

I am writing this as we move closer to the winter solstice, when the days are short and sometimes dark. By the time this newsletter is published, the days will already be a little longer and we will have entered a new year.

At New Year, it is common to look back on the year that has passed. For some, the year may have looked very much like previous years, like a string of pearls. For others, the year brought change.

For me, this year has added many new experiences and much joy to my life. I am learning a great deal as I try to absorb and understand what life is like here in Edmonton, in Canada, what occupies the minds and thoughts of the people who live here, and how I can contribute here, where I am now placed.

The word that comes to mind when I think of this past year is gratitude. I am grateful to be allowed to serve as pastor to a wonderful community in a beautiful church. I am grateful for all the help and understanding we received during the process of moving here, both from people back home — friends, family, and congregation — and from DDKU, as well as from the community here in Edmonton: the board, the congregation, and all the volunteers around Ansgar Church. When we moved here, it seemed to me that the path was cleared for us.

Not only am I grateful; I am also impressed. I am impressed by all the work done by the volunteers here:

board members, deacons, the women's group, the choir, and many more. It is deeply inspiring to see the engagement in the life of Ansgar Church.

And now we are all entering a new year. What will this year bring us, and how will we receive it? Will we enter the new year full of worries and regrets, like Lucy from



**The Rocket**

Painting by Edward Middleton Manigault (1887-1922)

*Peanuts*, who says: "I hate this year, everyone says things would be better but they're not. I don't think this is a new year at all, I think we've been stuck with a used one!!" Or do we want to enter the new year with faith, courage, and optimism, believing that this truly is a new year that may bring new opportunities and new hope for the world?

*Continued on page 5*

## 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:ansgarnews@gmail.com) or 780-405-0966 for more information.

#### Deadline for submissions for the

March/April 2026  
Newsletter is  
**February 10, 2026**

Email submissions to [ansgarnews@gmail.com](mailto: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!

Bring in a book to share and borrow a book you haven't yet read - Danish or English.

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.



## NOTICE OF Annual Congregational Meeting February 22, 2026

Remember you must register to vote every year.

Voter registration cards will be available at the church.

Would you like to see this newsletter in

# COLOUR?

Go to our website [www.ansgar.ca](http://www.ansgar.ca) and click on the "NEWSLETTER" tab to view the colour version.

### Memorial Donations

have been received in memory of:

Bendt and Sonja  
Nielsen

Jens Jensen



*The Ansgar Congregation received a lovely Christmas card from the Hultberg family in Germany, hand-delivered by their son, Cordelius. The card will be available for all to see the drawing by Thaddeus and to read the warm greetings. It will be hanging on the bulletin board in the church basement.*

**Join our Sunday Services!**  
**Now live-streamed on our YouTube channel:**

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#### FACEBOOK:

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if you want to stay in touch!

*You can view this page without being on Facebook.*



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## *A Message from the Board*

Happy New Year!

Thank you to the Ansgar Danish Women's Group, Birgit Wildenhoff and family, Ansgar board members and all others for their hard work at our Christmas bazaar. It was a great success!

This year two groups of carollers visited members in their homes and hospitals, singing Christmas Carols in both Danish and English. Amelia Kaminski played violin and Werner Hain played accordion. It was a special afternoon for everyone. We hope more singers will join us next year.

Deacon's helpers: Thank you to the members who have been helping the deacons with their duties. It is truly appreciated.

Board members needed! The key position of Treasurer needs to be filled as Bent Skousbøl is retiring. Bent has held this position for 15 years and has done a fantastic job. He is willing to train the right person. Our meetings are held either on the second Tuesday evening or second Sunday afternoon each month. You are welcome to watch a meeting to see what it's all about. If you will let your name stand for any position, please let me know and plan to join us at our ACM on February 22.

Only one shift left at the Casino on January 19 and 20, please contact Angela Moroz to sign up. The proceeds will go toward finishing the repairs to the outside of the Church, updating the kitchen and basement in the Church, as well as other needs.

This year we are planning to form a fund-raising committee who will organize fund-raising events and assist other groups with their events.

Best wishes for good health and much joy in the year ahead.

Sincerely  
*Dorrit Morrow*

MENIGHEDSRAADET

## The Church Board 2025

*Dorrit Morrow*  
**President**  
780-722-9372

*Mette Rasmussen*  
**Vice-President**  
780-434-5071

*Maria Hjort Guiney*  
**Secretary**  
780-717-7910

*Bent Skousbøl*  
**Treasurer**  
780-458-7695

*Inge Fenger-Andersen*  
**Deacon**  
780-454-1679

*Angela Moroz*  
**Deacon**  
780-909-9115

*Kirsten Olsen*  
**Deacon**  
780-474-4254

*Daniel Aalto*  
**Trustee**  
780-729-8634

*Lis Walker*  
**Trustee**  
780-691-8130

**VACANT**  
**Trustee**

Pastor  
Jane Marie Sognstrup

Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church  
9554-108A Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 1C1

**780-422-8777**

[www.ansgar.ca](http://www.ansgar.ca)

## Ansgar Group Activities

### DANISH WOMEN'S GROUP

The members of the Women's Group are very grateful to all the volunteers who helped mount the Christmas Bazaar at the end of November!! Thank you. This event is our major fundraiser for the Church and we are so pleased that this year was the most successful Bazaar ever. The German Cultural Centre was packed to capacity, with 340 attendees.

Thanks to all of you who came to support our fund-raising effort. We hope you enjoyed the fresh Smørrebrød sandwiches, the tasty Christmas baking, and whatever gifts or auction items you purchased! Of course, the Bazaar is also an occasion for reconnecting with friends and family, and we all enjoyed that!

After a December break, the women will be back to work, preparing and assisting with activities for 2026. Our next fun event is the Frikadeller Supper on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Keep your eyes on the Newsletter for confirmation of upcoming special events.

*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*

*Pastor Jane will be on vacation from February 23rd - March 9th. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, please call Dorrit Morrow at 780-722-9372.*

### THE ANSGAR SINGERS

There are no choir practices scheduled for January/February at this time. Our next rehearsal will be on March 29 in preparation for Easter Sunday.

*For more information or if you are interested in becoming a choir member, please contact Amelia at ameliakaminski@gmail.com or 780-428-6187.*

### HYGGEKLUBBEN

Already 2026! Happy New year everyone and all the best in the coming year.

New start for Hyggeklubben: In January we get together on the 21st. Pastor Jane and her husband Werner will be there to share some of their life stories with us on that day. Our February date is the 18th.

*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. Hope to see you there. Randi Mark.*

### MORGENKAFFE PÅ DANSK



We will meet again at 9 am on January 11th and February 8th.

### CHAT'N'CRAFT



We will get-together in the parsonage at 1:30 pm on January 14th and February 4th. Bring your knitting or whatever craft you have on the go.

## 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 our treasurer Bent Skousbøl at 780-458-7695 or**

**Email: [ansgartreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:ansgartreasurer@gmail.com)**



*God of life,  
 I thank you for my life with all that it has given me.  
 I give thanks for the small joys of everyday life,  
 for every tree and every bush, for the song of birds  
 and for the people whom I meet, and for those to whom I am bound.  
 There is still much that makes my life rich.  
 Lord, keep in me a wakeful awareness of the richness of my days.  
 I will not complain about what weighs me down,  
 but rejoice that I can trust in your faithfulness and your forgiveness.  
 Help me, Lord, that I may meet the people  
 among whom I live with open eyes.  
 I do not know how much time you will still grant me.  
 Therefore I will thank you, God,  
 for every single day and every hour that you let me live.  
 Amen*

*continued from page 1*

Whatever our mindset, we will enter this new year *together* as a community and a congregation, with gratitude for the days we are given and with faith that God, in his mercy, will be with us and shield us in the days to come, no matter what they may bring. Jesus says "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age". He is with us when we are sick or sorrowful, when we are in good health and well off - he is with us always. He was with us all the days of the year that is ending and He will be with us all the days of the year to come.

Wishing everyone a happy and blessed  
 New Year,  
 Pastor Jane Marie Sognstrup



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 motorcycles, it will either be recycled or re-sold (depending on it's 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!

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# JANUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>SPECIAL THIS MONTH:</b> January 10 <b>Mandeklubben/Men's Club</b>  January 14 <b>Craft'n'Chat</b>  January 14 <b>Frikadeller and Fairytales</b>				<b>1</b> <b>NEW YEARS DAY</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 10:30 am <b>DANISH</b> <b>Helligtrekongers søndag</b> Mattæus 2,1-12	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 11:00 am Operation Friendship (see pg 11)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 11:00 am Mandeklubben (see pg 12)
<b>11</b> 10:30 am <b>ENGLISH</b> <b>1st Sunday after Epiphany</b> Mark 10,13-16  9 am Morgenkaffe på Dansk 12:30 pm Board Meeting 	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  1:30 pm Chat'n'Craft (see pg 4)  6:00 - 9:00 pm Frikadeller and Fairytales (see pg 11)	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 10:30 am <b>ENGLISH</b> <b>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</b> John 4, 5-26  With our friends from St.John's  12:30-1:30 pm Singing Circle	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 12 noon Hyggeklubben	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 10:30 am <b>ENGLISH</b> <b>Last Sunday after Epiphany</b> John 12, 23-33	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10:00 am Danish Women's Group (see pg 4)	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

# FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> 4:30 pm <b>DANSK/ENGLISH</b> <b>KYNDELMISSE/CANDLEMAS</b> <b>Septuagesima</b> Mattæus 25, 14-30  <u>3 pm</u> Pancakes & Coffee (see pg 12)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  <u>1:30 pm</u> Chat'n'Craft (see pg 4)  <u>6:00 - 9:00 pm</u> Frikadeller and Fairytale (see pg 11)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 11:00 am Mandeklubben (see pg 12)
<b>8</b> 10:30 am <b>ENGLISH</b> <b>Seksagesima</b> Mark 4, 26-32  <u>9 am</u> Morgenkaffe på Dansk  <u>12:30 pm</u> Board Meeting	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 11 am Operation Friendship (see pg 11)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 10:30 am <b>ENGLISH</b> <b>FASTELAVN FAMILY SERVICE</b> Luke 18, 31-43  Fastelavn celebration after the service (see pg 12)  With our friends from St. John's	<b>16</b> <b>FAMILY DAY</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 12 noon Hyggeklubben	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6:00 pm Hygge Night (see pg 12)	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 10:30 am <b>ENGLISH</b> <b>1st Sunday of Lent</b> Luke 22, 24-32  <u>12:15 pm</u> <b>ANNUAL</b> <b>CONGREGATIONAL</b> <b>MEETING</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10:00 am Danish Women's Group (see pg 4)	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>SPECIAL THIS MONTH:</b> February 1 Pancakes & coffee at 3 pm February 4 Frikadeller & Fairytale February 7 Men's Club February 15 Fastelavn Celebration February 20 Hygge Night February 22 Annual Congregational Meeting						

## 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



#### COMING UP IN THE SCANDINAVIAN COMMUNITY:

##### January 11 at 2 pm Sons of Norway

Presentation by Natalie Van Deusen on Norse Mythology at Greenfield Hall, 3803-114 Street

##### January 15 at 6 pm Torskeklubben

at Three Vikings for smørrebrød. Buy your ticket here: <https://www.torskeklubben.ca/meetings>

##### January 18 Dania

Julehygge i januar

RSVP at [danishclubedmonton.com](http://danishclubedmonton.com)

##### January 27 Scandinavian Heritage

**Society's** monthly meeting. Come help plan the 2026 Scandinavian tent for Heritage Days.

**January 29-30** Casino volunteers needed for the Finnish Society. If you can help out,

contact [yegfinnish@gmail.com](mailto:yegfinnish@gmail.com)

##### February 3 at 6 pm - Torskeklubben

Guest speaker Rosella Bjornson, the first female airline jet pilot in Canada!

<https://www.torskeklubben.ca/meetings>

##### February 13 12 - 8 pm Birkiebeiner Nordic

Fair. Ansgar is planning to have a table there and can use some help to promote the church. Contact the church board.

## Frikadelle SUPPER & CONTEST

### SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars and book your tickets  
for the annual Frikadeller Supper.

**MARCH 13, 2026**



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## Christmas Bazaar



Oh, what fun we had!

## Christmas Caroling



The busy Christmas season at Ansgar

## Santa Lucia

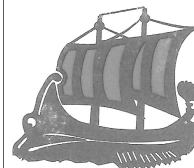
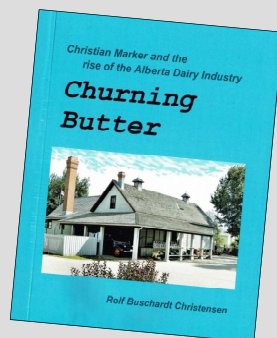


The 2025 edition of the **Danish Canadian Heritage Book** is now available at Ansgar for the purchase price of \$20.00

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## Monthly Singing Circle

Everyone is invited to join a new event at Ansgar Church starting in January! Every third Sunday from January through March at 12:30 - 1:30 we will sing for fun in English and Danish.

**NOTE: No singing group on Fastelavn Sunday**

More information to follow in the New Year!

- Danish mother/daughter team
- Decluttering, organization and storage solutions
- Small or large spaces welcome
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We look forward to creating your Hygge Space!



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# Frikadeller & Fairy Tales

## **Winter Evenings for Young Adults (Ages 14–25)**

Join us for cozy winter gatherings with a shared meal, meaningful conversations, and classic storytelling.

Ansgar Church invites you to three special evenings this winter. Each night we explore one of H.C. Andersen's world-famous fairy tales, sing its themes to spark conversations about identity, longing, faith, friendship, love, and what it truly means to be human.

On the first evening, we begin with a short introduction to H.C. Andersen. We meet at 6 pm

and eat together. Afterwards, we read a fairy tale and talk about selected themes based on the story. The evening ends at 9 pm.

Dates:

**January 14**

**February 4**

**March 18**

Sign up by the Sunday before.

Come for the food and company. Stay for the stories. Leave with something to think about.

## **CASINO FUNDRAISER**

Ansgar Church has our Casino volunteer commitment coming up on January 19 and 20, 2026.

The funds we receive from this event go a long way in offsetting our operating costs.

Thank you to everyone who has already stepped forward to volunteer for shifts.

We have only one more position left to fill:

**January 20, 2026**

**Cashier 6:30 PM - 3:30 AM**

If you, or someone you know, would be willing to fill this position, please reach out to **Angela Moroz at 780-909-9115.**

## **OPERATION** *friendship*

Ansgar Church has been a longtime supporter of Operation Friendship – a program to assist low-income seniors with meals, toiletries and clothing. Our dedicated volunteers provided and served, once each month at McCauley Seniors' Drop-in Centre, a meal of stew with ice cream & fruit sauce for dessert.

Operation Friendship has undergone a reorganization and no longer operates a Drop-in Program; it now concentrates its efforts on its 5 Seniors' Lodges.

Ansgar Church has been invited to continue our support in a different setting. We will still be providing a lunch of stew and dessert, but we will now be assigned to McCauley Lodge, located very near Ansgar Church. We will serve around 40 lodge residents and be 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.**

## **Hygge Night** with Pizza and Board Games

A relaxed evening for young people  
at Ansgar Church. Doors open at 6:00 pm.

**Friday, February 20th**

We will enjoy pizza and  
play board or card games.  
Feel free to bring your favourite games.

*Please sign up by the Sunday before the event  
by contacting Pastor Jane at  
780-994-1938 or 780-422-8777.*

## **Candlemas and Pancakes** **Sunday, February 1**

Candlemas is an ancient Catholic tradition  
marking the midpoint of winter. It was  
traditionally the day when new candles  
were blessed and consecrated for use in  
the church. In Denmark, many old folk  
traditions were connected to Candlemas  
(*Kyndelmisse*), including the custom  
of eating pancakes.

This year, at Ansgar Church, we will gather  
on Candlemas Sunday to enjoy pancakes  
and coffee and to hear about the traditions  
and superstitions associated with  
Candlemas. This will be followed by a  
liturgical service with readings, music,  
and a reflection on Jesus Christ  
as the Light of the World.

**Coffee and pancakes: 3:00 pm**  
**Church service: 4:30 pm**

The service will be in Danish, with English  
translations of the readings and reflection.

# **FASTELAVN**

Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church

**February 15th,  
10:30 am**

Family service and traditional,  
Danish Shrovetide traditions.

Fastelavn is the old, Danish way to prepare for  
Lent. It's tradition to dress up in costumes,  
though not required it is encouraged.

We will "Hit the Barrel" and enjoy some  
fun and refreshments after the service.

---

At the request of the parish council,  
I would like to offer myself to work for a restart of the

## **THE MEN'S CLUB**

It would be wonderful if we could bring together  
the men of the church for some fellowship and fun.

The idea is that we get together once a month in the  
churches basement to discuss the state of the world,  
share some bread, and act constructively for the church.

There are many ideas for this. Therefore, at the first  
meeting, we will gather all good ideas so that we can  
afterwards create an action plan for the club's activities.

**The meeting day will be the first Saturday of the  
month, with the first meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026,  
at 11:00 AM. Future meeting dates and times  
will be arranged on this day.**

If you have any questions, you are welcome to call me  
at 780 655 3227.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Werner Hain

(Pastor Jane's husband)