

ANSGAR

DANISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020

BÆRER HVERANDRES BYRDER

SEPTEMBER/OKTOBER 2020

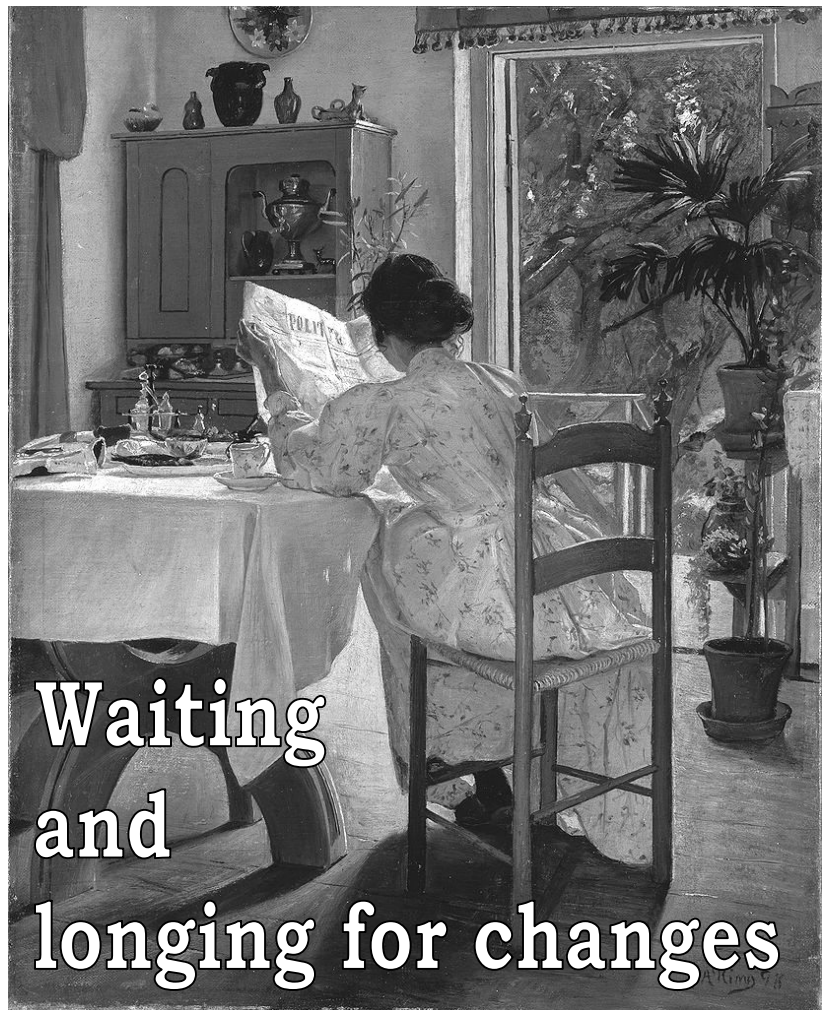
In the previous Newsletter, I wrote about a painting by one of my favourite Danish painters, L.A. Ring. It was a depiction of the artist's wife, Sigrid, pregnant and standing in the threshold between their house and their lush summer garden. It was painted in 1897, just a year after their marriage.

In this Newsletter, I will write about another painting of L.A. Ring depicting his wife again, in the same room and with almost the same view of the garden, but it is painted the year after in 1898. The title is "Ved frokostbordet og morgenaviserne", in English "At breakfast with the morning papers". In the painting from the year before, the pregnant Sigrid was standing in the threshold. She was on the verge of something new in her life, something that was both tied closely to her very own being and at the same time totally foreign to her. Her new matrimonial status as well as her pregnancy was in this way symbolised in the theme of the threshold, a favourite theme of L.A. Ring. We who were enjoying the painting were wondering where Sigrid would go, inside or outside, or whether she would just stay in the threshold, bound by the dilemma of her double-sided situation. The painting from 1897 did not give us any answers, but invited us to reflect and gave us room to make our own judgment of her situation as of our own.

I see in L.A. Ring's open-ended inquisitive art, a true sign of his superior mastering his medium. I cannot help but see the parallel to the teachings of Jesus himself on earth.

Jesus never closed our minds and hearts with firm laws and demands that would stop us from thinking ourselves.

Continued on page 8



Waiting
and
longing for changes



If you would like to receive this newsletter in pdf format instead of a printed hardcopy, please forward your email address to:

ansgarnews@gmail.com

and we will add it to our electronic mailing list.

Ansgar Church NEWSLETTER

Six issues per year.
Advertising rates per year:

Business card - \$65
1/4 page - \$100
1/2 page - \$135
3/4 page - \$175
1 page - \$215

This newsletter is available to all!

Download it from our website
www.ansgar.ca,
provide us with your email address, pick up a copy in the church or provide your mailing address and it will be mailed to your home.

Contact Alice Nickel
(780-467-8900)
for more information.
ansgarnews@gmail.com

Deadline for November/December 2020 News is October 10, 2020

Email submissions to
ansgarnews@gmail.com

Memorial Donations
have been received in memory of

**Karen Margrethe
Lindegaard Larsen
Jackie Lynn Thomas
Ejnar Thorup**



FUNERALS BAPTISMS VISITATIONS

Due to the current restrictions in social interaction, funerals, baptisms, visitations etc. must be kept to an absolute minimum.

However, don't hesitate to contact the pastor on email or phone regarding any questions or concerns about funerals, baptisms, visitations

Phone your friends and those you know from Church! They may need it now more than you think.

And remember the phone is always open to the Pastor. Please let the Pastor know about anyone who you think may need pastoral care.



To Maria Hjort Guiney for her indispensable assistance and work on the technical side of our online presence.

From the Treasurer:

June 2020

Income	\$ 4,955.25
Expenses	(\$ 11,335.98)
Deficit	(\$ 6,380.73)

July 2020

Income	\$ 5,419.96
Expenses	(\$ 9,375.78)
Deficit	(\$ 3,955.82)

2020 BUDGET

*January 1, 2020
- December 31, 2020*

*This chart indicates how much income we have collected towards our goal of **\$152,000.00** which was approved at the 2019 Annual General Meeting.*

This works out to \$12,667.00 per month.

*As of July 31, 2020 we have collected **\$40,759.51** towards our goal.*

\$40,759.51



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<https://www.facebook.com/AnsgarChurch>

if you want to stay in touch!

You can view this page without being on Facebook.



Follow us on Instagram
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A message from the Board

Happy summer! The Board and I miss you. We miss your smiling faces, your cheerful greetings and your warm handshakes and hugs. We hope that you are managing well during our new normal and that you have been able to enjoy the beautiful season despite all the changes and restrictions. I would ordinarily be writing about some of the wonderful church activities going on over the summer but during this year of cancellations, there have been no activities. One of our favourite summer activities, Camp Kuriakos, is but another cancelled item on the agenda of 2020 and is particularly missed.

We are heartened to be able to return to Services in the church. Attendance has been a bit low but in the circumstances it isn't unexpected. We are fully prepared to welcome you back - we have hand sanitizer and masks (for those without their own) at the entrance, and the pews are marked for physical distancing. All the pew backs, door handles and other high touch areas are disinfected prior to Service, and entry and exit plans are in place. Sadly, we cannot meet in the basement for coffee and fellowship either before or after Service. Pastor Lasse does a shortened version of our regular Service and is able to give communion to those wanting to partake. We are not permitted to sing hymns, only hum along, but Pastor Lasse has a splendid voice and he is allowed to sing providing he faces away from the congregation. All who are in good health are welcome and encouraged to come.

We've had one open air service at the Wildenhoff farm and another at the Kristensen farm. Both services, held in the beautiful nature and fresh country air, were in themselves a celebration of God's creation. It was wonderful to see those who came. Thank you for your hospitality Birgit & Erik, and Alice & Kris.

We have had to do some technical upgrading to boost our WiFi strength to better 'broadcast' the on-line Services. The second phase of the upgrade wasn't yet completed at the time of writing so I'll hope all is running smoothly by the time you are reading this. We've heard from many people that the on-line service is deeply appreciated by those unable to attend in person. A HUGE Thank You to all the people working so hard behind the scenes to bring this piece of God's word to the congregation.

The heavy rains early this summer brought to light a deficiency with the eavestroughs on the north side of the church and we've had to replace them to prevent flooding in the basement.

It has been a struggle to adjust to the pandemic. We've all had to rearrange our lives, our plans, our ways of doing things, and many of us have had to shift our travel plans. Ansgar Church has seen a notable decrease in donations over the past few months. Our expenses are not significantly less. We are not eligible for emergency Government relief and our bank account is dangerously low. Please, if you are able, make a summer donation to Ansgar Church. Mail a cheque, do an e-transfer at your bank, contact the treasurer to arrange a credit card transaction, or go to our website: www.ansgar.ca and click the donate icon. Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated.

On behalf of the Board,
Valerie Sørensen

MENIGHEDSRAADET

The Church Board 2020/2021

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780-973-6526

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Vice-President
780-474-4254

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Secretary
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Christopher J. Sørensen
Trustee
780-909-5380

Brian Mogensen
Trustee
587-873-7921

Pastor Lasse Hultberg

Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church
9554-108A Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 1C1

780-422-8777

ansgar@telusplanet.net
www.ansgar.ca



Church Owls Playgroup

Play time and music
for the little ones
up to
about 5 years of age
and their parents,
grandparents etc.
in Ansgar Danish
Lutheran Church

**We hope to see
you soon!**

Operation Friendship

*Ansgar Church continues to support
Operation Friendship at the McCauley
Senior's Drop-In Centre.*

*We sponsor a nutritious meal
once a month.*

*Although we are no longer able to
serve the meal during the pandemic,
your financial support is always welcome.*

*This means you can, in an easy way,
support this outreach program
and still get a tax receipt.*

*A suggested donation could be
\$10.00 per month.*

Thank you for your caring and help!

**Esther Sørensen
at 780-452-3678**

Regular Activities at Ansgar

*Danish Women's Group,
Hyggeklubben,
Men's Breakfast Club and
the Ansgar Singers*

*have all suspended their regular activities
until further notice.*

*We will keep everyone informed of changes
as the pandemic situation unfolds.*

EASIEST WAY TO DONATE

*You can donate to our church on a regular monthly
basis by simply contacting the treasurer.*

*Bent will set you up to have a charge
put on your credit card.*

*Remember that we get no financial support from any
government. We rely completely upon our members.*

*We appreciate your support
during these trying times.*

**Contact Bent Skousbol
at 780-458-7695**

Ansgar Church Sunday Services Online

You can access our Sunday services at your convenience
during this time of social distancing:

FACEBOOK: You do not have to be on Facebook to view this page:
<https://www.facebook.com/AnsgarChurch> and follow the links

OUR WEB PAGE: **www.ansgar.ca**

Click on the "Videos" tab and view any of the videos from YouTube

OUR YouTube CHANNEL: **Ansgar Church** on youtube.com

Confirmation Class 2020 - 2021

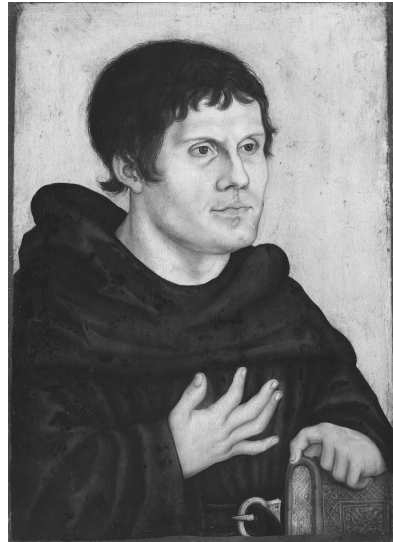
Confirmation classes were supposed to begin in the fall 2020 for confirmation in June 2021. Right now, so many things are uncertain. However, I would like to slowly begin the catechumenate for the confirmands, though classes may be postponed until the new year. It is my hope that we by then can get the young people involved in our activities and services and include them in the fellowship of the Ansgar family.

In the confirmation classes we will learn about our faith and our traditions. We will discuss, in an accepting and caring environment, the great questions of life and faith.



*For signing up and/or any questions contact
Pastor Lasse
at 780 422 8777 or ansgar@telus.ca*

Reformation Sunday October 25 at 10:30 am



The reformation will be celebrated this year at a festive service. Learn about our faith and why we have so much to celebrate because of Martin Luther.

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SEPTEMBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SPECIAL THIS MONTH: September 6 <i>Danish service at Ansgar</i> September 13 <i>English service online</i> September 20 <i>English service at Ansgar</i> September 27 <i>English service online</i>		1 <i>7:00 pm</i> <i>Ansgar Board Meeting</i>	2	3	4	5
6 <i>10:30 am DANSK</i> 13.søndag efter trinitatis Mattæus 20, 20-28 <i>In person service</i>	7 LABOUR DAY	8	9	10	11	12
13 <i>10:30 am ENGLISH</i> 14th Sunday after Trinity John 5, 1-15 <i>Media service</i>	14	15	16	17 <i>Operation Friendship</i> <i>(See pg 4)</i>	18	19 
20 <i>10:30 am ENGLISH</i> 15th Sunday after Trinity Luke 10, 38-42 <i>In person service</i>	21	22	23	24 	25	26 
27 <i>10:30 am ENGLISH</i> 16th Sunday after Trinity John 11, 19-45 <i>Media service</i>	28	29	30			

OCTOBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SPECIAL THIS MONTH: October 4 Dansk Høst Gudstjeneste at Ansgar October 11 English Thanksgiving service online October 18 English service at Ansgar October 25 English service online				1	2	3
4 10:30 am DANISH 17.søndag efter trinitatis Markus 2, 14-22 Høst  In person service	5	6 7:00 pm Ansgar Board Meeting	7	8	9	10
11 10:30 am ENGLISH 18th Sunday after Trinity John 15, 1-11 Thanksgiving  Media service	12 THANKS- GIVING DAY	13	14	15 Operation Friendship (See pg 4)	16	17
18 10:30 am ENGLISH 19th Sunday after Trinity John 1, 35-51 In person service		20	21	22	23	24
25 10:30 am ENGLISH 20th Sunday after Trinity Matthew 21, 28-44 Reformation Sunday Media service		27	28	29	30	31 HALLOWEEN

Thanksgiving Service

October 11 at 10:30 am

Usually we encourage all to bring to Church samples of fruits and vegetable from your garden. All edible donations will then go to Operation Friendship. However, this year because of the circumstances we will encourage you to give a donation to the organization through Ansgar. Thank you!

Høstgudstjeneste

Oktober 4 at 10:30 am

Traditionel dansk høstgudstjeneste.



Danish Community Events

The Ansgar DVD collection

Ansgar is in possession of a collection of DVDs with Danish movies and TV-series.

The collection covers all kinds of genres and there are old as well as newer movies and TV-series.

If you are interested in Danish movies and culture don't hesitate to have a look in the catalogue, which you find in the Church Basement together with the collection.

Please register the DVDs you borrow and bring them back in undamaged shape for others to enjoy.

For Danes and Canadians in Edmonton
The Danish Canadian Society



DANIA



Dances - Camp outs - Children's Events - Newsletter

President Lis Walker
780.433.9932

daniaedmonton@gmail.com or
daniapresident@gmail.com

Det Danske Bibliotek

Stedet vi mødes



Danish Library

A meeting place

15212-117 Avenue

The library is being closed down this fall. We are trying to find homes for the Danish books – a problem since few people read that language here in Canada.

We will be open on September 2nd, 3rd and 4th from 2 to 8 pm for anyone who wants to pick up books.

The address is 15112-117 Avenue, Edmonton.

Thank you to all who have supported us over the 20 years, but most of all thank you to Konrad Hansen for providing the building to us.

For more information please phone
Gunnar 780 667-0607,
Jette 780 435-8830 or Birgit 780 478-2152

continued from page 1

I see the parallel of L.A. Ring's genius to Jesus' teaching in how Jesus always did everything to open our minds and hearts to new possibilities and new perspectives in our often too settled and constrained life.

We, as Christians, must therefore think for ourselves and in this way, it is not easy to be a Christian. We cannot just believe and do whatever we are told. We must think along with Jesus and his compassionate word of love to us. We must make our own decisions in our unique life situation. We all know that nothing ever comes back the same in life. We can learn from history, from own experiences, and we should also be open to let us be inspired by the caring and loving word of God. But we must take our own stand in our own unique situation.

There is lots of inspiration to find in the word of Jesus Christ. We all know, let's say, the parable of the Good Samaritan. We hear in the story how the Good Samaritan is doing good to his fellow human being in need. We, of course, will never be in that exact same situation as the Samaritan, but the suggestion Jesus Christ gives us to be like the Good Samaritan can inspire us to step in and help out wherever needed. In what way? Well, that depends on the situation! You must think how and take your stand.

Getting back to L.A. Ring's painting - about one year after he painted his pregnant wife in the threshold to their lush garden, he paints her again in the same room. This time she is not pregnant anymore. She is of course a mother now, and she has in the painting stepped into the room and is now sitting at the breakfast table. She sits there in her light summer dress with slippers on her feet; liberated and relaxed. The interior is decorated in the artistic, folk art inspired kind, highly fashionable among Scandinavian artists at the time. We did see that in the earlier painting. We also see a few changes to the plants on the right side. The myrtle in the terracotta pot is moved a little more into the room, just as Sigrid herself. The myrtle is an old Danish symbol of nuptial innocence and purity. It does not seem to grow as well as before. It is almost completely overshadowed by another plant in a terracotta pot, a palm tree on a pedestal, and in between the two bigger plants, smaller plants are appearing and started growing in their own small pots (husband and children?). Is she now totally dominated by motherhood and her status

Continued on page 10

Many of us are financially affected by the pandemic - the church is also. We are asking those still able to contribute, to please continue your support. It is greatly appreciated!

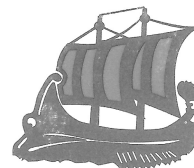
You can simply mail your cheque or donate online:

Go to the website: www.ansgar.ca and click on "DONATE" and you will be guided through the process. It is very easy and simple.

You can also set-up a recurring transaction on your credit card which will automatically be processed by the church. Contact the treasurer at ansgartreasurer@gmail.com and the required information will be recorded.

Or set-up a one-time or recurring e-transfer donation to Ansgar Church. To do this, use the email: ansgartreasurer@gmail.com with Password: Ansgar.

Your confidential information is secure, we do not store credit or debit card information in the church or on our website.



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Continued from page 9

as a married woman? It seems so. However, a myrtle branch is hovering over her head now symbolising her purity and innocence. Another change in the setting of the room is the missing curtain. What has happened? Has something gone wrong? Or has something new been revealed as the curtain has been torn to pieces? It refers perhaps to what happened at the moment when Jesus died on the cross and the curtain to the holiest of holiest was torn to pieces, giving access for everyone to God and for God to leave his temple to be wherever people are gathered in his name. Whatever the reference, something has changed for sure in the Ring family. Of course, they have had small children. They have gone across the threshold to in parenthood into something completely new to them. But at the same time, everything is the same. They probably have same daily meals, the same beautiful interior and the same lush garden outside. Seemingly only small changes have occurred. But then at the same time, everything is changed. It seems as if they have undergone the same change as Christians go through in life. We, as Christians, are living in the same world as ever with the same demands of society and community. But then, when we begin seeing God's deeds in the world and hearing God's word to us through Jesus Christ, this makes everything new. It gives us new perspectives. It tears the curtain of indifference away from our eyes and changes everything to something new and better, something worth fighting for and praying for. We may, of course, like Sigrid in the painting not always be that active in the world, we may withdraw ourselves for awhile from the

world. But the world will never be indifferent to us. We will keep on suffering with the world. The pain of my neighbour will be mine too, even if I may need to focus on other things in life right now, such as raising children and praying for them more than anything else.

Sigrid in the painting has for sure drawn herself back from the threshold. She is at peace with her domestic bliss. But the way out is still there through the threshold. And the curtains that could have blocked the view to the outside are also gone. Sigrid is in her life right now more occupied with food (on the table), comfort (the slippers on her feet). She is probably also in her daily life occupied with the young child she has recently given birth to, though she right now seems to have a quiet moment. But there is one very central detail in the painting that reveals that she is still interested in the world around her. She is reading the newspaper! And not just any kind of newspaper, but a radical kind: an atheistic, anti-royal, left wing,

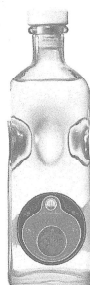
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revolutionary paper, "Politiken"! At that time in Denmark, in the late 1890s there was an open parliamentary and political battle between left and right. The newspaper Sigrid is reading was the newspaper of the radical left in Denmark. This seemingly idyllic domestic scene was at the time in this way shocking and provoking in the conservative art scene of Copenhagen. But let that be for now.

For me, the point is that we, as Christians, cannot leave the world to itself, even if we feel that there is more to life than just politics, money, prestige and all those earthly things. Even in our relatively spiritual enlightened position, we must also keep oriented with the world in all its diversity. But more than that, we must take a stand and do our part to fight for a better society for all people. How? We all have our ideas and our situation in life to care for. But we must also be prepared to step out of our little space and in compassion with our fellow human beings pray and fight for the world we all share.

Right now, most of us are confined to ourselves. It seems that social distancing is here to stay for quite awhile. We can, however, keep ourselves oriented through the media. I, myself, feel much like in the situation of L.A. Ring's wife, Sigrid, drawn back from the world and real life. But thank God that the curtain between His realm and ours is torn to pieces, so we can see God, nevertheless. We may at times feel lonely, but we are never alone when we trust in God. We may at times also feel pacified and restricted, but we still have a responsibility in relation to our fellow human beings. I read and learn about all this from L.A. Ring's beautiful painting of his wife, just as I read and learn about all this in the word of God in the Bible.

A last note: L.A. Ring is known for being an atheist. However, I still feel a religious sensitivity in his paintings. As a true artist, he is in touch with a certain kind of spirituality and with a deep understanding of humankind. In his life, L.A. Ring often suffered from melancholia tending toward depression. I think it is difficult to see God active in the world and in His word, when you are depressed. L.A. Ring did not see a way out for humankind in our double-sided and often split situation. But as a Christian, I believe that there is release and forgiveness and salvation for all of us in Jesus Christ. I feel a profound optimism in the Christian faith that I wish all people on earth will experience. We are, of course, not always living fully in God's reality. We are at times locked up in body or mind or spirit. We are at times suffering ourselves, pessimists or in sorrow. But this is not the entire story. We must always hold onto the belief that God always has new, wonderful surprises for us in this life or beyond.

At the time L.A. Ring painted his wife in 1898, he was veiled in the bliss of romantic love and happiness. His early years of marriage were his best in life and the lightest. This is reflected in his paintings from those years. I think our eyes can almost "drink" from these paintings, the light and happiness he experienced, but we can also learn, if we behold them with eyes enlightened by Jesus Christ, that there is a beyond that we must nourish in ourselves, as well as a world outside our doorstep that we must care for to the best of our abilities.

Can't wait to see you soon again, whenever you are ready. God bless you all, may you find hope and peace and blessings until we see each other again,

Pastor Lasse

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Outdoor Service



We are so blessed to have been welcomed to Erik & Birgit Wildenhoff's farm for an outdoor service on July 19th and on August 16th to Kris & Alice Kristensen's farm for a wonderful service.



The weather cooperated and it was great to see some familiar faces once again.



Thanks to Erik & Birgit and Kris & Alice for opening your beautiful properties to the Ansgar congregation.



SERVICES AT ANSGAR IN THE FALL

At Ansgar we are dedicated to serve the entire congregation wherever they are. During the summer months we have had in-person services in the sanctuary as well as outdoor services and pre-recorded services. The outdoor services have been well attended and the pre-recorded services popular, too. The in-person indoor services have only been sparsely attended, however well received by the few who have been there, but the live-streaming has not been working well. We understand that

many of you are hesitant to come back to church, but still wish to follow the services at Ansgar, and we will therefore try to adapt to the situation.

Going into fall, outdoor services will not be an option, but to serve the entire congregation better we will do a mix of in-person services and pre-recorded services for the months to follow. The in-person services will be live-streamed and we will work on improving the quality.