



### Fastelavn

"The Danish church celebrated Fastelavn in Dunedin in the beginning of February. A lot dressed up children and their parents and friends of the Danish church showed up. We beat the barrel and found the

King and Queen of the Cats; we ate "fastelavnsboller" and had a wonderful afternoon together. Thanks to Peter Nielsen who made and donated the wooden barrel, and to The Danish baker in Dunedin who made the most wonderful fastelavnsboller."

### Did you know that...

- The Danish Church New Zealand is a private church under the Danish Church Abroad/ the Danish Seamen's Church Abroad (DSUK). The church receives no funding from Denmark, and relies on contributions from members and volunteers, fundraising events, gifts and donations. As a yearly contributor to/member of the Danish Church you will receive 3-4 church newsletters a year. For more information about the church and all its activities see <http://www.danishchurchnz.org/>

### Next Danish Church Service

Auckland, the 7<sup>th</sup> of April at 4 pm in the Danish House. For more information: [\(http://www.danishsocietynz.com/\)](http://www.danishsocietynz.com/)



### Church News – April 2013

A greeting from the Danish pastor

### Scandinavian Festival 2013

The Danish Church in New Zealand participated at the Scandinavian Festival at Dannevirke in February 2013. It was a huge success. For me as a pastor for the Danish Church it was wonderful to meet so many Scandinavians and New Zealanders getting the chance to listen to their stories and be inspired by their life. Thank you to everyone who came by the Danish Church stall at the market.



Pastor Anja G. Mathiasen surrounded by the NZ Jomsborgelag Viking Warriors and Norwegian Svanaug Sorheim Nielsen



### Winner of the Lottery

At the Scandinavian Festival the Danish church in New Zealand had a lottery. Winner of the first price was Kersten who lives in the UK and had left the festival before the draw. Luckily she had left a note asking us to pass on the price to President

Jean Thompson should she win. Thank you to everyone who participated.

### Something about Easter

It is a fact that the more one lives one's life the larger it becomes, and the less you use it the more it diminishes. Still, much too often we put our life on standby. Either by seeking shelter in a place where we can nurture our grief and all the unfair experiences we have faced or by keeping a low profile, afraid of others' judgment, afraid of not doing things well enough. We know it well - that our actions are the springs of our focus - and still too often we focus on fear and forget to focus on the hope, the light, the opportunities and on life!

Therefore, the Easter Gospel is always a best seller. The Easter message conveys the same tidings every year, about the empty tomb from which the light of life is shining pointing to the sky. With Jesus' resurrection from the dead, everything that weighs us down and robs us the joy of life disappears. Out of the grave which we thought was a sanctuary to nurture our sadness and misery we are now waved back into the light and invited again to participate in life.

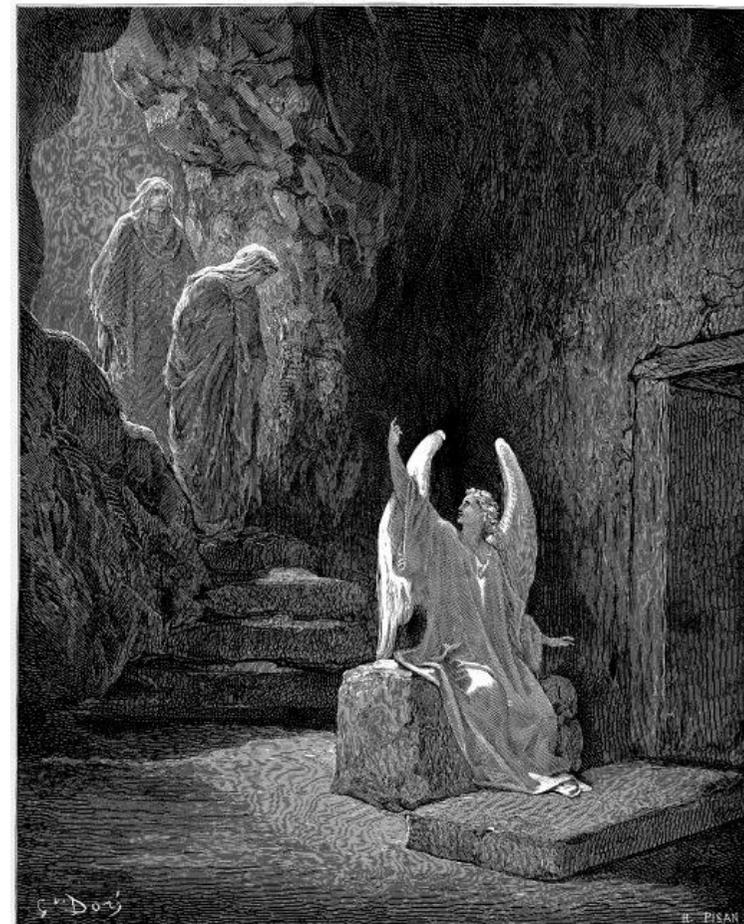
The eternal life, that each of us has been given through the resurrection of Jesus, is not a "ten trip ticket" to life and love which can expire and leave us in stagnation, negative circles and death. Eternal life is a free pass to be

alive, to faith and hope and love forever and in all eternity.

Everywhere in the preaching of Jesus we find an invitation to the resurrection, an invitation to move out of the tomb we occasionally move into, so we can again take part in life now and forever. Life can be hard and it can be happy. Most likely both. Step out in life and share it with others! Merry resurrection. Happy Easter.

Pastor Anja G. Mathiassen

"The Resurrection" by Gustave Doré



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[www.creationism.org/images/](http://www.creationism.org/images/)

Mat 28:5-6 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.