

On May 31, we will hold a confirmation for four young people who have attended confirmation classes during the winter months.

Confirmation is a good opportunity to learn more about Christianity in its Lutheran form, as we know it at Ansgar Church. It is also an opportunity to share faith with others and to reflect together on some of life's big questions.

At its core, confirmation is an affirmation of baptism. The confirmand says yes to being part of the Christian community and the church - but most importantly, God repeats and confirms the "yes" that was once spoken to the confirmand at their baptism. Most people are confirmed at the age of 13-14 years, but you can also be confirmed when you are older.

Confirmation has no direct basis in the Bible. It was introduced in the 18th-century, when Pietism played a major role in Lutheran Christianity. Pietism placed great emphasis on inner faith, personal devotion, the heart, and conscience. Therefore, the individual's personal "yes" to God was given great importance.

In Denmark, confirmation was made mandatory by law in 1736 for everyone. Only after being confirmed one was allowed to receive communion.

However, confirmation did not have only religious significance at that time. The young person had to pass a satisfactory knowledge test to participate in the confirmation and thereby obtain the civil rights necessary to enter

adult life. For most, confirmation marked the end of schooling and the beginning of working to support oneself.

If one was not confirmed, one lost the right to marry, to serve as a godparent, and to testify as a witness. One could also be punished if not confirmed before turning 19. If a person failed the examination due to lack of ability, the pastor was required to provide extra instruction; but if the reason was unwillingness, the punishment was imprisonment!

The poor's nightmare

At the confirmation ceremony, the arrangement of the confirmands was determined by their performance in the examination. The best stood at the front, while the least capable - often also the poorest - stood at the back.

On top of this came the financial burden if one did not pass. The pastor required additional payment for extra teaching, and the confirmand could not begin earning a living.

And then there were the clothes! Clothing has always played a major role in confirmation. It was customary for the confirmand to receive new clothes, which were expected to be presentable and last for many years. This, too, was a significant expense for the poor. Hans Christian Andersen, who came from humble circumstances, writes in his memoirs about his confirmation:

"An old seamstress altered my late father's coat into a confirmation outfit for me; I felt that I had never worn such a splendid suit, and for the first time in my life I had boots. My joy over these was extraordinary; only I feared that not every one would see that they were boots, and therefore I pulled the shafts up over my trousers and walked like that up the church aisle. The boots creaked, and it delighted me inwardly that the congregation could now hear that they were new; but my devotion was disturbed - I felt it - and I also had a terrible pang of conscience that my thoughts were as much on my boots as on the good Lord. I prayed to Him sincerely in my heart to forgive me, and then I thought again about my new boots."

continued on page 4



Ansgar Church NEWSLETTER

Six issues per year.
Advertising rates per year:

Business card - \$65
1/4 page - \$100
1/2 page - \$135
3/4 page - \$175
1 page - \$215

If you would like to receive this newsletter in pdf format instead of a printed hardcopy, please forward your email address to: ansgarnews@gmail.com and we will add it to our electronic mailing list.

4 ways to access this newsletter:

1. Download it from our website www.ansgar.ca
2. Provide us with your email address
3. Provide your mailing address and it will be mailed to your home.
4. Pick up a copy at the church

Contact Alice Nickel at ansgarnews@gmail.com or 780-405-0966 for more information.

Deadline for submissions for the

July/August 2026
Newsletter is
June 10, 2026

Email submissions to ansgarnews@gmail.com

Don't forget to check out the books available in the **Lending Library**. There is everything from Danish history to current popular novels in English. Something for everyone!

The subject matter can be anything you think someone else will enjoy. All items can be borrowed and returned or simply kept and passed on for others to enjoy.

NB: At this time our library is full and we are no longer able to accept any more books.



EASIEST WAY TO DONATE

You can donate to our church on a regular monthly basis by simply contacting the treasurer.

We will set you up to have a charge put on your credit card.

Remember that we get no financial support from any government.

We rely completely upon our members. We appreciate your support.

Contact the treasurer at ansgartreasurer@gmail.com

Would you like to see this newsletter in

COLOUR?

Go to our website www.ansgar.ca and click on the "NEWSLETTER" tab to view the colour version.

Memorial Donations

have been received in memory of:

Else Ingrid Dandanell Jensen

Jeff Morrow



From the Church Records:

Baptisms:

Sadie Claire Petlyk
Henrik Peter Cote

Funerals:

Karin Kossman
Aksel Larsen

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if you want to stay in touch!

You can view this page without being on Facebook.



Follow us on Instagram
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A Message from the Board

Spring has finally arrived and we look forward to Confirmation Day on May 31.

Thank you to the volunteers who helped at our annual cleaning on April 25. Now we will work on the exterior and yard. Mette Rasmussen is looking for ways to spruce up the basement with new flooring, tables and chairs - but we need help with planning the kitchen upgrade. We have learned that there is too much red tape to make it into a commercial kitchen, but it might work as a “bake and boil” kitchen. We must address drainage and construction changes as well. Maybe you have some ideas for the new design, or you can recommend a contractor. Please contact Mette via email at mettecanada@gmail.com.

Empty lot: We also need ideas for a two-family (no basement) housing development that will also give us some parking for Church members. Email mettecanada@gmail.com

Camp Kuriakos registration is open, please phone Pastor Jane to book your spot in the lodge or an RV or rustic tent site (limited space). See ad on page 12 of this newsletter.

Thank you to Valerie Sorensen for becoming our new Treasurer. It is a huge job and much appreciated.

A BIG thank you goes out to Randi Mark who initiated Hyggeklubben almost 16 years ago and has been the coordinator ever since. If you would like to see this hyggelig Ansgar group continue, we need a volunteer to head it up. Speak with Randi to see what is involved.

Happy Spring!
Dorrit

MENIGHEDSRAADET

The Church Board
2026

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president@ansgar.ca

Mette Rasmussen
Vice-President
780-434-5071

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Jane Marie Sognstrup

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www.ansgar.ca

Ansgar Group Activities

DANISH WOMEN'S GROUP

We will finish off the 2025/2026 season with a daylong visit to the Danish Museum in Dickson in late May or early June, for lunch and an opportunity to check out the exhibits and the shop. We'll then resume regular meetings after the summer break, on September 22.

Have you ever wanted to learn how to make Danish **Småkager** for Christmas? Look for information regarding our upcoming Danish Baking Workshop on September 26, on page 10 of this newsletter.

The Danish Women's Group is committed to raising funds to support Ansgar Church operations. To do this, we work together to put on a few money raising events a year. We need some fresh hands and faces to assist us in the coming years. Any woman who wants to join us at our monthly Tuesday meetings, is certainly welcome.

Our regular meetings are always held on the fourth Tuesday of the month, from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm. If you're interested in joining us, come along to a meeting and remember to bring your lunch. For further information, contact Jeanna Baty at 780-474-4254

THE ANSGAR SINGERS

The choir will have a special rehearsal at the church on May 19th at 6:30 pm. Bring a dish to share at the potluck before we practice. Then we meet at 9:00 am on May 24th before singing at the Pentecost service at 10:30.

For more information or if you are interested in becoming a choir member, please contact Eija Aalto at eijaalto@gmail.com



MORGENKAFFE PÅ DANSK

No further sessions are scheduled at this time.

SINGING CIRCLE

Our hyggelig Singing Circle will resume in September. Enjoy the warm spring and summer months!

HYGGEKLUBBEN

Welcome spring! Our Hygge in May will be on the 20th at 12:00. We take a summer break in June, July and August. In October, it will be 16 years since we started Hyggeklubben and for personal reasons I would like to pass the torch to someone new at this time. Hoping someone will step up since I would not like to see it fold but I can not continue. Enjoy your summer everyone. Randi Mark.

We meet at the church on the third Wednesday of each month at noon. Everyone brings something light to share for lunch. We sing from Højskole Sangbogen, a lot of sharing happens and the main thing on the menu is Hygge.



CHAT'N'CRAFT

Enjoy good company over a cup coffee, while working on your current personal craft project - a relaxing way to spend the afternoon. Everyone is welcome to join us in the parsonage at 1:30 pm on May 6th and June 3rd. Bring your knitting or whatever craft you have on the go.

MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB

We are thrilled with the participation in the revival of the Men's Breakfast Club (Mandeklubben). We will meet at 10 am on May 16th and on June 13th.

We meet once a month to discuss the state of the world, share some bread and act constructively for the church.

Call Werner at 780-655-3227 for more information.

continued from page 1

The Knowledge Test abolished

In 1909 the Knowledge Test was abolished, instead the confirmation should be a "conversation for the edification of the youth and the congregation present." From then on, the pastor could only require that confirmands behave properly; he could no longer impose demands or punishments - and that was probably for the best.

Confirmation today

Last year, about 64% of a youth cohort in Denmark were confirmed. In many rural areas, the majority still choose confirmation, and the confirmation day becomes a celebration for the entire parish. Flags are raised throughout the village, and everyone joins in celebrating the young people's big day.

Here at Ansgar Church, we are also very much looking forward to celebrating our four confirmands. They are wonderful, curious, open and thoughtful young people. We are delighted by your presence in the church and hope you will continue to come even after your confirmation.

For although you will soon be confirmed in the Christian faith, faith is not something one ever finishes with - it is a lifelong source of joy, challenge, support, and growth.

If you are interested in information on confirmation class and confirmation next year, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Pastor Jane Marie Sognstrup

This year's confirmands are:

**Mia Grace Moroz
Henrik Peter Cote
Maya Nicole Korsgaard Sørensen
Hugo Tessier**



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MAY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 10:30 am ENGLISH 4th Sunday after Easter <i>John 8, 28-36</i> <i>The lifting up of Jesus</i> <i>with Reverend Laird Borst</i>	4	5	6  chat'n'craft <u>1:30 pm</u> Chat'n'Craft (see pg 4)	7	1	2 9
					8	
10 10:30 am DANISH 5. søndag efter påske <i>Johannes 17, 1-11</i> <i>Jesus sidste bøn</i>	11	12 <u>7:00 pm</u> Board Meeting	13	14 <u>11:00 am</u> Operation Friendship (see pg 11)	15	16 <u>10:00 am</u> Men's Breakfast Club (see pg 4)
17 10:30 am ENGLISH 6th Sunday after Easter <i>John 17, 20-26</i> <i>Jesus prays for all believers</i> <i>with Reverend Laird Borst</i> <i>with our friends from St. John's</i>	18	19 <u>6:30 pm</u> Ansgar Choir Practice	20 <u>12 noon</u> Hyggeklubben	21	22	23
24 10:30 am ENGLISH PENTECOST <i>John 14, 15-21</i> <i>Jesus promises the Holy Spirit</i> Ansgar 1200th Anniversary Potluck lunch	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 10:30 am ENGLISH Trinity Sunday <i>Matthew 28, 16-20</i> <i>The Great Commission</i> Confirmation Sunday 					SPECIAL THIS MONTH: May 6 Craft'n'Chat May 20 Hyggeklubben May 24 Potluck Lunch May 31 Confirmation	

JUNE 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3  1:30 pm Chat'n'Craft (see pg 4)	4	5	6
7 10:30 am DANISH 1.søndag efter trinitatis Lukas 12, 13-21 Lignelsen on den rige bonde	8	9 7:00 pm Board Meeting	10	11 11 am Operation Friendship (see pg 11)	12	13 10:00 am Men's Breakfast Club (see pg 4)
14 10:30 am ENGLISH 2nd Sunday after Trinity Luke 14, 25-35 The cost of being a disciple with Reverand Laird Borst	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 10:30 am ENGLISH 3rd Sunday after Trinity Luke 15, 11-32 The parable of the lost son With our friends from St.John's	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 10:30 am ENGLISH 4th Sunday after Trinity Matthew 5, 43-48 Love for enemies Family Service BBQ and Hotdog lunch to follow	29	30			SPECIAL THIS MONTH: June 3 Craft'n'Chat June 13 Men's Breakfast June 28 Family service and BBQ lunch	

DANISH COMMUNITY NEWS

For Danes and Canadians in Edmonton
The Danish Canadian Society

DANIA

Dances - Camp outs - Children's Events - Newsletter



President Lis Walker
780.433.9932

daniaedmonton@gmail.com or
daniapresident@gmail.com



Danes Worldwide

Danes Worldwide is an organization that represents Danes who live abroad for personal or career reasons.

Its activities include educational programmes, local networking around the world, and participation in public debate in matters relevant to its members.

Check out their website www.danes.dk

COMING UP IN THE SCANDINAVIAN COMMUNITY:

SKT HANS AFTEN PICNIC

SATURDAY, JUNE 20th
4 - 8 pm

Go to danishclubedmonton.com
for more info

The Church basement was packed on April 17th for the annual Frikadeller Dinner and Contest.

The Danish Women's Group served up delicious salads to accompany an array of Frikadeller, each batch with their own personal touch, and lots of æblekage for dessert.



Three judges sampled blind taste tests to reach the conclusion that Pastor Jane had the best recipe this year, so she is the recipient of the coveted golden pan!

Tillykke Jane!
Congratulations!

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1200th Anniversary of Ansgar, the Apostle of the North

In connection with Pentecost this year, we will mark a major anniversary. It is 1200 years since Ansgar, the Apostle of the North, traveled to Denmark and brought Christianity with him - or at least, that is what has long been believed.

More recent research has raised some questions as to whether it was in the year 826. With events so far back in time, there is always a certain margin of uncertainty.

Nevertheless, this is the year the anniversary is being widely celebrated across Denmark, and it is therefore only fitting that we also mark the occasion here in our own Ansgar Church.

We will do so on Pentecost Sunday after the service, where I will share a short talk about Ansgar.

All are welcome!



Join us for a Potluck lunch in the church basement after the service. Gluten-free options appreciated

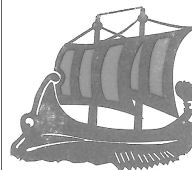
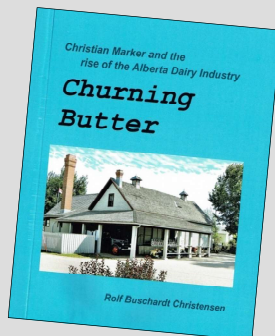
Danish Canadian Heritage Book

Free copies of previous issues are available in the Church basement.

The 2026 edition will be available for purchase soon.

Churning Butter *Christian Marker and the Rise of the Alberta Dairy Industry*

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Something to look forward to...

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Danish Women's Group will be holding a

Danish Baking WORKSHOP

**Saturday, September 26th
10 am - 3 pm**

Are you interested in learning how to Bake like a Dane and make those delicious traditional cookies? This is the opportunity to see how it's done!
No charge for this event - just bring your apron. Open to all ages and nationalities.

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CHURCH SERVICES

at McCauley Lodge

The church board has been discussing how we can give something back to the community here. One way is by holding services at our local care home, McCauley Lodge, where we already visit once a month to serve a meal.

After speaking with the management, I have agreed to hold two memorial services during the year for those who have passed away at McCauley Lodge, as well as one service before Christmas and one before Easter.

In this connection, I am looking for volunteers to help with the music. If you play a portable instrument and can accompany hymn singing and if you are able to set aside about an hour from time to time for a service for the residents at McCauley Lodge, I would be very happy to hear from you.

Pastor Jane Marie Sognstrup
780-422-8777



Thank you to Bent Skousbøl for serving on the Board as our treasurer for the past 13 years.

We appreciate all your hard work, Bent.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Edmonton's Food Bank

Ansgar Church is located in an area of Edmonton where Food Bank donations are vital for the community. We therefore would encourage our members and congregation to donate to this worthy cause.

Scan this QR code to make a monetary donation today.

There will also be a donation box in the church for food items.



Donate a Car Canada accepts old vehicles for Ansgar. Free towing is provided in most areas across Canada or you can drop off your car to maximize your



donation. When you donate your car, truck, RV, boat or motorcycle, it will either be recycled or re-sold (depending on its condition, age and location). Donate a Car Canada will look after the details to make it easy for Ansgar Church to benefit.

You will receive a tax receipt after your donation has been processed!

Go to www.ansgar.ca and click on the DONATE tab to learn more

OPERATION friendship

Ansgar Church has been a longtime supporter of Operation Friendship – a program to assist low-income seniors with meals, toiletries and clothing. Operation Friendship concentrates its efforts on its 5 Seniors' Lodges.

Ansgar Church is continuing our support in a different setting. We are still providing a lunch of stew and dessert, but are now assigned to McCauley Lodge, located very near Ansgar Church. We serve around 40 lodge residents and are able to visit and interact with them on a more personal level.

We are looking for volunteers willing to spend about 2 hours on the 2nd Thursday of each month to help with this worthwhile cause.

Please call Valerie Sorensen at 780-973-6526 for more information or to join our group.

The Ansgar Church Family Camp at



Friday August 7 to Sunday August 9, 2026

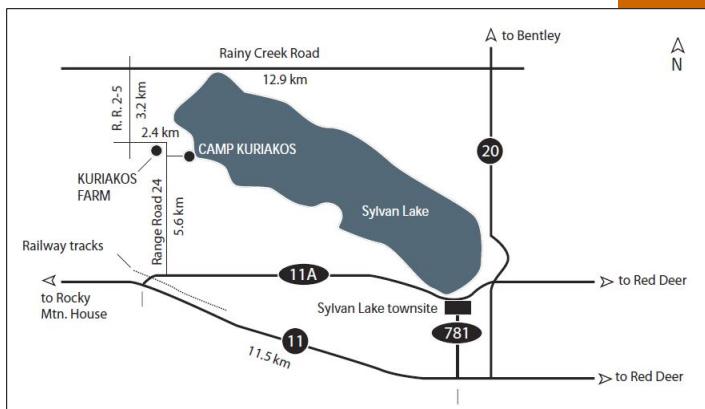
Join us this year for a
fun and festive camp!

The camp will begin at the campfire at about
7 pm. We will share some bonfire snacks.

On the Saturday, there will be a special
program with many fun activities for the kids.
The adults will gather in the morning for
discussion and fellowship. In the afternoon,
there will be time for lakefront activities and
sauna as well as games and social time.

On the Sunday, we will celebrate a casual
Ansgar Sunday Service!

Camp Kuriakos is beautifully located
at Sylvan Lake near Red Deer.



Register by July 3rd

with Pastor Jane pastor@ansgar.ca
or 780-422-8777

Here's what former campers are saying about their stay at Camp Kuriakos:

Mia and Charlie always look forward to their yearly trip to Camp Kuriakos at Sylvan Lake with Bedste and the Ansgar congregation. They love the songs, the campfire, and spending time together - especially with all the other kids. The camp is full of fun with climbing, games, and water activities, plus crafts and kids' time with their counsellor. Mia especially loves swimming and warming up in the Sauna, while Charlie is happiest running wild and playing with the other kids.

Ghita Terry

I have attended Camp Kuriakos three times and enjoy the campfires, walks, water activities and just getting away from the city for a couple of days. There is fun to be had for both adults and children.

Dorrit Morrow

The Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church invites all families to a special community weekend at Camp Kuriakos on Sylvan Lake. Families can stay in the lodge — each room with a queen bed and single bunk beds — or choose to tent or bring an RV. All meals and accommodation are included in one registration price, with final pricing and menu details to be provided when confirmed. Camp Kuriakos offers something for everyone: canoeing, kayaking, swimming, archery, hiking, crafts, campfires, soccer fields, horse-shoes, and indoor fun like ping-pong and foosball. There is also a beautiful chapel on-site for a Special Service on Sunday. This weekend is more than a getaway. It's a chance for our children to meet other Danish kids, build friendships, and experience the traditions that connect us across generations.

**When we come together, we strengthen the ties that bind us.
When our children engage with one another,
they carry our traditions forward.**

We warmly encourage all families to attend and take part in this meaningful experience. Your presence ensures that our Danish culture remains vibrant, shared, and alive for the next generation.

Jasha Skousbøl

We have gone to Camp Kuriakos for many years now with the kids. It is so nice to get out of town, enjoy the sauna, lake and sunsets. We use this as a time to connect with our church

family, and literal family!
If you are curious about Kuriakos,
it is a nice time.

Ghitta Tessier

