

LUREN



SONS OF NORWAY- CIRCLE CITY LODGE #5-614 CARMEL, IN

November/December 2025 Issue

Mission statement:

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 provide quality insurance and financial products to its members.

Greetings from the President

Hilsen fra Presidenten,

I feel like I just got done writing this presidents letter. I have never been much for writing so I end up putting it off until it's sometimes overdue. Takk to everyone who filled out a survey at the last meeting. For those of you that did not have the opportunity, there will be a copy of the survey in the newsletter. The officers really need your input, especially with program planning.

At our November meeting we will need your approval for the slate of officers.

Currently it is:

President Nancy Andersen

Vice President Mary Jane Henrikson

Secretary Jerry Rud

Membership Secretary Ben Olsen III

Treasurer Alice Voris

Assistant Treasurer Jewell Morrow

Newsletter Editor and Historian Glenna Divine

Foundation Director Karen Courtney

Cultural Director Berit Skaare

Sports Director – open

We will vote during the November meeting so if you are unable to attend, please send an email to myself or Jerry with your approval of the slate of officers.

I want to thank Berit for all her planning this summer for Friluftsliv. We have had 3 outings at state parks with great activities and fellowship. The trails have been nice and the weather turned out good for hiking, although it does show me how out of shape I have gotten over the past couple of years. I need to get out and walk more than I do.

There is so much going on this time of year it is hard to keep up. Our next meeting we will be making lefse in the morning, enjoying a pitch-in dinner, then our afternoon program. During our program Berit has offered to teach any youth that attend to make woven baskets to decorate the Christmas tree. It is an opportunity to pass on a Norwegian craft skill. She has purchased all of the supplies that will be needed, so please bring your grandchildren. They can learn lefse-making in the morning, and then basket making in the afternoon.

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The International festival is our opportunity to let people know about Norwegian culture. It is November 13, 14 and 15. It will be in Johnson County, so please plan on attending. Once again it is geared to school-age children so they have an awareness of all the different cultures present in Indiana.

Our Julefest is in December on the 13th. There is a reservation form included in the newsletter, so please get it submitted. We need to know early how many plan on attending.

I am sure I am like everyone else that has a lot to do to get ready for winter. I am hoping that this weather holds for a while longer so I can get the bulbs dug and the barn windows put in.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone on November 8th.

Takk.

Nancy

Tale from the Crypt



A South Dakotan TikToker and her sisters were visiting Gjerdrum, a small town on the northwestern outskirts of Oslo, where their ancestors had once lived. They toured Gjerdrum kirke, the church where their grandfather had been baptized, but could not have been prepared for [what happened next](#).

A man at the church invited them to step down a set of creaky winding stairs into a crypt under the church's altar. There they saw a large ornate coffin that had seen better days. In fact, the lid had several large holes. Their guide said that if they wanted to take a photo between some of the holes in the lid, they could take a view of what lay within.

To their surprise, the coffin contained a well-preserved mummy, with his arms crossed over his chest. But who

was this person? Further questioning of the caretaker revealed that the deceased was one Anders Simensen who who'd been the deputy of Øvre Romerike in 1684. A wealthy resident of Søndre Gjerdrum gård, Simensen was an influential and imposing man at 6'4".

A church has stood on these grounds since the middle ages but wasn't doing so well during the 17th century. Simensen had helped the church financially, paying for restorations after a fire in 1684 and a full rebuild in 1686, so he basically owned the church and was granted the power to appoint pastors. According to the Eidsvoll Ullensaker Blad (eub.no), Simensen had sent a letter to the king to request that he be mummified upon his death. King Christian V gave him the right to be buried under the church along with his descendants. Only 10 years after Simensen had restored the church, he got his wish.

Surprisingly intact for a 338 year-old mummy, it is unknown why Simensen wished to be embalmed, as this was not a practice of the era. He had built his own crypt and had an ornate coffin upholstered with leather and festooned with trumpet-playing angels. Simensen's wife and daughter were later laid to rest in the crypt, though not with the same level of preservation and pomp.

Humidity has been the greatest threat to Simensen's resting place. According to rb.no, in 2007 there was a question about whether to bury Simensen, when a fungus started to spread over the coffin. These days, teens who are confirmed in Gjerdrum church are allowed a peek in the coffin, along with—apparently—curious tourists.

The [TikTok Video](#) by bestbelcher includes photos of this excursion, if you want to catch a glimpse of the mummy, coffin, and the church's interior.

Sources:

<https://www.rb.no/lokale-nyheter/311-ar-gammelt-lik-truet-av-sopp/s/1-95-2957705>

[Our hunt for Norwegian ancestral homesteads led us to unexpected mum... | scary halloween | TikTok](#)

[Gjerdrum kirke \(kirken.no\)](#)

<https://www.eub.no/mumien-under-kirken-her-har-han-ligget-siden-1696/s/5-136-54456>



Spring Mill
October
25, 2025

Janice
Ritchie,
Nancy
Andersen,
Ben Olsen,
Berit
Skaare,
Jerry Rud,
Donna
Olsen,
Lauri Cox,
Shawn, and
Joe Cox.



Circle City Lodge of Sons of Norway

“FRILUFTSLIVSDAG”

Fri-lufts-livs-dag

(free-air-living-day)

October 25. 2025

Spring Mill State Park

A WONDERFUL TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!

Jerry, Nancy & her beautiful canine, Janice, Berit, Ben, Donna, Leah, Joe & Laurie, who is our newest member, all met at the Spring Mill State Park Tulip/Poplar shelter at 9:30 AM where we started our day.

As he did at Cataract Falls, Jerry Rud set up the KUBB game and we started playing. The tremendous athleticism of the participants was immediately evident. Jerry explained the rules and suggested strategy on how to best compete.

We began our hike en masse until we reached the pioneer village. During our hike, we had timed questions to answer and bring back at the end. We also experienced some trail obstructions that needed to be negotiated. Fortunately, no mountain climbing equipment was needed.

At the pioneer village, the group split up as we went through the various buildings and eventually returned to the Tulip Poplar shelter. We gathered and sang “America The Beautiful” and the Norwegian National Anthem.

We enjoyed our lunches and sharing of various kinds of fare. After lunch, we reviewed the timed questions before going on a Pot of Gold search/hike. Jerry was the one who found it and brought it back to the shelter. Before returning home, Leah took a group photo of our happy faces. Thank you, Berit, for organizing our fun added events on this day. We appreciate your efforts.

Ben Olsen III



Serinakaker (Norwegian Butter Cookies)

Ingredients

- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 2 tsp vanilla sugar (or extract)
- 11 Tbsp salted butter
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 egg

Decoration

- 1 egg
- 3 Tbsp sliced or chopped almonds
- 3 Tbsp granulated sugar

Instructions

Preheat oven to 355 degrees and line a baking sheet with baking paper. Stir the flour, baking powder and vanilla sugar together in a large bowl. Add the butter and knead with your hands until crumbly. Add sugar and egg and mix until you get a solid ball of dough. Roll the dough into 2 long logs and cut about 30 slices. Roll each slice into a ball. Set the cookies on the baking sheet spaced slightly apart. Use a fork to lightly press down on each cookie. Whisk the egg into an egg wash and brush gently over each cookie. Sprinkle sliced almonds and/or granulated sugar on top of each cookie. Bake for 12-15 minutes depending on your oven until golden brown.

To Gleaners We Will Go

by Jerry Rud

Sons of Norway encourages members to volunteer in charitable ways especially to reduce hunger and to help Veterans. There are many opportunities for this in our area which we will explore in the future. We invite members to suggest organizations which could use our support.

One commonly known charity in the Indianapolis area is Gleaners Food Bank – massive warehouse which receives large corporate donations of food - both perishable and non-perishable. This highly-organized and efficiently-managed charity also serves as a distributor to emergency food pantries around the state. The facility is so very clean.

In addition to bulk storage there is a drive-through lane which was developed and previously used by Coors Beer to keep their canned brew chilly. The goal was to not load trucks outside. This feature is perfect for a drive-through food pantry as well, so Nancy and I loaded one item in cars and pickups that stopped at three stations along the route. Each team of volunteers placed a certain item in the vehicles, and there were two or three teams at each station, so after three stops the recipients had frozen meat, fruit, bread, produce, a bag of potatoes, fruit pops, etc. We did this steadily for three hours which was easy and fun since we got to know other volunteers. My teammate was a high school student on fall break who just wanted to help others for a day with her Mom. Another was an accountant from Allison's.

According to the after-shift photo we served 32,166 meals which seems like a lot, but there was a morning shift as well as our afternoon shift. Maybe this includes food shipped out in large quantities to other pantries as well.

When we do this again, please join in the fun. It is not strenuous and feels good to help those in need of food.



Nancy Andersen and Jerry Rud helping out at Gleaners Food Bank

Norway's Oil Fund Grows on Strong Equity Markets

The fund has a stake in more than 9,000 companies, equivalent to holding 1.5% of every listed company in the world

[Dominic Chopping](#) Oct. 29, 2025 at 5:51 am

Norway's sovereign-wealth fund returned 5.8% in the third quarter, driven by strong equity markets.

Norges Bank Investment Management—the arm of the central bank that manages the world's largest sovereign-wealth fund, commonly known as the oil fund—said Wednesday that the fund had a market value of 20.44 trillion kroner (\$2.046 trillion) as of Sept. 30. That marks an increase of 854 billion kroner from the end of the second quarter.

“The result is driven by strong returns in the stock market, particularly in basic materials, telecommunications and the financial sector,” said Norges Bank Investment Management Deputy Chief Executive Trond Grande.

Equity investments returned 7.7% in the quarter, while fixed-income investments returned 1.4%, unlisted real-estate investments returned 1.1% and unlisted renewable energy infrastructure returned 0.3%.

The Norwegian krone appreciated against several major currencies during the quarter, with currency movements contributing to a 259 billion-krone hit to the fund's value, it said.

The fund was 71.2% invested in equities, 26.6% in fixed income, 1.8% in unlisted real estate and 0.4% in unlisted renewable-energy infrastructure.

The oil fund has a stake in more than 9,000 companies globally, equivalent to holding 1.5% of every listed company in the world.

Write to Dominic Chopping at dominic.chopping@wsj.com

JULEFEST

DECEMBER 13, 2025

12 NOON



KING OF GLORY LUTHERAN CHURCH

2201 EAST 106TH STREET

CARMEL, INDIANA

Please return this reservation form and check made out to Circle City Sons of Norway by December 1st to: Alice Voris 9988 Upton Ct Carmel IN 46280

\$17.00 for adults, \$8.00 12 yr to 15 yr and under 12 free.

Name: _____

Number Adults attending: _____ \$_____

Number 12 – 15 attending: _____ \$_____

Number Children attending: _____

Circle City Sons of Norway



Calendar of Events

November-December 2025

Nov 6 4:30 p.m. Intermediate Norsk class via Zoom

Nov 6 7:30 p.m. Beginning Norsk class via Zoom

Nov 8 9:00 a.m. Lefse making

Nov 8 12:00 noon Pitch-in dinner and meeting.
Heart basket making for the kids and Amy Boxrud,
Executive Director of the Norwegian American Historical
Association, will speak to via Zoom.

Nov 13-15 10:00 am-8:00 pm International Festival at Johnson County
Fair grounds 250 Fairgrounds Street, Franklin, IN 46131

Nov 20 4:30 p.m. Intermediate Norsk class via Zoom

Nov 20 7:30 p.m. Beginning Norsk class via Zoom

Dec 4 4:30 p.m. Intermediate Norsk class via Zoom

Dec 4 7:30 p.m. Beginning Norsk class via Zoom

Dec 13 12:00 noon. Julefest

Dec 18 4:30 p.m. Intermediate Norsk class via Zoom

Dec 18 7:30 p.m. Beginning Norsk class via Zoom

Circle City Lodge Officers

President:	Nancy Andersen.	317-626-5237
Vice President:	Mary Jane Henrikson	812-662-3728
Secretary:	Jerome Rud	765-720-5232
Treasurer:	Alice Voris	317-691-1370
Cultural Director:	Berit Skarre.	812-617-5678
Membership Director:	Ben Olsen III.	317-459-5913
Sports Director:	Susan Alden.	317-460-8891
Foundation Director:	Karen Courtney.	317-696-2852
Lodge Councilor:	Stan Pederson.	317-339-5249
Historian:	Glenna Divine	765-749-2567
Newsletter Editor:	Glenna Divine.	765-749-2567
Directory:		

Read past issues of LUREN at:

www.sonsofnorway5.com

Check out our facebook group!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/473869819402515>

Check out SOFN Website!

<https://www.sofn.com>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKXhY-3CTVE)

[v=WKXhY-3CTVE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKXhY-3CTVE)



This was painted by
Sally Hurst