



Volume 59 No. 8

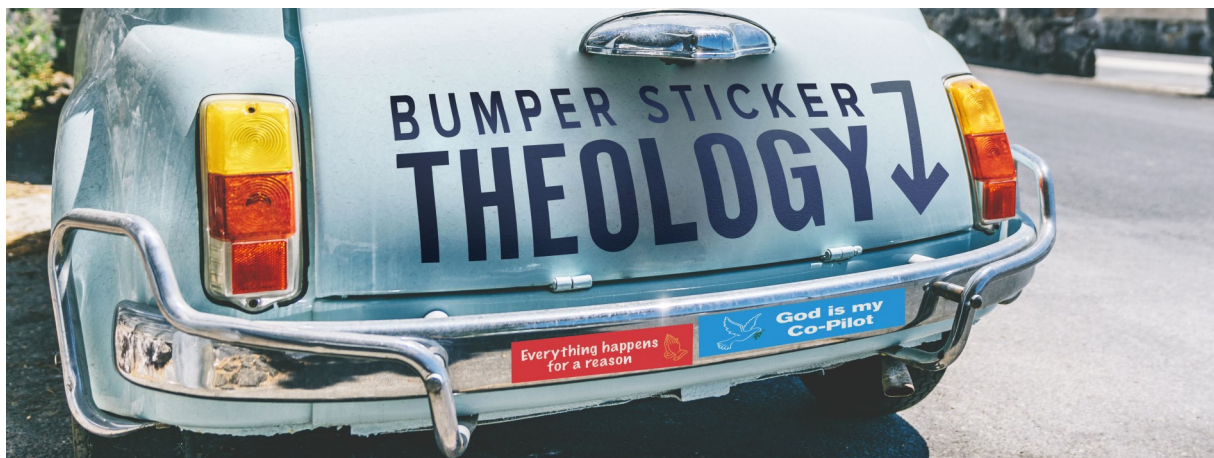
# The Vasa Voice



AUGUST 2023

## Summer Sermon Series Continues...

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



### "Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin"

Matthew 7: 3-5  
Psalm 51: 1-19  
1 John 4: 7-21  
August 6, 2023

### "God Doesn't Make Mistakes"

Galatians 5: 1-14  
Isaiah 55: 8-9  
Psalm 63: 1-8  
August 13, 2023

### "Normal Isn't coming Back. Jesus Is"

Mark 13: 24-33  
Isaiah 64: 1-9  
Psalm 80: 3, 7, 9  
August 20, 2023

### "Don't Put a Question Mark Where God put a Period"

Job 42: 1-5  
Psalm 34: 1-8  
August 27, 2023

### "When God Closes a Door, God Often Opens a Window."

Acts 16: 4-15  
Psalm 67  
September 3, 2023

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

**P. 2** Worship volunteers, August Birthdays

**P. 3** Thoughts from Pastor Maureen

**P. 4** MAKE WAVES WITH JESUS VBS DETAILS

**P. 5** Thank yous, Bible Study dates, Church Council members & Treasurer's report

**P. 6** Mark's Meditation—A Created Universe

**P. 7** August Calendar

## **Worship Volunteers for AUGUST**

### **USHER**

**August 6** Roger Guttromson  
**August 13** Randy Klein  
**August 20** Rick Samuelson  
**August 27** Bruce Tilderquist

### **READERS**

**August 6** Roger Guttromson  
**August 13** B-J Norman  
**August 20** Geri Lindholm  
**August 28** Kathy Tilderquist

### **COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

**August 6** volunteer needed  
**August 20** Roger Guttromson

### **HOSPITALITY**

**August 6** Lora Gruber  
**August 13** Gail Strusz-Klein  
**August 20** Lyle Ness  
**August 27** Mo Hauck

# **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

2 Corey McCann  
8 Callie Schmidt  
9 Madison McCann  
13 John Flueger  
Christopher Schaffer  
14 Carolyn Gardiner  
Jaxson Safe  
15 Lucas Anderson  
17 Rose Lxvold  
18 Jake Jacobson  
19 Duane Hanson  
Avery Schaffer  
20 Megan Lindstrom  
21 Susan Samuelson  
22 Brad Anderson  
Kayla Eckblad  
Kerry Finne  
Nicholas Weigman  
23 David Carlson  
Dustin Lindahl  
24 Warren Schmidt  
28 Carolyn Lindstrom  
31 Marvin Fredrickson



### ***Thoughts from Pastor Maureen***

*"In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed." (Psalm 139:16)*

None of us likes to think about the end of our lives, much less about making the final arrangements for our funeral and burial. But I can most certainly assure you that you will be doing your surviving family a huge favor if you make plans and share those plans with them. In my 14 year career as a pastor I've officiated at over 70 funerals including the planning sessions. The sessions that were memorable were the ones where the family had no guidance from the deceased and in the midst of their grief had to make tough decisions; decisions that not all of the family members necessarily agreed with. But there were also the beautiful funerals where the deceased and their family had put together a framework within which to work.

So what do you need to decide?

- ◆ Whole body burial or cremation
- ◆ Pick out a casket or urn
- ◆ Pick out a headstone
- ◆ Where to be buried-have you got a cemetery plot or a columbarium niche?

- ◆ Scripture texts for the funeral
- ◆ Favorite hymns for the funeral
- ◆ Communion at the funeral
- ◆ Write (or start to write) your obituary
- ◆ Reception following the funeral (or not), where, what to serve

Funerals are not for the benefit of the deceased. Funerals are for the living. They can be an important way to bring closure to your family and friends. Having a funeral may not seem important to you but your planning can be a valuable parting gift to those who remain.

In John 14:2-3 Jesus gives us this powerful promise. This is a promise we hang on to in our grief, *"In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?"*

*And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also."*

That we may be there also. Let it be so, Lord, let be so. Amen.



# MAKE WAVES WITH JESUS

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**August 14-17, 5:30-7:00PM**

Ages 3 through grade 6 welcome to attend!

Interested in helping? Talk to Pastor Maureen.



Vasa's *Make Waves With Jesus* VBS is coming up quick! Be sure and get a registration form at church, or download one from the website!

We will be outside as much as possible singing songs, telling Bible Stories about Jesus and the ways he used water in his ministries.

Here are the stories:

Monday: *Healing at the pool of Siloam*  
from John 5:2-9

Tuesday: *Walking on Water*  
from Matthew 14:22-33

Wednesday: *Storm at Sea*  
from

Mark 4:35-41

Thursday: *Washing Feet*  
from John 13:3-15



# Bring a Friend!



Dear Parishioners,

A safe, healthy living environment shouldn't be just an option!

Thanks to your donation of \$275.00 made on 6/28/2023 you have helped us towards our mission of building strength, stability, self-reliance and shelter for select Goodhue County residents and also help provide housing internationally through our tithe to Habitat for Humanity International.

Your support sustains us, and we look forward to maintaining this partnership.

On behalf of the Goodhue County Board of Directors, I thank you.

Sincerely,

Bob Hawley, Executive Director



The August Bible Study dates for *WOMEN OF ALL AGES AND STAGES* will be August 2nd, from 9:30-11:00AM, at the home of Marilyn Hanson AND August 16th, same time, at the Lutheran Center. All are welcome! Questions? Call Mo Hauck at 651-331-8593!

It was a beautiful day at the Vasa Parade this year, and Iris Volz made the most of it! Way to Go Iris!



#### CHURCH COUNCIL

**President:** Bryan Diercks, 507-259-3909  
diercksbryan@gmail.com

**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 Hedeon 651-380-6054

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

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

#### Treasurer's Report June, 2023

For the Month of June:

Checkbook Balance, June 1, 2023	\$ 67,213.75
General Fund Contributions:	5,552.61
Total Funds Available	72,766.36
Budget Approved Monthly Expenses:	14,533.41
Checkbook Balance, June 30, 2023	\$ 58,232.95

Mission Investment Fund, June 1, 2023	\$8,799.23
Mission Investment Fund, June 30, 2023	\$8,802.12





# MARK'S MEDITATION

## A CREATED UNIVERSE

There are certain physical constants that appear to be true everywhere. (Except possibly inside a black hole, which we cannot observe.) These constants, sometimes called *laws*, cannot be derived mathematically, they must be measured. The four most fundamental constants are:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Gravitational constant} &= 6.7\text{e-}11 \text{ m}^3/\text{kg}/\text{sec}^2 \\ \text{Speed of light in a vacuum} &= 299,792,458 \text{ m/sec} \\ \text{Plank's constant} &= 6.626\text{e-}34 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{m}^2/\text{sec} \\ \text{Boltzmann constant} &= 1.38\text{e-}23 \text{ m}^2\cdot\text{kg}/\text{K}\cdot\text{sec}^2\end{aligned}$$

The gravitational constant shows up in Isaac Newton's 1687 equations of *gravity* and in Albert Einstein's 1915 equation of *general relativity*. The speed of light shows up in James Maxwells 1862 equations of electromagnetism as the *permittivity* and *permeability* of free space. (And in Einstein's equivalence of mass and energy.) In 1900 Max Planck postulated that there is a minimum distance and minimum energy that *quantizes* physical events; thus, kicking off quantum physics. (Which Einstein used to describe the photoelectric effect—that guy again.) Finally, the Boltzmann constant, named for Ludwig Boltzmann was defined in 1901 by Max Planck to describe entropy. (Which Boltzmann first described in 1877.) These values, plus a set of constants in the *Standard model* of quantum physics which describe the inner workings of protons, neutrons and electrons, precisely define our universe. ...Everywhere ...always.

This understanding of the universe, developed over the last 330 years, appears to leave little room for God.

It is true that when we look carefully, God never breaks His physical laws. But we can thank God for that! Because of this steadfastness, we get to fly in airplanes, talk on cell phones, and administer vaccines. However, when we look closely, the universe looks created. These constants appear to be fine-tuned for biological life. Also, the fact that matter and energy are, at the bottom, quantized into discrete packets, looks suspiciously similar to decisions made by modern engineers and scientists to create products using digital rather than analog techniques.

There is a mystery in modern physics called the double-split experiment. If you shine a light through a barrier with two slits and observe the pattern on a wall behind the slits, the light will behave like a wave and you will see a pattern of multiple light and dark areas as the waves constructively and destructively interfere. But, if you reduce the light intensity so that you can measure each individual (quantized) photon as it travels through either the right or left slit, the interference pattern disappears. You will only observe a pattern of two lit areas on the wall. It is as if the photons know you are looking at them! It seems that God's existence is something like the double-slit experiment. We cannot observe or measure God. Modern miracles can always be explained away when examined closely. It appears that God knows when we are looking.

Yet, we live in a world *designed* to nurture us. Our DNA contains instructions that allow for love and charity. We just need an understanding that allows us to experience these gifts. As Christians, we think that Scripture gives us this understanding.

Although you will not find the Boltzmann constant in the epistles of Paul, you will find an argument for grace. Paul states that the actions of Jesus are a means of salvation. That when you consider what Christ as done for you, you cannot help but be righteous. This is surely how God intended His creation.



# August 2023

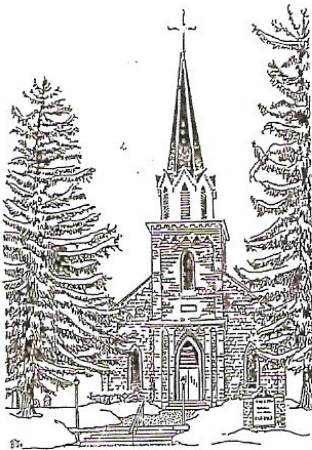


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30am Coffee and Conversation	2 6:30pm Wednesday Evening Wor-ship	3	4 Pastor's Day Off	5
6 9AM Communion Worship	7 <u>TEAM MEETINGS</u> 4:00 Property 5PM Finance 6PM Parish Life 6:30 Museum	8 9:30 am Coffee and Conversation	9 6:30pm Wednesday Evening Wor-ship	10	11 Pastor's Day Off	12
13 9AM Worship	14 5:30-7:00 VBS	15 9:30 am Coffee and Conversation	16	17	18 Pastor's Day Off	19
20 9AM Communion Worship	21 6PM CHURCH COUNCIL	22 9:30 am Coffee and Conversation	23 6:30pm Wednesday Evening Wor-ship	24	25 Pastor's Day Off	26
27 9AM Worship	28	29 9:30 am Coffee and Conversation	30 6:30pm Wednesday Evening Wor-ship	31	1 SEPTEMBER Pastor's Day Off	2

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

### **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!