



Norse Valley Lodge 5-491

Nytt Notes November 2025

Lois is Calling all Lefse Makers!

We need all hands on deck to make lefse for this year's lutefisk dinner. I have reserved the All Saints Lutheran Church kitchen beginning at 8:30 am on Thursday, November 6th for our use.

All Saints is located at 1072 Honey Creek Road in Oshkosh. It is roughly a mile west of from Highway. 41, taking the Highway 21 exit. Drive to the far end of the parking lot to access the kitchen door.

Please bring all of your own lefse-making equipment along with one, two, or three batches of lefse dough ready to roll.

We would like to make a good amount of lefse this year as people always ask to buy it after the dinner so this is a nice fund-raiser for the Lodge.

If you are unable to come on November 6, you may make some at home and bring it the night of the dinner (November 9th).

Please let Lois Gruetzmacher know how many rounds you are bringing.

P. S. Have it cut in halves or quarters, depending on size, so that it is ready to serve.

Hope to see lots of you soon!

Lois Gruetzmacher

920-527-1337

Gmacher@charter.net

Looks like we will have record Turnout for the Lutefisk Dinner on November 9th!

We have reservations north of 125 attendees for the Lutefisk and Meatball dinner on next week Sunday. In addition to the two main courses, we will have potatoes, rutabaga casserole, coleslaw, lefse, and other Norwegian goodies.

Norse Valley Lodge members are encouraged to bring cookies or other Scandinavian sweets to share as a desert.

The evening starts at 4:30 p.m. with a cash bar social and dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m. at LaSure's Banquet Hall, 3125 South Washburn, just west of Interstate 41 and south of the outlet mall.

Bring some extra cash or your checkbook as we will have Scandinavian books, rosemaled wooden Christmas ornaments, rosemaled beverage coaster sets, Scandinavian Christmas cards, silent auction items, and Lefse, Lutefisk, and Norwegian bake items for sale.

Musical entertainment will be provided by Rob Molksness.

Another Feeding America volunteer event coming up on December 3rd!

The next opportunity to do something great for your Wisconsin neighbors and make yourself feel wonderful while doing it is **Wednesday December 3rd from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** If you are Norse Valley member and would like to volunteer at Feeding America on the north side of Appleton, we will be packing boxes with food for the Wisconsin Tribal Elder program.



Please contact Norse Valley member Linda Hash, *pictured above*, (lhask@new.rr.com), our volunteer coordinator, if you would like to help out.

What you missed if you didn't attend the October 18th Lodge meeting!

Guest Speakers John Scott and Greg Zahn presented the story of the Nelson-Bailey Norwegian Log House to approximately 25 attendees of the Lodge meeting in October.

John (*pictured below*) is a board member of the Saxonia House (German) and is knowledgeable about the Nelson-Bailey Norwegian Log House that is being relocated to Freedonia (midway between Port Washington and Random Lake) from DeForest in Dane County. The Nelson-Bailey Norwegian Log House will sit adjacent to the Saxonia House, which is also going through renovation itself.



N-B Modeled after famous farm house in Norway

The Saxonia House served as a brewer's family residence, a social hall, an inn for new settlers in the area while they built their own homes in the village, and a Post Office. A nearby brewery and cellar were also constructed on the property.



Nelson-Bailey Norwegian log house in 2025 in Deforest prior to tear down and relocation.

The Nelson-Bailey Norwegian log house is circa 1840-1850 and will cost approximately \$137,000 to make the 82 mile move. Ribbon cutting for the completed Norwegian log house restoration is now planned for June 7, 2026.

The Saxonia house will be an Artists retreat once the renovations are completed in 2026.

We raised \$75.00 for the Sons of Norway Foundation as we auctioned off a number of wrapped mystery items. The money will be used for college scholarships. Thanks to those who donated items and those who bid on them.

2026 Norse Valley Lodge board member elections were held on October 18th and the results are in. Look for a listing in a future newsletter within the next 60 days.

Mark your calendars for the remaining 2025-2026 Lodge Meetings

Saturday December 6th at 5:00 p.m. Come for a Christmas Potluck.

The Norse Valley Lodge will provide the main course of pulled pork (Thanks to Treasurer Corey Olson for acting as chef) and we ask attendees to our Christmas party to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Children of all ages are encouraged to attend as this meal will be free for everyone. We'll sing some Christmas carols. A Nisse may also make an appearance.

Look for an e-mailed reservation form from Lodge Secretary Patrick Dier around November 12th.

Saturday January 17th at 6:00 p.m.: Agenda will be soon finalized.

Saturday February 21st at 6:00 p.m. Subject matter will soon be finalized.

Please Consider being a Convention Delegate

The Sons of Norway District 5 convention will be held in Stoughton, Wisconsin in August, 2026. Details will be available later.

It is time to be thinking about electing delegates to the convention. Delegates are to be elected and names sent to the secretary in March of next year. Our lodge will likely have three delegates.

Anyone who has been a member in good standing for at least six months and who is sixteen years of age or older can be elected. The delegates responsibilities are:

- Read the reports book sent by the district secretary containing reports and resolutions.
- Attend the two-day District 5 Lodge meeting.
- Vote on all items brought before the group.
- If appointed, serve on a committee considering an aspect of the business such as resolutions, reports, or finance among others.
- Accept any awards for Norse Valley from the past two years.

The new Board will recommend financial support for delegates and bring that to the membership for a vote before the election of delegates takes place.

There is a silent auction for delegates to raise funds for the district. Each lodge is encouraged to send an item or basket of items of good value to offer for the auction.

Our lodge might also want to support the fund raising by sending a certain amount of money with delegates to bid on something to be brought back to Norse Valley for use as a door prize at a future meeting.

Judy Ghastin

Norse Valley Lodge President

Norway's Thanksgiving

Like the United States and Canada, Norway, too, has a celebration of thanksgiving, and it is called Høsttakkefest, which most easily translates to "Harvest Thanksgiving Feast."

Its roots are old and reflect both religious and secular tradition. Although Christianity did not come to Norway until around 1000 A.D., the roots of Høsttakkefest predate it. However, once the country was Christianized, it followed much the same timeline as Mikkelssmess (Arch Angel Michael's Mass) celebrated by the Catholic Church since 380 A.D.

It normally took place in September to celebrate the end of the harvest. In 1770, the celebration was abolished as a public church holiday in Norway and Denmark. However, in 1918 it was reinstated in

the Norwegian liturgical calendar, and from 1999 the Church of Norway made it an optional celebration.

The secular roots of Høsttakkefest are agrarian and tied to the practice of pastoral migration, the seasonal movement of people and their livestock. In rural Norway, Høsttakkefest is traditionally the autumn day on which a farm's livestock and its tenders move from a higher summer farm, or "seter", to the main farm in the valley below.

Nonetheless, the season is full of thankful thoughts and celebrations. To me, Thanksgiving is one of my top two holidays. It is more than the harvest, turkey, cranberries, yams, stuffing, mashed potatoes, pumpkin pie, or parades. It gives me time to reflect about my life, family, friends, freedom, and the world. I really have had a blessed life and have much for which I am thankful. But for now, let me choose one blessing — Sons of Norway.



SONS of NORWAY

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 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.

If you have any questions or concerns about lodge activities, please contact Judy Ghastin at judy62ghastin@gmail.com or 920-450-3584.