baptist and Jesus were from Galilee. Both proclaimed a ministry of "repentance and forgiveness of sins." The clear implication was that this forgiveness was available--away from the Temple in Jerusalem. This threatened the social order in Judea. (And the pocketbook of the Temple priests.) Therefore, it is not surprising that the Jewish religious elite plotted to have both men killed. (Along with Herod Antipas, whose job it was to maintain that order.) Yet, they had no authority to execute Jesus. That authority was held by the Romans. When the Palm Sunday crowds proclaimed Jesus as Messiah, they had their chance. To the Romans, proclaiming yourself "king of the Jews" was a clear act of sedition; with crucifixion being the standard penalty.

The Gospel telling of the passion of Christ has Jesus interact with each of these authorities. They each had a reason to kill this preacher from Nazareth. But God had a greater plan. A plan that unfolded on Easter Sunday.

American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.





**Vasa Lutheran Center
Blood Drive**


15235 Norelius Rd
Welch, MN 55089

**Wednesday, April 16, 2025
9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: vasa.lutheran to schedule an appointment.

Come give 4/14 to 4/30 for a Red Cross T-shirt, ltd. qty
+ chance to win \$5K prize: rcblood.org/hope



1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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Faith Formation

FIRST COMMUNION STUDENTS:

We rejoice with the following students who will celebrate their first communion on Maundy Thursday, April 17.

Parker Nelson

son of Emily & Andy Nelson

Cashton Hovel

son of Greg & Courtney Hovel

SUNDAY SCHOOL will resume after Easter on April 27. The last day of Sunday School will be on May 11, and the teachers have promised a party!

THERE WILL BE NO WEDNESDAY EVENING WORSHIP on April 23. We will resume worship on April 30th at 6:30pm in the Lutheran Center Fellowship Room. This service is very informal, includes conversation about the upcoming Scripture text, and always includes communion. As we move into the variable schedules of summer, we welcome you to consider this alternative service.

Eye glasses and hearing aid donations!



If you have old hearing aids or eye-glasses lying around, remember that **they can be donated to the local Lion's club!** If you want to bring them to church or to the Lutheran Center, someone will make sure they are delivered.



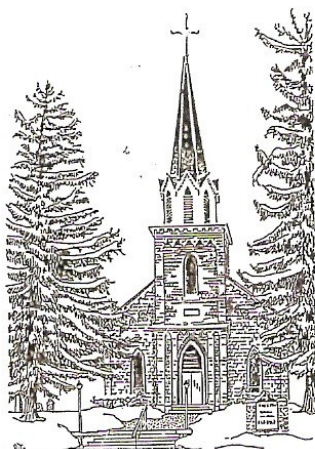
The Quilting Crew is collecting old blue jeans for future Quilts-For-Grads projects. The donation box is located in the Lutheran Center entryway, to the left of the office entrance, by the Kid's activity bags. Please bring in any (clean) jeans that are no longer useful to you—for whatever reason! The Quilting Crew thanks you!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 	2 Women's Bible Study 9:30—11:00 Lenten Worship + Holden Evening Prayer 6:30	3	4 Pastor's Day Off	5
6 9AM Service of Holy Communion +Sunday School at the Lutheran Center	7 <u>TEAMS MEET</u> 4 PM Property 5 PM Finance	8 9:30 Coffee and Conversation	9 Vasa Family Night + Lenten Worship / Holden Evening Prayer 	10	11 Pastor's Day Off	12
13 PALM SUNDAY +Sunday School at the Lutheran Center	14 <u>TEAMS MEET</u> 5:15 PM Parish Life 6PM CHURCH COUNCIL	15 9:30 Coffee and Conversation	16 Women's Bible Study 9:30—11:00	17 7PM Maundy Thurs- day Worship + First Communion	18 9AM—2PM Rummage Sale Set Up 7PM Good Friday Worship	19 9AM—2PM Rummage Sale Set Up
20 9AM Service of Holy Communion 	21 Noon-7 Rummage Sale Set Up	22 9:30 Coffee and Conversation Noon-7 Rummage Sale Set Up	23 9AM— 7PM Bake Sale Item Drop-Off & Final Set Up No Wed Eve Worship	24 9AM-6PM 	25 8AM—NOON	26
27 9AM Service of the Word (+ SS)	28 Endowment Team 6:30PM	29 9:30 Coffee and Conversation	30		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

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!