

Sharon Danish Lutheran Church



210 – 10th Avenue N.E.
Calgary, T2E 0W9
March 2025 - May 2025



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Important Upcoming Events:

Fastelavn/Shrove Celebration - March 2nd

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, & Easter - April 17th, 18th, 20th

Annual Spring Dinner & Auction - April 25th

Spring Clean-up - May 31st

Pastor's Corner:

Sunday, March 2nd, we celebrate Fastelavn (Shrove) in our Church.

Fastelavn falls relatively late this year because its timing is determined by the date of Easter. Fastelavn marks the beginning of the 40-day fast of Lent, a preparation period leading up to Easter.

Unlike Christmas, Easter does not fall on a fixed date. At the Council of Nicaea in 325, it was decided that Easter Sunday, the feast day celebrating Jesus' resurrection, would be observed on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox. This means that Easter can fall between March 22nd and April 25th, and this method of determining the date is still in use today.

The inspiration for the 40-day fast comes from Jesus' time in the wilderness before he began his ministry. The Gospel writers tell us that after being baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist, Jesus withdrew into the desert for 40 days. He ate nothing during this time, and as he was near starvation, the Devil came and tempted him with various offers.

But Jesus resisted temptation and commanded the Devil to depart. Similarly, in the **Catholic tradition**, Christians are required to fast, repent, and cleanse both their souls and bodies of all evil in preparation for receiving the message of the Lord's resurrection at Easter. Before this strict fast commences, people bid farewell to everything forbidden for the next 40 days, luxuries such as white bread, meat, and dairy products. As a result, Fastelavn became a time of indulgence just before the fasting. In addition to feasting, people dressed up in costumes and participated in various festivities called "Carnival", which means "farewell to meat."

With the Reformation, fasting was officially abolished in Protestant churches, though Martin Luther was not entirely opposed to fasting as a beneficial practice. Today, fasting has been largely forgotten, so many assume it is something only Muslims observe during Ramadan. Nevertheless, fasting is an ancient Christian tradition.

In Jesus' time, it was common for devout individuals to fast. We know this because some people once asked Jesus: "Why do the disciples of John (the Baptist) and



the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not?"

Jesus never commanded his disciples to fast. There is no religious obligation stating that Christians must fast during a specific period or in a specific manner. On the contrary, the New Testament even contains strong reservations about fasting, such as in the Gospel of Matthew, where Jesus warns against fasting for the sake of appearances:

"When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly, I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen. And your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

Jesus does not forbid Christians from fasting. However, he emphasizes that if they do fast, they must not display it for others—otherwise, fasting becomes hypocrisy.

Christian fasting should take place in secret. Even in the **Old Testament**, the prophet Isaiah emphasizes that a person should never believe they serve God merely by fasting. The Lord says:

"Is this the kind of fast I have chosen? Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? Is this not the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to shelter the poor wanderer? When you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?"

In other words, fasting is not a form of passive piety or an empty ritual. No one can serve God simply by "bowing their head." Fasting truly means actively caring for one's neighbour in need—for their sake, not for one's own. This is why Christian fasting can never stand alone. **Christian fasting** is inextricably linked to love for one's neighbour. No matter how much or how seriously one fasts, if one does not have love, we gain nothing—as Paul writes in his First Letter to the Corinthians.

Christian fasting can never be a good deed in itself because Christianity does not focus on what humans can do for God, but on what God has done for humankind—

culminating in Jesus' resurrection from the dead, which we celebrate at Easter.

Rejoice! The light increases day by day!

Pastor Charlotte Berg

President's Message

The year 2024 has come to a close and our Christmas and New Year's celebrations are well behind us now. There has been a lot going on at the Church already in 2025. The children of the congregation packed 50 shoe box gifts for Operation Christmas Child at the end of January. Our refugee sponsorship committee has been trying to get matched to a family to co-sponsor with the Canadian Government, and Lord willing, a young refugee family should be arriving later this spring.

We have also dealt with water leaking into the ceiling of the office and kitchen during a chinook, water leaking from our lines to the hot water tank and then, during a cold snap, our furnaces quit and a couple of water pipes froze and burst. Fortunately the damage was minimal and repairs have been made. Our old building needs a lot of TLC!

There will be special events to mark the beginning of Lent (Fastelavn/Shrove) and to celebrate Easter. On March 30th we have our Annual General Meeting. Plans are well underway for our Spring Dinner & Auction too on April 25th. In addition we are hoping to have our second frikadeller cooking contest in early June. And, with spring comes our spring clean-up of the Church and garden.

In addition, Calgary is hosting the annual conference of the Danish Federation in May followed by the annual h jjskole. Much of the work to get these events arranged has fallen to members of our Church. A big thank you to those of you who have taken on these tasks!

Please take note of the information about all of these special events elsewhere in the newsletter. Consider coming yourself and invite friends and family members so that all of these events will be exceptionally well attended.

Karen Falkenberg-Andersen, Council president

IN MEMORIAM

Kaare Jonsson
April 15, 1959 - December 26, 2024

Gunnar Jensen
May 27, 1927 - February 11, 2025

All honour to their memory
 Ere v ere deres minde.

Financial Support of our Church:

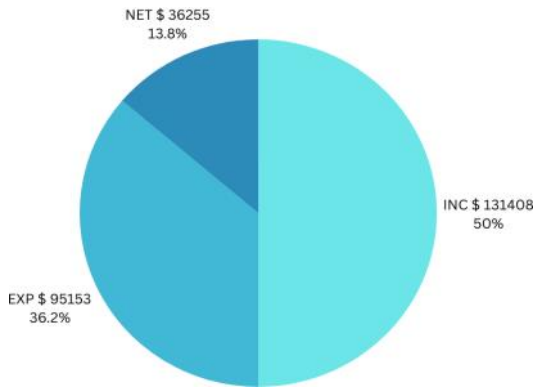
Please continue your support of our Church by:

1. Mailing a cheque to the Church.
2. Sending an e-transfer to e-transfer@danishlutheranchurch.ca
3. Using your credit card by mailing in the form in the newsletter or call Jens at 403-540-0201.

Thank you for your continued support !!!

Financial Report

Income and Expenses January 1st - February 15th



Donating Securities:

Did you know that you can avoid capital gains taxes by transferring securities directly to our Church? When you transfer securities rather than selling them, you don't pay taxes on any gains and you get a charitable receipt on the fair market value of the securities. Talk to our Board President or Treasurer if you're interested in doing this.

SPECIAL SERVICES

**On March 2nd at 10:00 am
Fastelavn/Shrove**

Let's make this Sunday colourful! Adults and children, let's get dressed up! That Sunday there will be prizes for the best or most fanciful outfit for adults and for the children. The service is followed, in the downstairs hall, by the Canadian Shrove tradition



of serving pancakes and ham, and the Danish Shrove tradition of "beating the barrel", crowning of a cat king or queen, and having Fastelavnsboller/Shrove buns for coffee or tea. This family-friendly Sunday will replace the family-friendly service which usually falls on the 5th Sunday of the month (in this case March 30th). Feel free to invite family and friends!

**April 17th, 7:00 pm, Maundy
Thursday worship service:**

We will celebrate the institution of Communion. Because we don't know yet if the renovation of the Church will have begun, there isn't any Passover dinner planned this year. But the service will be followed by an informal gathering with some finger food. We hope to see many of you that evening.



**April 20th, 10:00 am, Easter
Sunday worship service:**

We celebrate the greatest promise of all in Christianity! After the service, and true to tradition, hot-crossed buns and decorated eggs will be served at coffee time, and an egg hunt will be arranged for the children. This year, as Easter Day falls on a Sunday



for a sing-along, a few Easter songs will be part of the festivities.

CHURCH EVENTS

Guest Speakers

On March 25th at 7:30 pm, Kathy Sorensen will talk about her book, "Living in the Land of the Uprights". It is

the story about raising her son, Thomas. He was born with a rare form of muscular dystrophy, one of only three cases in the world at the time. Thomas left a legacy, touching more lives than we could ever imagine. Thomas achieved more in his 18 years than many of us could in our lifetimes. Come and hear the amazing, beautiful, and heartfelt story of what the Sorensen family experienced.



On April 29th at 7:30 pm

our next guest speaker will tell us about **L'Arche**.

L'Arche Calgary is a community where people with and without disabilities live, work, and grow together. A strong Christian foundation inspires them to embrace spiritual

practices that bring meaning, belonging, and growth. For over 50 years, L'Arche has provided homes, programs, and support to help everyone feel included and valued. Come and learn more about how L'Arche is making Calgary a more welcoming place for all!



Movie Lunches

There are so many good movies out there to see. Of course, the movie theatres in Denmark say that movies should be watched in a movie theatre. I would rather say that movies should be watched together with other people so we can share our reactions, thoughts and experiences with them! That is why you are invited to take part in our movie lunches, which are held in the downstairs Church hall of every **1st Thursday** of the month beginning at **11:00 am. Remember to bring your lunch!** Popcorn, coffee and tea will also be served. As always, feel free to invite family members and friends.

Study Group

Study Group takes place every **1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, ending May 7th**. At this point, we are nearing the end of our study of Nicolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig. Afterwards, we will start looking into another famous Danish author, actually a world-famous Dane, namely **Hans Christian Andersen**. All through his life, H.C. Andersen was deeply preoccupied with God. His faith in and knowledge of the Bible repeatedly appears in

his diaries, writings, memories, and fairytales. Our study group is, at least for the time-being, held at StayWell Manor Village, Garrison Woods, 174 Ypres Green SW. Quite a few members of our congregation live there and are too frail to take the trip back and forth to the Church, but do consider joining us there. The 1st Wednesday we meet at the “ games room” on the 3rd floor, and the 3rd Wednesday we meet in the “lounge” on the 2nd floor. We hope this new location won't keep you from joining our study group. Charlotte



Brush Up on Your Conversational Danish

On Sunday **April 6th & May 4th, from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm**, those who want to learn to speak Danish more fluently can meet and talk informally about a given subject. Needless to say, this group is for people who can already speak some, perhaps rusty, Danish.

Sing-along

March 16th, April 20th (Easter Day), and May 25th are the dates for this spring's sing-alongs. After those Sundays, we will take a summer break. The sing-alongs take place in the basement hall from 12 noon to 1.30 pm after the English worship services. Singing is beneficial not only for Danes, enhancing their lung capacity and mood, but also for Canadians. Plus, we have more English songs available, so give it a try to see if the statement is just hot air or if singing genuinely influences your mood and lung capacity. Remember to bring your lunch bag to the coffee time after the services!



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Sunday, March 30th, at 12:00 pm
 Reports for review will be available by March 16th.
 A light luncheon will be served.

Spring Clean Up May 31st, 2025

This year our spring cleanup is planned for **Saturday, May 31st**. We will start at **9:00 am** and hopefully be done by **12:00 noon**. After we are done working we will all meet in the Church Hall for a light lunch. Please come and lend a hand - many hands make light work!



Hospital Visits

If you are hospitalized, or know of someone that is hospitalized, please give Pastor Charlotte a call if you want her to visit that person.

Update on our Kitchen and Lift Renovation Project

Our kitchen and lift committees have continued to plug away at all of the necessary planning. Figuring out how to get a proper ventilation system for the new kitchen, that meets City code, was especially challenging. And a different oven had to be selected as well so as not to overload our electrical system. Our top choices for contractors to do the work have now been asked submit budgets for the work. And a City permit has been applied for and we are awaiting approval.

If you have any questions, or wish to give some input, please contact members of our Committees: Karl K, Charlotte, Dale, and Karen

Danish Market Update

We will be placing an order for more items for our market early in March. If there are any items that you would like to have ordered in please contact the Church by March 10. The order will be sent in shortly after that. Hopefully we will get our shipment in April. Keep an eye on our Church website for more information.

Joan

CHURCH GROUPS

Viking Girls

In December we made festive Christmas table centerpieces. Some of these went home with us, but we also made about a dozen extra and these were delivered to a number of seniors. This gesture was very much appreciated.

Then in January we went bowling and Margit was our best overall bowler. Bravo! In February some of went to the National Music Centre downtown and then enjoyed coffee afterwards in the museum coffee shop.

Our meetings in the coming months are on New Year are **March 7th** and **April 4th** and **May 2nd at 1:30 pm**.

Anyone is welcome to come to our meetings and to participate in our activities. Contact Karen for information and reminders at president@danishlutheranchurch.ca.
Margit and Karen

Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies will be meeting on Monday, **March 10th** and **Monday, April 14th at 1:00 pm** in the Church basement hall. The May meeting will be on Tuesday, May 13th at 1:00 pm. All ages are welcome to join our fun and fellowship even if you're not crafty! (Not all of our group makes crafts.) We want to wish everyone a Happy Easter with your family and friends!

Louise Dresen
dresenlouise@yahoo.com or 403-242-7894

Crafter's Group

We are a group who meet and do handicrafts together, either working on our own projects or on something for the Church Christmas Bazaar. Meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm. Our next meetings are **March 19th** & **April 16th**. There will be no meeting in May. Contact Karen or Charlotte for location or questions, email president@danishlutheranchurch.ca and pastor@danishlutheranchurch.ca, respectively.

Sunday School Notes

Our little Sunday School meets twice a month, generally on the first and third Sundays of the month. Since the children love crafting I have promised them that we will do a craft that reinforces our lesson each time we meet. On **March 2nd** there will be a family service followed by our Fastelavn/Shrove celebrations, and beating of the barrel in the Church basement hall. Dates after that are **March 16th**, **April 6th** & **20th**, and **May 4th** & **25th**.

On Saturday, January 25th, 10 children and several parents met in the afternoon and packed 50 gift shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Afterwards we had a delicious supper cooked for us by Peter Berg, and we followed that by watching a movie together. An additional 6 filled boxes were given to us, so 56 boxes in total were delivered to Samaritan's Purse. Thank you to everyone who helped out by donating money, buying vegetables in



the fall, or in other ways. It now costs about \$25 to fill a shoe box so every bit helps!

Plans are underway for our annual summer day camp for kids ages 4-12. This year the camp will run from August 11th - 15th. See the information elsewhere in the newsletter. And, please mark your calendar for those dates!

Karen

Missions Prayer Group:

This group has members from at least 3 Lutheran congregations. Each month there is a country of focus. We pray for Christian work there and for other needs in that place. Meetings are **March 28th**, **April 25th**, and **May 30th** at **1:30 pm**. If you are interested contact Karen at president@danishlutheranchurch.ca for meeting details, info, and materials.

Missions Moments:

Update on Refugee Sponsorship:

After the Afghan refugee family we were working towards sponsoring ended up in the US, and the Rohingya family we chose last fall ended up in Surrey, our committee met another 2 times to choose a family to sponsor. In December and then again in January, in the space of a couple hours, the family we chose to sponsor was scooped up by another group of sponsors. Wow!

Finally, on February 4th we selected a young Syrian refugee family of 4 to sponsor. We had our group put down to sponsor them within half an hour of the list of refugees being posted. The paperwork has been completed and submitted and we should hear any day now as to when we can expect their arrival in Calgary. This will likely be in April or May.

By co-sponsoring with the Government of Canada we choose a family that is already approved to come to Canada, which speeds up the process. And the cost to us for a year of sponsorship is half of what full sponsorship would be. We are praying that this family will be a great fit for our congregation. We'll keep you posted. And, we welcome your questions and input.

Ellen, Anna & Dale, Krista, Karen, Sonja, and Myles.



An Evening Celebrating Danish Traditions

DLC SPRING DINNER & AUCTION

Friday, April 25th, 2025

At the Danish Canadian Club 727 - 11 Avenue SW

Doors open at 5:00 pm. Dinner at 7:00 pm.



Call early to order tickets at \$ 50.00 each. Come for an evening of fun, fellowship, and entertainment. Many great & beautiful items for sale: dining in unusual places, a stay in a cabin, gift certificates, paintings and more. Come and see!



Donations to the Auction are welcome. Please include a note describing the donation, and the name of the person donating. We only accept new items, or items in like-new condition. A gift you got and can't use is great for the auction. (Anything pledged after April 10th will not be in this Auction.)

To buy tickets or donate to the auction contact Kirsten Larsen at vice-president@danishlutheranchurch.ca or Jens Lehmann at treasurer@danishlutheranchurch.ca.

Payment by e-transfer, credit card, or cheque sent to Sharon Danish Lutheran Church.



Thank you for supporting this major fundraiser. It is very much appreciated.



Summer Bible Day Camp at Sharon Danish Lutheran Church 210 –10th Ave., NE

“Seeds, Soil, and Sunshine”

Stories, songs, crafts, science, games, snacks
(bring your own lunch).

8:30 – 5:00 pm daily, August 11th -15th, 2025.

For children ages 4 –12 years.

Cost: \$30 for the whole week for first child in a family
and \$15 for any other child from the same family.

For single days or drop-in, \$10 per day for each child, and \$5 for another
child in the same family.

Contact Pastor Charlotte at 403-719-3832 or by
email at charlotteberg1@gmail.com, by **August 4th**.



Making Pneumonia Prevention Vests:

For many years a number of people in our congregation have made pneumonia prevention vests (see photo on the front cover) which were distributed by Canadian Lutheran World Relief in various locations around the world. However that program stopped in 2022. We have now found another distributor, The Canadian Food for Children Charity, for both knitted, crocheted, and sewn vests. Patterns for both kinds of vests are available. Vests should measure no more than **11" x 11" or 28cm x 28cm** to fit the shipping boxes.



We would like to invite SEWERS in the Church to REUSE warm clothes that you no longer use to make vests. The pictures show an XL top from which three small vests were made. Existing seams were used where possible.

Margit has made a basic sewing pattern that is available in the Church Office (to the right of the altar). For more information please contact her at damgaard@nucleus.com. Please join the knitters and crocheters in making vests and saving lives.



OTHER

The Prayer Chain

The prayer line is available for those who request prayer support. All requests are confidential. Please call Krista Taldorf at 403-681-0870 or email her at ktaldorf@yahoo.com.

The Danish Federation's 44th Annual AGM & Conference

Thursday May 22nd - Sunday May 25th

Theme: Danish Immigration to the Canadian Prairies


For information contact the Church at office@danishlutheranchurch.ca re registration, accommodation, program and costs.

Hosted by Sharon Danish Lutheran Church & Dana Village



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Calendar of Events

March

- Sun 2nd** 10:00 am **English Family Service**
Fastelavn/Shrove Celebration in the Hall
- Wed 5th** 10:00 am **Study Group**
- Thu 6th** 11:00 am **Movie Lunch**
- Fri 7th** 1:30 pm **Viking Girls**
- Sun 9th** 10:00 am **English Service**
11:15 am **Danish Service**
- Mon 10th** 1:00 pm **Ladies Auxiliary**
- Sun 16th** 10:00 am **English Service** (Sunday School)
12:00 pm **Sing-along**
- Wed 19th** 10:00 am **Study Group**
7:30 pm **Crafter's Group**
- Sun 23rd** 10:00 am **English Service**
11:15 am **Danish Service**
- Tue 25th** 7:30 pm **Guest Speaker**
- Fri 28th** 1:30 pm **Prayer for World Missions**
- Sun 30th** 10:00 am **English Service, Annual General Meeting**

April

- Wed 2nd** 10:00 am **Study Group**
- Thu 3rd** 11:00 am **Movie Lunch**
- Fri 4th** 1:30 pm **Viking Girls**
- Sun 6th** 10:00 am **English Service** (Sunday School)
12:00 pm **Conversational Danish**
- Sun 13th** 10:00 am **English Service**
11:15 am **Danish Service**
- Mon 14th** 1:00 pm **Ladies Auxiliary**
- Wed 16th** 11:00 am **Study Group**
7:30 pm **Crafter's Group**
- Thu 17th** 7:00 pm **Maundy Thursday Worship Service**
- Fri 18th** 10:00 am **Good Friday Worship Service**
- Sun 20th** 10:00 am **Easter Service in English, (Sunday School)**
12:00 pm **Sing-along**
- Fri 25th** 1:30 pm **Prayer for World Missions**
6:00 pm **Spring Dinner and Auction at the DCC**
- Sat 26th** 8:30 am - 12:00 pm, **Lutheran Hospital Ministry**
Annual fundraising walk
- Sun 27th** 10:00 am **English Service**
11:15 am **Danish Service**
- Tue 29th** 7:30 pm **Guest Speaker**

May

- Thu 1st** 11:00 am **Movie Lunch**
- Fri 2nd** 1:30 pm **Viking Girls**

- Sun 4th** 10:00 am **English Service** (Sunday School)
12:00 pm **Conversational Danish**
- Wed 7th** 10:00 am **Study Group**
- Sun 11th** 10:00 am **English Service**
11:15 am **Danish Service**
- Tue 13th** 1:00 pm **Ladies Auxiliary**
- Sun 18th** 10:00 am **English Service**
11:15 am **Danish Service**
- Wed 21st** 11:00 am **Study Group**
7:30 pm **Crafter's Group**
- Thu - Sun, 22nd - 25th** **Danish Federation Conference**
- Sun 25th** 10:00 am **English Service** (Sunday School)
12:00 pm **Sing-along**
- Mon - Fri, 26th- 30th** **Danish Hoejskole**
- Tue 27th** 7:30 pm **Guest Speaker**
- Fri 30th** 1:30 pm **Prayer for World Missions**
- Sat 31st** 9:00 am **Spring Cleanup**

Upcoming

Sunday, June 8th Frikadeller Cooking Contest

Sunday Texts

March

- 2nd** Psalm 2, 1st Peter 3: 18-22, Matt. 3: 13-17
- 9th** Gen 3: 1-19; 2nd Cor 6: 1-2(2-10); Matt 4: 1-11
- 16th** Ps 42: 2-6; 1 Thess. 4: 1-7; Matt. 15: 21-28
- 23rd** Deut. 18: 9-15; Eph. 5: (1-5)6-9; Luke 11: 14-28
- 30th** Deut 8: 1-3; 2nd Cor. 9: 6-11; John 6: 1-15

April

- 6th** Is 7: 10-14; 1st John 1: 1-3; Luke 1: 26-38
- 13th** Zak 9: 9-10; Phil 2: 5-11; Matt. 21: 1-9
- 17th** Ex 12: 1-11; 1st Cor. 10: 15-17; Matt 26: 17-30
- 18th** The Passion of Christ
- 20th** Psalm 118: 19-29; 1st Cor. 5: 7-8; Mark 16: 1-8
- 27th** Psalm 30; 1st John 5:1-5 or Act 2: 22-28; John 20: 19-31

May

- 4th** Ez 34: 11-16; 1st Peter 2: 20-25 or Acts 2: 36-41; John 10: 11-16
- 11th** Is 54: 7-10; Heb. 13: 12-16 or Act 4: 7-12; John 16: 16-22
- 18th** Ez 36: 26-28; Jam 1: 17-21 or Acts 9: 1-18; John 16:5-15
- 25th** Gen 32: 25-32 or Jer 29: 11-13a; James 1: 22-25 or Acts 6: 1-4; John 16: 23b-28

Pastor: Charlotte Berg

Pastor's Office: (403) 719-3832 (Monday is our pastor's day off)
pastor@danishlutheranchurch.ca

Church Office: (403) 277-5804

Email: office@danishlutheranchurch.ca

Church Website: www.danishlutheranchurch.ca

For e-Transfers: e-transfer@danishlutheranchurch.ca

The Board:

President: Karen Falkenberg-Andersen, 403-863-3115
president@danishlutheranchurch.ca

Vice President: Kirsten Larsen (587)-582-3015
vice-president@danishlutheranchurch.ca

Secretary: Ulla Bartholdy, 587-707-1781

Treasurer: Jens Lehmann (403) 540-0201
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Julestue



Viking Girls Centerpiece



Santa Lucia Participants



Fully Lit Star of David



Singing 'Round the Christmas Tree



Danish Sandwich Making Class



Sandwiches Ready to Eat



Packing Shoebox Gifts



Candlemas Service



Viking Girls at Music Centre



Oh look! A cake!



Georgetta's 95th Birthday Party