



NYHETER BREVET

-A NEWSLETTER-

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ORD FRA DIN VALKYRIEN LOSJE PRESIDENT

(Words from your Lodge President)

Audrey Severson

President



“Clair and I have spent Corona time on our TO DO LISTS. The shed looks more organized now and a few closets look better. We both worked on tying quilts for a church project. I have spent time sewing the quilt tops and masks, practicing spinning wool, knitting, reading, cleaning closets, and doing genealogy. Our daughter's family in Iowa raises sheep where I got the wool to spin and knit. Also, we have completed a number of jig saw puzzles!

Clair was anxious for spring to get out in the garden where he spends most of his time now. He also spends a lot of time reading mystery books.

On another note, our nineteen year old grandson in Iowa did test positive for the Corvid virus after running a fever. His was a very light case and the rest of the family have tested negative. It is a trying time and it is not over yet. I hope you and your families have been safe and healthy. “

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

“Nathan Elsbernd, a member of Valkyrien Lodge and our grandson, was awarded a scholarship from the Sons of Norway. He will be a sophomore at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, majoring in Music and Organ. He is thankful to the Sons of Norway, for their support for youth in education, awarding him the Cyril Wittrock Scholarship for \$800.

If you have a family member attending college or interested in studying in Norway, please look on the websites for scholarship information on the District 5 and International Sons of Norway. “

Editors' Note: In addition, check pages 4-5 feature for "jobs well done". See Kathy Peterson's vast information she did on her church's history. Another member who also used a lot of time during this Corona Virus was Sandy Olson.

Look for it on page 8. She and others designed the first ever virtual program of the camp.

The 2020 Virtual Masse Moro

Happy Birthday

*Our belated wishes for those July birthdays
which we missed. in the last issue:*

JULY:	Audrey Severson	17
	Suzanne Kramer	24
	Barbara Hendrickson	27
	Clair Severson	30
AUGUST:	Gregory Warner	8
	Delores Jacobson	16 *GM
	Edward Rice	18
	Ila Gillis	25
	Erling Lesterud	30

SEPTEMBER:	Paul Vandersteen	2
	Rebecca Elsbernd	6
	Bette Vandersteen	11
	Marilyn Olson Lear	12
	Duane Odalen	12
	Barbara Zimmerman	29

**GM designates that this individual is 65 years old or older and been
a member of the Sons of Norway for 30 years
or more.*



DID YOU KNOW ... ?



Vikings were known for their excellent hygiene? Between rowing boats and decapitating enemies, Viking men must have stunk to high Valhalla, right? Quite the opposite. Excavations of Viking sites have turned up tweezers, razors, combs and ear cleaners made from animal bones and antlers. Vikings also bathed at least once a week—much more frequently than other Europeans of their day—and enjoyed dips in natural hot springs!

2020

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The mission of the Sons of Norway is to promote and to preserve heritage and culture of Norway and to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries and provide quality insurance and financial products to our members. For information contact: www.sofn.com



“CORONA TIMES”

These are certainly difficult and trying times for all of us. We hope that you are safe and healthy and finding ways to keep busy while at home. I thought this might be a good time to ask our members what they have been up to.

Don Olson, Co-Editor

Paul & Betty Vandersteen Replied... *In response to your request, we are doing well. Bette and I try to walk three miles daily. Thank heaven for our Zoom which keeps us in touch with friends and provides us with the great opportunities for Bible Study. On rare occasions, we have ventured out to meet family or friends for dinner. All in all, we are grateful for our health and well being.*

Ron Thompson said that he delivers Meals on Wheels one day a week. *I got over 9.5” of rain and spent time cleaning the basement out. Other than that, I mow the lawn and just sit around, getting bored!*

Betty Larson who lives in the Welcome Home Assisted Living in Elmwood was heard saying ... *“I am ready to fly the coop and get out of here.”* (You will happy to hear that she is now able to go out and visit family members however no visitors are allowed in the Senior Citizen building itself.)



The Royal Palace Buried Treasure During World War II, while the Norwegian royal family hastily abandoned the royal palace as Hitler’s army began its invasion of Norway. Although the family managed to flee to safety, they left behind many precious belongings, including the royal jewels. Two years later, a Nazi collaborator named Vidkun Quisling took great interest in the royal palace and the abandoned treasures inside. However, upon entering the castle, he discovered the valuables were missing. Fortunately, Carl Otto Løvenskiold, head of the royal court, had decided to safeguard the royal jewelry when the monarchs fled. In the middle of an April night, he went to the palace and packed the jewels into five large suitcases. He took them to his family’s cabin, deep in the forest near Oslo, and buried them under the woodshed. The jewels remained hidden there for five years. When the war ended in 1945, Løvenskiold returned the royal jewelry back to the palace. His efforts earned him The Royal St. Olav’s Order and a personal thank-you letter from the king.

Taken from the July 2020 issue of the *Sons’s of Norway’s Newsletter Service*.

West Immanuel Church

By Kathy Pedersen

When I received the message from Arlys and Don requesting updates on our lives during covid-19, my thoughts turned to my past few months. I live alone, but I've been spending my time with a bunch of "old Norwegians".

When I retired from years of teaching in little schools north of Highway 8, I moved to New Richmond and expressed my Norwegian heritage by joining West Immanuel church – the church of "the Other Lutefisk Dinner" in rural Osceola. As a child growing up in River Falls, I had become familiar with West Immanuel area because of family friends who lived in that neighborhood. I was naturally drawn to that church when I found myself living within easy driving distance.

This year West and East Immanuel churches are both celebrating 150 years of existence. Even though West Immanuel has postponed its actual celebration for a year, I'm using the anniversary as an excuse to research the history of the church and the Norwegian immigrants who settled in the towns of Alden and Black Brook in the 1860's and 1870's.

Years ago, a member of West Immanuel compiled information about 70 Founders of West Immanuel and their families. I started with that list and have been trying to bring the family information up to date. That has lead me to some interesting accidental revelations. Those of you who have done Norwegian genealogy know about the difficulty with Norwegian names. Most of the founders were still using their Norwegian farm names, and hadn't yet settled on family surnames. Both the names and their spellings were very flexible during those early years and the same person often was known by several different names during his lifetime. That made finding information about them and their descendants a difficult puzzle to solve. Accidental conversations have helped me put together some of the pieces of that puzzle. A few weeks ago I had the good luck of receiving a 57-page family list of Johnsons who were descendants of a founder named Torger Johnson Ragnhildrud. That document led me to members of a half dozen different Johnson family branches who still live in the Alden area, many of whom are still members of West Immanuel. Last winter, shortly before everything shut down, I stopped at the Perkin's restaurant in Stillwater, and found myself sitting in a booth next to Jim and Elaine Pederson, whom I met years ago at a gathering of the St. Croix Valley Syttende Mai Society. Jim's great grandfather, Peder Anderson Plomasen, was one of the West Immanuel founders. He and his brother Dwight still own the homesteaded property in Alden. Jim has hosted friends and family at the old farmstead on the day of West Immanuel's lutefisk dinner for sixty years, beginning when he was a student at Augsburg College. That day at Perkin's, Jim, Elaine and I sat in a booth and he shared family information until the restaurant closed several hours later. The following week we brought our materials and sat in the same restaurant for more than four hours. We have been emailing back and forth ever since. Shortly after I returned to use the pool at the New Richmond Area Centre a few weeks ago, I connected with a woman in the locker room whose great-grandparents were also founders. I'm beginning to feel a part of those families whose ancestors moved to the Town of Alden all those years ago.

When Norwegian immigrants arrived in southern Polk County, the area just north of Star Prairie was sparsely settled – mostly by Anglos from eastern U.S. Those of you who are familiar with the West Immanuel area know that it's lake country – beautiful, but for the most part not great for farming. It was the kind of area that could only be appreciated by a group of Norwegians. The land was available, cheap and beautiful. The area reminded them of their homeland. Many of those early Norwegian settlers came from Gran parish in Hadeland. Among the early newcomers was a group of five families from Hadeland who arrived together in 1869 by way of Waupaca County. On their way to their new homes they purchased an oxcart in Prescott. When they arrived in the Town of Alden, they took up residence temporarily in a dugout inspired by Chippewa tradition that was dug into the side of a hill with a sod roof, birch beams and birch bark siding. During the next few years, the families built their own homes and farms; most of them staying in the neighborhood.



West Immanuel

continued

Halvor Halvorson Raknerud, the leader of the group, was a great hunter and supplied the settlers with meat during those first few winters. One winter he shot 24 deer with his musket. One of the dugout families was headed by Tolene Thompson, a widow who immigrated with her five children. Betty Bliese, a West Immanuel member and former member of the Amery Sons of Norway lodge, is Tolene's great-granddaughter.

From the beginning of their lives in Alden, the Norwegian settlers sought to have their own church community where they could maintain the Lutheran tradition and language they brought from their homeland. Beginning in 1869, Rev. Ole Johan Knutsen Hagestad, a pastor serving Rush River congregations near Martell in Pierce County, began serving needs of the Norwegian settlers in Black Brook and Alden. Pastor Hagestad was drawn north to serve families from the Rush River parishes who had moved to the Black Brook area. For the immigrants in Black Brook and Alden he offered occasional services and baptisms in homes; he also confirmed youth who had been prepared by lay teachers. Hagestad also guided the eager immigrants in their quest to form their own churches. Pastor Hagestad's history is of personal interest to me, because my mother's grandparents settled in the Rush River area. Descendants of Pastor Hagestad, as well as my own grandparents, later moved to River Falls.

In 1870, West Immanuel (*Immanuels Norsk Lutherske Kirke*) was organized. During its early years, services were held in homes and area schools -- mostly at the pioneer log in Section 8 of Alden, a log school that was later moved across the road from West Immanuel church on a site now occupied by the church parsonage. West Immanuel church was erected in 1880.

Just as in other congregations formed by Norwegian immigrants, at West Immanuel the Norwegian language was in use for many years for Sunday worship services, as well as in the four to six-week summer parochial school sessions held in several area rural schools. English first appeared at Sunday worship services every third Sunday in 1922 and was gradually increased until all regular worship services were conducted in English in 1947. After that the Norwegian language reappeared on special occasions as late as 1980, when the centennial of the church building was celebrated with *Høimessegudstjeneste den fuldstaendige form* (High Mass Worship Service the Complete Form). Over the chancel area of the church there is still this message: "*Her er Guds hus. Her er Himmels port*" (Here is the house of God. Here is the gate of heaven).

In 1918, the Luther League (then known as *Meninghets Kristelige Ungdomsforening*) built the Hall on the Hill, a structure across the road from the church that was used for meetings and special events until the basement was dug under the church in 1948. In 1935, the Hall on the Hill was the site of the first Armistice Day Dinner, the lutefisk dinner that still is an annual event at West Immanuel each November. Martin Anderson, a pioneer member of the church, hosted a lutefisk dinner for friends and neighbors for many years. Eventually, that annual neighborhood event outgrew the Anderson home and the dinner became the church event held at the Hall on the Hill. For many years the lutefisk dinner was served completely by men, with the women working behind the scenes furnishing their cooking and baking skills. It's now a co-ed event with young people serving tables. The cooking of the fish and peeling of rutabagas remains a male domain.

At the time of this writing in early July, in the midst of the covid-19 pandemic, the fate of the 2020 lutefisk dinner is uncertain. Members are determined to serve lutefisk somehow, even if it is only take-out. The final decision will be made later this summer.



As Norway Slowly Reopens, What's Next for Tourism?



For the past 10 years, Norway's tourism and travel industry has been booming. Going into 2020, the nation was setting all-time records for overnight stays—and that's without counting small, private rentals like Airbnb. Then the coronavirus hit, and travel ground to a halt.

Since mid-March, Norway's borders have been closed to foreigners, with limited exceptions, and domestic travel has been strongly discouraged. While Norway is now beginning to move toward re-opening, the process will be slow: travel will be permitted between Norway and Denmark beginning in mid-June, and discussions are ongoing about when travel will be allowed to and from Sweden and other nearby countries. The general travel restriction is expected to remain in place until at least August 20.

So what does this mean for Norway's once-thriving tourism economy? As in other parts of the world, businesses are adapting and finding creative ways to stay afloat—many with [substantial help from the Norwegian government](#). While travel remains limited, many in the hospitality industry have reinvented their business models to offer online classes or rent lodging space to remote office workers who need a quiet, isolated place to plug in. And, like elsewhere, Norwegians are increasing their emphasis on supporting local businesses, especially smaller operations that may be particularly at risk during the shutdown.

As travel restrictions begin to ease, many travel and hospitality companies look forward to the prospect of increased domestic travel, which they hope may provide a much-needed boost during the remaining summer months. Outdoor adventures have long been a staple in Norway's culture as well as in its tourism industry, and those offerings may prove to be increasingly popular as people gradually emerge from isolation—allowing people to travel and share new experiences while remaining cautious about lingering health concerns.

With the timeline for general reopening still uncertain, most foreigners pining for a trip to Norway still have some waiting to do. Fortunately, anticipation can be part of the fun—and in the meantime, there are still plenty of ways to [connect with Norway from home](#).

Kirsebærkremkake—Cherry Cream Cake

Ingredients

For the Cake

2 cups almonds or other nuts
2 cups powdered sugar
8 egg whites

For the Cherry Cream

1/3 cup whipping cream
2 egg yolks
2 Tbsp. powdered sugar
3 1/2 Tbsp. chocolate sauce or syrup
3 1/2 Tbsp. cherry juice

For the Cake

Step 1

Grind almonds twice, the second time with the confectioners' sugar. The almonds should have the consistency of flour.

Step 2

Whip the egg whites until stiff but not dry, and blend with the nuts.

Step 3

Divide and spread batter in two greased 9" (23 cm) springform pans, and bake at 320°F 25 to 30 minutes.

Step 4

Cool slightly in pan before removing to rack to cool completely. Makes two 9" layers.

For the Cherry Cream

Step 1

Beat the cream until firm and glossy. Add eggs and confectioners' sugar which have been whipped together until light and fluffy.

Step 2

Stir in the chocolate sauce or syrup, and add cherry juice to taste.

Step 3

Place one cake layer on platter, baked side down, and cover with half of the cream mixture.

Step 4

Add second layer, baked side up, and top with remaining cream. Keep refrigerated until serving time.

Ekte Norsk Mat—Authentic Norwegian Cooking is available for purchase, through the Vesterheim.
Call toll free at 1-888-979-3346



2020 Virtual Masse Moro



Due to Covid 19, our campers and staff participated in the first ever Virtual Masse Moro on July 18 & 26.

Mange takk to our Masse Moro staff for providing us with the following presentations: cookie baking, Norske quiz game, music, rune, wood carving, rosemåling, making Norske hearts, and special readings from Dag (one of Masse Moro's founders) and breakout sessions with our campers.

To view the sessions, please follow these links: First Virtual Masse Moro Session—July 18, 2020:

<https://transcripts.gotomeeting.coms/7eccc0dd8f1eca8607a63d5c9faa93f1406f13a7951fa96c050e4cd439cc6f1f>

Virtual Masse Moro second session - 7/26/2020: <https://www.screencast.com/t/AaxWzjNms>

I personally would like to thank our campers, directors, staff, and presenters for their participation. A huge thank you to our District 5 Board Member, Mike Palecek, for facilitating and providing our tech support. A sincere thank you also to the Sons of Norway District 5 Board for supporting and approving the financing of this endeavor.

We are looking forward to actually being together in 2021 at camp so that "Lots of Fun" can again be experienced at Masse Moro in person. To register for camp for 2021, please go to our websites at: <https://www.massemoro.org/> and <http://www.sonsofnorway5.com> and join us on Facebook—Masse Moro.

Hilsen,

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Tusen Takk!

