



VOL LII  
JULY 8, 2020

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## 2020 Event Schedule

<b>Oct. 24, 2020</b>	<b>Fall Harvest Dinner</b>	<b>Spindletop Hall</b>
<b>Dec. 6, 2020 Dec. 12, 2020</b>	<b>Lucia Rehearsal Lucia Celebration</b>	<b>Gethsemane Lutheran Church</b>

Ordinarily we would have celebrated Midsummer at my house in June. I do wish we could have done so. The risk of someone getting COVID 19 was too great. We have missed our meetings in April, May and June. We can only hope that we will be able to meet somehow in October and December. We are on a strange journey, but staying well is paramount!

Perhaps you have noticed that Norway, pop. approx. 5.368 million, has had a relatively low increase in the number of virus cases. Their first case was on February 26, and the first people infected, 56 cases by March 4, all had traveled abroad, mostly to Austria and Italy. When transmission was known to have started in Norway by March 10, the state imposed a lockdown on March 12 for 2 weeks. An intensive effort in testing began. A number of travel bans were imposed, and by April 6, the virus reproduction rate had dropped to .7 in the country. This indicated the virus was under control. This information comes from Wikipedia which has a number of interesting charts as well.

## Scandinavian Heritage Society P.2

Other nordic countries have done well, too. Denmark has 13,101 cases, Finland has 7,265, Iceland has 1880, and yet Sweden has 73,858. Sweden chose not to shut down, although postponing the soccer season and university instruction. People at risk were advised not to circulate. On their own, many businesses have allowed people to work at home; people are avoiding public transport, and some are keeping their children out of school. The death rate has gone up, and now gatherings of over 50 people are not allowed. With time, we will learn which approach is most effective.

By the way, if you are looking for safer places to travel, here is a list of a few with low infection rates:

Vietnam	pop. 97 M	369 cases	0	deaths
Greece	pop. 10 M	3500	192	deaths
Hong Kong	pop. 7.4 M	1286	7	deaths
Iceland	pop. 365 K	1866	10	deaths
New Zealand	pop. 4.886 M	1536	22	deaths
Trinidad & Tobago	pop. 1.4 M	131	8	deaths
Cambodia	pop. 16.7 M	141	0	deaths

Note: this country has a \$3,000 COVID 19 Service Fee to enter!



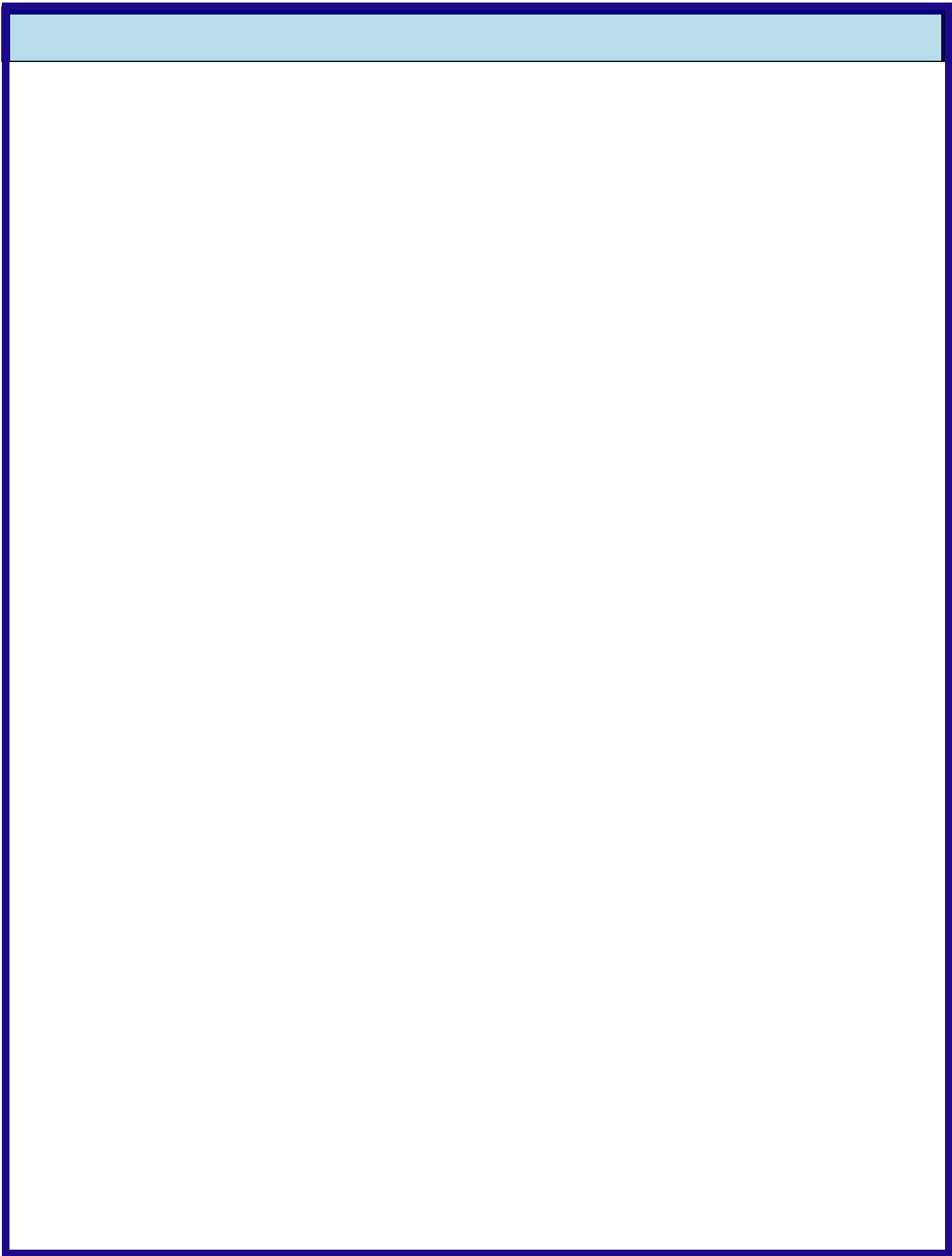
According to the Iceland Monitor, this bird visited Iceland for the first time, not stopped for a temperature check at the border! It is a Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*). Native to SW Asia, warmer parts of Europe and Africa, it winters in tropical Africa. It is often seen near water at evening, swooping back and forth to catch insects. It also feeds on the ground. Birders in Iceland and from abroad have come to see it! Isn't it nice to see that "normal life" goes on despite the pandemic. In fact, animals around the earth are taking over places that people have abandoned for the moment. Capybaras have been seen in South America lounging in family groups on the golf courses.

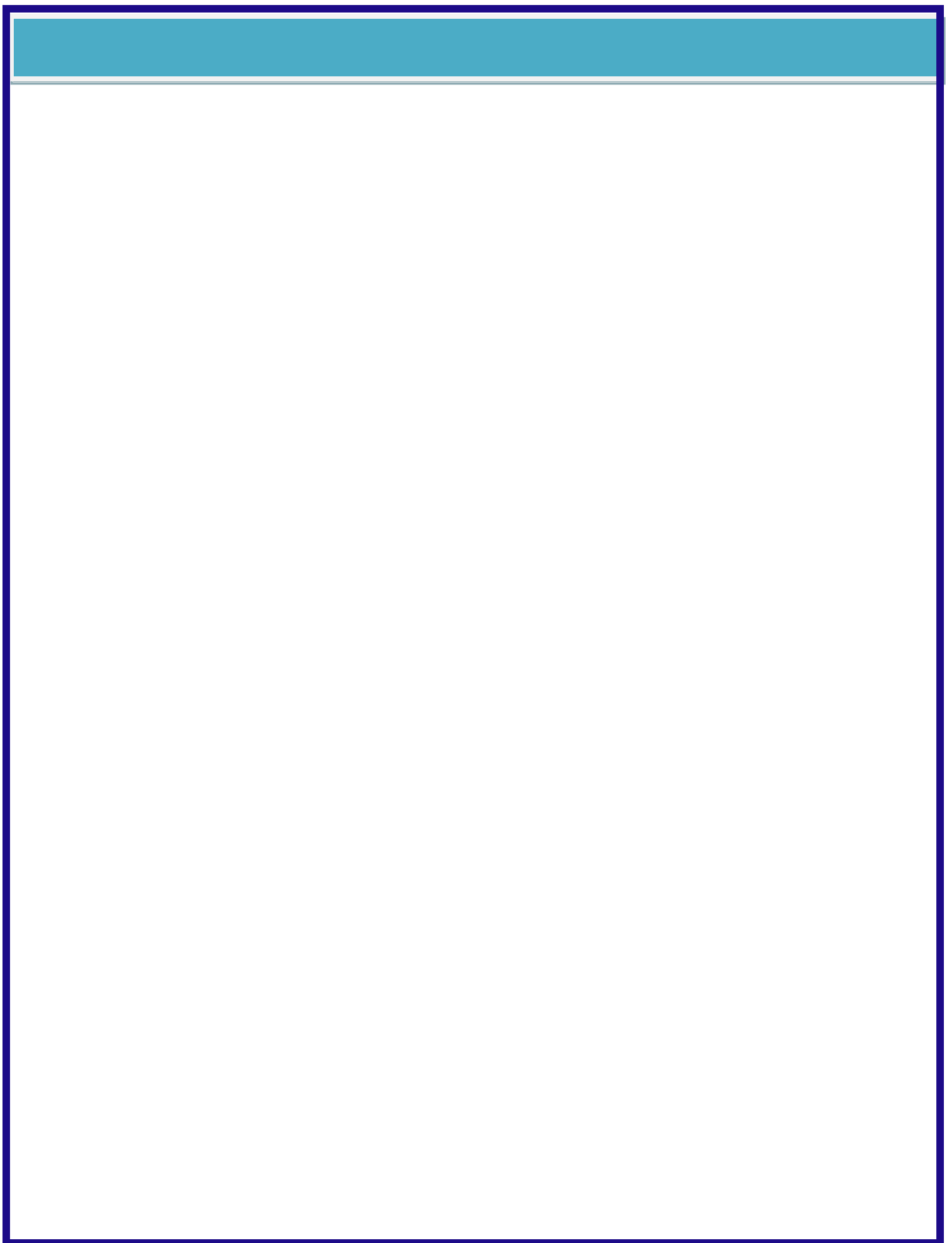
Kathy and Glen Blomquist spent the 4<sup>th</sup> in Indiana joined by Greg and Rachel and Inara and Niall. Greg sent a video to them that he and Rachel and Inara and Niall are happy to share with us in celebration of Midsummer. The website is:

<https://www.flickr.com/gp/111795686@N07/6g9578>

I heard from Heidi Herman who spoke to our group a couple of years ago with her mother, Ieda on Iceland. Heidi's mother passed away (as I mentioned in the last newsletter), but wrote a book before she died and Heidi has also published a couple more on Iceland. If and when we get together again, Heidi might be able to share with us a movie made about her mother. Ieda decided to see if she couldn't have 93 adventures in her 93d year of life and this movie is that story. Wouldn't it be nice to see it!

Stay safe, everyone, but live life to the fullest! Vi ses snart, I hope.  
( See you soon!)





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