

Friends of the Læstadius Museum

Activities 2015

The Læstadius days were held in Pello on July 7. We celebrated Ragnar Lassinantti, born 100 years ago, former head of the Luleå region, important politician, strong supporter of the Torne valley and the life of Læstadius. His son Gunnar Lassinantti, and also Paavo Korteniemi from Pello, remembered Ragnar in their speeches. The former vicar Oskar Haapaniemi, born 110 years ago, was also presented in a speech by Karl-Erik Tjäder.

In the afternoon we made a bus tour around the home surroundings of Lassinantti and Haapaniemi, followed by a visit to the Svanstein church and wreath-laying at Lassinantti's grave. In the evening a sermon was held in the Finnish Pello church.

On July 8 we sat together at Kyrkans Hus in Pajala, planning and discussing the coming years, followed by the FLM annual meeting.

During the summer the Pajala parish has guided visitors to the museum and the old vicarage. Anneli Mäkinen has supported the young guides and guided Finnish visitors. In September the Finnish church journal Kotimaa published a deserving reportage of Læstadius, the museum and the Finnish Læstadius walk.

Activities 2016

The Læstadius days this year started on July 12, celebrating important cultivators of words and grounds at the Erkheikki village west of Pajala. These men were Walde Lorens Wanhainen and the brothers William and Svante Snell. We visited the local farmyard, the Kamaripirtti cottage and the Snell house. About 50 persons were assembled in the local hall, listening to Birgitta Osterman presenting her father William and her uncle Svante, and also listening to a speech on Walde Wanhainen by Lars Elenius. We also admired an old film presenting the Torne valley 1943.

On the second day July 13 we sat again at Kyrkans Hus, this time with fruitful discussions on the future of the museum and our association FLM. Plans for the next year at Kvikkjokk were presented. In the evening Paavo and Anja Korteniemi held a short sermon in the old vicarage.

On Tuesday July 14 Anneli and Hans met the vicar Kaarlo Kult. He and his family has now moved into the upper store of the yellow vicarage. In the bottom entrance a new museum reception is prepared, including two rooms for exhibitions and information displays. The wooden top roof of the old vicarage is replaced with a new one, to survive many years. Brita Cajsa's garden has been restored and will be maintained and developed. The parish also has plans to restore the old church grounds at Kengis. We congratulate the parish to this face lift.



Plans for the Læstadius days 2017 at Kvikkjokk

On July 7 we will commemorate Carl Eric Læstadius who died July 7, 1817. Exhibitions with old photos and family trees, memorial assembly at his grave, speeches and presentations will be given. In the evening we will have a joint dinner at the Årrenjarka mountain village.

On July 8 the Linné Foundation “Polar Circle” will present programs with botanical touch.

Travelling to Kvikkjokk possible by train “Inlandsbanan” to Jokkmokk and then by bus. Also by flying to Luleå Kallax or Kiruna, and then continue with leased car. And of course by car or bus from Pajala and other places in the Torne valley.

Accommodation possible at Kvikkjokk mountain station (www.kvikkjokkfjallstation.se) or at Årrenjarka mountain village (www.arrenjarka.se) where we have pre-booked hotel rooms and some comfortable 4- to 6-bed lodges. Please notify your requirements via our web site.

More information will be published on our web site www.laestadiusfriends.se