

Volume 59 No. 7

The Vasa Voice

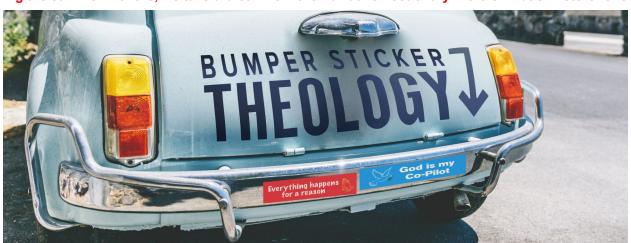




JULY 2023

VASA SUMMER SERMON SERIES

(During the summer months, we take a break from the Narrative Lectionary. Here's what's in store for July!)



"God said it, I believe it, that settles it"

2 Timothy 3:16-17

July 2, 2023

"Jesus loves you but I'm his favorite."

Acts 10:34-35, 44-48

John 3:16-17

Psalm 139:13-18

July 9, 2023

"God helps those that help themselves" "God needed another angel"

John 13:1-20 (Jesus washing feet)

Isaiah 53:4-12

July 16, 2023

"All part of God's plan."

Jeremiah 29:1-7

Psalm 66:1-12

July 23, 2023

Revelation 21:1-6

I Corinthians 15:51-58

July 30, 2023

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

- P. 2 Worship volunteers, July Birthdays **Church Council Members, Emergency Contacts**
- P. 3 Thoughts from Pastor Maureen & Vacation Schedule
- P. 4-5 May Church Council Minutes & Treasurer's Report

- P. 6 Vasa Museum July 4 Fundraiser
- P. 7 Summer Fellowship Photos
- P. 8 VBS Make Waves With Jesus, American Red Cross Dates, Vasa Softball Schedule
- P. 9 Quilt Project
- P. Mark's Meditation: Origin of the Creeds
- P. 11 July Calendar

Worship Volunteers for July USHERS

July 2 Kevin Eckblad
July 9 Rick Samuelson
July 16 Marv Fredrickson
July 23 Duane Hanson

July 30 Bruce Tilderquist

READERS

July 2 Jeannette Anderson

July 9 B-J Norman July 16 Jim Hedeen July 23 Mo Hauck

July 30 Sid Featherstone

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

July 2 B-J Norman

July 9 Geri Lindholm

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

Chris Finne 651-380-3690 Roger Gutromson 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 Faye Drewianka
 651-380-6270 651-212-3209

 Outdoors
 Duane Hanson Steve Hyllengren
 651-380-1763 651-258-4338



July 6	Zach Carlson
July 8	Fiona Diercks
July 9	Maureen Hagen
July 10	Patrick Rehder
July 12	Steven Thomforde
July 15	Randi Widstrom
July 16	B-J Norman
July 17	Lucy Fountain
July 18	Nora Poole
July 19	Joel Hyllengren
July 20	Karen Lindblom
	Beibhinn Winn
July 26	Bonnie McNamara
July 27	Emmitt Featherstone
July 28	Dylan Anderson
	Kelsey Lindholm
	Jedd Otto
July 31	Nancy Trelstad



Thoughts from Pastor Maureen

Esther 4:14 "Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this."

The Old Testament book of Esther is the story of a young Israelite woman who finds herself in the midst of political intrigue which, if successful, will lead to the extermination of all her people. As the story old she is the only one who can save them; yet she is just one young woman with almost no power. At risk for her life, she goes before the king and figures out a way to save the Israelites.

Sometimes a person finds themselves in the midst of mess. Two quick examples might be a family tragedy or a fierce storm with much destruction of property. I believe that these messes are not sent from God to toughen us up. Rather I believe two things about these messes.

- 1. God is absolutely with us in the midst of the mess and that God's Spirit is at work within many of the people impacted by the situation to turn it toward a positive outcome.
- 2. There are people placed in this world in certain situations "for just such a time as this." In other words, God looks at a person

and recognizes their gifts and skills. God's Spirit inspires them to dig down deep into their heart and soul. In doing so they discover that they have more strength and power than they dreamed possible.

In another place in Scripture it is written "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." (1 Peter 2:9)

As one of God's own people acting on God's behalf, you are called to do God's work in the world. As summer progresses remember who you are and whose you are.

Blessings,

Pastor Maureen

Pastor Maureen leaves on

Vacation after worship on July 9^{oh}. She will be away for two weeks, including Sunday July 16th and 23rd . She will return to the office on Monday, July 24th..

Bill Peterson (Emily Peterson's husband) will lead worship and preach on July 16. He will cover the bumper stiker: God Helps Those who Help Themselves, citing scripture from John and Isaiah.

Dahmon Romness will lead worship and preach on July 23. He will preach on "All Part Of God's Plan", citing Jeremiah and Psalm 66.



VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

May 15, 2023 @Lutheran Church

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

Devotions: Mo Hauck

Members present and absent:

Present: Pastor Maureen Hagen; Bryan Diercks, President; Duane Hanson; Kent Volz; Mo Hauck; Barb

Weigman; Kevin Eckblad; Roger Guttromson; and Andrew Featherstone, Secretary;

Nine voting members present

Unable to attend: Randy Klein, Vice President; Ben Norman; Missy McCann; and Chris Finne.

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 April 17, 2023 council meeting as written.

MOTION CARRIED

Reports Reviewed and Accepted:

Treasurer's Report (Attached)

The bank is moving checking account into an interest-bearing account of .04%. We do not need to sign any paperwork.

Offerings have been doing well so far for the year.

Kathy will call Culligan and get things figured out with prepaid bill. We prepaid six years ago for six years prepaid for \$330.00 a year. Current contract is due.

Finance Report (Attached)

Kathy tried ordering the eight rectangular tables. They are currently on back order at the moment. She will continue to check in and see when she can buy them.

Greg Drewianka's memorial totaled about \$4,300.00. The money is earmarked for church upkeep.

Parish Life (NA)

Barbara agreed to make the breakfast for Midsommer June 25.

We have selected a theme for Vacation Bible School. The theme will be water theme.

Property Team Report (Attached)

Kyle and Owyne Gillis were hired for mowing the church grounds. They have filled all the required paperwork for the Church and will be employees.

No volunteers were found for quilting. We are looking at making eight quilts for the gym. We may ask for donations for the quilts.

Rod Anderson doesn't have time to clear trees on Vasa Hiking Trail. We are forming a volunteer group to take some time to clear the trees over the trail.

Cemetery Board (NA)

Executive Board Report (NA)

Pastor's Report) Attached)



Tabled Business:

New Business: CCIC revamp- Becky Shephard will be resigning as the CCIC Chairman and the Good Samaritan Fund Administrator. They are asking that a representative from every congregation in the Cannon Falls area join us for a meeting on Thursday, July 13th at 10 AM at First English Lutheran Church to decide what will happen with CCIC. Vasa will revisit at next month's council meeting to make a decision on what we would like to do with CCIC and who would represent Vasa at the meeting.

Garbage handler challenge- Kathy received a quote from Highland Sanitation for garbage pickup. It was moved and seconded to have Kathy call Waste Management to get a quote. If the bid is lower than Highland quote then go with Waste Management and close out bank account for P.I.G.

MOTION CARRIED

Vasa Trail Maintenance-We have a date in mind for clearing/chainsaw trees off the trail.

Midsommer Breakfast: Barbara Weigman to organize- Pastor and Barbara will discuss about Breakfast plans. Proceeds will go to Youth Gathering 2024.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:40 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Report submitted by: Andrew Featherstone, Secretary

VASA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer's Report May, 2023

For the Month of May:

Checkbook Balance, May 1, 2023 \$ 80,064.98
General Fund Contributions: 7,225.18
Total Funds Available 87,290.16
Budget Approved Monthly Expenses: 20,076.41

Checkbook Balance, May 31, 2023 \$ 67,213.75



July 4th!



come celebrate Vasa's Swedish heritage at 1:00 on the 4th of July at the Vasa Museum! Root Beer Floats, along with chicken sandwiches and chips will be available for purchase with all proceeds going to the renovation of the gazebo! Thanks to Randy Lindholm for all of his hard work. Improvements include a handicap accessible ramp, with railings, and new steps, also with railings.



The Historic Vasa Museum was built in 1862. It is open from the first Sunday in May through the second Sunday in October, or by appointment.

All monetary donations received by the Museum are used for improvements and upkeep of the Museum. Three fundraisers are held yearly: the first Saturday in March is the Annual Museum Soup Luncheon. July 4th Root Beer Floats and sandwiches are served during the Vasa Parade, and the last Saturday in October is the annual Swedish Pancake Breakfast. The Museum Board thanks everyone for their support!

symmertime Fellowship Midsommar

Worship in the Lutheran Center—because of the threat of rain.



Al Lindell & Bruce Tilderquist



Greg, Courtney, Cashton and Caleb Hovel chat with Duane Lindstrom.



Rosann Pearson



John Gardiner



Audrey Rosener, Jim and Lora Gruber



Make Waves with Jesus

Ausust 124th 17th

Save

THE DATE for Vasa's Summer Vacation Bible School! August 14-17, 5:30-7:00pm. Did you know Jesus and his disciples spent a lot of time around the water? Come join us as we make waves with Jesus this summer! Registration forms are available in the office or on the church website: vasalutheran.org.



Vasa's Remaining Ball Games!

Thursday 7/13: Covenant 6:30

Thursday 7/20: Cross of Christ

7:30

Thursday 7/27: Covenant 7:30



American Red Cross

The next American Red Cross Blood Drive at Vasa will be on July 27th from 1:00pm-7:00pm, and July 28th from 9:00am to 2:00pm. You can schedule by calling 1-800-733-2767, or by visiting RedCrossBlood.org. Enter Vasa Lutheran to schedule your appointment.

(If you can't make it to Vasa's blood Drive, Cross of Christ Lutheran is having one on July 6 from 12:00-6:00 and July 7 from 8:30-2:30.)



Quilt Project:

It has been brought to our attention that there is some difficulty hearing speakers in a group setting in the Lutheran Center gym.

After consulting a professional, the recommendation was to create a sound absorption layer using quilts on the back (south) wall.

We are asking for donations for gently used queen sized quilts to implement this idea. Also plain or patterned sheets will be useful for the quilt backings. There will be a box in the Lutheran Center library. Please make your donations by September 5th. Contact Mo at 651-36-7405 with any questions.



MARK'S MEDITATION

WHERE DO THE CREEDS COME FROM?

cene Christians. As such, we often recite either also be God the Apostles Creed or the Nicene Creed during Sunday worship services.

was amended in 381 at the First Council of codified. Constantinople. Except for updates due to changes in the English language, it has remained unchanged ever since. The origin of the Apostles Creed is murkier. 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.

The Nicene Creed represents a pivotal event in the history of the Church. Constantine was appalled by the diversity of Christian thought and practice. If Christianity was going to be the state religion, there needed to be consistency! He therefore called for a gathering of bishops at his summer residence on Lake Ascanius, near the town of Nicaea, which is in modern-day Turkey. The main issue to be addressed was the "Arian controversy." That is, to what extend was Jesus God?

Many eastern Mediterranean churches though 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. Likewise, these churches thought that the Holy Spirit was subordinate to Jesus. Arius of Alexandria was the chief proponent of this widespread view of God.

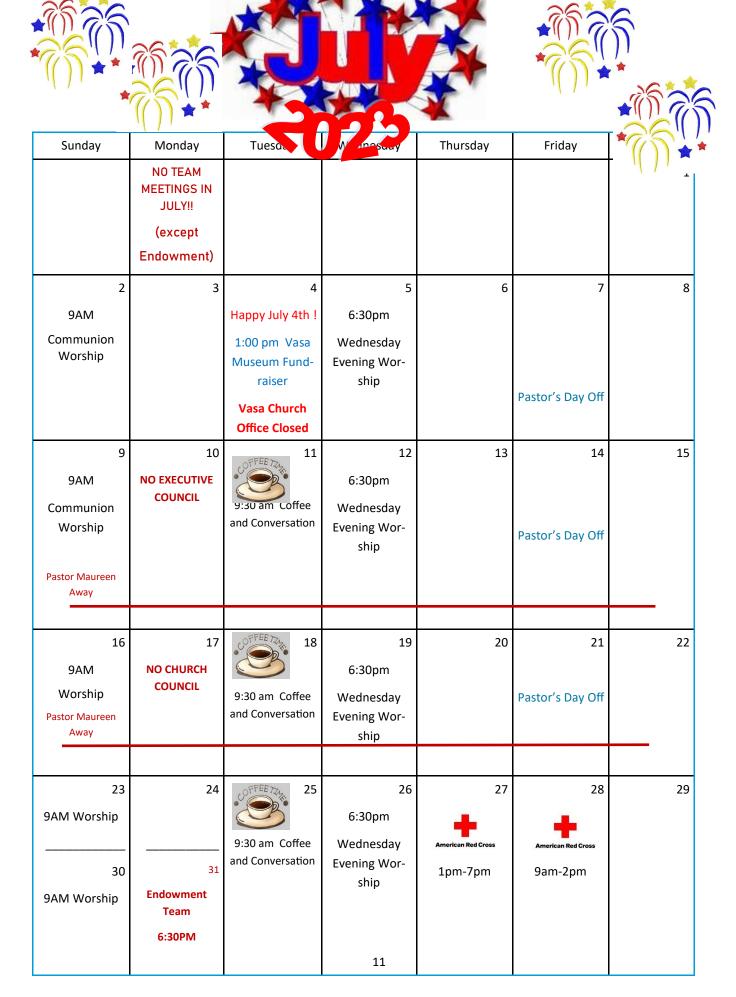
However, there were those at Nicaea that found fault in this hierarchical view of God--Jesus--Holy Spirit. If the function of Christ is to connect us to God-if salvation is a direct union with God, how could this work if Jesus was a creat-There are many flavors of Christians in ed creature? They argued that only God can the world. One way to categorize the different unite creatures to Himself. So, if Christ can denominations is whether or not they follow the unite us to God, he must truly be God. And if Nicene Creed. Historically, Lutherans are Ni- the spirit can unite us to Christ, the spirit must

Thus, at Nicaea in 325 CE, the doctrine of the Trinity was formed. A vote was held and Of the two creeds, we know a lot more Arius lost. The debate did not end there howevabout the origin of the Nicene Creed. It was for- er. 66 years later a second council was held at mulated at the request of Roman emperor Con- Constantinople and the third article of the stantine in 325 CE in the city of Nicaea. Then, it creeds that describes faith in the Holy Spirit was

> Both sides claimed that Scripture supported their view. However, both the Trinitarian view and the Arian view of God go beyond the Gospels. The closest the New Testament gets to the doctrine of the Trinity is in John chapter 20, when Thomas proclaims "My Lord and my God!"

Since Arius is an imitator of the wicked and the ungodly, it is only right that he should suffer the same dishonor as they. ... If any writing composed by Arius should be found, it should be handed over to the flames, so that not only will the wickedness of his teaching be obliterated, but nothing will be left even to remind anyone of him. And I hereby make a public order, that if someone should be discovered to have hidden a writing composed by Arius, and not to have immediately brought it forward and destroyed it by fire, his penalty shall be death. As soon as he is discovered in this offense, he shall be submitted for capital punishment.

— Edict by Emperor Constantine in 333 CE



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 (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

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!