

BÆRER
HVERANDRES
BYRDER



CELEBRATING

100

YEARS

OF

ANSGAR

CHURCH



JANUARY
FEBRUARY

2023

What a Christmas we had this winter after two years of lock down. We are all grateful for what we had this Christmas of joy and fellowship. But now, after Christmas, everything seems to become a little bleak and boring. All the ornaments are gone together with the candy and festivity, the singing and gifting. We are back to daily life again, most of us. No more celebrations.

But not at Ansgar! Because at Ansgar we celebrate every Sunday year-round. Maybe not Christmas, the birth of Christ. But then, Easter Morning every Sunday. We celebrate the resurrection of Christ every Sunday throughout the year. The feast is simply not over at Ansgar. We sing and praise the Lord every Sunday that we can live and breath every day as new creations. The celebration is simply not over at Ansgar when the Christmas tree is gone, and the last Christmas carol sung. The feast continues here with us on this earth as forever in God.



I must of course also say that there are several wonderful festivals in the first two months of the calendar year. Christmas is not everything in our Church. In the new year, we celebrate Epiphany at the beginning of January as the end of the Christmas season, with the beginning increase of light and enlightenment in our life. Then we have Candlemas that has become a dear tradition at Ansgar with a special late afternoon service with candles and music. Finally, we enjoy a festive and fun Fastelavn, the Sunday before Lent, with a Family Service full of dressed-up children and adults - and with the "beating of the barrel", "slå katten af tønden", buns and songs in the basement after the service.

There is plenty to look forward to in the two coldest months of the year. I haven't even mentioned the joint services with Saint John's that we also look forward to. Not to mention that we are counting down to Ansgar's 100th Anniversary in the fall of this year.

Finally, we look forward to the last Sunday in February, where we after the service will gather in the Church basement for our Annual Congregational Meeting. This year the meeting is more exciting than ever as we will have several interesting projects that need the approval of the congregation. We have received a substantial donation from the Danish Lutheran Church "Granly" in Surrey that we must carefully use to revitalise our congregation and to secure our assets for future generations. We need to look ahead and understand that the celebration will continue for many years to come. We must use our prudence to ensure that the celebration will continue at Ansgar, and the song of joy and praise will keep resounding in our Sanctuary for generations to come

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 780-467-8900 for more information.

Deadline for submissions for the March/April 2023 News is February 10, 2023
Email submissions to ansgarnews@gmail.com

**ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 26, 2023
NOON**

Please register to vote

Voter Registration

As a registered Charity, Ansgar is by law required to keep an accurate record of our voting members. Our by-laws say that our members **must** register. It is now time to renew your Voting Member status.

In order to be able to vote at the Annual Congregational Meeting, the Board of Directors asks **all** members to register as a Voting Member by filling out and returning the enclosed form to the Church by February 12, at the latest. Registration forms are also available at the Church.

For any questions or concerns, please contact President of the Board of Directors, Kirsten Olsen at 780-474-4254

Memorial Donations have been received in memory of
Eva Christensen



Visitations

Home visits for those who are housebound or in the hospital can be scheduled by contacting the Pastor or any member of the Board, for prayer, fellowship and communion, depending on the needs of the individual.

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.

**Ansgar Church
Sunday Services Online**

You can access many of our Sunday services from past years at your convenience:

FACEBOOK:

You do not have to be on Facebook to view this page

<https://www.facebook.com/AnsgarChurch>

and follow the link.

OUR WEB PAGE:

www.ansgar.ca

Click on the "Videos" tab and view any of the videos from YouTube

OUR YouTube CHANNEL:

Ansgar Church on youtube



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if you want to stay in touch!

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A Message from the Board

January 2023 will be the start of a 100 Year Anniversary Celebration for Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church in Edmonton. So much to celebrate! When I re-read the history, it is amazing that our little Church has weathered so many years. Many obstacles and hard times mark these years: deficits, uncertainty where funds would come from to run the church, divisions within about the direction of the church, periods without a Pastor, uncertainty about use of the Danish language and so on. Some of these sound mighty familiar, but each has presented a crisis at the time - and we have survived. Over the years, tireless volunteers have contributed energy, talent and money to help the church survive and thrive. At the same time, they have built the Church community we still enjoy today.

We are starting this year with an extraordinary donation from our sister church at Granly, in Surrey, BC. This donation is allowing us to “think big”. We can now get started on necessary maintenance of the Church and Parsonage and begin to plan some new projects beyond the day-to-day operations of the Church. In November, we took over ownership of the neighbour house to the east of the church and are beginning to plan how to develop the lot to increase parking space and provide better access to the Church for our congregation. We will be working with the City over this year to develop an acceptable plan for use of this property.

For so many “Danes”, Ansgar has always been there to support newcomers, originally helping them to land successfully in a new country yet maintaining a connection with “the old country”. Ansgar has been there for us, keeping the familiarity of the Danish Lutheran service and sustaining our first language. As a church in Edmonton in 2023, we must continually examine how best we can serve our community. If we want to survive as a Danish church, we must be open to everyone while still maintaining this unique sense of who we are. Thus, we are connected to Denmark through DSUK (Danish Seamen and Churches Abroad) while remaining active in the life of the Edmonton community through our Church activity here.

The Church service is of course the primary reason for our being here, including important moments of our lives: the baptisms, confirmations, weddings and funerals. However, there is so much more going on at Ansgar. Pastor Lasse and his family have really connected to the lives of our congregation in so many ways. They have with determination tried “new things” and have fostered so much the inclusiveness of the Ansgar family, trying to open our church and welcome all. God has richly blessed our Church and made Ansgar a meeting place. God is meeting us through His Word and we are meeting each other in a fellowship that goes beyond the Church walls.

Let us celebrate the first 100 years with gratitude and look forward to many more years to come.

Here’s wishing you all a very a Happy, healthy and exciting New Year!

Kirsten Olsen,

On behalf of the Board

MENIGHEDSRAADET

The Church Board 2022/2023

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780-474-4254

Dorrit Morrow
Vice-President
780-722-9372

Mette Rasmussen
Secretary
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Bent Skousbøl
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John Sørensen
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Susanne Reid
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Niels Hansen
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Trustee
780-909-5380

Daniel Aalto
Trustee
780-729-8634

Pastor Lasse Hultberg

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

780-422-8777

ansgar@telusplanet.net
www.ansgar.ca

EASIEST WAY TO DONATE

You can donate to our church on a regular monthly basis by simply contacting the treasurer. Bent 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 Skousbol
780-458-7695

Operation Friendship

Ansgar Church continues to support Operation Friendship at the McCauley Senior's Drop-In Centre.

We sponsor a nutritious meal once a month.

Although we are no longer able to serve the meal during the pandemic, your financial support is always welcome.

This means you can, in an easy way, support this outreach program and still get a tax receipt. A suggested donation could be \$10.00 per month.

Thank you for your caring and help!

Esther Sørensen
780-452-3678

Ansgar Group Activities

DANISH WOMEN'S GROUP

The Women's Group was very pleased with the success of The Christmas Bazaar at the end of November. We were uncertain how many would turn up for this first open Bazaar in years, but we were pleased by a big crowd of enthusiastic families and friends. It was so good to see everyone enjoying visiting and catching up with each other.

The overall profit from all the activities this year was \$11,673.00, much more than past recent years. This will of course be donated to the Church. **Thanks** to the many folks who made donations and did a lot of baking. And, a special "Thank you" to the two dozen or so individuals who helped us in so many ways on the day. We couldn't have done it without you!!

The next meeting of the Women's Group will be Tuesday, January 24th at 11:00 am. Any woman who is a member of the congregation is welcome. Bring a lunch and join us at the Church.

Our regular monthly meetings are open to any woman in the congregation. Check the church calendar for meeting dates. Contact Jeanna at 780-474-4254 for more info.

THE ANSGAR SINGERS

The Ansgar Singers will sing again in the new year. We will sing for the Candlemas and rehearse on January 22 after the service.

For more info or to join the choir contact Pastor Lasse at ansgar@telus.net

MEN'S BREAKFAST

We need volunteers for the Men's Breakfast. We will resume activities as soon as we are covered.

Please contact Pastor Lasse at 780 422 8777.

HYGGEKLUBBEN

My best wishes to you all for a great 2023. In January we meet on the 18th where we will hygge us with sharing happenings in 2022 - what we call a free for all! In February we meet on the 15th and our friend Jasha Skousbøl will be sharing some of her history. I promise it will be interesting.

We meet at the church on the third Wednesday of every month at 12 noon.

Everyone brings something light to share for lunch. We sing from Højskole Sangbogen, visit and hygge is the main menu. Of course the coffee pot is always on. Hope to see you there!

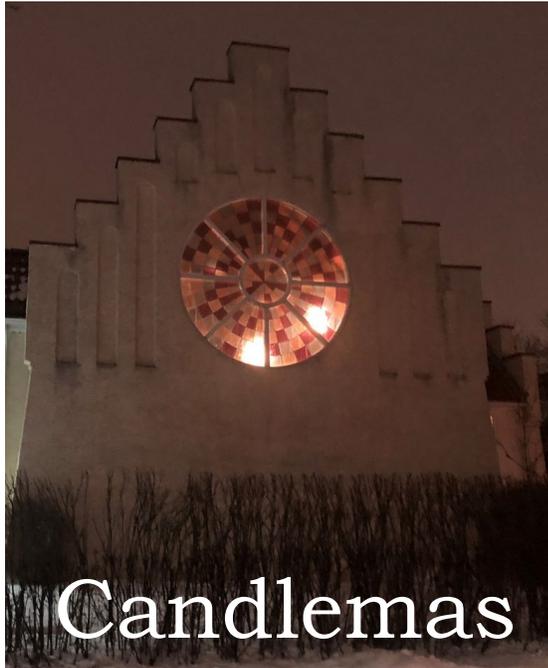
Randi Mark

Continued from page 1

who will also need to live and breath as new creations in the light of Easter Morning.

See you all for many wonderful celebrations and interesting meetings in this new and exiting year of our congregation's 100th Anniversary.

God bless you all,
Pastor Lasse



Sunday, January 29, 4:30 pm

Candlemas is an ancient tradition. It celebrates the 40th day after the birth of Jesus when Mary according to the Mosaic Law went to the Temple to take part in a cleansing ritual. And Simeon, a prophet living in the Temple recognised that Jesus was the light of this world.

The day also marks that we are halfway through winter and that the light has returned to our part of the world. It was also the tradition to consecrate the candles to be used in the church for the entire year.

At Ansgar we will mark the day with an evening service where we light the candles on our Church's Menorah (chandelier with 7 arms) one by one in celebration of the returning light. The Ansgar singers will take part in this celebration.

After the service, we invite you all for a "hyggelig" potluck supper.

Services in Danish

To provide you with the best services and to strengthen the fellowship and sense of belonging, we will continue this winter to offer you worship in Danish with English sermon. The liturgy and the readings will be in Danish, but we will hand out translations into English for those who have no or limited knowledge of Danish. Most hymns can be sung in both Danish and English. The sermon will be in English. In this way we can preserve the Danish language and invite the entire congregation every Sunday.

with
English
Sermon

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JANUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 NO SERVICE AT ANSGAR	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 10:30 am DANSK with English sermon 1.søndag efter Helligtrekonger Lukas 2, 41-52	9	10 7:00 pm Board Meeting	11	12	13	14
15 10:30 am ENGLISH 2nd Sunday after Epiphany John 2, 1-11 Choir Rehearsal	16	17	18 12 noon Hyggeklubben	19 9:30 am Study Group	20	21
22 10:30 am ENGLISH 3rd Sunday after Epiphany Matthew 8, 1-13	23	24 11:00 am Danish Women's Club	25	26	27	28
29 4:30 pm ENGLISH Last Sunday after Epiphany Matthew 17, 1-9 CANDLEMAS Luke 2, 22-32 Potluck supper to follow	30	31			SPECIAL THIS MONTH: January 1 No service at Ansgar Church January 29 at 4:30 pm Candlemas Service & Potluck supper	

FEBRUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SPECIAL THIS MONTH: February 19, 10:30 am Fastelavn February 12, 11:00 am Joint service at St. John's Church February 26, 12 noon Annual Congregational Meeting			1	2 <i>9:30 am</i> Study Group	3	4
5 <i>10:30 am</i> DANSK with English sermon Septuagesima Mattæus 20, 1-16	6	7 <i>7:00 pm</i> Ansgar Board Meeting	8	9	10	11
12 <i>11:00 am</i> ENGLISH Seksuagesima Markus 4, 1-20 Joint service with the congregation at St. John's Lutheran Church	13	14	15 <i>12 noon</i> Hyggeklubben	16 <i>9:30 am</i> Study Group	17	18
19 <i>10:30 am</i> ENGLISH FASTELAVN Matthew 3, 13-17	20	21 <i>11:00 am</i> Danish Women's Club	22	23	24	25
26 <i>10:30 pm</i> ENGLISH 1st Sunday in Lent Matthew 4, 1-11 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at 12 noon	27	28				

DANISH COMMUNITY NEWS

★★★

Scandinavian Folk Dance

Thursdays, 7 – 9 pm

King Edward Academy, 8625-101 Street

Why not have fun, learn about Scandinavian culture and get some exercise?

Join the Edmonton Scandinavian folk dancers and get it all!

For more information contact Tim Lambert at hobbest@telusplanet.net



The Ansgar DVD collection

Ansgar is in possession of a collection of DVDs with Danish movies and TV-series. The collection covers all kinds of genres and there are old as well as newer movies and TV-series.

If you are interested in Danish movies and culture don't hesitate to have a look in the catalogue, which you find in the Church Basement together with the collection.

Please register the DVDs you borrow and bring them back in undamaged condition for others to enjoy.

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

BAZAAR 2022

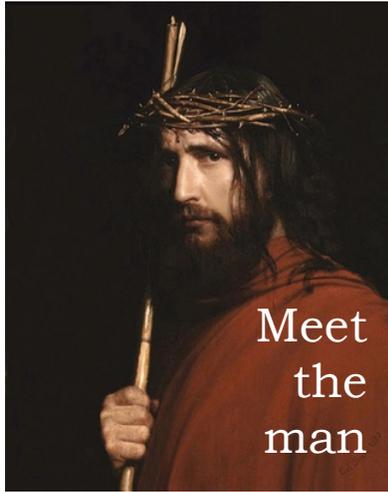


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Meet
the
man

The study group is active again. We meet approximately every second Thursday at 9:30 am. First time in the new year is January 19.

This year we will continue reading short selections from the Gospels with a meditative approach. Pastor Lasse will guide us to find peace and awareness on our

way through the Gospel. We will also talk about how we experience our encounter with the Gospel. All thoughts and feelings are acceptable. We share and listen in respect to each person's unique experiences. No prior knowledge is required.

Family Sundays

January 15

February 19

Come and meet
Hosannah in the Highest
at the Ansgar Family Sundays



From left: Hosannah, Thaddæus and Pastor Lasse

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Sunday School Teachers Wanted

Children are our future!

We would like our Church to be welcoming to the children and families at every English service. We are calling for Sunday School teachers who will work with our Pastor to bring the faith and the traditions of our Church to the new generation.

To the right persons who will commit to a persistent presence and effort, there will possibly be a small honorarium available.

Contact Pastor Lasse at 780.422.8777 or email ansgar@telusplanet.net

FASTELAVN

Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church
February 19th, 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.

The taste of Bornholm... The taste of a fairy tale



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Bornholmer Jule 42% (Christmas Akvavit) is a golden aquavit, which has an outstanding smooth and well-rounded taste of clover and orange. A feast for both the eye and the mouth.



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Bornholmer 1855 Traditions

Akvavit 42% is an elegant, smooth and golden aquavit, flavoured with a mild taste of dill and herbs from the traditional recipe of 1855.



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Joint Services

with our friends at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church



February 12
at 11 am
*Saint John's
Lutheran Church*



March 12
at 11 am
*Ansgar Danish
Lutheran
Church*

This year, we will celebrate again with our neighbours at Saint John's. We are less than a block apart. It is so nice to have good neighbours and to know them well.

We will worship together twice, once at Saint John's and once at Ansgar. After the services we will have a light lunch. We'll get the conversation going and try to inspire each other in how to continue to thrive as Lutheran Churches in our time and at our place.

It will be festive, inspiring, and "hyggeligt".

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Calling Volunteers

Why should you volunteer????

*Because you can fight off
memory loss and dementia
while you are at it!*

1. Keep your blood pressure in check. You will meet others that have similar health issues and you can discuss this with your new friends.
2. Keep your blood sugars in check. You can compare recipes with each other and keep the sugar content of the food you eat to a minimum. Sugar is not a natural ingredient in Danish cooking and there has never been sugar cane grown in Denmark. Sugar beets maybe.
3. Get good quality sleep. Soft pillows and feather duvets and cool bedrooms are extremely Scandinavian.
4. Eat good nutritious food. There is so much to be said about good wholesome homemade food and there are many members eager to share how this is done.
5. Don't smoke. Not too many do any more, but there are still some around that can tell you the problems you can get if you do smoke.
6. Make social connections and go to dinner parties. There are several dinners each year that are delicious and healthy in the church. Again, you may meet someone you haven't seen in years or someone completely new.
7. Continuously learn new skills and keep your brain active. There are so many different jobs that need to be done and even if you have never done some of them, you may surprise yourself of how good you can be.
8. If you are young, then go back and start from number 1



Valhalla's Distant Shore

By: Leif Gregersen
October 18, 2022

So dim is the light that shines upon my soul
Odin without my lover I never shall be whole

In life we sometimes roll the dice and pray for peace
But my wandering heart longs for death's release

I met my love before battle took its toll on me
Now I'm deep inside the fight and never shall be free

And so now as I stop to rest and pray
I summon up the will to face the day

Though I lead I am still led by those above
No time to waste to ponder unrequited love

Now, even as I rest, I prepare myself to die
For the flag that during a battle fell from the sky

Denmark is my land, my home, my pride
It is the birthplace of my love, my bride

Today the North Sea carries us to a distant land
Tomorrow will find us in battle hand to hand

It seems under the wind and above the waves
I hear the pounding of a drum that counts the days

Until I am dispatched to Valhalla's distant shore
And my mortal body shall simply be no more

Too little time is left for me to regret or reminisce
Except to daydream of my sweet lover's final kiss

I cross the seas and distant lands with battle weary men
Who, having battled hard will never be the same again

So many leave the lands of their family as we have done
As will so many young men until every war is won

As warriors we only have each other and our pain
Even knowing this each man would do it all again

<http://www.edmontonwriter.com>

Leif Gregersen is an Edmonton based writer living a stones throw away from the Ansgar Church.



**NATIVITY
PAGEANT
2022**

