

KIRKE HILSEN

M A R C H
A P R I L
2 0 2 5

RUNNING EVENT
COMING TO TORONTO

ONTARIO SPRING
FEDERATION MEETING

BECOME A BOARD MEMBER!

YOU ARE INVITED:

STARBURST
ROYAL
DINNER
& SO MUCH
MORE



DANISH
LUTHERAN CHURCH
& CULTURAL CENTRE
TORONTO

"WHERE FRIENDS AND
FAMILY GATHER FOR
WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP
AND DANISH CULTURE"








CALENDAR FOR MARCH-APRIL 2025

MARCH


1. Movie Saturday, 1pm. (pg. 12)
2.  **Fastelavn Service, 10.30am**
4. Church Café 12-noon (pg. 10)
7. Folk dancing, 7:30 pm (pg. 10)
8. KnitWits, Knitting club, 1pm (pg. 13)
9.  **1st Sunday in Lent, 10.30 am, with Pastor Ilze**
(Remember: Daylight Saving)
11. Church Café, 12-noon (pg. 10)
13. Golden Age Club, 12-noon (pg. 10)
14. Folk dancing, 7:30 pm (pg. 10)
16.  **2nd Sunday in Lent, 10.30am, Laymen's service**
18. Church Café, 12-noon (pg. 10)
23.  **3rd Sunday in Lent, 10.30am**
25. Church Café, 12-noon (pg. 10)
28. Folk dancing, 7:30pm (pg. 10)
29.  **Starburst, Family Service. 4:00pm. (pg. 11)**
30. **No Service**



APRIL

1. Church Café, 12-noon (pg. 10)
4. Folk dancing, 7:30 pm (pg. 10)
5. KnitWits, Knitting club, 1pm (pg. 13)
6.  **5th Sunday in Lent, 10.30am.**
Annual General Meeting
8. Church Café, 12-noon (pg. 10)
11. Folk dancing, 7:30 pm (pg. 10)
13.  **Palm Sunday, 10.30am**
15. Church Café, 12-noon (pg. 10)
17. Golden Age Club, 12-noon (pg. 10)
18.  **Good Friday, 10.30am**
20.  **Easter Sunday, 10.30am**
22. Church Café 12-noon (pg. 10)
25. Folk dancing, 7:30 pm (pg. 10)
26. Ontario Spring Federation Meeting (pg. 7)
Royal Dinner, 6 pm (pg. 8)
27.  **1st Sunday after Easter, 10.30am**
29. Church Café, 12-noon (pg. 10)

MAY

2. Folk dancing, 7:30 pm (pg. 10)
4.  **Nordic Service at the Swedish Church, 4 pm. (pg. 8)**



A story of spring



She wakes before dawn because sleep has become unreliable. Outside, the city hums with the quiet machinery of early morning—garbage trucks sigh, a dog barks in the distance, the wind moves through the trees like someone searching for something lost. She listens, eyes open, staring at the ceiling as if it might give her instructions.

It has been six months since he died. Six months since the phone call, the hospital room, the last breath.

The world has remained in motion, indifferent to the fracture. People still buy coffee, hail cabs, worry about meetings. She has watched them, puzzled, wondering how they do it—this continuation, this unbroken rhythm. As if the ground beneath them has not been ripped away.

She thought at first that time would carry her, that grief would be a linear descent and then an ascent. But it is not. It is a tide, pulling her back when she thinks she has reached shore. It is an echo, unexpected and sharp—a song on the radio, the scent of his aftershave on a stranger, a pair of his shoes she cannot bring herself to move.

Some days she forgets. Not entirely, not in the way that matters, but in small ways. She will find herself wanting to tell him something inconsequential: the neighbour's

cat had kittens, the maple tree in the park is turning gold, she finally fixed the leaking faucet. And then the remembering comes, slow and inevitable, pressing against her chest like a held breath. She drinks a glass of water. She waits for the moment to pass.

There is no guidebook for this. No instructions for how to be a person who has lost the person they were tethered to. People say things—time heals, life goes on, he would want you to be happy—but none of it lands. The only truth is this: he is gone, and she is here. And here is a strange, foreign country where she must learn how to walk again. One afternoon, without planning to, she steps into the world. She takes the subway to the museum, one they had visited together years ago. She walks through the quiet halls, past marble statues that have survived centuries, past paintings that have watched generations grieve and love and grieve again. In one room, she stops before a painting of a woman sitting alone by a window, light spilling over her hands. There is something in the way the woman looks out—something open, something waiting. She stands there for a long time, longer than she realizes.

When she leaves the museum, the sun is setting, turning the sky into something tender and fleeting. She feels it then, something close to certainty: she is still here. And if she is still here, then she must live. Not in spite of grief, but with it, beside it.

She walks home through the spring air, the city around her humming, breathing. The next morning, she notices the first crocuses pushing up through the frost-softened earth, delicate but determined. Tomorrow will come. And she will meet it.



*Pastor
Kirstine Rasmussen*

It is mid-February...



*Sune Overgaard,
President of
the board.*

Wiarthon Willie said there would be an early spring – but all we got was more snow and cold weather. Welcome to an Ontario winter. But with winter already half gone, there is light at the end of the tunnel. We can look forward to more sunshine, warmer days, and the rebirth that nature does at that time of year. It is also time to plan ahead for events at this church like Fastelavn, AGM, Easter services, Royal Dinner, and even for the next bazaar. As always, there is a mix of church and culture to explore and share – please make an effort to take part in them.

The first part of the year was relatively quiet. We toasted the Danish King Frederik X after watching his New Year's message. The board explored various options and ideas to help us keep our organization moving forward with plans for the future. More of that to be reviewed at our AGM. Our membership drive continues – please sign up as we can better make these plans knowing who our members are and what they see as the future for this church. Being both a Danish church and Cultural Centre requires constructive input from everyone.

There are articles on membership, tax receipts, the AGM,

NORDIC BAAZA

It may be a bit early – BUT – best to plan ahead!! The Nordic Bazaar date is **Saturday May 10 from 10 am to 2 pm**. It will be the usual bazaar format with all the regular booths – AND – we have also invited the other Baltic nations to put a booth and share some of their goods with us. It should be an **interesting mix of cultures and customs**. Lots of ideas for Mother's Day.

New Rules for Pre-Order of Imports and Sandwiches. Pre-order of imports will occur as usual – be ready for the on-line opening announcement. But – **any orders for shipping will not be accepted** until after the bazaar day. We will allow pre-orders of sandwiches for pick up as



and other Spring events in this newsletter. As well, there are notes on Easter services, the Royal Dinner, and the Spring Bazaar including pre-orders for imports and sandwiches for pickup, and more. We do our best to come up with activities and events that are meant to get you involved. Instead of taking space here to say the same thing that these articles will – please do make sure you check them out as they contain important details.

A reminder that our Finch Window Fund is still active and looking for contributions. Donations of any size are always welcome and appreciated. We soon hope to have live-streaming working again – stay tuned. This problem has really been a struggle to fix. You may have noticed that we are replacing some of our Sunday Family Services with

the same event on Saturday afternoons. We did this to improve the participation level as the parents we sampled felt it was easier for them and their kids on the Saturdays. Please note that all members and friends are still welcome to come on those Saturdays, and that there will be no services on the following Sundays.

I usually say that this is your Church and Cultural Centre. And that is because it really is what you make of it. The board and others work very hard to help make good things happen, but we need your input. The opportunities are there – we just need you drop in and say hello. I promise you we won't bite.

**Best wishes for an Early Spring and a Happy Easter !!
Sune Overgaard**

BAZAAR COMING SOON!



well – but **only in quantities of 20 or more.**

Both these changes are put into effect to allow for more choices of product to be available for those who do come in person to shop in our bazaar.

We are grateful that both imports and sand-

wiches are very popular – but we also want to be fair to those that that show up to look for these specialty items.




Join us for this big event. European hotdogs and drinks will be available outdoors; imports and all kinds of jewellery and gifts on the main level, white elephant up in the library; and **after 11 am**, all sorts of food, refreshments, and sandwiches in the Royal Hall. We look forward to



THE FINNISH CHURCH

Nordic Service 2025

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL NORDIC SERVICE, WHERE THE DANISH, SWEDISH, AND FINNISH CHURCHES COME TOGETHER IN WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP.

 DATE: SATURDAY, MAY 4TH
 TIME: 4:00 P.M.
 LOCATION: CHURCH OF SWEDEN, 1847 BAYVIEW AVE, TORONTO

EXPERIENCE A BEAUTIFUL SERVICE CELEBRATING OUR SHARED HERITAGE, FAITH, AND COMMUNITY. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!
AFTER THE SERVICE, STAY FOR COFFEE AND SCANDINAVIAN HOSPITALITY.
VELKOMMEN • VÄLKOMMEN • TERVETULOA!

THE DANISH CHURCH

THE SWEDISH CHURCH

2025 ONTARIO FEDERATION NEWS

The **Ontario Region** of the Federation is holding its **Spring Meeting** at the church on **Sat Apr 26** at 2 pm. All the Ontario members are invited to take part and share the latest news within the Federation. Of note is that the Federation is searching for a replacement for the current national president Rolf Christensen who has decided to take a very well-deserved rest after many, many years at the helm of this ship. After the meeting, many of the members will be taking part in the Royal Dinner in the Royal Hall.



The Federation of Danish Associations in Canada is holding its **44th Annual Conference and AGM** in Calgary this year. The conference is from May 22 to 25, and is hosted by the Sharon Danish Lutheran Church. In addition to the Conference, the Federation is also holding its **Annual Heritage Seminar (Højskole)** also in Calgary from May 26 to 30. The theme will be “Exploring Southern Alberta” and will be led by pastor Charlotte Berg.



Copies of the program and registration packages for either event are available at the church, or by contacting Sune Overgaard. Hope you can join us for these special and exciting events.

Greetings from the Ambassador

I am very happy to get this opportunity to introduce myself to you! I arrived in the beginning of December last year and have thoroughly enjoyed my first couple of months in Ottawa. I have been received very well by the excellent teams at the Embassy in Ottawa and the Consulate General in Toronto. Colleagues are doing a sterling job promoting our interests here in Canada. And there is so much to do. Both professionally and when you have time off work.

Canada and the Kingdom of Denmark are likeminded on so many pressing international issues such as Ukraine, the Arctic as well as maintaining the international rules-based order. Just to mention a few.

I also see a lot of potential in expanding our defence cooperation with Canada. Therefore, we were happy at the Embassy in Ottawa to welcoming, in February this year, the first Danish Defence Attaché to Canada.

Another priority for me is to develop our trade relations even further. Canada is a big economy with a stable and welcoming business environment and I see good potential, not least within sectors such as health care/life sciences and green energy.

I have so far only experienced winter, but I have come to really enjoy it. My personal ambitions for my time in Canada are to learn how to cross-country ski, to skate elegantly and to become a hockey aficionado. With the incredible Rideau Canal Skateway, the beautiful Gatineau Park



close by and Ottawa hosting both The Senators and the Youth Hockey World Cup in December, I am already doing good progress in all three areas. Still room for improvement though!

Assisting Danes in Canada is a core task of the Embassy's work, and we are really fortunate to have such a strong Danish community to cooperate with. I am impressed by the size and organization of the Danish community here in Canada. The Danish Federation, the churches, societies and businesses are great ambassadors and a knowledge bank for Denmark in Canada. I really look forward to getting to know the Danish community even better in the

years to come, and to meet Danes on my future journeys through this vast and beautiful country.

Hopefully I get to visit the church in Toronto soon and meet more of you in person. Until then, I hope you are able to enjoy the rest of the winter as much as I do!

Nikolaj Harris



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF DENMARK
Denmark in Canada

Important Announcements from the Board

Our **membership drive** is still on-going. Please sign up to be a voting member at our AGM – cost is \$20. Forms are available on our website or at the church.

Tax receipts for donations made in 2024 are now available. Many will be distributed with this newsletter. If you think you should have received one – and didn't – please contact Lisa McConnell or Sune Overgaard. Because of the recent postal strike, CRA has allowed donations for January and February early 2025 to be included as part of your 2024 tax return. If you wish to go this route, please let us know so we can pull that information accordingly. Otherwise, any of those 2025 donations will be included as part of your 2025 contributions.

The AGM is scheduled for Sunday April 6 after the service. You can either attend in person or participate on line via Zoom. Please make your effort to join us that day. As you know, last year's finances and programs and this year's budgets

will be reviewed, along with elections for board members whose terms have

expired. In addition, the board will be presenting a plan for engagement and sustainability for the future of this organization. Details will be sent to registered voting members in late March. Your participation and comments will be needed to make this plan successful.

With succession in mind, the **board is currently recruiting** for people who can contribute to the long-term sustainment and evolution of this organization. We need fresh people with fresh ideas. Look for the "The Board Needs You" note elsewhere in this newsletter for more information.



The Board.

Royal Dinner

We will celebrate our annual

Royal Dinner on Saturday **April 26 at 6:00 pm**
in the Royal Hall at the church.

The full course roast beef dinner prepared by Chef Hemant and his team will be served along with musical entertainment, a gift raffle, songs, a folk-dance performance, and a special guest speaker.

We will also be celebrating the 60th anniversary of opening our Church and Cultural Centre.

We will continue to use special ticket pricing for our dinners. The **adult price will be \$60 each** - with \$40 going for dinner costs and \$20 counted as a donation to the church for which you will receive a tax receipt. Children under 18 will be charged \$25 each for dinner only. Reservations and pre-payment are preferred on a first come – first served basis, and can be done by e-transfer or credit card, or in person at the church with cash or cheque on the sign-up list. Join us for another exciting evening of food, and celebration.

Hope to see you there!

The Danish Lutheran Church is delighted
to invite you to a second edition!

Starburst

Family Service

SATURDAY - MARCH 29
4 - 7 PM

DANISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
72 FINCH AVE WEST

Join us for an afternoon service filled with worship, reflection, and community as we explore **the meaning of the fish** in Christianity. Whether you were part of our first gathering or are joining for the first time, you are warmly welcome!

Following the service, we will gather for a time of fun, creativity, games, and discussions that connect to the day's theme.

We'll close the evening with a shared dinner at the Church. We kindly ask for a small **donation** to help cover the costs.

Bring your **children, grandchildren, parents or friends**. Let's celebrate the joy of togetherness and faith as a community!

For more information, contact Pastor Kirstine.
NEW DATES ADDED: May 24th, Sep 27, Nov 22

KnitWits

Do you love knitting, or do you knit like this photo?

Either way - you are welcome to join us (and maybe learn a thing or two, or be a part of a nice community).

On selected Saturdays at the Danish Church we meet and we'd love for you to join us.

We also chat, drink coffee, eat cookies and of course WE KNIT. Come for the yarn, stay for the hyggelige company! Hope to see you there.



Saturday, March 8, 1 pm

Saturday April 5, 1 pm

MOVIE SATURDAYS

BYTTE BYTTE BABY
(MAYBE BABY)

Join us for a fun Saturday movie. When two pregnant women, Cecilie and Liv, learn that the fertility clinic mistakenly swapped their eggs, they must navigate the error, an avalanche of absurd conflicts— and their disdain for each other.

Saturday March 1, 1 pm



CHURCH CAFE ON TUESDAYS

"If we fill our hearts with regrets over the failures of yesterday and the worries over the problems of tomorrow, we have no today in which to be thankful!"

We at the Church Cafe are very thankful for those who attend during our winter months and sign up for providing desserts. We welcome new people who join us and help us to sing and laugh at our jokes. In April we will celebrate Easter on April 22. Bring your own lunch at noon and join us for some fellowship and new games!

Liselotte

GOLDEN AGE CLUB

Now that you have finished celebrating the holidays and a very snowy January and February, I hope to see you at our St. Patrick's day luncheon on **March 13th. at 12 noon.**

We will meet again on **April 17th.** to celebrate Easter. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone again.

*Take care and stay safe.
Lilly*

DANISH FOLK DANCING

Did you enjoy the folkdance video on the DLC Facebook page?

You can be a happy folk dancer too. We dance most Friday nights right here at the Church. We meet downstairs, in the "Royal Hall" on most Fridays through May. We start at 7:30 pm and dance to 10 pm (with a coffee break). You are welcome to join us, any of these Friday nights in March 7, 14, 28 and/or April 4, 11, 25.



Check our schedule for the next dance night or send us an email.

The Folk dancers.

www.danishfolkdancers.ca email: info@danishfolkdancers.ca



SUNSET MINDEPARK (Lic # 4138897)

**THE DANISH URN CEMETERY
IN ONTARIO
(ADJACENT TO SUNSET VILLA)**

Sales:

Sune Overgaard 416-709-3139
(suneovergaard@hotmail.com)

Interment Director:

Soren Sondergaard 519-821-9296
(sondergaards@rogers.com)

Mail: 13 - 7150 RR2 Concession 1,
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0

More Info: www.mindepark.ca

PAY WITH
E-TRANSFERS
AND CREDIT CARD

Did you know, The Danish Church accepts donations and other payments to the church via electronic transfer and now also by Credit Card. We are 100% self-funding, so support of all sizes is welcome.

Read more on
[danishchurchtoronto.ca/
pay](http://danishchurchtoronto.ca/pay)

pay

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Ian Jeremy Sloan

Born: December 9, 1929, South Africa

Died: January 2, 2025, Toronto

Thomas Sorensen

Born: November 13, 1939, Aalborg

Died: January 21, 2025, Toronto

Margaret Futtrup

Born: August 12, 1944, Scotland

Died: January 22, 2025, Newmarket

BAPTISM

Carol Larsen

Baptized: February 15, 2025



**Danes
Worldwide**

RUN 2025

Lace up your running shoes and bring along family & friends.

Join us as Danes across the world come together for a global running event.

You can run yourself - or join us when we run together in Toronto on

May 2, 5pm.

We will begin our run/walk at the Danish Consulate General and end it at Rivoli on Queen Street for that great community feeling.

Run, walk, or rollerblade – it's up to you!



How to participate?

Sign up via this link:

<https://www.sportstiming.dk/event/15218>

Receive your race number and a link to submit your result

Run whenever and wherever you like – alone or with us on May 2.

Prizes and competitions

Prizes for the fastest participants, Contest for best costume, showcasing Danish red and white style.

All participants receive a medal, race number, and diploma

So put on your red and white colors and
join Danes Worldwide Run 2025!

**MAY 2
2025**

**5K
RUN &
WALK**



DANISH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TORONTO
72 Finch Avenue West, Toronto, ON, M2N 2H4.
Phone in Church Hall: 416-222-0990. Office: 416-222-2494
E-mail: mail@danchurch.ca



Website: www.danishchurchtoronto.ca

Facebook: facebook.com/danishchurchtoronto

A church associated with The Danish Church Abroad / Danish Seamen's Church /
Danske Sjømands og Udlandskirker (DSUK). www.dsuk.dk

Pastor	Kirstine Rasmussen 72 Finch Ave. West	437-772-7247 (cell) 416-222-2494 (office)
Church Coordinator	Francisca Garate Toronto, ON, M2N 2H4	437-772-7233 (office)
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Directors	Joan Skovhøj John Uffe Mark Fenger Keri Pedersen	905-642-8748 416-424-1370 416-300-8464 647-880-2060

ACTIVITY CONTACTS

Music Coordinator	Brigitte Bogar	416-270-0333 music@danchurch.ca
Bazaars	Kirstine Rasmussen Hanne Simmelsgaard Lisa McConnell Keri Pedersen	437-772-7247 bazaar@danchurch.ca 416-652-5287 905-459-3850 647-880-2060
Folk Dancers	Audrey Urszulan	416-702-8651
Golden Age Club	Lilly Nielsen	905-665-3080
Church Café	Liselotte Østergaard	905-898-3779
Kirke Hilsen	Sune Overgaard, Gerda Andersen and Kirstine Rasmussen	

THE BOARD NEEDS YOU!

We are recruiting new board members with fresh takes on how we can continue to run our organization. This is about more than Sunday Services - it's about how to create activities that appeal to the community, how to fundraise to sustain those activities, and how to ensure we can continue to provide a place for Danes and their friends, relatives and neighbours to continue to gather for special events, Danish traditions, and life's milestones.

Interested in learning more about what's involved and what we're looking for?

**Please contact
Susanne Truelsen,
Director of Outreach
susanne.truelsen@gmail.com
416-912-4389.**

Join our Family List

**Want to be part of
fun and engaging activities
dedicated to families?**

Contact our Church
and we will add you to our special
family newsletter,
specially created for family-friendly
events!

Contact our **Church Coordinator**,
Francisca Garate at
fr@danchurch.ca

