

Taste of Norway fundraiser to benefit historic museum June 4

Norwegian waffles, lingonberries and other Norsk foods will highlight an annual Taste of Norway breakfast fundraiser from 7 to 11 a.m. Saturday, June 4, at the Norway community building at 3667 E. 2603rd Rd. in Sheridan.

The menu includes fried kumla, ham, sausage, fried potatoes, scrambled eggs with chives, fresh fruit, coffeecake, orange and apple juices, coffee and milk.

Proceeds will benefit the Norsk Museum, a historic nonprofit Norwegian cultural center at 3656 E. 2631st Rd. in Sheridan.

Founded in 1848 as the Hauge Lutheran Church, the museum offers Norwegian demonstrations, crafts, gifts and more.

Advance breakfast tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for children under 8. Tickets at the door are \$9 for adults, \$6 for children under 8.

The nearby Norsk Museum will open for its summer season on June 4 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For breakfast tickets or information call Dave Johnson, Norsk Museum board president, at (815) 343-5070 or email david7dog@yahoo.com.



Admission to the Norsk Museum is free. Donations are appreciated. Information about the museum is at Facebook/Norsk Museum. Seasonal museum hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday from June through September. Self-guided and guided tours are available on request. The museum is staffed entirely by volunteers.

Norway, IL. is the first permanent Norwegian settlement in North America. It was established in 1835 by Sloopers, immigrants who came to America on the sloop Restorasjonen. After arriving in New York City in 1825, they later founded Norway, about 70 miles west of Chicago.

The former Hauge Lutheran Church, the oldest Norwegian Lutheran Church in America, was a log cabin church built in 1838. A structure dedicated as a house of worship in 1848 replaced the cabin church. The church was decommissioned as a church in 1918. The museum was founded in 1978.

The museum is dedicated to Norwegian culture and strives to honor and preserve the memory of the Norwegian forefathers who settled in the area.

The museum continues to provide a link to the past and its future. The facility showcases household items, spinning wheels, rosemaling (decorative painting), bunads (native costumes), a Viking display, immigrant trunks, farm tools and more.

The building is reflects carpentry by pioneer Norwegian craftsmen. Material for the building was hauled 70 miles from Chicago to Norway by wagon and oxen. Structural beams in the attic were hand hewn from soft pine and fastened with wooden pegs rather than nails. Some attic beam ends bear carpenters' symbols stamped into the wood.

The Norsk Museum is open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays, June through September, from 1 to 5 p.m. Group guided tours are available by appointment.

PHOTO: The Norsk Museum near Norway, IL. dedicated to preserving Norwegian culture, will open at 8 a.m. June 4 for the summer season. Admission is free. Donations are accepted. Call (815) 343-5070.