

NEWS FROM THE NORWEGIAN UNION

Harald Giesebrecht, associate Children's Ministries Director

Messy Church

Messy Church is becoming increasingly popular in Norway. After Lillehammer Adventist Church had great success with sometimes over 40 children in attendance, churches in the cities of Moss, Sandnes and Tønsberg have joined the movement, and several more churches are about to start this autumn.

Programme ideas are shared between the churches through our common web site sabu.no, making it easier for new teams to launch.

Shalini Klausen and Karoline Stølen from Lillehammer have also conducted workshops, both at our national leaders' convention and in their home church.



Shalini Klausen and Karoline Stølen from Lillehammer inspiring others to try Messy Church at our national leaders' convention in November 2018. (Photo: Tor Tjeransen/ADAMS)

Easter is a great theme to explore through Messy Church. Here is the empty tomb. (Photo: Shalini Klausen)

Intergenerational Winter Festival

Every winter, Lillehammer church (again! 😊) helps organising an intergenerational floorball tournament. Teams travel from all over the country and stay together in the classrooms of a school next to the sports centre. There are meetings and workshops Friday night and Sabbath morning. After lunch and sunset (the sun sets at 3:30 pm) the tournament starts and goes on until midnight. On Sunday people go skiing together in the Olympic slopes of Hafjell, where they are served a gourmet vegetarian lunch. The age of the participants ranges from 10 – 60, with the most inexperienced having their own tournament. Children bring their unchurched friends, parents bring their kids, kids bring their parents. Grandparents come to watch and to fellowship. The programme is deliberately seeker-friendly. It has become a great weekend of fellowship, worship and fun across all generations.



The teams are mixed. When you register, you state your ambition-level so you can be matched with teams of about equal competency.

Super-Sabbath

In Norway the Union's Children's Ministries leader is also the Children's Ministries leader of the three conferences. Every spring we organise the Children's Super-Sabbath as the conferences meet for their annual camp meetings. It is a great opportunity to fellowship with many of the children and to meet up with the local Children's Ministries leaders. Distances are great in Norway, and not all families with



small children are able or willing to travel. In the north there may be 20-25 children. In the west up to 40 and in the east around 100. But it is always rewarding to worship with them and to make their Sabbath memorable. Usually we have the same programme at all three places, with some variations since local people are helping out.

Here a local scientist is surprising the attentive young audience at the camp meeting in West-Norway with some fascinating chemistry! The topic was The great party at Jesus' return. What kind of entertainment will we have there? Anyway – God's wonderful creation is never boring!

Summer Camp

As always, our summer camp is the highlight of the year for many of those who attend. 160 children and about 100 teenagers usually demand that their parents or grandparents or a friend's parents take them to summer camp. This means there are up to 600 participants, spending the week at the campsite in beautiful Telemark.



The children's meetings are organized around a common theme, like a vacation bible school but the children are divided in age groups: 0-3, 3-6, 6-10 and 10-12. Teens have their own programme.

Photo: Tor Tjeransen/ADAMS



A children's choir is often established during the camp. Here they perform in the evening meeting before going to their own programme during the sermon.

Photo: Tor Tjeransen/ADAMS

The football tournament engages everybody from the youngest up to grandparents who are satisfied to just watch and take photos.

Photo: Tor Tjeransen/ADAMS



Pathfinder Camp

Pathfinder camp in Norway is open to pathfinders from 10 years of age. This year we went back to a place in the south of Norway called Søgne that was a total disaster last time, because of heavy rain all week and an undrained field that couldn't handle all the water. It has been dubbed the mud-camp. Some clubs even gave up and went home before the camp ended.

This year we had compensation, with beautiful weather all week. Actually, it had been wonderful weather since the beginning of May (the camp was the last week of July) and the draught was so severe that no open fires were allowed. Not even our gas-stoves. So how to cook? The cow-barn of the local farm was quickly scrubbed and painted and approved by the local health authorities, and all the clubs given a stable-booth each.

Fortunately, the draught had not dried up the lake that ran along our campground, so swimming and water sports helped cool us down.

Only on the last day, as we were packing our tents and equipment did it start to rain, and then it really poured down for 20 minutes, drenching absolutely everything, reminding us what a blessed week it had been, after all!



All the pathfinders were offered a day at the nearby adventure-park which was absolutely incompatible with fear of heights.
(Photo: Fredrik Schneider)



The day begins with saluting the flag and a morning worship! (Photo: Fredrik Schneider)



Super-hot weather and a nice lake next to the campground proved a perfect combination.

(Photo: Fredrik Schneider)



Because of the draught, the barn-turned-kitchen was the only place we were allowed to light a fire.
(Photo: Fredrik Schneider)

Frisbee Ultimate is a team-sport that is also coming to this year's Camporee in England!

(Photo: Fredrik Schneider)

