

KIRKE HILSEN

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2024

A WINTER FAIRYTALE

NEW: JOIN US FOR
DANISH CAFE
EVENINGS

JOIN THE FASTELAVN
CELEBRATION



DANISH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
TORONTO

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

COZY SATURDAYS
DURING THE WINTER:
"THE STORY
OF DENMARK"

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2024

JANUARY



- 5. Folk Dancing, 7.30 pm (pg. 6)
- 7.  **1st Epiphany Sunday, 10.30 am**
With the Queen's New Year's speech.
- 9. Church Cafe, 12 noon (pg. 6)
- 11. Golden Age Club, 12 noon (pg.6)
- 12. Folk Dancing, 7.30 pm (pg. 6)
- 14.  **2nd Epiphany Sunday, 10.30 am**
- 16. Church Cafe, 12 noon (pg. 6)
- 20. Movie Saturday, 1 pm (pg.9)
- 21.  **Last Sunday in Epiphany with baptism, 10.30 am**
- 23. Church Cafe, 12 noon (pg. 6)
- 23. Danish Cafe Evening, 7 pm (pg.9)
- 26. Folk Dancing, 7.30 pm (pg. 6)
- 28.  **Septuagesima Sunday, 10.30 am**
- 30. Church Cafe, 12 noon (pg. 6)



FEBRUARY

- 2. Folk Dancing , 7.30 pm (pg. 6)
- 4.  **Seksagesima Sunday, 10.30 am**
- 6. Church Cafe, 12 noon (pg. 6)
- 9. Folk Dancing, 7.30 pm (pg. 6)
- 11.  **Fastelavn. Family Service 10.30 am (pg.7)**
Valentine's Lottery Draw
- 13. Church Cafe, 12 noon (pg. 6)
- 15. Golden Age Club: Valentine's Lunch, 12 noon (pg.6)
- 17. Movie Saturday, 1 pm (pg.9)
- 18.  **1st Sunday in Lent, 10.30 am**
- 20. Church Cafe, 12 noon (pg. 6)
- 20. Danish Cafe Evening, 7 pm (pg.9)
- 23. Folk Dancing, 7.30 pm (pg. 6)
- 25.  **2nd Sunday in Lent, 10.30 am - Soup Sunday**
- 27. Church Cafe, 12 noon (pg. 6)

MARCH

- 1. Folk Dancing, 7.30 pm (pg. 6)
- 3.  **3rd Sunday in Lent, 10.30 am -**
Confirmation Class participates in the service,
- 5. Danish Cafe Evening, 7 pm (pg.9)
- 5. Church Cafe, 12 noon (pg. 6)
- 10.  **4th Sunday in Lent, 10.30 am**

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 we are able to offer this.

PASTOR'S CORNER:

A WINTER FAIRYTALE

Upon our arrival in Toronto in October, a constant warning echoed: **"Don't forget: Winter is coming."** True to the caution, winter came —with its cold embrace, snowfall, the gentle glow of winter sun, and enchanting bleak magic. Just as I had envisioned. I find a peculiar charm in the nip of frost on my cheeks, knowing that warmth will soon envelop me once again.



*Pastor
Kirstine Rasmussen*

Nevertheless, there are moments when our hearts can freeze and grow numb, not necessarily due to the cold, but rather as a consequence of our human nature steering us towards obsessions such as power, knowledge, money, and so on.

Our national treasure, H.C. Andersen, unfolds an enchanting tale about ice, winter, and the consequences of a frozen heart—the tale of the Snow Queen. The fairytale revolves around young Gerda and her companion, Kay, inseparable friends spending their summer days playing. Yet, one fateful day, Kay's eye meets a splinter from a magical mirror, and his heart turns to ice. From that point, his perception of the world alters. Roses lose their fragrance, the beauty of his grandmother's tales and hymns fades away, and even little Gerda's eyes no longer captivate him. Kay craves knowledge—cold, hard facts and geometric precision. No imagination is left.

One day Kay follows the Snow Queen's grand sled. The Snow Queen promises him the world if, by the frozen lake near her castle, he can arrange wooden blocks with letters to spell out their corresponding words. Seated for a long time, Kay struggles but fails. Not due to a lack of intelligence. Yet, he remains seated, growing colder and bluer, oblivious to Gerda, his grandmother, beautiful hymns, and everything else. Gerda, though, refuses to forget him. Embarking on a quest to find him, she travels to the ends of the earth. When she finds him, she sheds tears of love over her friend. As her warm tears touch his chest, he starts crying without comprehension, the splinter disappears, and he becomes himself again.

We cry for various reasons: Gerda's tears of joy and love, and Kay's tears, shed without awareness but revealing his true self. Through these tears, his hardness dissipates, and the shard dissolves. He cries the tears of self-awareness that love can awaken.

Perhaps this mirrors our experience when stepping into the divine light? We may find ourselves shedding tears without understanding why, for God sees us as we are and loves us nonetheless. Even when our hearts, at times, freeze, necessitating the warmth of love to thaw them.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

WELL, HERE WE ARE -



*Sune Overgaard,
President of
the board.*

**"LET'S BE
GRATEFUL
FOR ALL
THE GOOD
THINGS
AND
GOOD
TIMES
THAT WE
SHARED
LAST
YEAR"**

– at the end of the year, and getting ready to start a new one.

The fall is among the busiest times for this church

– and we have been busy – which makes time just seem to disappear.

Let's be grateful for all the good things and good times that we shared last year, and likewise be hopeful for good things to come in the future. Many things are outside our control, and we have to take them sometimes with a grain of salt. But if we stay optimistic and make good plans, and put in good efforts – then the outlook can usually be bright.

I hope at this church we carry those ideas with us and share them with those that need this sort of lift.

Sometimes in difficult times that is all it takes to put a smile on someone's face. We have much to be thankful for. Despite trying times of rising costs, housing shortages, street crime, etc. – our pains can hardly compare to those that are suffering in Ukraine or the Middle East or elsewhere – whether man-made or by Mother Nature flexing her

muscles. We can and do help those in need by giving back to charity (i.e. North York Food Bank, Covenant House, and Yonge Street Mission) and other Danish groups (Ontario Region of the Federation; Pass Lake Historical Society, ON; and New Denmark Historical Museum. NB - some of above from Norgaard Trust) We encourage and support various cultural events for the benefit of our members and the local community.

Although it was not easy to say good bye to Simon and family – our new pastor Kirstine and family have been a fantastic replacement and have jumped in with both feet and are providing great support where we need it.

Our bazaars and lotteries are important and successful fund raisers for this church. And perhaps the most important item to be thankful for – is that we have a safe place to worship and gather, and have many dedicated volunteers and supporters who make this all possible. **A big thank you goes out to each and every one of you!!**

With bazaars, concerts, pageants, and Christmas behind us – we can now look forward to special events. After welcoming the New Year on Jan 7 together with the Danish Queen’s Message, we are celebrating Fastelavn on Sun Feb 11 together with the Valentine’s Lottery Draw. Both of these events will be a lot of fun for all in the family. Please spread the word so we can hopefully have many kids participating.



We are hoping to resurrect an old favourite – Soup Sunday on Feb 25. Come join us and have a bowl of soup to warm you up. March will hopefully bring spring, and Easter at its close. Please check our calendar and/or website for more details.

We have now completed our Sanctuary Upgrade. The remaining items were to make needed improvements to the sound quality. That has now been done and many

appreciate being able to clearly hear the pastor and enjoy the music. We now have a very good quality “concert hall” and there are groups interested in using that space. It still needs a grand piano for which we have a fund raiser going – please consider contributing to that. As well, we were also finally able to upgrade our internet service so that we can now get back to live-streaming some of our more popular services. The paving of portions of the parking lot will have to wait until later in the spring.



Our 2024 membership renewal program is moving along. Please do sign up as a member if you can (it’s only \$20 !!), and this allows you to participate and voting in our AGM coming in April. Forms are available at the church or can be downloaded from our website.

We are always in need of help to make coffee. Try signing up – you may make a new friend or two. I will repeat what I mentioned last time at this point because I think it is important.

This is your church and cultural centre. It will be what you make of it. The opportunities are there – we just need you to support and take part in it.

Best wishes for a happy and safe New Year to all.

Sune Overgaard

RECURRING EVENTS

THE FOLK-DANCERS WISHING ALL A HAPPY NEW YEAR

We are returning from our Christmas break, January 5, 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.

If you like to join us, we meet most Fridays, from January through May and you will have a chance to learn the steps to the traditional

Danish dances and participate in lots of Danish Folk dances. Look for the dates in the calendar or on our 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, starting Friday January 5, 2024.

The folk-dancers
info@danishfolkdancers.ca
www.danishfolkdancers.ca



Church Café celebrates birthdays year round.

WELCOME TO CHURCH CAFE TUESDAYS

Church Cafe Meets Again January 9th!

I hope you all had a good Christmas season! I look forward to seeing you again on Tuesday January 9th at noon and every Tuesday thereafter for songs, jokes and hygge.

You are asked to bring your own lunch and sign up for dessert. We enjoy getting to know each other better and spending time chatting and maybe playing dice or cards. Do join us if you can!

All best wishes for 2024,

Liselotte

GOLDEN AGE CLUB CELEBRATES VALENTINES DAY

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and new year with family and friends.

We will start 2024 with a luncheon on January 11th. and then we will celebrate Valentine's day on February 15th. I hope to see everyone.

*Take care and stay safe,
Lilly*

COME AND CELEBRATE FASTELAVN

Come to church on Fastelavn Sunday February 11 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 Barrel!!! There will be treats for all the children.

Bring your children and/or grandchildren, and be part of this Danish tradition.

VALENTINE'S LOTTERY

As part of the Fastelavn festivities, we will also have the draw for the **Valentine's Lottery**. Many of you will receive a book of lottery tickets with this Kirkehilsen. The price is unchanged - **\$25 for a book of 6**. By purchasing these tickets, you are continuing to support our church.



The process is the same as usual – please refer to the letter that comes with the tickets for specific instructions. Remember to mail in your stubs or drop them off in person at the church. You can also pay by e-transfer or credit card, but make sure you still send in the ticket stubs as they are needed to go into the drum for the draw.

Again, this year we have great prizes thanks to donors like Malmholt Fine Jewellery, and some generous church members. Check out the list below:

Prize #1	Cash Prize	\$1,000
Prize #2	BoConcept Hamilton Chair	\$ 835
Prize #3	Gold Dagmar Cross	\$ 735
Prize #4	Lego Arctic Explorer Ship	\$ 234
Prize #5	Royal Copenhagen figurine “Amager Girl Sewing”	\$ 205

Please make use of the stamped self-addressed envelope, if you received one, to return your payment and/or ticket stubs. Should you wish to add a donation for which you can get a tax receipt, this would also be gratefully accepted.

Thank you and Good Luck !!!



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 25. All are welcome.



A SPECTACULAR CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

We had a very busy and successful bazaar on Sat Nov 18. With the new set-up of booths on both floors and outside, there was plenty of room to walk about and shop, and one could even enjoy a coffee or glögg and a sandwich or two. 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 30) 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

FINAL RESULTS

	2023
Bake/Deli/Cafe Booth	\$2,298
Christmas Booth	\$2,598
Glögg & Æbleskiver	\$812
Import Booth (Sales since Sep)	\$18,499
Jewelry Booth	\$949
Sandwiches	\$6,657
Silent Auction	\$608
White Elephant	\$605
TOTAL	\$33,026

NB!
THE NEXT
SPRING
BAZAAR
WILL TAKE
PLACE
SATURDAY
MAY 4TH.
2024

DANISH CAFE EVENINGS

We are excited to share that we will be hosting a series of Danish Cafe evenings this winter. Many of you have asked about more Danish lessons, and while we're not able to offer weekly lessons, we would love it if you'd join us for these monthly cafes.

The focus will be on speaking Danish, but we will not be doing grammar lessons or other formal exercises. That leaves lots of time to just chat and work on your vocabulary and Danish conversation skills. Each evening will have a theme and we will throw in some games and other fun ways to play and speak in Danish.

We welcome all levels of proficiency, and we also welcome fluent Danish speakers who wish to help others learn!

We will be serving coffee/tea and cookies.

The dates are: January 23, February 20 and March 5. We meet at 7pm. Please sign up using the form listed as a link below, so we can plan the activities and themes accordingly:

<https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/N6qpe3Lgty>

There is no cost to participate in this, but donations are always welcome to help support our coffee budget and our other activities.



"MOVIE"-SATURDAYS AT THE CHURCH

HISTORY OF DENMARK

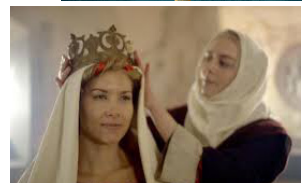
Where do we come from? What is our shared past? And how have we become who we are?

Join us on a fascinating journey through Danish history—from the Stone Age to today.

The narration is in Danish and we will try and get English subtitles if possible. Otherwise it will be with Danish subtitles.

Saturday January 20 at 1 pm
(Episodes 1 & 2 - Stone age and Bronze Age)

Saturday February 17 at 1 pm
(Episodes 3 & 4 - Viking Age and Early Middle Age)



WEDDING

Steen & Virginia Kibsgaard

November 4, 2023

IN MEMORIAM

Azucena (Zucie) Hansen

Born - July 9, 1941

Died - Toronto, October 27, 2023

Blessed be her memory.

BAPTISM

Aksel Messel

Baptised: December 3, 2023

MEMBERSHIP

**&
AGM**

The 2024 memberships are now due.

Please sign up and take part in the
AGM in April.

Forms are available at the church or
on the website.

Be part of the "Team"!!

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)

BIOGRAPHIES NEEDED FOR 2024 HERITAGE BOOK

Have you ever had your biography done, or written the life story of a loved one? As we, in Toronto, are hosting the 2024 Annual Convention of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, we need to provide much of the material for the 2024 Heritage Book.

All submissions have to be in by the end of January so your help is needed. Are you or a family member able to write your life story and submit it perhaps with appropriate pictures? It would really be appreciated and would be a good article for your grandchildren to read.

For more information, or if you need guidance, please see a board member or Liselotte Ostergaard.

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 Toronto, ON, M2N 2H4	437-772-7247 (cell) 416-222-2494 (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
Directors	Joan Skovhoj John Uffe Susanne Truelsen Mark Fenger	905-642-8748 416-424-1370 416-912-4389 416-300-8464

ACTIVITY CONTACTS

Music Coordinator	Brigitte Bogar	416-270-0333 music@danchurch.ca
Bazaars	Kirstine Rasmussen Hanne Simmelsgaard Lisa McConnell	437-772-7247 bazaar@danchurch.ca 416-652-5287 905-459-3850
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



1



10



6



5



9



8



2

November and December in the Church: 1: Baptism of Aksel 2: Christmas Party after Lucia Pageant 3: Fall Bazaar 4: Christmas Sing-along 5-6 Ready for Fall Bazaar 7: Lucia girls after the pageant 8: 3 birthdays celebrated at Church Cafe 9: Christmas lunch in the Church Cafe 10: Lucia Pageant



3



4



7