

DANISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

210 – 10th Avenue N.E.

Calgary, T2E 0W9

December 2017 - February 2018



Pastor's Corner

The Christmas poem that follows on the next page was written by Godtfred Andersen. He was a pastor in Søllerød until his death in 1996.

I want to share it with you because, in my opinion, it is excellent and because in the single word - amazement - it strikes both bright, happy and cheerful notes and also more serious, thoughtful and demanding notes. To me at least, both kinds of notes belongs to Christmas.



One can only wonder that the birth of a little child, in a remote village in the distant past, can cause people a couple of thousand years later and thousands of kilometers away from the scene to completely change their behavior for an entire month! We "hygger", decorate, and think about how we can please each other!

Generously, we let some extra coins fall into the cups of the beggars; we buy some more bags of dried food for the foodbank bins and people collecting money for various programs of support and relief associations rarely come in vain to our door with their raffle tickets or Christmas calendars.

We all know very well that not everyone has an equal amount of joy and happiness in their lives as we do. That is true all year round, but the birth of a little child, 2017 years ago, thousands of kilometers from here, makes us not just think but also act! So, in the midst of being busy decorating and doing our best to please the ones we hold dear, we find the energy to do something for the people who haven't got a lot to spare - and we even do that for an entire month - wonderful but strange to think about!

Today we know that the child born back then was not just any child. That Child was the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who amongst many other things said, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.". The good tidings about that Child, God's Son, has since spread around the globe and millions of people today hold this message as a beacon or guiding principle for their lives. So, based on the words of Jesus, about what we do for others we do for him, notes are being struck in us that pass the good tidings on to others.

At the birth of Jesus, Death suddenly took on a new importance!! Because, when that Child died, approximately 33 years later, death was shown to be a preparation for a new birth/resurrection. Just before Jesus died, He tried to impress this new understanding of death on his disciples. Jesus' death was not the end of His life together with His disciples. However, it was a necessary transition and transformation into what would turn out to be the entrance to an astonishingly new and rich shared life with them, and with us today too.

What an amazing gift and joy! These are thoughts that might be worth keeping in mind, now that we are facing the cold, short days of winter. And, should we lose sight of them, then we might catch sight of them if we read the following poem again.

Amazement!

Christmas is amazement from a different world.

Christmas is amazement in this world.

Christmas is amazement through and through.

Christmas is God who amazes the whole world.

That's why it's not amazing

that Christmas is the celebration

which has found the most amazing ways to express itself.

The Christmas tree is a warm amazement.

The tree of amazement.

A sign of the unthinkable - with wreaths, ribbons and stars.

A marvelous symbol of Faith and Defiance.

Amazing too that Christmas is the celebration of self-conquest,

where one tries to play at being luminous and good,

and plays at everybody else being that as well.

Amazingly above all that, the whole world celebrates a birth

which took place in a remote province of the Mediterranean

under harsh circumstances

at a single moment in ancient times.

God made himself into a Christmas present, and, I wish to God, that we would never get over that amazement.

Over and over again, Christmas gives us reason to think differently

about God's ways and human standards.

And Christmas is an amazing occasion to amaze oneself and others.

How about amazing a human being, whom you have never written to before, with a Christmas letter?

The postman, the baker, the librarian, a neighbour or an old teacher?

A politician or a prisoner?

How about sending a flower

to a person you think you hate, without any explanation?

A politician or a refugee?

A superior or a subordinate?

How about making a happy Christmas Day, despite your concerns about many things, and attend church?

How about giving Christmas amazement a chance? This year.

Many people may wish you a happy and merry Christmas,

A rich and roomy Christmas,

A great and lovely Christmas,

An affordable Christmas.

This is a different Christmas wish for you:

May the Lord bless you and amaze you!

by Godtfred Andersen

Merry Christmas and get safely through winter.

C.B.



SPECIAL SERVICES:

Star of David Service & Christmas Tree Party



December 17th at 5:00 pm, we have our traditional Star of David Service where we sing our beloved Advent and Christmas hymns. Afterward, pizza will be served in the hall and we will have our Christmas

Tree Party where children and the young of hearts will gather and dance around the Christmas Tree. The evening ends with *plundering* of the tree where the ornaments the children might have made at julestuen can be taken home to decorate your own private Christmas tree.

Christmas Eve December 24th:

The service at 2:00 pm is in English; at 3:30 pm the service is in Danish; and the beautiful and solemn Candlelight Service is at 7:00 pm.

New Year's Celebration Service
On December 31, the last day of 2017, there will be a service in English at 10 am and afterwards we will - as is the tradition- wish each other a Happy New Year with sparkling wine and "kransekage", which Mary Jorgensen has again, this year, kindly promised to make.



Fastelavn/Shrove February 11th.


After the service on this Sunday we will celebrate Shrove in the traditional Danish/Canadian way of our Church. First we will have ham and pancakes followed by beating the barrel and crowning of our Cat King and Queen. We will end the day with coffee and homebaked "fastelavnsboller"/ Shrove buns. As is our tradition, there is a prize for the best adult and child costumes.

Guest speakers:



January 23rd at 7:30 pm in our lower hall we are opening up another interesting winter season of guest speakers with **Rev. Margaret Propp**. She was baptized, confirmed and ordained at Sharon Lutheran Church and has been serving several ministries for the last 12 years as an ordained pastor. Currently she is working at the University of Calgary and Mount Royal University as the Lutheran Chaplain for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC). Margaret will speak about her faith journey, as well as her work with students in the University setting. Working in a secular institution from a faith perspective can be a challenge, but is also filled with much joy as proclamation of the Gospel does not happen often in the form of words, but rather through service.



February 27th at 7:30 pm Dr. Benedict Fullalove, professor in the Art History department at the Alberta College of Art & Design, Calgary will talk about the Canadian identity and tie this to different public monuments in Calgary, specifically the statue of Robert the Bruce on the grounds of the Jubilee Auditorium.

Message from The President

I would not be possible to keep our little church functioning with out a substantial amount of volunteer work. This includes everything from helping setting tables up, washing communion cups, deacon service, cutting grass, fixing things, stuffing newsletters etc. just to mention a few. At our annual fall clean up we saw a lot of people come out to help with getting our church ready for the winter. There were still a bit of painting required, that had to be done in the warm days following. A huge thank you to all that have contributed (no matter the amount) – anything is greatly appreciated. Our annual Bazar at the Danish Club is another example of where all of volunteers are putting together a fantastic event that is enjoyed a lot of many in our wide community. Away from helping getting us into the Christmas mood it is also a chance for many to meet up with old friends and catch up on what has happened. And not the least a chance to connect with church for people that normally comes to the services. We entering the festive season which always is a very busy period with many activities and visits as well as many events happening in our church. We hope to see as many as possible of you coming and participating. Merry Christmas to the congregation and all of the community.

Karsten Dalberg

»Julestue«



On December 2nd at 1:00 - 4:00 pm our traditional Julestue will be held. Gløgg, mulled cider, æbleskiver, and European hot dogs will be available for a fee. Beautiful Christmas ornaments that weren't sold at the Bazaar can be purchased and, as something new, a table will be put up for children and their parents or grandparents to make specific kinds of Christmas tree ornaments. Later the Christmas tree for the party on December

17th will be decorated while our pastor explains why we put those specific ornaments on our Christmas trees. (After the Christmas Tree party on December 17th the children are welcome to take their ornaments for their own tree at home.)

Why weren't there any Christmas stamps at the Bazaar?

As you may have become aware of at our Christmas bazaar, DSUK (The Danish Church Abroad/Danish Seamen's Church) hasn't issued any Christmas stamps this year. Many of us now send very few Christmas cards, if any at all, so over the years less stamps have been sold. Therefore, this year DSUK has made a calendar for 2018 and we hope that this initiative will yield substantial economical support for the work of DSUK. DSUK was founded with the purpose of preserving, developing, and strengthening the National Church's efforts to serve Danish citizens who are working, studying or holidaying abroad. DSUK is also there for congregations like ours in Calgary, with members that have chosen to settle permanently in Canada but still feel a bond with Denmark and the Danish Church. Furthermore, DSUK is supporting the work of starting up new Danish churches in places where Denmark has started stationing Danes abroad, like, for example, in Dubai and China.



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www.facebook.com/dsuk.dk

Januar	Februar	Marts	April	Maj	Juni
Ma 1. Niedagning	Tv 1	Fy 1	Ma 1. Pusten	Ti 1	Fr 1
Ti 2	Fy 2	Fy 2	Ma 2. 2. uddeling	Ti 2	Fr 2
On 3	Le 3	Le 3	Ti 3	Fr 3	Fr 3
To 4	Le 4	Le 4	Fr 4	Ma 4	Ma 4
Fy 5	Ma 5	Ma 5	On 5	Fr 5	Fr 5
Le 6	Ti 6	Ti 6	Fr 6	On 6	On 6 *
Si 7	On 7 *	On 7	Le 7	Ma 7	Ti 7
Ma 8 *	Fr 8	Fr 8	Si 8 *	Fr 8	Fr 8
To 9	Le 9	Le 9	Ma 9	On 9	On 9
Fy 10	Le 10	Le 10	Ti 10	Fr 10	Fr 10
Le 11	Si 11	Si 11	On 11	Fr 11	Ma 11
To 12	Ma 12	Ma 12	Ti 12	Le 12	Fr 12
Le 13	Ti 13	Ti 13	Fr 13	Si 13	On 13 *
Si 14	On 14	On 14	Le 14	Ma 14	Ti 14
Ma 15	Ti 15 *	Ti 15	Fr 15	Fr 15	Fr 15
Ti 16	Fy 16	Fy 16	Ma 16 *	On 16	Le 16
Le 17	Le 17	Le 17	Ti 17	Fr 17	Fr 17
To 18	Si 18	Si 18	On 18	Fr 18	Ma 18
Fy 19	Ma 19	12/20	Le 19	Le 19	Ti 19
Le 20	Ti 20	Ti 20	Fy 20	Si 20 *	Fr 20 *
Si 21	Fr 21	Fr 21	Ma 21	Ma 21	On 21
Ma 22	12/22	Fr 22	Si 22 *	Fr 22	Fr 22
Ti 23	Fy 23 *	Fy 23	Ma 23	17/On 23	Le 23
On 24 *	Le 24 *	Le 24 *	Ti 24	Si 24	Si 24
To 25	Si 25	Si 25	Fr 25	Fr 25	Fr 25
Ma 26	12/26	12/26	On 26	On 26	Ti 26
Ti 27	Le 27	Fr 27	Fr 27	Fr 27	On 27
Le 28	On 28	On 28	Le 28	Ma 28	22/To 28
Ma 29	5	To 29 (Blaaferd)	Si 29	Fr 29	Fr 29
To 30	To 30 (Langfredag)	Ma 30	10/On 30	Le 30	Le 30
On 31	Le 31	Le 31	To 31	To 31	To 31

CHURCH GROUPS

Sing-alongs!



On Thursday, December 14th starting at 7:30 pm in the downstairs hall our regular sing-along will be an evening of Christmas carols. This beautiful evening will be a good opportunity to get your voices warmed up for the approaching Christmas season! In January and February 2018 we'll meet for the **Winter Sing-alongs on Jan. 18th and Feb. 15th** both at 7:30 pm as usual. **We will not meet up on December 21st.**

The Viking Girls Ladies Group

The Viking Girls meet the first Wednesday of each months at 7:30 pm, usually in the Mikkelsen room. Upcoming meetings will be on **January 3rd**, and **February 7th**. **There will be no meeting in December.** For more information feel free to contact Pastor Charlotte Berg at **403-719-3832**.

Crafter's Group

This group meets the **fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm**. We work on handicrafts for the bazaar or some other project that we would like to complete. While we work we enjoy chatting and drinking a cup of coffee or tea (or two). **We will not meet in December.** Our meetings resume on **January 24th, and February 28th**. Anyone is welcome to attend. If you have any questions or want to know where we will be meeting on any of these evenings please call Pastor Charlotte at **403-719-3832**.



London



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Literate Vikings

This lively group meets on the **third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm** in the Mikkelsen Room. **We are not meeting in December.** Meetings in the New Year are on **January 17th and February 21st**. We will be continuing with a DVD series and book by Max Lucado called *More to Your Story*. An interesting discussion always follows. Everyone is welcome to attend! For more information contact Karen Falkenberg-Andersen at **403-863-3115**.

Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies meetings will not commence again until **January 15th, 2018**. We would like to wish you all a Happy, Healthy Christmas and New Year. See you all **December 2nd, 2017** at Julestue!!

Louise Dresen

403-242-7894

louisedresen@yahoo.ca



Sunday School Notes

Our Sunday School meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Any Sunday that there is no Sunday School class those children who come to Church can go with an adult over to watch a DVD during the sermon. Sunday School classes will be held on **December 3rd, January 7th and 21st, February 11th and 18th**. We continue our interesting look at the lives of a rural Pastor's family in Uganda and tie this in with lessons from the Bible. On **December 17th** the children will participate in the **Star of David Program**, and on **January 28th** there will be a family worship service followed by a pot-luck lunch.

Cecilie, Karen, Liselotte, Markus, Ron, Sonja

Hello grandparents!

You and your grandchildren are invited to an afternoon of **Valentine fun** in the lower hall of our church **February 3rd at 1:00 - 3:00 pm**. Here you will hear the story of St. Valentine and the ups and downs of his life. During this time, we'll make some Valentine crafts that might be used as gifts to your children/parents. Snacks will be provided.

Valentine's Day

Worship Music

We have a small group of musicians and singers at our Church who add to our worship services about once a month by performing contemporary Christian music. You are welcome to get involved if you play an instrument and/or like to sing. We get together to practice about once a week. If you would like to join up email Karen at falken@agt.net.

Movie Nights:

Given our projector and big screen in our lower hall of the church the framework is set for **movie nights!** On the second Thursday of January and February at 7:00 pm - about 10:00 pm, that is on **January 11th** and **February 8th** we will meet to watch a movie and have a talk-about afterwards. Coffee, tea, and popcorn will be served. What movie we are going to watch will be announced at the service the Sunday before or, alternatively, you can contact me beforehand at

charlotteberg1@gmail.com.

Guided tour at Studio Bell, home of the National Music Centre, 850 4th St. S.E.

Do you want to see Bell Studio from the inside? Exciting architecture! Do you want to explore five floors of exhibits that tell the story of music in Canada? The plan is on **Saturday Feb. 24th** to follow a guided tour at 3:00 pm (length approx. 1 hour) where we may get to hear a demonstration of the Kimball Theatre Organ as well. Depending on the size of the group we might have to buy a private tour (\$125) therefore we would like know ahead of time how many of you would actually be interested in coming! So think about it during December, and by **January 7** let us know, if you are interested.

Binding enrolment will be January 21th,

Admission: Adult: \$18 and Seniors: \$14 + \$6 - 7 for the guided tour!

For those who are interested in eating lunch together we'll meet at **12.30 pm at Hilton Garden Inn, Suite A - 711 4th St. S.E.** From there it is an easy walk to the music centre.

Wear some comfortable shoes!



Hello Calgary Area Lutheran Churches & Workers:

Lutheran Hospital Ministries-Southern Alberta has trained people who visit in area hospitals and care centres. If you know of someone from your congregation that we could visit on a regular basis, bringing listening, Scripture and prayer, please let us know and we will work to visit them.

Blessings! Pastor Mark Lobitz, Director of Pastoral Care, Lutheran Hospital Ministries-Southern Alberta

Scandinavian Centre Events

Friday, December 1st at 7:00 pm, is the Scandinavian Christmas Concert, with the adult and youth choirs, Back-Up band, and Nordic Folkdancers. **\$10 per adult. Free for under age 16.** Refreshments included. Tickets available in advance from the Scan Centre, 739 20 Ave NW, ph: 403-284-2610.

Since our last Newsletter:

Mission Moments:

On Thanksgiving Sunday there was a display at the front of the Church of school kits and pneumonia vests to be sent to Canadian Lutheran World Relief. Later in the month a shipment went to Winnipeg with a grand total of 23 school kits and 181 colourful pneumonia vests. Pneumonia is a major killer of children in third world countries and these vests may save many lives. The school kits can mean that a child who receives it can go to school because they have some basic supplies. Without these things they might not be able to attend school or would have to drop out. Along with the school supplies in each kit there was also a toy which will bring happiness and fun into a child's life too. Education is life-changing and enables a person to break out of the cycle of poverty that their families have been trapped in for many generations. Thank you ladies for your generosity, time and skills which helps make the world a better place.



On the afternoon of Saturday, November 11th, fifteen children gathered in the Sunday School room to pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. This is a project the children of our Church have been doing for close to 20 years and it is something that they enjoy doing immensely. This year we packed 50 boxes in about 1 1/2 hours. A number of adult volunteers helped out. After the last shoebox was filled we enjoyed a delicious supper in the Church basement prepared by Margaret Propp. Then we watched the "The Peanuts Movie", which Ron Propp had set up for us. Thank you to the parents and grandparents who helped out with packing shoeboxes, cleaning up after supper, supervising children, and vacuuming up popcorn at the end of the evening. A special thanks to Tillie Olson who baked cookies to go with our dessert! A wonderful evening was had by all.

Later in November a total of 63 shoeboxes were delivered to Samaritan's Purse headquarters in NE Calgary. Our load was made up of the 50 shoeboxes packed by the children, others packed by adults from our congregation, and 3 dropped off by someone in the community. Over 11.2 million shoeboxes were collected and delivered by Samaritan's Purse International to many countries around the world in 2016. Of those, 660,000 were collected and delivered by Samaritan's Purse Canada. Thank you to everyone who bought vegetables at our fall auction, came to the medieval dinner, and gave money and/or other items for the shoeboxes. Your contributions touch the lives of many children!

Karen



Soccer Balls Wanted!

Help bring the gift of play to a child. Canadian Lutheran World Relief has sent out a call asking for the donation of 500 soccer balls to send overseas. These balls can be new or gently used.



The balls should be deflated for shipping and for every 10 balls a pump is needed as well. The balls will go to programs in Mauritania, Tanzania, Nicaragua, Liberia, Angola, and many other places. If you would like to give balls for this initiative contact Karen at falken@agt.net to work out details.

Thanks!

LUTHERAN HOSPITAL MINISTRY

On November 4th, 2017 the Viking Girls hosted a luncheon for the Lutheran Hospital Ministry "Annual Appreciation Luncheon". They were very excited about learning our culture. Refreshments were served as they mingled coming in. We started off with filet of sole as appetizer followed by open face full sandwiches from the Danish Club. The ladies



made the desserts which contained samples of ablekage, ris a'lamande containing one almond in one of the samples who received a Danish Cook-book as the gift. Weinerbrod from Black Diamond. Many went up into the church and took pictures of the Altar carvings , Last Supper and the Ship. They couldn't stop thanking us for the lovely day. In return we thanked them for the volunteering they are doing and letting us host this luncheon on their behalf.



Used Stamps

Though we are all getting less letters these days, the stamps on the letters you do get can help us out. Cut the stamps out leaving a 1 cm border

around the edge. Bring these to the Church and deposit them in the used stamp box (usually sitting on the top of the shelf holding children's toys). Funds raised from the sale of these stamps goes to support the DSUK and the Canadian Bible Society. Thank you!

Going my way...?

When you make plans to attend Sunday services or other events at the church, please keep in mind those members of our congregation who live near the route you will be taking. Some are no longer able to participate without a ride to and from the event. Please offer a ride to these faithful members, so that they can continue to participate in our church services and activities.



Thank you!

Bazaar Report:

A big thank you to everyone who volunteered to work at our annual Christmas Bazaar on November 18th, or those of you who contributed in other ways. We couldn't have done it without you! The event was well-attended, a cozy atmosphere filled the hall, many folks were seen having good visits with friends, and the weather cooperated too. At the time of this writing, the final figures are not in yet, but gross revenue (before expenses) was about \$22 500. This is a very encouraging result. Thank you to all of you who came to our Bazaar!



DECEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 10:00 am Danish Class 1:00 pm Julestue	2
3 10:00 am English Isa 42: 1-9; Rom 13: 11-14; Luke 4: 16-30	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 10:00 am English 11:15 am Danish Isa 11: 1-10 or Mal 3: 1-3; James 5: 7-8; Matt 25: 1-13	11	12 6:00 pm Board Meeting	13	14 7:30 pm Sing-along	15	16
17 5:00 pm Star of David Service/Christmas Tree Party	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 2 pm English, 3:30 pm Danish 7 pm Candlelight service Isa 9: 1-6a, Matt 1: 18-25, Luke 2: 1-14	25 10:00 am Christmas Day Isa 9: 1-6a or Gen 1: 15; 1 John 4: 7-11 and John 1: 1-4	26	27	28	29	30
31 10:00 am English Psalm 27: 1-5; or Jer. 31:15-17; Rom. 3: 19-22a; Matt 2: 13-23						

JANUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 7:30 pm Viking Girls	4	5	6 10:00 am Danish Class
7 10:00 am English Ps 8; Col 1: 15-19; Mark 10: 13-16 Sunday School	8	9	10	11 7:00 pm Movie Night	12	13 10:00 am Danish Class
14 10:00 am English 11:15 am Danish 1 Kings 8: 1, 12-13, 22-30 or Jer 17: 12-14; 1 John 2: 28-3,3; John 4: 5-26	15	16 1:30 pm Ladies Auxiliary	17 6:00 pm Merry Kitchen Boys	18 7:30 pm Literate Vikings	19	20 7:30 pm Sing-along
21 10:00 am English Isa 2: 2-5; Col 1: 25d-28; John 12: 23-33 Sunday School	22	23 7:30 pm Guest Speaker	24 7:30 pm Crafters Group	25	26	27 10:00 am Danish Class
28 10:00 am English 11:15 am Danish Septuagesima Job 9: 1-12; Act 17: 22-34; Matt 25: 14-30	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 10:00 am Danish Class 1:00 pm Valentine Craft Event
4 10:00 am English 11:15 am Danish Seksagesima Isa 45: 5-12; 2 Tim 3:10-17 or 1 Cor 1: 18- 21[22-25]; Mark 4: 26-32	5 6:00 pm Merry Kitchen Boys	6 6:00 pm Viking Girls	7 7:30 pm Viking Girls	8 7:00 pm Movie Night	9	10 10:00 am Danish Class
11 10:00 am English Fastelavn/Shrovetide Ps 31: 2-6; 1 Cor 13; Luke 18: 31-43 Sunday School	12 1:30 pm Ladies Auxiliary	13 7:00 pm Board Meeting	14	15 7:30 pm Sing-along	16	17 10:00 am Danish Class
18 10:00 am English Gen 4: 1-12; James 1: 9-16; Luke 22: 24-32 Sunday School	19 6:00 pm	20 6:00 pm Merry Kitchen Boys	21 7:30 pm Literate Vikings	22	23	24 3:00 pm Studio Bell Tour
25 10:00 am English 11:15 am Danish Gen 1: 27-31; Heb 5: 1-10; Mark 9: 14-29	26	27 7:30 pm Guest Speaker	28 7:30 pm Crafters Group			

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Pastor's Office: (403) 719-3832 (Monday is the pastor's day off)

Church Office: (403) 277-5804

Church Website: www.danishlutheranchurch.ca

Email: danishchurchcalgary@gmail.com

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The Deadline for the next Newsletter is Monday February 5th



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