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Newsletter Deadline: February 1, 2015



DANISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

210 – 10th Avenue N.E.

Calgary, T2E 0W9

December 2014-February, 2015



Pastor's Corner

Beautiful is the Earth" (melody of "Beautiful Savior"): About this hymn Bishop Ludwig, of Ålborg, wrote: "It sparkles with rays of light. Not a shadow can be found in it. Not a stone on the road. Not an idea of something dark and ugly. The earth is beautiful, and God's heaven is wonderful . The road between them goes through "earthly kingdoms" and we walk that path "with the song." Even the hard reality of death is only sensed as a part of the great progression towards the goal. But we can sing like that today?

Its history began in Germany, where it actually was completely forgotten for a long time until the German hymnologist Heinrich Hoffmann von Fallersleben, in the late 18th century, decided to travel through Silesia to track down the old, half-forgotten folk songs that once existed among the peasants.



It is understandable that Ingemann, the author of the Danish hymn could sing like this. His life passed quietly without any greater sorrows or tribulations, safe as a child's life. He even lived this idyllic life in one of Denmark's most beautiful regions, in the beautiful old town of Sorø. In his mouth these words for sure were real. But times have changed since then.

Earth is not beautiful anymore, at least that is how many will think when singing this old hymn. But are we right when thinking like that? The story of the hymn may shed some light on this question?

The results were published in 1842 under the Title "Silesian folk songs with their melodies", and in that publication was this wonderful melody of 'Beautiful is the Earth'.

The song was thought originally, to be an ancient medieval song which pilgrims had sung on their travel to the Holy Land.

Pastor Fenger, a good friend of B.S. Ingemann saw the hymn in 1850 in a German magazine and was captivated by its melody.

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He showed it to Ingeman and asked him to write "some good Danish words" to the melody and a few days after Ingemann sent Fenger this well-known little poem of three verses, based on the angels singing on Christmas night to the shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem. "Glory to God in the highest, peace on Earth and good will toward men."

Very beautiful and idyllic, indeed, but it must not be forgotten that, in the very days when Ingemann wrote the hymn, the idyll was broken in Denmark - in Sorø, as well. The first war of Schleswig was in full swing, and along the roads columns of soldiers were seen heading towards an uncertain fate, while people stood in fear and hope and waved goodbye.

Then came the Battle of Isted, on July 25 1850, with the loss of 862 young Danish men and 2362 wounded, it was one of the bloodiest battles in the history of Denmark.

Ingemann is believed to have composed the words a few days after this battle. Although Denmark won a victory at Isted; it was a dearly-bought victory.

And war seldom causes anything but hate, fear, resentment, despair, suffering and loss. Under these conditions Ingeman found, in the angelic Christmas tiding of peace on earth, an outlet for what he felt and what he thought the Danes needed to hear.

So the hymn is far from an idyllic embellishment, but it is a message, a gospel in a dark and heavy time. It doesn't speak about peace in general -

peace between nations - but about God's peace in the midst of struggle. It is the gospel of good news to a sinful earth and a fallen race.

Therefore, we can confidently go on singing:

"Beautiful is the earth!
Wonderful God's heaven!
Lovely the path that we walk along!
Souls on the pilgrim way
Through earthly kingdoms
We go to Paradise with song."
Even today where, among many others around the world, 9.5 million Syrians are fleeing the civil war in their country and a terrorist organization like ISIS is trying to seize the world's attention by spreading terror, death and destruction. We can still sing this hymn knowing it is true.

The hymn was also a clear winner among the 10 most popular hymns when, in 2000, an inter-Scandinavian study of the most popular hymns was made.

Merry Christmas C.B.

SPECIAL SERVICES

November 30th is the 1st Sunday in Advent!

We will start The New Church Year with a service at 4 pm in which **the children in our church will perform a Lucia procession.**

After the service there is a potluck downstairs.

The ham will be provided by the board. **Sign-up lists for salads and desserts are posted on the board at the entrance to the hall downstairs!**

Jens Lehmann
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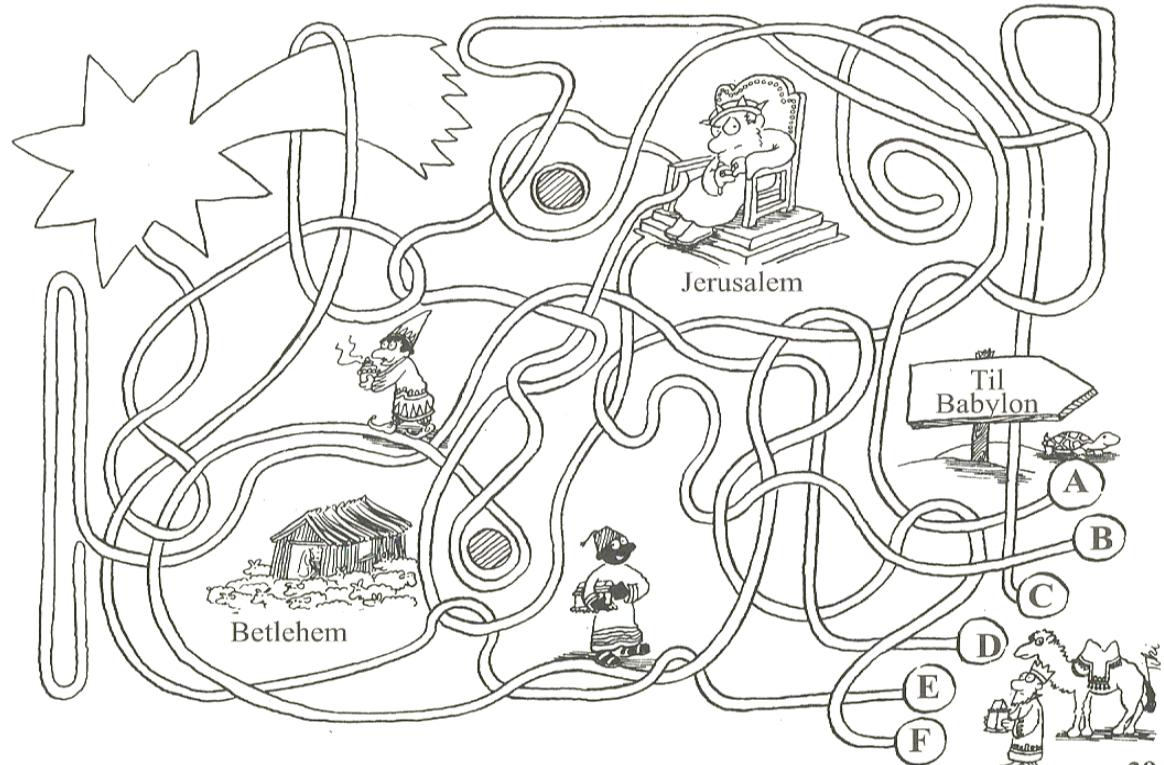
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Children's Corner

THE THREE WISE MEN AND THEIR TRAVELS

Which route did The Three Wise Men take?

(You can get help in Mathew chapter 2)



Brett Norman
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Please remember to sign up, so we will have an idea of how many will attend the dinner!

We look forward to celebrating this first Sunday of Advent with all of you!

December 7th at 10 am our children in the congregation will have a Christmas program during the service.

December 21st at 5 pm will be a **Star of David Service** filled with Christmas hymns.

December 24th the service at **2 pm** will be in **Danish**, the **3:30 pm** service will be in **English** and for the second time since we amalgamated there will be a **Candlelight service** at **7pm**.

Christmas Day service at **10 am** in **English**.

December 28th at 10 am the service will be a type of a Sing-along service where Danish as well as English Christmas hymns will be sung. Afterwards, pizza will be served in the hall and then we will have our **Christmas Tree Party**.

Santa, however, has already been so kind to tell us that he won't be able to make it this year. However, I think we will manage quite nicely without him, anyway. And for the coffee and because we are so close to New Year, Mary Jørgensen has promised to make a "Kransekage" again this year - *delicious!*

February 15th at 10 am we celebrate **Shrove/ Fastelavn** and though it is not a regular Family service Sunday, we will be decorating the church for this special Occasion and hope to see everyone in their special and fancy attire.

After the service, ham and pancakes will be served followed by "beating the barrel", Fastelavns buns and awarding a prize for the most fancifully dressed up child **and** adult.

We hope to see very many of you!

Ash Wednesday Evening Service

This year Lent, the more somber time of the Church Year, will begin with a service

February 18th at 7:30 pm.

This service will be assisted by the worship group of the church.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Julestue

En Hjertesag "Heart of the Matter".

Dec. 6th at 1-4 pm the traditional Julestue will be held. Gløgg, mulled cider for the children, aebleskiver and European hot dogs for a fee.



The beautiful handmade Christmas ornaments which were not sold at the bazaar, can be also purchased.

You can learn how to make the traditional Danish woven hearts and stars too (please bring your own scissors and glue).

Hope to see a lot of you for a nice Christmas preparation day.

Sunday School Notes:

Sunday School classes continue for the children on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. **Dates are December 7, January 18, and February 1 and 15.**

(Due to the Christmas break from school there will not be Sunday School on December 21 or January 4.)

Our theme this year is, "Following Jesus". On the Sundays when there is no Sunday School class there are DVDs to watch while the adults are listening to the sermon.

Our Christmas program with the children is during the Church service on Sunday, **December 7th**.

We continue to collect funds for the village well that we plan on paying for through Canadian Lutheran World Relief.

The cost for a well for a poor community in the third world is \$1900.

We are at \$1681 as of November 2, so we hope to reach our goal around Christmas time.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us so far with this project!

If you have any questions about Sunday School please call Karen at [403-208-2717](tel:403-208-2717).

NOTE! Danish classes for adults beginners as well as the advanced class are cancelled between Dec. 2 and Jan. 31.

Due to my vacation in January, the Christmas holiday will be very long this year!

We will not start our classes again until **Saturday, January 31st** for the adult beginners and **Tuesday, February 3rd** for the advanced class.

Sing-a-long

The Sing-a-longs in Danish *and* English at the Church start

December 11th with our traditional **Christmas Sing-along** and then we continue throughout the winter:



Thursday, January 15th, & February 19th, all at 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm in the hall of the church.

We sing a mix of new, old, known and less known songs and hymns in order to keep up and renew our collection of songs which the Danes are world famous for, and the history behind some of the songs will be explained.

All who like to sing are welcome and if you bring goodies the evenings will become even more delightful!

Literate Vikings

Literate Vikings continues to meet in the Mikkelsen Room at 7:30 pm on Wednesday

December 17, January 21 and February 11th. Each month we discuss a media clip or book on the topics of doctrine and culture in the worldwide church.

Contact Laurelie at 403.402.6462.

Crafter's Group

We will meet on **January 28 and February 25**.

We meet the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm to work on craft projects for ourselves or the annual Church bazaar; but not in December.

Come join us for an evening of fellowship! Call Charlotte at [403-702-3832](tel:403-702-3832) to check on where we are meeting on a given evening.

FEBRUARY 2015

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Eng. 10:00 am Service	2	3 1:00 pm Ladies Bible Study	4 9:00 am Bible Study Group	5	6	7
Sunday School		6:00 pm Merry Kitchen Boys	7:30 pm Viking Girls			
Jer. 9:22-23, 1. Cor. 9:24-27, Matt. 20:1-16		7:00 pm Advanced Danish Class				
8 Eng. 10:00 am Danish 11:15 am	9	10 7:00 pm Board Meeting	11 7:30 pm Literate Vikings	12	13	14
Bible retelling						
Is. 55:6-11, 1. Cor. 1:18 -21[25],						
15 Eng. 10:00 am Service	16 1:30 pm Ladies' Auxiliary	17 6:00 pm Merry Kitchen Boys	18 9:00 am Bible Study Group	19 7:30 pm Sing-a-long	20	21
Sunday School		7:00 pm Advanced Danish Class		7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service		
Ps. 2:1, Pet. 3:18-22, Matt. 3:13-17						
22 Eng. 10:00 am Danish 11:15 am	23	24 7:30 pm Guest speaker	25 7:30 pm Crafter's Group	26	27	28
Bible retelling						
Gen 3:1-19; 2 Cor. 6:1-2 (2-10) Matt 4:1-11						

JANUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
4 Eng. 10:00 am Is. 60,1-6, Titus 3,4-7, Matt. 2,1-12	5	6 1:00 pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:00 pm Merry Kitchen Boys	7 7:30 pm Viking Girls	8	9	10
11 Eng. 10:00 am Danish 11:15 am Ps. 84, Rom. 12,1-5, Luke 2,41-52 or Mark 10:13-16	12	13 7:00 pm Board meeting	14 7:30 pm Literate Vikings	15 7:30 pm Sing-a-long	16	17
18 Eng. 10:00 am Sunday School Ex. 33,18-23, Rom. 12, [6]9-16a, John 2,1-11	19 1:30 pm Ladies' Auxiliary	20 6:00 pm Merry Kitchen Boys	21	22	23	24
25 Eng. 10:00 am Danish 11:15 am Ex. 34,27-35, 2. Pet. 1,16-18, Matt. 17,1-9	26	27	28 7:30 pm Crafters' group	29	30	31

Bible Study Group

In the hope of having more coming to participate in the study group about "In the footsteps of Paul" I placed it on Saturday afternoons.

This turned out not to be a big success, so this Spring the study group will start

February 4th at 9 am till noon. We will begin with having breakfast together, so please bring some bread and jam... and then we will start to walk in the footsteps of Paul and will watch a DVD showing us the different places Paul went and pair them, with what he said and did in the different places.

We will meet every 2 weeks in Mikkelsen Room. C.B.

Merry Kitchen Boys

The Merry Kitchen Boys are still going strong with a full house at every meeting. Thanks to Inge Skovmose for teaching us to make open face sandwiches in the Danish tradition.

We meet **December 2nd** and the **16th** and **January 6th** and **20th.**

Peter Berg

Prayer-line

The prayer-line is available for those who request prayer support for themselves or loved ones during an illness or crisis. If you have any prayer concerns, please call Krista Taldorf at 403-681.0870 or email her at ktaldorf@yahoo.com.

GUEST SPEAKER

February 24th at 7.30 pm

Liv Pedersen is going to tell her about her life and her art of weaving tapestries.

Liv came to Canada in 1973 together with her husband Tom Ziegler. Here they both went back to school. Five years later she had a painting diploma from ACAD and he had a Ph.D. from U of C.

Liv is going to tell you about that and what followed, richly illustrated by the many narrative tapestries that she has woven for the past 40 years.

Liv is a member of Alberta Craft Council, Alberta Society of Artists, and the cooperatively owned Centennial Gallery in Calgary. She has been in many juried local and national exhibitions and lately in Poland and in China.

Where have all the goodies gone?

Up until November 2nd it has been the responsibility of our deacons to provide the goodies for the coffee after the service. But, as some have said, it isn't quite fair that they are coming to the church an hour ahead of us to make everything ready for the services to also make the coffee afterwards. Then at the same time they have to think about either baking or buying goodies for all of us so the rest of us just have to come, sit down and enjoy

We are already occasionally having a hard time finding deacons on the different Sundays, so we want to pamper them a little or at least to give them fair conditions. Therefore, from now on the responsibility to provide goodies for the church coffee after the services is taken from their shoulders and put on the shoulders of all those of us who are not deacons.



There is a sign-up list on the notice board to the left of the entrance to the hall downstairs - please, remember to use it!

Ladies' Auxiliary

Now that the Bazaar is over, the Ladies are taking a well-deserved rest till January 2015. Our meetings will commence **January 19, and February 16 at 1:30pm**. If you would like to come and join our committee for fellowship and fun all are welcome.

Louise Dresen 403-242-7894
(louisedresen@yahoo.ca)

LOOKING BACK

Bazaar November 1st 2014

It was the 50th Bazaar held by our Church. The bazaars have raised a lot of funds over the years to help keep our Church doors open for the Danish community in Calgary and area. The first Bazaar was held at the old Kingsland hall in 1964. We counted 6 people, helping at this year's bazaar, who were there in 1964.

There was a festive atmosphere on November 1st. Volunteers were there at 6.30 AM to get ready. Bazaar was on from 11.00 AM to 2.30 PM. It was suggested that we should have it from 11.00 AM to 2.00 PM next year, as all the activity is in the first 3 hours anyway.

Congratulations to the Winners of our Lottery:

1st Prize: \$ 2000 -- June Parten

2nd Prize: Stage West-- Solveig Peck

3rd Prize: Edelweiss Gift cards

Grethe Jeppesen

4th Prize: Dinner & auction Tickets

Emanuel Maul

Thank you to all who volunteer as it is so much fun to spend the day with you.

And thank you to the people who attend and buy all the things offered at the Bazaar.

You are the most important in making it a success.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask our younger members who are not volunteering at this time, to get their names on a list of volunteers to take part in this annual event. It is easier if there are more people, and your reward will be the satisfaction of a job well done.

You will be welcomed with open arms, to enjoy a great day with all of us, both young ones and also the young at heart.

This years total sales were \$ 21857 with some money still to come in.

Preliminary expenses are \$ 3599, but a few invoices are outstanding at this time.

When all is in, and the bills are paid, there should be more than \$17000 for the Church.

Jens Lehmann

Harvest and Thanksgiving services

Again this year our church was beautifully decorated by people of our congregation for our Harvest and Thanksgiving services.

After the service a pot-luck lunch was held where the vegetables used for the decorations were auctioned off and the proceeds went to the Sunday School in buying items for shoe box gifts for Operation Christmas Child



Scandinavian Centre Christmas Concert, 739 20 Ave NW, 7:00 p.m. Friday December 5th. Featuring the Scan Centre Choir, Youth Choir, Klevelis Folkdancers, and refreshments. Tickets are available from the Scan Centre (ph. [403-284-2610](tel:403-284-2610)) or Alison Wiigs (ph. [403-283-1299](tel:403-283-1299)) beginning November 2. \$10/person, free for under age 16 (ticket still required).

DECEMBER 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 1:00 pm Ladies' Bible Study	3 7:30 pm Viking Girls	4 7:30 pm Spirit Choir	5	6 1-4 pm Julestue
				6:00 Merry Kitchen Boys		
				7:00 pm Advanced Danish Class		
7 Eng. 10:00 am Program by the Sunday School	8	9	10	11 7:30 pm Christmas Sing-a-long Church Hall	12	13
					14 10:00 am Danish 11:15 Bible retelling Is. 35,1C or. 4,1-5, Matt. 11,2-10	15
					16 6:00 pm Merry Kitchen Boys 7:00 pm Advanced Danish class cancelled	17 7:30 pm Literate Vikings
						18
						19
						20
						21 Eng. 5:00 pm Star of David Is. 52:7-10 Phil. 4:4-7, John 1,19-28
						22
						23
						24 2:00 pm Danish 3:30 pm English 7:00 pm Candlelight service
						25 Eng. 10:00 am Is. 9,1-6a, Hebr. 1,1-5, Luke 2,1-14
						26
						27
						28 Eng. 10:00 am Family Service & luncheon Christmas Tree Party Is 63:7-9; Gal 4:4-7; Luke 2:25-40