

KIRKE HILSEN

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2025

NEWS FOR 2025:
SATURDAY FAMILY
SERVICES

COZY MOVIE SATURDAYS

JOIN THE FASTELAVN
CELEBRATION

ONLINE DANISH
LESSONS ARE BACK







DANISH
LUTHERAN CHURCH
& CULTURAL CENTRE
TORONTO

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

HELP US RESTORE
THE FINCH
WINDOW

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2025

JANUARY



5.  **Epiphany Sunday, 10.30 am**
With the King's New Year's speech.
10. Folk Dancing, 7.30 pm (pg. 10)
11. Movie Saturday, 1 pm (pg.11)
12.  **1st Epiphany Sunday, 10.30 am**
14. Church Cafe, 12 noon (pg. 10)
17. Folk Dancing, 7.30 pm (pg. 10)
19.  **2nd Epiphany Sunday, 10.30 am**
21. Church Cafe, 12 noon (pg. 10)
21. Grundtvig seminar, 3.30pm
24. Folk Dancing, 7.30 pm (pg. 10)
25.  **Family Service, "Starburst"/Constellations, 4pm (Pg. 7)**
26. No service
28. Church Cafe, 12 noon (pg. 10)



FEBRUARY

2.  **4th Epiphany Sunday, 10.30 am**
4. Church Cafe, 12 noon (pg. 10)
7. Folk Dancing, 7.30 pm (pg. 10)
8. KnitWits, First meeting, 1pm (pg. 11)
9.  **Last Sunday in Epiphany, 10.30 am**
11. Church Cafe, 12 noon (pg. 10)
14. Folk Dancing, 7.30 pm (pg. 10)
15. Movie Saturday, 1 pm (pg. 11)
16.  **Septuagesima Sunday, 10.30 am**
18. Church Cafe, 12 noon (pg. 10)
21. Folk Dancing, 7.30 pm (pg. 10)
23.  **Seksagesima Sunday, 10.30 am *Laymans service**
25. Church Cafe, 12 noon (pg. 10)

MARCH

2.  **Fastelavn, Family Service, 10.30am**
4. Church Cafe, 12 noon (pg. 10)
7. Folk Dancing, 7.30 pm (pg. 10)
9.  **1st Sunday in Lent, 10.30 am, with Pastor Ilze**

LIVESTREAMING AND VIDEO


We are working on fixing the live streaming of our worship services.
We will announce it on the website as soon as were are able to offer this.

A NEW YEAR WITH AWE



*Pastor
Kirstine Rasmussen*


As many of you know, I'm an avid runner. A couple of times a week, I lace up my running shoes and head out – preferably for long runs if time allows. For me, it's more than just exercise. It's my time. A space to disconnect, let my thoughts wander, and pause the world for a while. With music or a good podcast in my ears, I unwind and recharge.

 As we stand on the threshold of a new year, many of us embrace the tradition of making resolutions. We promise ourselves new, healthy habits – perhaps to eat better, exercise more, or be more present. And that's good! New beginnings have their own magic.


But on one of my recent runs, I listened to a podcast featuring Danish health professor Bente Klarlund, and something she said really stuck with me. She talked about health and habits – topics she has spent her life researching – but it was one particular word she herself has incorporated into her view of health. **The word was: Awe.**

"I use it as a word for the things that are truly extraordinary," she said. "The things that inspire and make us feel how wonderful it is to be alive." Awe. Just take a moment to savour that word. It's not about performance, rules, or discipline, but about making space for the moments that fill us with joy and wonder. Those

small and large wow moments that remind us life is a gift.

For Klarlund, awe is the feeling she gets when she stands on a cliff near her home in Gudhjem and watches the sun rise over the sea.  "To experience that the sun is rising, that I've been given a new day. It washes over me with joy and gratitude," she explained. Isn't that beautiful?

Maybe this could be our most important New Year's resolution: to make room for awe. To allow ourselves to be inspired and reminded of life's grandeur. When we do that, we find the energy for everything else – the healthy habits, the good intentions. So instead of filling the list with promises about everything we should do, we could start with something as simple as finding joy. In the rising sun. In a child's smile. In music...

 My New Year's wish for all of us is to let awe find a place in our everyday lives. Because when we do, life doesn't just become healthier – it becomes greater.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

HERE WE ARE...



*Sune Overgaard,
President of
the board.*

"Combining our efforts to help each other and being grateful for what we have – these are some of the values we share here at our church."

... ready to jump into 2025. "Where did the time go?" or "Use the time wisely" – are both phrases that are worth considering as we move forward into a new year. We all face a challenging economy with ever increasing food and housing costs among others – so we need to be careful how we deal with them. Combining our efforts to help each other and being grateful for what we have – these are some of the values we share here at our church. I hope you will experience them as you take part in any of our events.

Many things are outside our control, and we must take them sometimes with a grain of salt. But if we stay optimis-

tic and make good plans and put in good efforts – then the outlook can be positive.

The last few months have been very busy. From Thanksgiving to Christmas so many events were held. And most, if not all, were successful to which we say thanks to the many volunteers involved – as well as all the folks who participated. There are separate reports on both the Bazaar and the Lottery elsewhere in this newsletter. With bazaars, concerts, pageants, and Christmas behind us – we can now look forward to the special events in the new year. Make sure to check the calendar for the Danish King's New Year Message, Fastelavn, and Soup Sunday. We are also planning special Saturday



Children's Services
– something new
and different to try.

Included with this
Kirke Hilsen, we
are sending out the
2025 membership
renewal forms.
Please do your best
to sign up and plan
to attend the AGM
coming up later this
year.

We also have a new
fundraising project
– the FINCH WIN-
DOW FUND.

The old window
facing Finch Ave is leaking and needs
to be replaced. There is also a note
about this project elsewhere in the
newsletter.

If you can – we encourage you to send
in a donation of any amount towards
this fund.

Estimates for a replacement are in the
\$40,000 range, so we will need help
from all areas.

We have brought on board a new
and much needed part time **Church
Coordinator**. Her name is Francisca
Garate. She will be helping us with
much of the administrative work that
the Pastor and some board members
are currently doing. She will be in the
church once or twice a week for a part
of the day, and doing more work from



home as needed. If you see her, please
say hello and make her feel welcome.

I always like to remind you that this is
your church and cultural centre. It will
be what you make of it.

The board and others work very hard to
plan and prepare events for you to take
part in. The opportunities are there – we
just need you to participate. Do try to
drop in and say hello. And please share if
you have ideas for other events.
Hopefully you will have or have had a
great Christmas, and Best Wishes for a
happy and safe New Year.

Sune Overgaard

KIDS SUMMER DAY CAMP



**FUN & CREATIVE
ACTIVITIES FOR BOYS
& GIRLS
6-12 YEARS OLD**

DATES

**7-11 JULY
2025**

Sign up by
**15 MARCH
2025**

Admission
\$250

We are thrilled to invite kids to an unforgettable week-long Summer Camp celebrating the rich traditions of Denmark! This unique camp welcomes both Danish-speaking and English-speaking children, offering an inclusive and vibrant environment where everyone can connect, learn, and have fun together.

Our theme is Danish Holidays, where campers will explore the magic of Denmark's traditions and celebrations. Through engaging activities, we'll dive into Danish songs, plays, crafts, and games that bring the spirit of these holidays to life.

Each day is designed to inspire creativity, foster friendships, and provide meaningful moments of learning and joy.

More Information:
Call Pastor Kirstine or read
more on our website

**Sign up Form on our
website**



The Danish Lutheran Church warmly invites you and your family to a meaningful and joy-filled Family Service afternoon.

STARBURST: OUR NEW FAMILY SERVICES

DATE: SATURDAY - January 25, 2025

TIME: 4pm-7pm

PLACE: Danish Lutheran Church, 72 Finch Ave West

What to Expect:

- **Family-Friendly Service:** We'll begin with a short service where children and their adults can sing, listen to a story, and help Pastor Kirstine uncover the deeper meaning of the day's theme. Children often have the wisest insights!
- **Creative Arts and Fellowship:** After the service, we'll head downstairs for a time of creativity and connection. Kids and adults can enjoy hands-on arts activities while mingling with other families.
- **Shared Meal:** Food will be served for everyone to enjoy together. We kindly ask for a small donation to help cover costs.
- **Storytime and Adult Connection:** After dinner, kids are invited to join Pastor Kirstine upstairs for a bedtime story, while adults can linger for conversation and to help tidy up.

We aim to finish by 7:00 PM so families can return home at a reasonable hour, refreshed and ready for the week ahead.

All Are Welcome Whether you are a long-time member of the Danish Lutheran Church or visiting for the first time, you'll find a warm and welcoming atmosphere here.

Families, friends, and individuals of all ages are invited to join us for this special afternoon.

If you have any questions or would like to let us know you're coming, please contact Pastor Kirstine.

Let's come together to celebrate the joy of faith, creativity, and community!

JOIN US FOR SOUP SUNDAY

It is our tradition that on a cold Sunday in February we will gather after the service to enjoy a nice bowl of hot soup prepared by our excellent kitchen helpers.

There will be two different soups to choose from, so chances are you will find one of your favourites! Please join us for this special event – **Sunday February 23.**

All are welcome.



COME AND CELEBRATE FASTELAVN

Come to church on Fastelavn **Sunday March 2** where we will celebrate with a special Family Service, which includes special songs and music. Children may wear costumes to church if they wish!

After the service we will gather downstairs, where we will enjoy lunch together – complete with Fastelavns-boller. The children will parade in, singing:

“Fastelavn er mit navn”, we will play some Fastelavns-games, and of course Beat the Barrell!. There will be treats for all the children. Bring your children and/or grandchildren, and be part of this Danish tradition.



LET'S RESTORE OUR FINCH WINDOW – TOGETHER!

Our beautiful church has been a sanctuary for worship, reflection, and community for generations. As stewards of this special place, it is our responsibility to ensure it remains a beacon of warmth and welcome for years to come.

Now, we face an important challenge: the Finch Window, the front window of our church, is in dire need of renovation. This window, which should let in light and beauty, is showing signs of wear – and worse, it's starting to leak. To truly reflect the spirit and care of our congregation, it's time to restore it to its former glory.



This is where you come in. Whether you choose to give as an individual, as a family, or in memory of a loved one, your contribution will make a difference. It's an opportunity to do something special for the church we all hold so dear.

All donations, big or small, will be recognized with a tax receipt. You can contribute by cheque, e-transfer, or credit card – simply note that your gift is for the Finch Window Fund. For details on how to donate, please visit our donation webpage.

Let's make the front of our church as beautiful as the rest – and watertight too! Thank you in advance for your generosity and support. Together, we can preserve the heart of our community for generations to come.

RECURRING EVENTS



The Folkdancers Wish you all a Happy New Year

We are returning from our Christmas break, January 10, to work off all that holiday food and goodies in a fun and enjoyable way.

Laine will again provide leadership and inspiration for new and exciting dances in the coming year. She has many new steps and dances to show us, but



we will also keep up our old familiar dances, so come join us on Friday nights and forget about the cold and winter.

We meet most Fridays from January through May, look for the dates in the calendar or on the church website. We dance from 7:30 pm to 10 pm (with a coffee break).

Beginners are always welcome; but bring comfortable shoes for dancing. See you, at the church, downstairs in the Royal hall, On Friday January 10. You can find the dates in the calendar, or on our website

The folkdancers
info@danishfolk dancers.ca
www.danishfolk dancers.ca

WELCOME TO CHURCH CAFE TUESDAYS

Church Cafe Begins Again!

"A friend is one of the nicest things you can have, and one of the best things you can be!"

Church cafe will resume Tuesday Jan. 14 at noon and we hope to see all our friends there once more, after the holidays. If you bring your lunch, people will sign up for dessert. As usual we will have a hyggelig afternoon- celebrating birthdays, singing, chatting, listening to jokes.

Pastor Kirstine may even give us a short lecture about a current topic. Now that Christmas festivities are over it is time to join your church friends again.

Come if you can !
You will be very welcome.

Godt Nytår! Liselotte

GOLDEN AGE CLUB

I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and new year with family and friends. The club ended the year with a delicious pot luck lunch and dancing around the christmas tree singing christmas carols.

It was decided at the lunch that we would not meet in January and February due to unpredictable weather. We will resume our luncheons in March and the dates will be published in the March/April Kirke hilsen.

Take care and stay safe, Lilly

KNIT-WITS : KNITTING CLUB

Are you passionate about knitting? Do you want to learn how to knit? Are you eager to connect with fellow crafters? Look no further! Join us at KnitWits, where needles click and creativity flows!

Meet like-minded individuals who share your love for knitting. We provide yarn and if needed a pattern.

Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned pro, we invite you to join us.

Location: Danish Lutheran Church

Planned meeting times:

1-3pm on following dates:

February 8, March 8 & April 5.

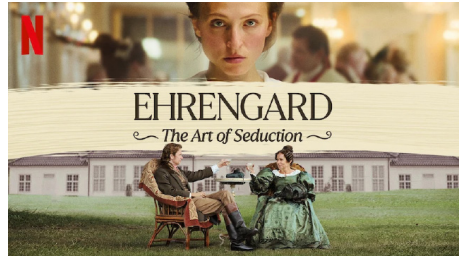
Contact Pastor Kirstine for more information.



"MOVIE"-SATURDAYS AT THE CHURCH

SATURDAY JAN 11 at 1 pm
THE DANISH GIRL

The Danish Girl tells the inspiring and emotional story of Lili Elbe, one of the first people to undergo gender-affirming surgery. Based on true events, the film explores love, identity, and courage through Lili's journey of self-discovery, starring Eddie Redmayne and Alicia Vikander in powerful performances.



Saturday February 15 at 1 pm
Ehrendard

Ehrendard is a visually stunning romantic drama inspired by Karen Blixen's novella. Set in 19th-century Denmark, it follows the witty and captivating Ehrendard, a young woman who becomes entangled in a web of love, deception, and societal expectations. With humor, passion, and intrigue, the film explores identity, power, and the complexities of human relationships.

A SPECTACULAR CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

We had an exciting, well-attended, and very successful bazaar on Sat Nov 16. Even the weather cooperated which helped to bring in many smiling faces. With the set-up of booths on both floors and outside, there was room to walk about and shop, even though it was rather busy at the opening (but that is a good thing). We even ran out of sandwiches (over 900 were made that morning!!!), and we will have a plan to avoid that for next time. The pictures give a good idea of how it went. We want to thank all the many volunteers who took part in this event – this could not be done without your help. The net results (as of November 22) set out below are fantastic. And we continue selling inventory until the end of the year. A big thank you to everyone who took part in making this bazaar the success it was. We really appreciate the support you have shown. Until next time.....

TUSIND TAK – THE BAZAAR COMMITTEE

<u>FINAL RESULTS</u>	<u>2024</u>
Bake/Deli/Cafe Booth	\$2,902
Christmas Booth	\$3,804
Glögg & Æbleskiver	\$1,006
Import Booth (Sales since Sep)	\$20,889
Jewelry Booth	\$1,770
Sandwiches	\$6,506
Silent Auction	\$837
White Elephant	\$848
TOTAL	\$38,564



ONLINE DANISH LESSONS

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING DANISH OR IMPROVING YOUR EXISTING SKILLS?



Maya Reeves is a native Danish speaker and an experienced language teacher. We are very thrilled that she has offered up another round of online Danish lessons. This time, there will be THREE options to choose from to better accommodate all levels of learners:



WE OFFER THREE LEVELS SO EVERY TYPE OF LEARNER CAN JOIN.

Dates for lessons in 2025:

- January:** 15th, 22nd, 29th
- February:** 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th
- March:** 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th
- April:** 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th
- May:** 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th



Max 15 participants per class, so register soon to secure your spot! Classes will start with a minimum of 5 participants.

Sign up via our website.

- ▲ **Times:**
- ▲ **Level 1 Beginner:** 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- ▲ **Level 2 Elementary:** 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- ▲ **Level 3 Advanced:** 8:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Price:

\$100 for 10 lessons, including materials and access to a professional learning platform.



How to make your donation go further

Being able to use your card for most things at the church, makes life so much easier both for us and for you, but we would ask you to stop and take one detail into consideration when choosing which card to use. We fully appreciate that the credit card is often preferable because of the points you earn, but the Church gets charged almost 5% of the amount of the transaction. If you use your debit card for the import purchases via Shopify, there is a flat fee of 10 cents which reduces the overall cost by 2.6%. This may not seem like a lot, but looking at the day of the bazaar, those fees amounted to \$375. We are just asking that you keep in in mind when choosing which card to use.

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



VOLUNTEERING

The church is a charity and we are always looking for volunteers to help with setting and clearing up for special events, or even our weekly Sunday coffee after the service.

Please sign up on the list or contact any board member for details. We can always use your help.

IN MEMORIAM

Birthe Jørgensen

Died - Toronto, October 8, 2024
Blessed be her memory.

BAPTISM

Eloise Ophelia Hemmingsen

Baptised: November 17, 2024
The daughter of Natasha Hemmingsen and Kasper Hemmingsen

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





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 Sømands 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) kr@danchurch.ca
President	Sune Overgaard 4105 Treetop Crescent Mississauga, ON, L5L 2L6	416-709-3139 suneovergaard@hotmail.com
Vice-President	Lilly Nielsen 22 Carroll St. Whitby, ON, L1N 7Y4	905-665-3080 lillyn@rogers.com
Treasurer	Lisa McConnell 14 Watson Cres. Brampton, ON, L6W 1E7	905-459-3850 lpetersen@rogers.com
Secretary	Gerda Andersen 403 - 600 Eglinton Avenue East Toronto, ON M4P 1P3	416-565-4193 andersengerda9@gmail.com
Director of Outreach	Susanne Truelsen	416-912-4389 susanne.truelsen@gmail.com
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	

10 CHURCH SNAPSHOTS



November and December in the Church: 1: Visit from Orchestra from Ohio, 2: Baptism of Eloise 3-4: Christmas Concert 5-7: Fall Bazaar 8: Lucia Pageant 9: Christmas Party in Church Cafe 10: White Christmas at the Church

