

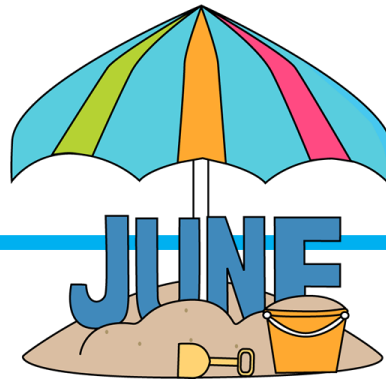


# The Vasa Voice



Volume 59 No. 6

JUNE 2023



## VASA HAPPENINGS IN JUNE

### Vasa Summer Sermon Series

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

**Bumper Sticker Theology: Ever wonder about the theology behind bumper stickers you see on vehicles? Our summer sermon series begins on Sunday June 4 th .**

June 4: "I can do all things through...."

June 11: "Too blessed to be stressed."

June 18: "God won't give you more than you can handle"

June 25: "God is my copilot"

Each week we will consider common bumper stickers and the theology that goes along with them. Hope you're ready for a ride!

- ♦ **June 4th** — Memorial Day Flag Ceremony following worship (held on June 4th because Pastor was away on May 28.)
- ♦ **June 25th**— Midsommar Celebration! See page 8 for details!

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

- P. 2**    *Worship volunteers, June Birthdays*
- P. 3**    *Thoughts from Pastor Maureen,*
- P. 4-5** *April Council Meeting Minutes, Treasurer's Report*
- P. 6**    *Easter Letter from Bishop Regina Hassanally*
- P. 7**    *Mark's Meditation: Is God Love?*
- P. 8**    *Midsommar Celebration details*
- P. 9**    *July 4th Vasa Museum Fundraiser: Save the Date!*
- P. 10**   *Save the Date! Vasa Vacation Bible School; Graduating Seniors Recognition*
- P.11**   *June 2023 Calendar*



## Worship Volunteers for JUNE

### USHERS

|         |                   |
|---------|-------------------|
| June 4  | Bruce Tilderquist |
| June 11 | Duane Hanson      |
| June 18 | Marv Fredrickson  |
| June 25 | MIDSOMMAR         |

### READERS

|         |                   |
|---------|-------------------|
| June 4  | Kathy Tilderquist |
| June 11 | Geri Lindholm     |
| June 18 | Volunteer Needed  |
| June 25 | MIDSOMMER         |

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

|         |                  |
|---------|------------------|
| June 4  | Volunteer Needed |
| June 18 | Volunteer Needed |

### HOSPITALITY

|         |                |
|---------|----------------|
| June 4  | Mo Hauck       |
| June 11 | Lora Gruber    |
| June 18 | Audrey Rosener |



you  
make a  
A DIFFERENCE

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| June 1   | Andrea Hyllengren<br>William Schmidt<br>Vanessa Parrott |
| June 4   | Jeremiah Bauch  |
| June 7   | Ames Anderson   |
| June 8   | Kate Hart   |
| June 13  | Emily Nelson  |
| June 14  | Kent Volz   |
| June 16  | Wendy Anderson<br>Marshall Burke<br>Rosann Pearson      |
| June 17  | Mo Hauck  |
| June 18  | Jennifer Bauch  |
| June 20  | Arleen Stahnke  |
| June 22f | Bergen Seyffer  |
| June 23  | Morgan McCann   |
| June 24  | Lacey Hart<br>Ty Lindahl<br>Greg Rathman                |
| June 29  | Melissa McCann  |





## *Thoughts from Pastor Maureen*

One of my favorite verses is Psalm 1:3 which says “They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.” Part of the beauty of this image is to remind the reader that patience is an important part of life. Trees don’t grow quickly. They don’t yield fruit quickly. But eventually they will. The same is true for people. We mature slowly. It takes time for us to grow to the point where we start having an impact in the world.

This is a picture of Flo the Philodendron. This plant was propagated from a “parent plant” that makes its home at the SEMN Synod office of the Bishop. Flo the Philodendron isn’t very big right now, but philodendrons are very hardy and there is little doubt that she will grow. Like the tree described in Psalm 1, she will yield her fruit in season and her leaves will not wither. Flo is going to live throughout the summer (and perhaps longer) in the Vasa Church sanctuary. As she does so she will remind us to be patient as we watch her grow.

Every congregation in our synod received one of these plants at the end of the synod assembly in early May. Considering that there are 165 congregations in the synod, it was a significant endeavor to nurture so many plants. The synod staff asks that this plant remind us that we are all called and we are all connected through the power of Jesus Christ.

*Happy Summer!*

*Pastor Maureen*



**Church Council  
Highlights!**

**VASA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

April 17, 2023 @Lutheran Church

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm by Bryan Diercks, President

**Devotions:** Randy Klein

**Members present and absent:**

**Present:** Pastor Maureen Hagen; Bryan Diercks, President; Randy Klein, Vice President; Duane Hanson; Kent Volz; Mo Hauck; Chris Finne; Barb Weigman; Missy McCann; Kevin Eckblad; Roger Guttromson; and Andrew Featherstone, Secretary;

Twelve voting members present

**Unable to attend:** Ben Norman

**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 March 20, 2023 council meeting as written.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Reports Reviewed and Accepted:**

**Treasurer's Report (Attached)**

We received nice donations over Easter.

The first stain glass window bill has been paid.

We received a large donation to help cover the cost of the gazebo bill.

**Finance Report (Attached)**

Offering envelopes have finally been received.

Vasa is paying 75% of the cost of Good Earth Village Bible Camp for camp scholarships.

New tables will be here Tuesday April 13

**Parish Life (NA)**

Pictorial directory is done. Black and white copies will be free. Color copies will be available for \$3.00.

A request for fifth Sunday special music. Roger Guttromson will work on this project as there only 4 months with five Sundays.

We will schedule the Protected in Christ's Name for June 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.

**Property Team Report (Attached)**

Roger and John met April 10 to go over sound panels in gym. Speaker on the right needs to be reposition. Recommendation is to make quilts 4ft by 8ft in size and hang them on the walls. Each quilt would have to be made out of special fabric. Sounds panels are an option but are more expensive.

Greg Rathman has switched out the old lights in the office and started in Pastors office for new LED lights.



**Church Council  
Highlights!**

Cemetery Board (NA)

Executive Board Report (NA)

Pastor's Report) Attached)

Vicki Weckerling has agreed to step into the stain glass window task force.

Joe Diethelm has started repairing the upper window on the south side of the steeple.

Museum Board (N/A)

Endowment Board Report (N/A)

**Tabled Business:**

**New Business:** No new business.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:15 PM.  
Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

**MOTION CARRIED**

Report submitted by: Andrew Featherstone, Secretary

**VASA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Treasurer's Report**

**April, 2023**

For the Month of April:

|                                   |              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Checkbook Balance, April 1, 2023  | \$ 62,166.09 |
| General Fund Contributions:       | 29,194.18    |
| Mission Endowment Offering        | 8,577.00     |
| Total Funds Available             | 99,937.27    |
| Budget Approved Monthly Expenses: | 19,872.29    |
| Checkbook Balance, April 30, 2023 | \$ 80,064.98 |

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Mission Investment Fund, April 1, 2023  | \$8,793.37 |
| Mission Investment Fund, April 30, 2023 | \$8,796.25 |

**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 Hedeem 651-380-6054

**Kitchen:** Sue Hedeem 651-380-6270  
Faye Drewianka 651-212-3209

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



Below is the Easter Letter written by our Bishop, Regina Hassanally, on April 8th. Even though we just completed the season of Easter with Pentecost on May 28, the message in this reflection bears sharing.

~Pastor Maureen

*The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen.” Luke 24:5*

Sitting in church the morning of Palm Sunday, I heard for the first time a certain desperation in the cries of *Hosanna!* as the gospel text was read. The crowd of people gathered around Jesus as they threw their cloaks and palms before him, crying, “Save us! Save us!”

I have been paying attention to that sense of desperation as I think about all things from which we might ask to be saved. As we approach Easter morning, I think of the women at the tomb. They must have been desperate in their grief.

They approached the tomb looking for a body to bathe and properly prepare for burial, a body to be centered in the rituals of death. What they found was an empty tomb flanked by men in dazzling clothes asking them, “Why are you looking for the living among the dead?”

I wonder, what are we looking for, and where do we expect to find it?

It strikes me the women were not looking for the living. They went to the tomb looking for the body of one who had died. What the women found in the empty tomb was not what they sought but what they needed so that they could be saved.

Part of the Good News of Easter is that in Christ, we are given what we need before we even know we need it. We find within the depths of death the beginnings of new life. We find within the hollow space of the empty tomb that which we have been seeking all along. We have been saved!

I pray as you celebrate this Easter season, which is indeed forty days, you find what you are looking for. I trust that whatever you seek, even those things you long for but cannot yet name, will all be found in the presence of the living Christ.

In Christ,  
**Bishop Regina Hassanally**

# MARK'S MEDITATION



## IS GOD LOVE?

Our Christian scriptures speak of God's love; particularly in the gospel of John. Here are two examples: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) And, "We know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them." (John 4:16)

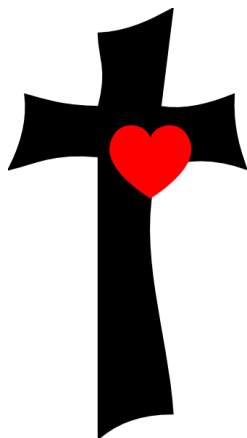
But what IS love? There is no deeper philosophical question. It is so hard to answer that for millennia, people have resorted to song or poetry to try to get to its core. My favorite definition of love is attributed to TV-chef Julia Childs. She said "To love something is to never grow tired of it."

In a recent interview, Manuel Cruz, Associate Professor of Theology at Belmont University, describes God's love as one end of a moral continuum between love and justice. Morality is our relationships with each other. To manage those relationships, we have the law (both civil law and scriptural law). But law by itself is insufficient. In Galatians chapter 5 St. Paul says "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." There is no law for or against such things, because these things are far deeper.

Cruz, whose teacher was French philosopher Jean-Luc Marion, says, "When we say I love you we say, 'Here I am. I am here, and I am willing to make room for what it is that you bring into this relationship.'" Marion says that when we love, it's not giving something to another. But it's actually creating the space within our own life, to let that other person give themselves as they really are.

This is also the nature of God's love for us and our love for God. That when God loves, he creates a space within himself for us to exist. He wants us to be ourselves and so God creates a world in which we can exist in relationship to him. And God invites us to hear him say "I am here, I am here inviting. I am here because you are of concern to me, because I love you."

The greatest example of this love is on the cross. There Christ breaks the power of sin, the power of evil, by refusing to return violence for violence. Rather than being driven toward vengeance, God gives himself over to offering love instead of vengeance.





The Vasa – Spring Garden Midsommar Tractor Parade will be Sunday, June 25th. Vasa activities will begin at 9:30 AM with breakfast at the Lutheran Center, followed by outdoor worship at 10:30. (indoors if it rains.) The Blessing of the Tractors and drivers will be at 11:30. The parade will depart Vasa at 11:30 and arrive at 12:30 at Spring Garden Lutheran where there will be more food, games and live music!





Come celebrate Vasa's Swedish heritage at 1:00 on the 4th of July at the Vasa Museum! Root beer Floats, along with hot sandwiches and chips will be available for purchase, with all proceeds going toward the continued restoration of the Gazebo!

SAVE THE DATE



SAVE THE DATE



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!

Make Waves with Jesus

At Vasa's Vacation Bible School!

August 14th-17th

SAVE THE DATE!

Vasa Lutheran's Vacation Bible School will be held on Monday, August 14 through Thursday, August 17 from 5:30-7:00. We hope to spend as much time outdoors as possible, hiking, telling stories, singing songs! A Registration Form will be available on the Vasa website in July. ([www.vasalutheran.org](http://www.vasalutheran.org))



#### HATS OFF TO OUR GRADUATING SENIORS!

**Lucas Anderson** is the son of Jill and Shane Anderson. He plans to attend SE Technical College-Winona.

**Braedon Gillis** is the son of Kyle and Paula Gillis. He plans to attend Dakota County Technical College.

**Mikyle Gossett** is the son of Andrea Gillis and Rick Gossett. He left

for Marine bootcamp on May 9.

**Carson Lind** is the son of Desiree Meyer and Kevin Lind. He plans to attend ND State School of Science in Wahpeton.



**Treyton Lind** is the son of Desiree Meyer and Kevin Lind. He plans to attend Dakota County Technical College.

**Ezekiel "Zeke" Pearson** is the son of Chris and Kathy Pearson. He plans to attend Concordia University in Chicago.



# JUNE 2023

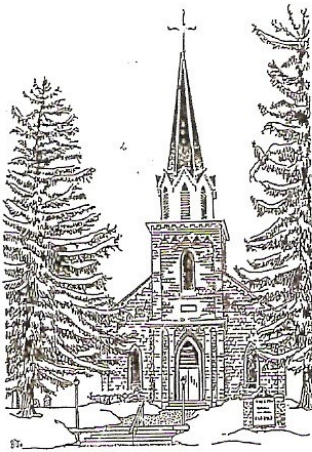


| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday | Friday                 | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|----------|------------------------|----------|
|  |  |   |   | 1        | 2                      | 3        |
|  |  |   |   |          | Pastor's Day Off       |          |
| 4<br>9AM<br>Communion<br>Worship   | 5<br>4PM Property<br>Team<br>5PM Finance<br>Team<br>6PM Parish Life<br>7PM <b>Protected<br/>in Christ's Name</b> | 6<br><br>9:30 am Coffee<br>and Conversation    | 7<br>6:30pm<br>Wednesday<br>Evening Wor-<br>ship  | 8        | 9<br>Pastor's Day Off  | 10       |
| 11<br>9AM Worship  | 12   | 13<br><br>9:30 am Coffee<br>and Conversation  | 14<br>6:30pm<br>Wednesday<br>Evening Wor-<br>ship | 15       | 16<br>Pastor's Day Off | 17       |
| 18<br>9AM<br>Communion<br>Worship  | 19<br>6PM Church<br>Council  | 20<br><br>9:30 am Coffee<br>and Conversation | 21<br>6:30pm<br>Wednesday<br>Evening Wor-<br>ship | 22       | 23<br>Pastor's Day Off | 24       |
| 25<br>MIDSOMMAR<br>CELEBRATION!<br>9:30AM BREAK-<br>FAST<br>10:30 AM Wor-<br>ship<br>11:30 Tractor<br>Parade | 26   | 27<br><br>9:30 am Coffee<br>and Conversation | 28<br>6:30pm<br>Wednesday<br>Evening Wor-<br>ship | 29       | 30<br>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  
(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](mailto:pastor@vasalutheran.org)

(Cell) 507.251.5270

### **Church Office**

651.258.4327

[office@vasalutheran.org](mailto: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 Mikaelson, Missionaries in La Paz Bolivia  
Contact: [pmikaelson@gmail.com](mailto:pmikaelson@gmail.com)

Website: [www.caranavi.net/rtc.htm](http://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!