

# KIRKE HILSEN

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

2026

WELCOME BACKFEST  
THANKSGIVING DINNER  
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR  
AND MORE ...  
JOIN US!



DANISH  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
& CULTURAL CENTRE  
TORONTO

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

WHAT A DAY CAMP!!

## AUGUST

- 2. **Summer Break**
- 9. **Summer Break**
- 16. **Summer Break**
- 23.  **Twelfth Sunday in Trinity, 10.30 am - With Pastor Ilze**
- 30.  **Thirteenth Sunday in Trinity, 10.30 am - With Pastor Kirstine**

## SEPTEMBER

- 6. **No Service, Labour Day**
- 11. Folk dancing 7.30pm ( pg. 8)
- 13.  **Fifteenth Sunday in Trinity, 10.30 am**  
**Welcome Back Fest (pg. 7)**
- 15. Church Café 12-noon (pg. 8)  
Knitwits 2 pm (pg. 9)
- 18. Folk dancing, 7.30pm ( pg. 8)
- 20.  **Sixteenth Sunday in Trinity, 10.30 am**  
**Students' Visit from Denmark (pg. 9)**
- 24. Golden Age Club 12-noon (pg. 8)
- 25. Folk dancing 7.30pm ( pg. 8)
- 27.  **Seventeenth Sunday in Trinity, 10.30 am**
- 29. Church Café 12-noon (pg. 8)

## OCTOBER

- 2. Folk dancing 7.30pm ( pg. 8)
- 4. **No Service**
- 11.  **Thanksgiving Service - Nineteenth Sunday in Trinity, 10.30 am**
- 13. Church Café 12-noon (pg. 8)  
Knitwits 2 pm (pg. 9)
- 16. Folk dancing 7.30pm ( pg. 8)
- 17. Thanksgiving Dinner 6 pm (pg. 7)
- 18.  **Twentieth Sunday in Trinity, 10.30 am - With Pastor Ilze**
- 25.  **Hallowe'en Family Service - Twenty-first Sunday in Trinity (pg. 7)**
- 27. Church Café 12-noon (pg. 8)
- 30. Folk dancing 7.30pm ( pg. 8)

## NOVEMBER

- 1.  **All Saints Sunday (Daylight Savings Time Ends) - 10.30 am**
- 21. **Christmas Bazaar (pg. 6)**

## GOD IS A POTTER



*Pastor*

*Kirstine Rasmussen*

In the book of Jeremiah, it says that God is like a potter.

That image has always spoken to me. I have often thought of myself as a piece of clay in God's hands, still being shaped, still in motion. I have never wanted to become a finished, fired vessel, hard and unchangeable. I have wanted to remain soft enough for God to continue shaping me. But without really noticing it, the wheel began to spin faster and faster.

From the outside, perhaps everything looked fine. The vessel was still standing. Tall and upright. It could hold a great deal and pour itself out for many. There were sermons, conversations, events, children, people, and responsibilities. I could keep pouring.

I didn't notice it at first. We rarely do. We get used to the pace. To saying yes one more time. To believing we can manage just a little more. And the vessel was still standing. It could hold. It could pour itself out. There seemed to be room for more.

Until there wasn't.

Clay has a way of collapsing all at once. It's almost startling to watch. The tall, elegant shape suddenly becomes nothing more than a lump of clay again. That is more or less what it felt like. The strange thing is that God doesn't seem alarmed by clay that collapses. The potter simply gathers it up again. Kneads it. Softens it. Begins again.

We live in a time when everything around us tells us that pain is something to be solved quickly. If only we find the right method, buy the right product, or simply pull ourselves together a little more, we can somehow avoid it. But the Bible tells a different story.

Moses wandered through the wilderness for forty years before he caught sight of the Promised Land. Jesus did not go around the cross; he went through it. Resurrection does not come instead of Good Friday, but on the other side of it.

That doesn't mean suffering is good in itself. Burnout is not a gift. Pain is not something to seek. But sometimes it's only when the things we thought were holding us up collapse that we discover what has been holding us all along. I still find myself somewhere in the middle of that movement.

I have slowly begun to return to work which I am so happy about. It's nice to feel like I am somehow able to take on some things again. Not because everything has become what it was before. I don't think I even hope for that anymore. Perhaps we are not meant to go back. Perhaps we are meant to become- not necessarily stronger- just a little more true.

I still believe God is sitting at the potter's wheel. Thankfully, it is turning a little more slowly now.

## IT IS MID-JULY



*Sune Overgaard,  
President of  
the board.*

trying to survive another hot and humid heat wave. The kids are out of school and families are looking forward to vacations. This is the best time of the year for many people. Let's hope that each and every one of you also keep in mind that you still have to be careful and responsible when it comes to summer activities on streets and playgrounds and parks, and most important – on or near the water. Have a very enjoyable and safe summer.

Here at the church, we are also moving along through the various events and activities we usually have. In May we had our annual Spring Bazaar. It was again successful – despite the cold wet weather. Having a jazz band and tent also

helped – check out the results in this newsletter.

In June, many of us went to Sunset Villa to celebrate Constitution Day. It was a very enjoyable day with comfortable weather for a change. It was also the culmination of the Federation Conference held at Sunset Villa this year. Later we also had our Skt Hans Fest complete with BBQ and the lottery draw. The weather was favourable for us this time, and a good time was had by all. The lottery results are also in this newsletter.

As many of you are aware, our pastor was on sick leave for a while. We have had to adjust services to accommodate for this, but we have great news that she is on the road to recovery. She will have a couple of services during the summer, and will be able to get back again after the summer break. We are very grateful that pastor Ilze Kuplens-Ewart was able to help us out during this time. July was exciting for the participants in the Danish day camp

for kids. There were 16 children there this year with Andersen's fairy tales being shared with very excited and curious young faces. Most of the church weekly activity groups have now shut down for the summer. For the rest of July and first part of August, we are closing down so that we can all have a nice vacation break.

Make sure you check out the calendar for the list of services over the summer period. September opens up with our Welcome Back Fest, and the church comes alive again with weekly activities. We also have some students from a school in Skive visiting us. Please check the calendar and/or website for details. Our very popular Thanksgiving Dinner will be on Saturday Oct 17 – check out the note in this newsletter.

Remember – this is your church and cultural centre – take an active role in its plans and events. Together we can make things happen.

***Sune Overgaard***

# FINCH WINDOW UPDATE

The basic design shown here was approved at the last AGM. We have contacted an architect who is helping us with design options as well as sourcing of window manufacturers for quotes. Our plan is to have this work done by September so preparations for a fall installation can be done.



As mentioned at the AGM, this is an expensive update. But considering the old window was from 1965 and leaking, and how it was important to have a welcoming and impressive image from the street, we feel this design will get us there. Since we started the Finch Window Fund, we have received almost \$15,000 from gracious donors. The final bill will be much larger than that amount – and if you can be inspired to make an extra donation to this cause – we would of course be very grateful for any such donation.

# SKT HANS FEST AND LOTTERY RESULTS

We had a very enjoyable Skt Hans Fest at our church on Sunday afternoon June 21, complete with a small service – followed by BBQ burgers, ice cream and fresh strawberries, and summer songs in our park after the service. Even the weather held to allow us to have this outdoor event. And we also had some special guests join us whom we hadn't seen in a while – that was a wonderful surprise.

We also held the draw for our Skt Hans Lottery, which was successful with about \$3,900 in gross sales. A big thank you to all who participated in this fund-raising lottery. We are grateful for your support. We also wish to thank the donors who helped to make this happen with their wonderful prizes.

Here are the lucky lottery winners – Congratulations !!!

- |                                       |                                     |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1st Prize - \$1,000 Cash              | Joan Skovhoj, Stouffville (#1962)   |
| 2nd Prize - Silver Dagmar Cross       | Mogens Jensen, Milton (#1015)       |
| 3rd Prize - Air Fryer/Oven            | Inge Winslow, Richmond Hill (#1562) |
| 4th Prize - Royal Copenhagen Figurine | Ruth Nielsen, Sauble Beach (#0542)  |
| 5th Prize - Royal Copenhagen Figurine | Kirsten Jensen, Toronto (#1023)     |

## SPRING BAZAAR 2026 RESULTS

We had another busy and even successful bazaar on Saturday May 23 – despite the terrible weather. Having a live jazz band playing in a large tent did help to make the event more interesting and enjoyable. The set-up of booths on all floors and outside made it easier to get around with plenty of space to walk, talk, and shop.

The net results below are impressive, and we continue selling imports inventory at various occasions at the church. A big thank you to all the many leaders and volunteers who took part in making this bazaar the success it was. We really appreciate the support you have shown.

Tusind tak !! – The Bazaar Committee

|                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Coffee/Dessert Booth       | \$ 1,083  |
| Bake/Deli Booth            | 682       |
| Sandwiches                 | 5,095     |
| Gift Booth / Danish Plates | 1,670     |
| Needlework Booth           | 763       |
| Jewelry Booth              | 2,718     |
| Hot Dogs/Buns              | 835       |
| White Elephant             | 528       |
| Imports Booth              | 8,944     |
| Total                      | \$ 22,318 |

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: SAVE THE DATE!

**Start this Christmas season at the Danish Christmas Bazaar, on November 21st!** All floors and the outdoors will be open for you to browse, shop, and mingle.

Stock up on Danish imports and visit the booths placed in the church sanctuary. All food items will be served in our food court downstairs in the Royal Hall. Open-faced sandwiches and the bazaar café open at 11 am. You can enjoy Danish smørrebrød in the café or bring it home.

There will also be tables outside where we will sell glögg, hot chocolate, and æbleskiver. Don't miss out on the new modern Scandinavian booth, silent auction, Christmas booth, bake booth, jewelry booth, white elephant (garage) sale. Stay tuned for updates and more information about our **imports shop**.

*See you there!*

# WELCOME BACK FEST: START THE FALL SEASON WITH A PARTY

Before you know it, September will be here, and we need to get back to our fall routines after a long and hot summer. The Welcome Back Fest will be on **Sunday September 13**. We will have a regular Sunday service, and then continue with a BBQ lunch hopefully in our beautiful park (weather permitting). Bring your family and friends. Come out and celebrate the return to full activity at the church.



## THANKSGIVING DINNER: DON'T MISS OUT !!

Our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on **Saturday October 17** at 6:00 pm in the Royal Hall. A full course roast pork dinner prepared by chef Hemant and his team. There will be musical entertainment, refreshments available, a gift lottery draw, some well-loved songs to sing, a folk-dance performance, and maybe even a special guest speaker.

Our dinners are popular, so please sign up early. The adult price will be \$60 with \$40 going for dinner costs – and \$20 going as a donation to the church which includes a tax receipt. Children 6 to 18 will be \$25 each for dinner only. Of course – additional donations are always welcome.

Reservations and pre-payment are necessary and can be done on-line by e-transfer, credit card, or in person at the church on the sign-up list. Come and join us for another wonderful and exciting evening of food, fun, and entertainment while also supporting the church. Looking forward to seeing you there.

## H A L L O W E E N

### COME AND CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN WITH US!



**WE INVITE ALL SUPERHEROES, VILLAINS, WITCHES,  
BALLET DANCERS, AND EVERYONE IN BETWEEN  
TO OUR SPECIAL HALLOWEEN SERVICE!  
BRING YOUR BEST COSTUMES AND JOIN US ON  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, AT 10:30 AM.**



# RECURRING EVENTS

THE FOLKDANCERS RETURN THIS  
SEPTEMBER

**Do you enjoy dancing? like  
Danish Folk music? Or do you  
play an instrument?**

Summer is almost over, and fall  
will soon be here. What better  
time to be part of a Danish trad-  
ition involving good fun, physical  
activity, and music.

We are always looking for new  
dancers & musicians , and you  
don't have to be Danish; any-  
one interested in Danish folk  
dance and music can participate.

We welcome  
everyone,  
experienced or  
beginner, we  
will teach you  
the steps and  
dances.

If you play an  
instrument or  
know somebody who does and  
are interested in playing Danish  
folk music for dancing, send us an  
email or come and see what we  
are all about.

We start Friday, September 11  
at 7:30pm in the Royal Hall. If  
you like to participate, send us a  
email at [info@danishfolk dancers.ca](mailto:info@danishfolk dancers.ca) or just come and dance.  
We dance most Friday nights at  
the Danish Church from Sep-  
tember to May. You can find our  
calendar and more information  
on our website: [www.danish-folkdancers.ca](http://www.danish-folkdancers.ca)



*Church Café  
celebrates  
special events  
and birthdays  
year round.*

## WELCOME TO CHURCH CAFE TUESDAYS

*"The clock of life is wound but once  
And no man has the power  
To tell just when the hands will stop  
On what day-or what hour."*

So use your "clock" as best you can.  
Have a good summer and if you get  
lonely phone a friend and invite her/  
him for a cup of tea and a card game.  
The Church Cafe will not be meeting  
until September. We will try to meet  
every second week for a chat, songs,  
and a joke.

On September 15 we are lucky that  
Anne Lise Pedersen is providing lunch  
for us and I will make dessert. Other-  
wise we have to bring our own lunch  
and sign up for dessert. We will meet  
Sept. 15 and Sept. 29 as well as Oct.13  
and Oct,27 at noon.

I hope to see you there!

*Liselotte*

## GOLDEN AGE CLUB

The Golden Age Club hopes to start  
up again in September - but needs  
more members to continue. If you are  
interested, please give Celine or Lilly  
your feedback. Start up day will be  
Thursday Sept 24 - the future will be  
decided at that meeting.

*Have a great summer and stay safe,  
Lilly*

## KNITWITS IS BACK!

Come join our cozy KnitWits gatherings this fall! We meet in the church to chat, sip coffee, and work on knitting projects together for the Christmas Bazaar and beyond.

We have yarn and patterns available if needed, and all skill levels are warmly welcome.



No matter if you're casting on your first stitches or you've knit for decades, there's space for everyone. Come be part of the hygge and help us stitch a little joy into the season!



## DON'T MISS OUT! IMPORTANT VISIT FROM DENMARK

Last October, we opened our doors for a lovely visit from a group of students from Aarhus Statsgymnasium. We are happy to announce we are hosting another visit this September 20 from Skive College and we invite you to join us for this special afternoon!

Like last year, we will talk about immigration from Denmark, Danish-Canadian identity, and the role of our church in the community.

***Don't miss the opportunity to share your experience as a Dane in Canada.***

**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)

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Laura Johnson**

Born - Nov 5, 1927, Vig, Denmark.

Died - June 6, 2026, Toronto, ON.

**Jean-Marie Brouillette**

Born - June 19, 1954, Plessisville,  
Quebec

Died - June 18, 2026, Toronto, ON

**SUNSET MINDEPARK (Lic # 4138897)**

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

For Sales or Interments:

Sune Overgaard 416-709-3139

([suneovergaard@hotmail.com](mailto:suneovergaard@hotmail.com))

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

More Info: [www.mindepark.ca](http://www.mindepark.ca)

**SUNSET MINDEPARK-ONTARIO  
URN CEMETERY**

13 - 7150 CONCESSION 1, RR 2  
(Site Address: 4106 Sideroad 25 S)  
PUSLINCH, ONTARIO N0B 2J0

Ontario Cemetery License #4138897-05014



**May 29, 2026**

**To Whom It May Concern,**

The Sunset Mindepark Board has submitted by-laws for the Sunset Mindepark Ontario Cemetery to the Registrar of the *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002*. Any interested parties may contact Sune Overgaard at 416-709-313 or by email at [suneovergaard@hotmail.com](mailto:suneovergaard@hotmail.com) for information. By-laws or amendments may be reviewed or copied upon request.

These by-laws are subject to the approval of the Registrar, *Funeral Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002*. For further assistance, please contact the Bereavement Authority of Ontario's Licensing department at 647-483-2645 or 844-493-6356 or [licensing@thebao.ca](mailto:licensing@thebao.ca).

**The Sunset Mindepark Board**



## 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](mailto:mail@danchurch.ca)

Website: [www.danishchurchtoronto.ca](http://www.danishchurchtoronto.ca)

Facebook: [facebook.com/danishchurchtoronto](https://facebook.com/danishchurchtoronto)



Den Danske  
Kirke i Udlandet

A church associated with The Danish Church Abroad / Den Danske Kirke i Udlandet (DKU)

[www.dendanskekirke.dk](http://www.dendanskekirke.dk)

|                         |                                                                             |                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pastor                  | Kirstine Rasmussen<br>72 Finch Ave. West<br>Toronto, ON, M2N 2H4            | 437-772-7247 (cell)<br>416-222-2494 (office)<br><a href="mailto:kr@danchurch.ca">kr@danchurch.ca</a> |
| President               | Sune Overgaard<br>4105 Treetop Crescent<br>Mississauga, ON, L5L 2L6         | 416-709-3139<br><a href="mailto:suneovergaard@hotmail.com">suneovergaard@hotmail.com</a>             |
| Vice-President          | Lilly Nielsen<br>22 Carroll St.<br>Whitby, ON, L1N 7Y4                      | 905-665-3080<br><a href="mailto:lillyn@rogers.com">lillyn@rogers.com</a>                             |
| Treasurer               | Lisa McConnell<br>14 Watson Cres.<br>Brampton, ON, L6W 1E7                  | 905-459-3850<br><a href="mailto:lpetersen@rogers.com">lpetersen@rogers.com</a>                       |
| Secretary               | Gerda Andersen<br>403 - 600 Eglinton Avenue East<br>Toronto, ON M4P 1P3     | 416-565-4193<br><a href="mailto:andersengerda9@gmail.com">andersengerda9@gmail.com</a>               |
| Director<br>of Outreach | Susanne Truelsen                                                            | 416-912-4389<br><a href="mailto:susanne.truelsen@gmail.com">susanne.truelsen@gmail.com</a>           |
| Coordinator             | Francisca Garate                                                            | 437-772-7233<br><a href="mailto:fr@danchurch.ca">fr@danchurch.ca</a>                                 |
| Directors               | Joan Skovhøj<br>John Uffe<br>Mark Fenger<br>Keri Pedersen<br>Malou Kongsted | 905-642-8748<br>416-424-1370<br>416-300-8464<br>647-880-2060<br>647-293-7645                         |

### ACTIVITY CONTACTS

|                 |                                                       |                                                                              |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Music           | Brigitte Bogar                                        | 416-270-0333                                                                 |
| Coordinator     |                                                       | <a href="mailto:music@danchurch.ca">music@danchurch.ca</a>                   |
| Bazaars         | Kirstine Rasmussen                                    | 437-772-7247<br><a href="mailto:bazaar@danchurch.ca">bazaar@danchurch.ca</a> |
|                 | Lisa McConnell                                        | 905-459-3850                                                                 |
|                 | Keri Pedersen                                         | 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 |                                                                              |

## 6 CHURCH SNAPSHOTS



2



5



4

**May, June & July in the Church:**  
**1-3: Nordic Bazaar, 4-6: Summer Camp.**



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## Fall/Winter Danish lessons

Upcoming Danish Language Courses starting September 14 going to April next year.

### **Mondays**

**18:00 – 18:55 | Level 2**

For those who took level 1 before.

**19:00 – 19:55 | Level 5**

All in Danish, high proficiency needed.

### **Tuesdays**

**18:00 – 18:55 | Level 1**

Absolute beginners.

**19:00 – 19:55 | Kids/Teens (Ages 10+)**

Kids who communicate in Danish.

### **Wednesdays**

**18:00 – 18:55 | Level 3**

Read and write Danish, next up from Level 2.

**19:00 – 19:55 | Level 4**

All in Danish for strong speakers

Each course includes 30 live online classes. **Cost is \$330 per student.**  
Check our website for registration and more details.