

Vikings, feasting, music and fun at Midsommar at Dalesburg

The Vikings are coming. Midsommar at Dalesburg is Friday, June 21, at Dalesburg Lutheran Church. There will be Vikings (or Scandinavians, if you prefer) galore at the peaceful little church north of Vermillion. Everyone is valkommen.

The excitement includes Bjärv, three Swedish folk music musicians; Viking re-enactors; a regional Norwegian chorus; a Viking ship; a savory homemade Scandinavian smorgasbord; and, of course, homemade pie.

The headliner for this year's celebration is Bjärv, featuring three accomplished musicians – two from Sweden – who play traditional Swedish folk music with a contemporary twist.

They will perform at both the 2 p.m. program in the air-conditioned church and the 7 p.m. program on the north lawn. Olof Göthlin is a "Riksspelman" (Fiddler of the realm). Mikael Grafström, a graduate of the folk music department at the Malmö music conservatory, plays guitar. Ben Teitelbaum, the American in the trio, performs on the traditional Swedish nyckelharpa (keyed harp).

Viking Invasion, the Skjaldborg Viking Encampment from the Omaha area, includes re-enactors in costume who will offer some exciting Viking fighting demonstrations. They will invade the celebration from 3 to 7 p.m.

The Sioux Valley Singers, a Norwegian singing society founded in 1913, will start off the 7 p.m. program on the north lawn of the church. The Singers includes four area choruses including the Grieg Male Chorus, Canton; the Nordic Male Chorus, Sioux City; the Norse Glee Club, Sioux Falls; and the Minnehaha Mandskor, Sioux Falls.



The colorful Viking ship from Wausa, NE, will be on display. (Courtesy photo)

Fiddler Nelson will be on hand during the afternoon, 3-7 p.m., to entertain visitors.

The Viking ship from Wausa, NE, will be on display as well.

The traditional Swedish celebration in rural Clay County offers an afternoon and evening of food and entertainment.

One of the festival highlights is the tasty homemade Smorgasbord from 4:30-6:30 p.m. featuring ethnic specialties like meatballs, potatis korv, fruit soup and more. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$4 for ages 8 and younger.

Dalesburg Lutheran Church is 12 miles north of Vermillion on the University Road; or 5.5 miles west of I-29 exit 38 (Volin); or 9 miles south of Highway 46 on University Road or three miles east of Highway 19 on 306th St.

The festival is the 144rd celebration at the church and is a joint effort of three traditionally Swedish rural churches in the area – Dalesburg Lutheran, Dalesburg Baptist and Komstad Covenant.

The day at the beautiful

church grounds is all about family, friends and faith. The celebration begins at 1 p.m. when the Food Stand, operated by Dalesburg Lutheran and Komstad youth, opens, with a variety of snacks and homemade pie. The afternoon and evening include the 2 p.m. program, the smorgasbord, children's activities beginning at 5 p.m. and the evening program at 7 p.m.

The festival dates back into the late 1860s, when settlers from Dalarna County of Sweden came to Dakota Territory, to the area that is now Southeastern South Dakota. These pioneer families started a Midsommar celebration tradition, based on the festival in Sweden.

Dalesburg Lutheran, Dalesburg Baptist, Komstad Covenant and Brule Creek Lutheran will end this year's celebration on Sunday, June 23, with a community worship service at Dalesburg Lutheran at 9 a.m., featuring the Community Choir under the direction of John Fahlberg.

Dalesburg Lutheran Church is a traditionally Swedish church founded by Dakota Territory homesteaders who emigrated from Sweden in the 1860s. The first building was erected in 1874. The present sanctuary dates from 1897. The ELCA church features impressive woodwork, stunning stained glass windows, and, of course, Midsommar – all in a beautiful countryside setting.



RANDY RASMUSSEN

Rasmussen competes in Ironman 70.3 Triathlon

The Ironman 70.3 Kansas triathlon was held Sunday, June 9, in Lawrence, KS. The sixth annual event was held at Clinton Lake State Park, and had 1,317 finishers. Randy Rasmussen of Vermillion placed 76th overall with a time of 4:40:47, which was good for a second place finish in

the 50-54 age group, which had 77 entrants. The race was won by five-time world champion Craig Alexander in 3:51:26. Super Bowl MVP and "Dancing with the Stars" champion Hines Ward placed 626th with a time of 5:53:18.

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June 4, 6, 11, 18, 20 & 25

DERMATOLOGY
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June 13, 20 & 27

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Patrick J. Collison, MD, FACS*
June 4, 11, 18 & 25

GENERAL SURGERY
Jesse L. Kampshoff, MD*
June 3 & 17

NEPHROLOGY
Byron S. Nielsen, MD†
June 24

*Board Certified †Board Eligible

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Curtis M. Adams, MD*
June 7, 14, 21 & 28

Jill F. Sternquist, MD†
June 5, 12, 19 & 26

ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY
Jeremy Kudera, MD, ABOS*
June 10 & 24

PULMONOLOGY
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June 27

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