



West Denmark Lutheran Church Luck, Wisconsin

LOTS GOING ON AT WEST DENMARK!

May 30th Molly Cook Graduation party 11-2 at the parish hall

June 1 Danish Folk dancing with Shawn at the parish hall 7pm

June 14th Selma Christiansen 90th birthday celebration after church

June 14-19th Fiddle school!

June 15th Last day to register for Family Camp For more information, go to www.westdenmark.org/camp

June 16th Fiddle school Instructor's Concert 7pm at the church (see poster)

June 18th Fiddle school finale concert 7pm, outside behind the hall weather permitting!

June 22nd Danish Folk Dancing with Shawn at the parish hall 7pm

June 25th West Denmark Council meeting 7pm at the church

June 30-July 3 Family Camp!

30th-6pm outdoors behind the Hall Root-Beer-Float Social, singing, announcements of afternoon crafts and other activities, and sign-ups

July 1- 6:15pm Danish Folk Dancing performance

July 19 Lucky Days Parade- 2pm in Luck -details in July newsletter

❖ **June Birthdays** ❖
& Anniversaries

Birthdays

Best wishes for the coming year!

- 2 Oskar Tretsven
- 4 Barb Kass
Ty Tretsven
- 6 Paul Petersen
- 8 Ella Tretsven
- 12 Selma Christiansen
- 14 Carl Hansen
- 17 Isaiah Tretsven
- 24 Pam Girtz
Mark Grebner
- 28 Norman Hansen
- 30 Gussie Tretsven

Anniversaries

Congratulations!

- 7 Christy & Jeff Wetzig
- 13 Diane & Dave Clifton
- 14 Molly Tulkki & Chris Tou
- 24 Joyce & Thomas Kessler
- 25 Nikki & Henrik Strandskov
Brenda Johnson &
Jay Stackhouse
- 26 Caitlin & Kyle Petersen
- 27 Maggie & Paul Petersen
- 29 Sheri & Brian Hacker



Look for more photos from the Ebleskiver Supper throughout the newsletter!



A FIRSHTHAND EXPERIENCE OF NFS GRUNDTVIG: A Sunday morning in Copenhagen

I am excited to share with you my recent visit to Grundtvig's Church in Copenhagen, Denmark, a trip that was both spiritually enriching and deeply inspiring. As many of you know, our church has embraced the philosophy and theology of NFS Grundtvig, who profoundly shaped the religious and cultural landscape of Denmark. His emphasis on education, community, and the importance of fostering a vibrant cultural life resonates with our mission here at West Denmark Lutheran Church.

During my visit to Grundtvig's Church on a recent spring Sunday morning, I was struck by the majestic humble beauty and serenity of the space, which exuded a welcoming aura that reminded me of West Denmark. Chuck and I noted the ringing of the bells 30 minutes before the service, 15 minutes before the service, and as the service began. I imagined Carl Hansen with his hand on the rope of the giant bell. The excellent liturgy, music, and the feel of the service mirrored my experience at West Denmark.

The unique architecture of the church building designed by the architect P.V. Jensen-Klint, reflects Grundtvig's belief in the connection between faith and the natural world, creating an atmosphere that encourages worship and reflection.

After worship, it was a delight to meet with the pastor of Grundtvig's Church, who graciously shared insights about their congregation and the ongoing work of nurturing faith through education and community engagement. Our conversation highlighted the enduring relevance of Grundtvig's teachings in today's world, where turmoil and division often overshadow our collective pursuit of understanding and harmony.

NFS Grundtvig's philosophy centers on the idea that education is essential not only for individual development but also for the enrichment of society as a whole. He believed that culture and faith are intertwined, and that a vibrant cultural life is vital for a healthy community. In an era marked by challenges and uncertainty, his emphasis on education and the cultivation of a strong community spirit seems more pertinent than ever.

As I stood in Grundtvig's Church, I felt an overwhelming sense of pride and gratitude for how West Denmark Lutheran Church has maintained these valuable perspectives. Our commitment to fostering a nurturing environment for growth—both spiritually and culturally—reflects the very essence of Grundtvig's vision.

Another noteworthy experience in Denmark was seeing the white church buildings dotting the countryside. Again, I was grateful for the fine craftsmanship by the Petersen Brothers, who built a church that would shine in the Danish countryside.

In faith and fellowship,

Pastor Shawn Mai

Turn to Page 3 for photos from Shawn's trip

JUNE WORSHIP NOTES

SUNDAYS AT WEST DENMARK:

8:30 MEDITATION GROUP

You are invited to join our 8:30 Meditation Group, which meets in the balcony of the church. In a world that can often feel chaotic, this gathering has become a grounding and connected time for all participants. We start with a short reflective reading, follow it with 15 to 20 minutes of silence, and wrap up with a discussion about our experiences. It's a beautiful way to center ourselves and find peace together.

10 AM WORSHIP

Join us for our thriving 10 AM worship service, filled with inspiring music, engaging lay participation, and thoughtful reflections on lectionary texts. Invite neighbors who may be looking for community to experience our eagerness to welcome. Stay afterward for coffee, delicious treats, and meaningful conversations at 11 AM!

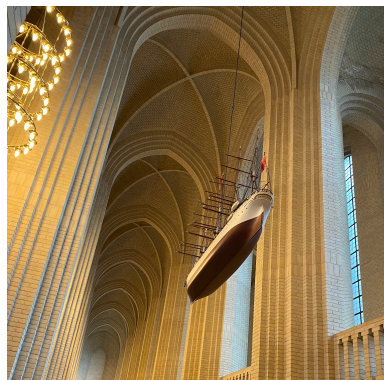
PREACHERS IN JUNE

	May 31	Judy Wicklund		
June 7th	Christy Wetzig		June 21st	Shwan Mai
June 14th	Cordelia Strandskov		June 28th	Christy Wetzig

JUST A CLOSER WALK

The next "Just a Closer Walk" will be on Wednesday, June 10th, beginning at 6:00 pm. Meet behind Café Wren to walk the Gandy Dancer Trail . Come talk with us about faith formation. What brings you closer to God? We have had great conversations and shared with each other. Why Jesus/ Why we find God in nature? What we believed as a child that we wrestle with now? We just enjoy each other's company. Youth are welcome. This month's reflection: Share a time when you felt closest to God. What do you do to feel closest to God? (Facilitated by Terra Lumley).

Pictures from Shawn's visit to Grundtvig's church:



Left: Pastor Shawn and the minister
Above: A familiar sight in the sanctuary!
Right: Grundtvig's church. Chuck for scale.



Ongoing Activities at West Denmark...

West Denmark Bible Study

On Summer Break Until After Family Camp

We just finished discussing the book of James. The next book is still being determined, so will be an excellent time to join an engaging, relevant, low stress study led by Christy Wetzig. No prep necessary! Our motto is: *Not all who wander are lost!* All are welcome!



Encore: Conversations About Aging Thursday June 25th

10:30- noon in the fellowship area in the church.
Topic: ***Mattering: The Secret to a Life of Deep Connection and Purpose*** based on the book by Jennifer Breheny Wallace. No need to read the book! Come and talk about how important, (or not), it is to feel like you matter to others. It's a trendy topic!!! Join us!!!

West Denmark Book Club

On summer break until September.
Look for the reading selection
in the July newsletter.

The WDLC book discussion group meets via zoom at 11 AM on the FOURTH Wednesday of every other month. Join us for a lively, insightful discussion. For the Zoom link contact: Mark Hulsether <mhulseth@gmail.com>.

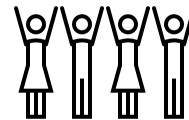
Choir Practice

Wednesdays at 7 pm through June 18th. The choir will be on break after Father's Day.

Men's Breakfast

Mondays 7:30am

Meets at the Tin Shed in Frederic



Women's Breakfast

Mondays 10 am

Mondays 10 am at the Tin Shed in Frederic except the last week of the month when they meet on Monday at Cafe Wren at 11:40am.

Peanut Butter

is always needed for the backpack program at Luck school. This is the last month of school. Thanks for the great response this year! Either purchase peanut butter and leave at church, or earmark a donation, put it in the offering and I will purchase. Thank you!! *Barb Kass*

Quilters!

On Break Until July

We will be starting to piece quilts with the pieces already cut and accepting fabric for more. We need cutters and people to sew. Then crews to assemble, tie and bind the quilts. Call the church for meeting times. (We often meet on Mondays at 11:30 after the women's breakfast.) All skill levels are welcome!!!

WEST DENMARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation and a Church in Transition...

We are a congregation that's heavily invested in the spiritual, physical and ministerial work of pastoral transition, all-the-while imagining and planning for what we will look like with new pastoral leadership.

A significant part of our worship/ministerial and administrative approach during the search for a new pastor has been the development of a "shared ministry model". Shawn, an ordained Lutheran ELCA minister, has stepped up to serve as the Interim Pastor and help lead us through this time of transition, Christy has shared her religious insights when she preaches and her artistic and organizational skills as Worship Coordinator/Parish Associate, Liz has become the church's Administrative "wizard", assisted in financial management by Patty, while she continues to serve as volunteer coordinator for the confirmation program, Nikki researches, writes and puts together the weekly bulletin and music notes and Chris, Chuck and Harry, supported by the Choir, are the team that brings worship together with their musical skills. We are blessed to have all these talented folks engaged in and committed to maintaining the day-to-day vitality, worship and operations of our church.

In addition to the team providing West Denmark with the new shared ministry model, congregation members have volunteered to provide the multitude of functions and activities we have come to expect at West Denmark. The church has gained new members and is brimming with energy and enthusiasm, truly a blessing in a time of pastoral transition.

Since the transition process began, we have come together to create new ways to keep our church "humming along" while we reflected and prayed about who we are as a congregation. We created our Ministry Site Profile from the congregational survey conducted by the Transition Team and submitted it to the NW Area Synod to start advertising our opening to potential pastoral candidates. We installed a Call Committee of church members to work with the Synod to conduct the search for a new pastor.

In late 2025, the Synod began advertising West Denmark as a church seeking to Call a new pastor. This past winter (2026) we were told that we could expect ordained ministers to begin submitting applications of interest sometime in late Spring/Early Summer. Our Call Committee members (Laura, Chris Johansen, Paul, Mike and Jenni) are currently working with one another and the Synod to design interview questions.

This time in our church life is designed to be one of introspection and consideration of next steps, a time to plan for and prepare the path for a new pastor. Stay tuned for more news on our pastoral search as we have more news

Report written by Terry, on behalf of the Church Council

COUNCIL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Church Council is looking for two-three volunteers to serve as a nominating committee to find new Church Council members. At the Church's Annual meeting in December 2026, we will be electing two new Church Council members to replace 2 current members. The nominating committee will be asked find congregation members to fill these positions. Please let any of the current Council members know of your willingness to serve on the nominating committee.

FAMILY CAMP REGISTRATION CLOSES JUNE 22nd!!

Registration is now open for 2026 West Denmark Family Camp! Please remember to register early so our brilliant head chef, Barb Kass, knows how much food to order!

Three full days of Camp begin on Wednesday, July 1 and continue through Friday, July 3. Before Camp begins, you are invited to a Root-Beer-Float Social on June 30, the evening before the full schedule. Join us at 6 p.m outdoors behind the Hall. Following this, we will move upstairs for singing, announcement of afternoon crafts and other activities, and optional sign-up

How to Register:

For online registration and payment by credit card, go to www.westdenmark.org/camp and pay via PayPal (Family Camp Pays the fee, and we will confirm your registration.)

-OR-

For mailed registration and payment by check, go to the website, print out the paper registration form, fill it out, write a check made payable to WD Family Camp, and mail it to Registrar Judy Grumstrup, 2497 170th Street, Luck, WI 54853. We will confirm your registration.

Scholarships: If you or someone you know finds the cost prohibitive, we can help. Talk with, text, or email Pastor Shawn Mai (shawnmai64@gmail.com or 952-801-4975) and tell him what level of support you need, and he will register you with complete anonymity.

Looking forward to joining you at Family Camp 2026!

THANK YOU to FAMILY CAMPERS

Through the financial generosity of the attendees at Family Camp, West Denmark Church has acquired a new 85-inch flat screen TV and a moveable stand to accommodate it. The TV was installed by members of the Camp Committee in the Church Hall in early May and will begin being used during this year's Family Camp. The TV will allow speakers to plug their computers directly into the set so presentation materials can be shown on the screen. We're very pleased to have this wonderful addition to the Hall and excited to see it in operation!



WEST DENMARK

FOLKGRUPPE

This year's Family Camp will include a performance by West Denmark's new Folkgruppe. Donna Mae Pedersen loved dancing and was one of the original founders of Family Camp.



In honor of Donna Mae and in the long history of folk dancing at family camp, a group will be meeting several times before Family Camp to learn several new dances to perform and teach. The practices will happen at the Parish Hall on June 1 and June 22. It will be fun and easy. No prior folk dancing experience necessary ©

If you are interested in participating, contact Shawn Mai at 612-801-4975 or by email shawnmai64@gmail.com.

ÆBLESKIVER WRAP UP!

from Barb Kass



On the Sunday morning after the Æbleskiver Dinner, the congregation was asked to raise their hand if they helped with the dinner. Nearly everyone raised their hands! And herein lies the secret to the success of æbleskiver every year- from ages 5 to 90, everyone steps up!

Pre-event: posters are hung, ice cream pails are emptied, washed and brought to church for transporting batter to the bakers, grounds are raked and tidied, and the hall is cleaned up and down. No job is too big or too small.

Friday, the crew comes and hooks up the stove upstairs, and sets up the work space, bake sale tables, upstairs seating and waiting areas, while the crew downstairs sacks dry mix, whacks 25 dozen eggs for the next day. Counters and stoves are covered to help with the clean up. Bowls counted for condiments, silverware wrapped, tables set, fruit soup made, and just before the bank closes, start-up money is remembered for the cash boxes. We all go home to get a good night's sleep in anticipation of the next day.

On Saturday, sausage is cooked, flowers arrive, tables are set, bake sale items and æblekage dropped off. The mixers arrive, the bakers heat their pans and all of a sudden everything is in motion. By 3:30, ovens have the first æbleskivers ready to serve and then 3 ½ hours fly by as 250 people come through the door to enjoy our delicious Danish meal. Add over 50 volunteers and know there were a lot of æbleskivers baked and eaten!

Highlights this year were the grandkids stepping up to help! Beth and Ronnie's Heath (5) was expertly mentored by Liz's grandson Alex in the important job of schlepping batter from the kitchen to the upstairs bakers. Those buckets are pretty full, yet he managed beautifully. Pam and Roger's Kirsten expertly served in the downstairs dining room with the guidance of Mercy and Gussy and the rest of the serving crew. It's only a matter of time before these two are baking!!

Special thanks to Dave Johnson who comes from California every year around the Æbleskiver dinner date to be available to set up the upstairs, as his dad Ray did for decades, and of course to bake. This year, he was joined in the kitchen by son Phil, also from California. They are a lovely tribute to Ray and Alma! The passing down of traditions from generation to generation is a strength of the West Denmark community.

With the help of 2 Thrivent Action grants, and donations towards the food expenses, the dinner, raffle and bake sale brought in just under \$4,000. The value of generations of families working together and well as an event that requires and receives help from an entire church community cannot be measured, only deeply felt. Thank you for another amazing Æbleskiver event. Indeed it takes all of us.



Turn to page 8 for the 2026 ÆBLESKIVER PROCEEDS

2026 ÆBLESKIVER PROCEEDS

Donations: 500
Bake Sale: 100
Raffle: 363
Ticket Sales: 2957
Total revenue: \$3,920
Expense:
Food and supplies: 286.74

Net gain (still waiting on advertising expense):
\$3,633.26

We also received \$500 in Thrivent matching grants to offset expenses.



PREVIOUS ÆBLESKIVER PROCEEDS

2025 Æbleskiver Proceeds:

Bake Sale: 100
Raffle: 137
Ticket Sales: 3,411
Total revenue: 3,648
Expense 2025
Food, supplies and advertising: 860.32

Net gain 2025 : \$2787.68

2024 Æbleskiver Proceeds:

Bake sale: 86
Raffle: 167
Ticket Sales: 4353
Total revenue:
Expense:
Food, supplies, and advertising: 716.17

Net gain 2024: \$3636.83

CELEBRATING ASTRID SOMMERFELD'S CONFIRMATION



On Sunday, May 24, 2026, the Congregation of West Denmark, acting as her godparents, celebrated Astrid Sommerfeld's confirmation. It was a joyful occasion with many of her family members and friends in attendance.

Astrid has completed two years of study in preparation for confirmation. Her chosen confirmation verse is Philippians 1:6: "And I am certain that God, who began the work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."

In blessing of Astrid and recognition of her journey to this point in her life, let us pray for her, encourage her, and walk alongside her as she grows in her faith: "Holy Spirit, you have promised to be with us always. We ask for your presence to be with Astrid. May she grow in faith, be filled with your power, and be guided by your wisdom. Empower her to live as a witness to your love and grace in the world. Amen"



YOU CAN ALMOST TASTE IT...

Progress is on track to complete West Denmark's pizza oven by Family Camp! Jeff has been hard at work, with a little help from his strong wife, mixing and pouring concrete and stacking blocks to make the foundation for the oven. Soon the actual oven will begin to take shape, which is the fun part! Not as fun as eating pizza, but close enough you can start to smell the melting cheese...



It's a tough job, but Jeff Wetzig's got to do it!

SUPPORT WEST DENMARK THESPIANS

Shrek! The Musical is being produced by St. Croix Festival Theatre and a West Denmark member and two friends of our community are in it! Henrik Strandskov, Karl Wicklund, and Anika Wicklund all have parts. It opens June 18th and runs until June 28th. Many performances are matinees, which is good because the venue is Chisago Lakes High School in Lindstrom, MN. Go to <https://www.festivaltheatre.org/> to get your tickets!



HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE BURIED AT WEST DENMARK CEMETERY?

from Laura Jensen

When I embarked on a project to gather obituaries for every person buried at West Denmark Cemetery, I thought how hard could it be? Findagrave.com said there were 622 people buried there so I got started. Six months later, after perusing 150 years of newspapers (online and hard copy), funeral bulletins, and church records, it seems there are at least 656 people buried there. I have 468 obituaries ranging as far back as 1876 to as late as 2026. Soon, I will need your help more than ever. In June, I hope to post a list of obituaries I am missing. I'm not looking to get more suggestions for resources to research but rather the obituaries themselves.

If you are interested in joining me as an obituary detective, you can reach me at laurajensen825@gmail.com.

LOAVES & FISHES MONTHLY REPORT APRIL & MAY 2026

Open Tues. & Thurs. 11 – 1:00 Lions Hall, 300 S. 1st Street Luck, WI P.O. Box 554 Luck, WI 54853

APRIL:

Households served: 45
Luck: 24; Unity: 19
Adults: 79; Children: 24
New families: 4
Total people: 103

Donations: Money: \$1,504
(Below includes TEFAP, purchased food, donations)
Weight of food coming in: # 3,056
Weight of food going out: # 2,012
Volunteer hours: 56 hours.

MAY:

Households served: 42
Luck 27; Unity 12
Adults: 68; Children: 14
New families: 3
Total people: 82

Donations: Money: \$500.00
(Below includes TEFAP, purchased food, donations)
Weight of food coming in: # 2,827
Weight of food going out: # 2,191
Volunteer hours: 53 hours

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is a federally funded USDA food program, which is administered through the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Loaves & Fishes is a recipient agency.

Needs for next month: green beans, Chinese foods, saltine crackers, tuna without soy, spices

We can always use more volunteer workers!

If interested, please contact:

Pam Girtz 320-232-7541

email: girtzp@gmail.com;

or Gena Bugno: nobug115@yahoo.com

WOODLAND SCHOOL UPDATE

The Woodland School Hive Buzzing This Spring

The West Denmark Woodland School Group and Volunteers are buzzing like bees this Spring. At the beginning of May, a group of State licensing representatives visited our site and hiked our trails. A friendly group, they offered us suggestions to help us make final preparations for our licensing visits. We also met again with our building inspector for clarification and additional helpful suggestions. As a result, the Group will be reviewing and undertaking an array of final preparation tasks in the next two months. We welcome your participation and questions.



One of our other recent activities was to tour our WD Woodlands with retired forester, Paul Pedersen. With Paul's help, we are surveying management needs for the Woodland Trails, such as tree removal, and identifying and labeling various tree species growing in the woods. We identified 8 different tree species and will be adding permanent labels in June. Another exciting addition to our Woodland School Trails Exploration Areas will be signs created by Michael Sommers for Turkey Hill, Frog Harbor, and the Rainbow Tree. We plan to install these at the end of June before Family Camp. This Summer, please feel free to take a hike and enjoy our WD Woodland School Trails (starting at the Church).

Haugaard's West Denmark Fiddle School

1. Instructors' Concert



Harald Haugaard
Denmark



Sebastian Bloch
Denmark



Hanneke Cassel
Boston, MA



Kevin Henderson
Shetland



Emma Kragh-Elmoe
Denmark

West Denmark Lutheran Church

Tuesday, June 16, 2026
at 7:30 pm



Tickets

Reserved seats \$25 - Open Seating \$20
2478 170th Street, Luck, Wisconsin 54853
One mile West of Luck. County Rd N West, then South on 170th.

2. Finale Concert

Up to 60 participants with instructors!
West Denmark Parish Hall (**outside**)

Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 7:00 pm

Admission is a free-will offering used to provide scholarships

*Haugaard's West Denmark Fiddle School is sponsored by the
West Denmark Heritage Council and supported in part by the
Kenneth and Tracey Maxwell Foundation and Margaret Johansen*

Check website for possible venue change

www.wdfiddleschool.org

Finale Concert will be outdoors - bring lawn chairs.

West Denmark Lutheran Church



2478 170th Street
Luck, WI 54853
www.westdenmark.org

Return Service Requested

June Weekly Calendar

SUNDAYS

Contemplative Meditation	8:30am
Worship	10am
Fellowship time	11am

MONDAYS

Men's Breakfast - Tin Shed, Frederic	7:30am
Women's Coffee Tin Shed, Frederic	10am
last week of month: MONDAY, 11:40am, usually Cafe Wren	

WEDNESDAY

Choir Rehearsal (thru 6/17)	7pm
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THURSDAY

Every Other week: ENCORE	10:30am
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SATURDAYS

AA -	9-10:30 am
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Mark Your Calendars! Upcoming Events

6/14-18	Fiddle School
7/1-3	WD Family Camp

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West Denmark is a safe place
to worship, study,
and build relationships with God
and others,
regardless of race, creed, sexual
orientation, gender identity, or cultural
background.