



## Norse Valley Lodge 5-491 Nytt Notes April 2025

### In Case You Missed it....

On Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, we had 8 hearty Norse Valley Lodge members (and one dog, Jordy) that marched in New London's Saint Patrick's Parade.

The Parade weather was better than last year's wind storm. Cooler this year than last but with the sun out, nobody froze.

It appeared as though the crowds were bigger along the sidewalks than last year. I can imagine what the turnout would be if we had a 60 degree day.

Thanks to the eight members who helped advertise the Sons of Norway fraternal organization and shared the concept of "Friluftsliv" (life in the free air) while educating the community on the Vikings founding the city of Dublin, Ireland.





## Winners of Chili Cook-Off and Cookie Baking Contest Announced!

A big shout out to Linda Hash as well as Sharron Huss who walked off with the Golden Ladle and Spatula respectively for their award winning recipes for the best Chili and Cookies.

Thanks to all those people who brought their best efforts in making chili or baking cookies as the taste testers were most appreciative.



Chili Winner Linda Hash with Pres. Judy Ghastin



Cookie Bake-off winner Sharron Huss

Linda Hash also led a teaching session of "How to Speak Norwegian". At our tables, we practiced amongst each other to get our phrasing and pronunciations just right. Linda then led us in a fun Bingo game challenging us to match the Norwegian words she spoke with words on our printed cards.



Linda Hash "a undervise i norsk"

### **Upcoming Lodge Events!**

**Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church located at 3009 North Meade Street in Appleton.**

We will meet a week later this month (fourth Saturday of the month versus the third Saturday because of Easter celebrations on the 20<sup>th</sup>).

Lois Gruetzmacher will present a program about a Viking replica ship. Last autumn, Linda visited the Heritage Hjemkomst Center which is home to the Hjemkomst Viking ship in Moorhead, Minnesota.

*Hjemkomst*, which means "Homecoming" in Norwegian, is a replica Viking ship that is permanently housed in the center of the museum. The ship is a full-scale replica of the Gokstad Viking ship that was discovered in Norway way back in 1880.

The idea for building *Hjemkomst* was that of Robert Asp (1923–1980), a guidance counselor at Moorhead Junior High School. Construction on *Hjemkomst* began in 1974. It was put into the water at Duluth, Minnesota in 1980 to see if it was seaworthy.

Linda will tell you "the rest of the story" on April 26th and the ship's fantastic voyage in 1982. We will also watch a DVD to enrich our understanding.

This topic ties in nicely with the upcoming 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Immigrants from Norway to set sail for the new Country of the United States of America.

On July 4, 1825, the single mast sloop", "Restauration," sailed from Stavanger, Norway with 52 passengers on board. This group often referred to as the "Sloopers," left Norway for religious freedom and new opportunities. They arrived in New York City harbor on October 9, 1825.

The New York Quakers set aside land in upstate New York, near Rochester. After nine hard years of clearing heavily forested land to farm, they sent Cleng Peerson out west in search for better farmland.

He and his group of Norwegian settlers traveled to Illinois and followed the Fox River down to LaSalle County Illinois.

This autumn in Norway, Illinois from October 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> there will be a three-day weekend of Norwegian culture fun. Events include Sloopers and Fox Valley, Illinois settlement pioneer history, traditional Norwegian culture and craft programs and classes, Norwegian games and movie night, a "Sluppen" fun walk, a Norwegian barn dance with Norwegian folk music and food, traditional Norwegian worship service, and a chance to meet descendants of the first Norwegian-American immigrants at their Sloopers Society annual meeting.

**Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.: Syttende Mai Lodge Picnic at Derks Park in Appleton.**

Ice cream, Hot dogs in Lefse, and Lawn games! And you don't have to boat across the pond to Norway!

Attendees are encouraged to provide a side dish that they can share along with their own preferred drinks.

## Easter Vacations

Happy Easter! Or “god påske” (goo POH-skeh) as they say in Scandinavia.

In Norway, Easter is a major holiday, on the same level of excitement and anticipation as Christmas. From Palm Sunday through at least Easter Sunday, and a little beyond, most businesses and many shops close down while the country celebrates the holiday with parties at home, or trips to the countryside.

A couple of weeks before Easter, Norwegian schoolchildren start preparing for the holiday. The religious content of the holidays is stressed—Norway has a state church and instruction in religion is a natural part of the general education. But the children also decorate eggs and make little chickens and other Easter-time decorations.

When the Easter holiday arrives, Norwegians embrace the opportunity to get outdoors. Most people have at least a week off and nearly half a million Norwegians travel. The Norwegian idea of having a “god påske” is to be up in the mountains enjoying the early spring weather with sunshine flooding the wide, snow-white expanses where cross-country skiers can glide on and on forever.

Others head to the coast, opening their vacation homes for the summer. Most travelers are city-dwellers, eager to get out of the city and into the countryside.

Those living in rural areas are less likely to leave home, but do still enjoy nature and the outdoors in their own backyard during the Easter holiday. Hotels, chalets and cabins are packed with people intent on having a good time, whatever the weather might be. So many people go on vacation at the same time that all of Norway is shut down, so to speak.

Even the Norwegians who stay at home have no intention of doing business. Most people do all their Easter shopping well in advance. It is wise to stock up on food, for the stores close early on the Saturday before Easter and don't open again until the Tuesday after. All offices are closed. Radio and TV operate as usual, but that is about it. Except for the phone service and a few other public services there is not much going on. There are no newspapers, no mail, little public transportation and no shopping.

Even the churches are fairly empty. But up in the many mountain areas and on the coast there is hustle and bustle and commotion with frolicking vacationers everywhere. The church moves along with the rest of the nation and people can go to Easter services in mountain chapels, hotels and trailer parks.

Regardless of whether they stay at home or head out of town, after a cold, dark winter, Norwegians relish their Easter vacation time.

## Attention Facebook Users

Be sure to Follow our lodge's Facebook page (@norsevalley) and check in regularly to Like and Share our posts if you happen to miss them in your feed.

The more our posts are Shared and Liked, the more exposure our lodge gets which is great advertising for us. Don't forget that our website [norsevalley.org](http://norsevalley.org) is a great place to find out about upcoming events and check out photos from past events.

***Got a question? Send an email to [norsevalley@gmail.com](mailto:norsevalley@gmail.com).***

***If you have any questions or concerns about lodge activities, please contact Judy Ghastin at [judy62ghastin@gmail.com](mailto:judy62ghastin@gmail.com) or 920-450-3584.***