

# Askeladden News



SONS of  
NORWAY

ASKELADDEN  
LODGE 5-610

December 2025

## Next meeting

**Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025, 2 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church**  
***Celebrate Sankta Lucia & Jul with Vasa***

Kalamazoo Sons of Norway Askeladden Lodge 5-610 and Vasa Satellite Lodge 661 invite you to attend and participate in our annual Sankta Lucia Pageant and Jul party **Saturday, December 13** at Trinity Lutheran Church (504 S. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo). Bring your friends and neighbors also to this family-friendly afternoon!



The program will begin at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary upstairs with the procession of Sankta Lucia and her attendants. Enjoy the live music celebrating the season and sing a song or two (lyrics provided). Programming is anticipated to last about 40 minutes. If you know of a youth who would like to participate in the pageant, please text Holly Jensen a week beforehand at (269) 598-5523, so that we can arrange for an appropriately sized costume.

After the program, please join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall for traditional Julebord refreshments and a visit by Father Christmas. 'Soft' and 'Hard' warm gløgg (designated drivers please) and coffee will be available. It is a Scandinavian tradition to have at least 7 different kinds of cookies on the Julebord. You are invited to contribute some cookies, homemade or store purchased, or a favorite finger food, to the Fellowship Hall kitchen by 1:30 pm so we might have them ready after the program. Takeaway boxes will be available.

May the light of good friends, food and a God Jul brighten the darkening days of winter for you and yours.

*Please use the church's glassed-in rear entrance off the main parking lot, which also has a convenient elevator. All other entrances will be locked from the outside.*

## **Norwegian Language Group Dec. & Jan. Gatherings**

The Norwegian Language group is taking a break during the month of December. Instead of meeting at the Marshall District Library, Joanna Phelps invites all language learners to her house (58 Sycamore Avenue in Battle Creek) Wednesday, 12/10 at 11:00 a.m. for a festive Norwegian-style meal. **Please RSVP no later than 9 a.m. Mon. 12/8** to [joannasphelps@gmail.com](mailto:joannasphelps@gmail.com) or to (269) 986-5173 (text or phone).

We will resume our regular language learning sessions in the Marshall District Library (124 W. Green Street in Marshall) on Wednesday, 1/14 at 10:30 a.m. We have concluded our review of Chapters 1 & 2 and will break new ground by beginning Chapter 3 in the *Sett i Gang* textbook.

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*A Congenial Society of Sons, Daughters, and Friends of Norway*

[www.norwayinkalamazoo.com](http://www.norwayinkalamazoo.com)



[facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge](https://facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge)

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## Fra Presidenten

Kris Spence

I hope you are making plans to join the St. Lucia event on December 13<sup>th</sup> (Saturday). We are fortunate to be invited by Vasa to attend and participate in the celebration. This has been a part of our family's holiday traditions for years, including when our daughter served as St. Lucia in 2017 (she is a senior in college now). It is a wonderful way to bring an old

holiday tradition into our current hectic holiday life and enjoy being together once again.

Looking forward, don't forget that our January meeting is via Zoom. We will install our officers and have a cultural program, so please plan to grab a warm beverage and a cozy seat at home and join us.

### Attendance at our special October commemoration event- *The Uprooting*

Over 100 people attended our successful 10/8 celebration recognizing the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the mass immigration from Norway to America. In accordance with the established Norway Trip guidelines, the Board formally identified this special event as a qualifying event for the October 2026 trip drawing. Many of our Lodge members who attended the Fjord to Frontier dinner theater also volunteered at the event. We are very grateful to everyone who was able to assist with the details of this memorable event, both in the year-long planning leading up to it, and the hands-on efforts provided that evening. **If you attended the event, but your name does not appear below, please contact Membership Secretary Joan O'Bryan so your name may be included.**

*Askeladden Members: Diane Andert, Jeffrey Andert, Curtis Cleveland, Kaaren DeWitt, Kerry DeWitt, Karn Erlandson, Carolyn Hande, Joyce Hare, Karen Hare, Elizabeth Kraatz, Joan O'Bryan, Sandra Santas, Kris Spence, Esden Stafne, Jamie Stafne, Kaeler Stafne, Laurie Swanson, Robert Swanson, Gail Thompson-Hadley, Astrid Willis.*  
Visitors from other lodges: Bob Erlandson 1-548 Restauration, Gail Taggart 5-523 Sognefjord

### November 9th Event Recap- Restauration Celebration

Karn Erlandson, Newsletter Editor

For our November meeting, lodge members gathered to continue the celebration of the Restauration replica ship's successful landing in New York City Harbor exactly one month before. Elizabeth Kraatz presented an interesting program of video highlights developed in collaboration with Gail Thompson-Hadley. We saw an interview with Sloopier descendent and Vesterheim Museum volunteer Dale Goodman, and learned more about Sloopier drama during their historic 1825 voyage. For examples, the Sloopers barely escaped arrest in Cornwall for violation of England's liquor laws. Cannon fire might have ended their voyage in Madeira, Portugal when they were mistaken for a plague ship after a little too much wine was imbibed from a surprise floating cask of wine (which was of course recovered from shark-infested waters)! A baby girl was born during the voyage- I later learned she became a fellow suffragette with Susan B. Anthony.

Video clips of the Restauration's arrival in NYC, and the heartfelt speech by H.R.H. Crown Prince Haakon were



particularly festive. Did you know that Brooklyn once trailed only Oslo and Stavanger, Norway for number of Norwegian speakers?

At our business meeting afterward, the 2026 slate of Lodge officers and the 2026 budget were approved by unanimous vote.

November 9, 2025 Askeladden Members attendance: Curtis Cleveland, Kaaren DeWitt, Karn Erlandson, Joyce Hare, Karen Hare, Elizabeth Kraatz, Sandra Santas, Kris Spence, Laurie Swanson, Robert Swanson, Gail Thompson Hadley

Please contact Membership Secretary Joan O'Bryan with any attendance corrections.

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## Eleven Members Bring “Love from Norway” to the Kalamazoo Holiday Parade

Kris Spence, Publicity Director

On one of the most perfect-weather parade days in years, eleven members of the Lodge proudly shared Norwegian holiday magic and “Love from Norway” with the estimated 30,000 spectators on Saturday, November 22. If you didn’t get to attend the parade, here is a link:

<https://youtu.be/fzRgeQtlCnY>.

Tusen takk to our Parade participants pictured below: *Joan O’Bryan, Kris Spence, Bob Swanson, Laurie Swanson, Dan Renoos, Abby Renoos, Teri Koretsky, Curtis Cleveland, Elizabeth Kraatz, Sandra Santas, and Karn Erlandson!*



### Desember Kalender

- 12/6 Finland’s Nat’l Day (independence from Russia, 1917)
- 12/10 Nobel Peace Prize award ceremony in Oslo
- 12/10 Norsk Language Group lunch at Joanna’s, 11 a.m.
- 12/13 Luciadagen (St. Lucia Day)
- 12/13 St. Lucia & Jul Celebration with Vasa, 2 p.m.**  
**Saturday at Trinity Lutheran Church, Kalamazoo**
- 12/21 Mørketid (“Time of darkness,” a.k.a. Winter Solstice)
- 12/23 Lille Julaften (Little Christmas Eve)
- 12/24 Julaften (Christmas Eve)
- 12/25 Juledag (Christmas Day)
- 12/31 Nyttårsaften (New Year’s Eve)
- 12/31 Last day to submit articles for Askeladden News

### Desember Birthdays

Gratulerer med dagen til:

Hunter Ambrosen  
Daniel Hadley  
Karen Hare

Harold Lilly  
Tore Ramstad  
Sandra Santas



### Norske ord

God Jul (Goo You!)= Merry Christmas

Glede til verden (GLEDiH till VARden)= Joy to the world

Godt Nytt År! (Goatt knitt or)= Happy New Year!



The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic Countries, and to provide quality insurance and financial products to our members.



# SONS of NORWAY

**Askeladden Lodge 5-610**

507 Clinton Ave  
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## 2026 Calendars are in!

The 2026 Calendars will be available at the December 13th Santa Lucia event for those who signed up for them. If you cannot make the December program, contact Joan for local delivery prior to Christmas. Prices for the Splendor and Viking Verse Rosemaling calendars this year are \$10 each, payable to Joan O'Bryan by exact cash or by check at our December event. Our January meeting is conducted over Zoom, so please try to make the December event if you are not local.

## Askeladden Lodge 2026 Scholarships

It's that time of year to start thinking about scholarships for next year. If you have children or grandchildren starting college next year or continuing as an undergraduate student, they can be considered for a scholarship awarded by Askeladden Lodge. Our 2026 budget allows for two \$1000 unrestricted scholarships to be awarded to up to two qualifying students so make sure your membership dues are up to date. The Scholarship Committee is planning to release the 2026 application and scholarship guidelines in January, which will be available on the Askeladden website at <https://www.norwayinkalamazoo.com/scholarships>.