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## 2020 Event Schedule

Date and Time	Event	Location
Mar. 28, 2020	Danish meeting/ Business Meeting	Gethsemane Lutheran Church
May 16, 2020	Syttende Mai May 16, 2020	Shillito's Park U/L Otherwise announced
June 20, 2020	Midsommar	608 Raintree Road
Oct. 24, 2020	Fall Harvest Dinner	Spindletop Hall
Dec. 6, 2020	Lucia Rehearsal	Gethsemane Lutheran Church
Dec. 12, 2020	Lucia Celebration	

## LASKIAINEN

The Finnish Winter festival will take place this Saturday, February 22, 2020 at 6 pm at Gethsemane Lutheran Church. All are invited to bring their favorite pea soup or side dish to share. You may recall that that Palo, Minnesota has already celebrated and offered free dog sled rides. One of our members is heading north for a cross country ski event. I feel a field trip coming on for next year!

Laskiainen is the Mid Winter Sliding Festival, often celebrated about 7 weeks before Easter in February "when the sun shows up for the first time." We can identify with that! This festival originated before the beginning of Lent, a time for spiritual reflection and

physical purification. During that time, people were not allowed to eat meat, milk, eggs, cheese, butter and other dairy products. While this is not followed so strictly today, the celebration was a time to get outside with the family for sliding and to have a feast later just before Lent. The Shrovetide sauna was part of the fun, and people were encouraged not to talk too much during that time in order to cut down on mosquitoes and flies the the next summer! If you took a sauna in the early evening, that might guarantee that you not be late for work or in a hurry for the next year! When sliding, people were encouraged to shout, "Long flax, fine hemp and turnips the size of a plate" for good luck and fine harvests. The longer the slide, the better! Liukasta laskiaista! (Have a slippery sliding day!) See you on Saturday!

## OBITUARIES

This past year we have lost 2 members and one of our wonderful speakers.

Msarie Louise VanVarick Carter Hosie passed away peacefully at 94 on January 2, 2020 at Wellmore of Tega Caiy, S.Ca. Marie was one of our very early members, served as Secretary, Treasurer, wrote the newsletter, supplied beautiful decorations for our dinners, and hosted annual Midsommar gatherings for years. In May, 2011, the newsletter included a profile of Marie's life which describes her family's immigration to this country. A celebration of Life Service will be held at 11 AM Saturday, March 1, 2020 at First Methodist church, 1230 Lexington Road, Georgetown, Ky. 40324.

Margaret A. Eng, 89, passed away on November 21, 2019 surrounded by her family. Margaret, too, was an early member of our society, along with her husband Erling who led our book club. Born in 1930, Margaret grew up in Austria during WW II. Yet growing up near Lake Ossiach in the southern Alps, Margaret spent much time on Gerlitz Mountain where her family owned and managed the land up to the 6,269 foot summit. Later Margaret earned her PhD in Psychology from the University of Innsbruck where she met Erling, and moved to the U.S.

Where they married. Margaret worked with troubled adolescents until her children were born. We all have wonderful memories of Margaret and Marie's warmth, creativity and energy. We will miss them.

Ieda Jonasdottir Herman, passed away on October 9, 2019 in Burlington, Iowa. You will remember that Ieda and her daughter Heidi Herman spoke to us about Iceland in October, 2016. Ieda grew up in Iceland and during WW II married an American, Rev. Delbert J. Herman in 1945 in Reykjavik. They raised 10 children, Heidi being the youngest. A graduate of the Chicago School of Interior Design, and of the Institute of Children's Literature, Connecticut, Ieda authored and co-authored 5 books, owned and operated an Interior Design and Window Covering business for several years and served as a partner in Christian ministry with her husband for 60 years. Later, reconnecting with her Scandinavian heritage, Ieda was a founding member of the Icelandic National League of the United States, and a frequent speaker at Scandinavian gatherings around the US. I feel very lucky to have met Ieda and Heidi.

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Pam Anderson kindly recommends signing up for "Life in Norway," a weekly email newsletter edited by David Nikel on contemporary and historical items. There may also be a podcast.

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There is a beautiful trail in Jotunheimen National Park, Norway, the Besseggen Ridge, which attracts thousands of intrepid tourist every year. It is an 8 hour walk, strenuous and calls for endurance, but supplies magnificent views. According to Danielle Moylan, Ibsen popularized "frilfsliv" or "open air life," which celebrates open air life for health and well-being. Norway and other Scandinavian countries grant hikers the right to go on public or private land, and to camp for the night so long as they stay 150 feet away from a private house, and leave the land as they found it. The view is inviting!

PHOTOS FOLLOW FROM  
OCTOBER AND DECEMBER.





















