

KIRKE HILSEN

MAY-JUNE-JULY
2025

CONSTITUTION DAY
AT SUNSET VILLA

CELEBRATE
SKT HANS FEST AND
LOTTERY DRAW

SØNDERJYSK
KAFFEBORD:
DANISH ALL YOU CAN
EAT CAKE AND COFFEE



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

NORDIC BAZAAR MAY 10:

JOIN US FOR THIS BIG EVENT

CALENDAR FOR MAY-JUNE-JULY 2025

MAY





- 2. Folk dancing, 7.30 pm (pg. 8)
Danes Worlwide Run 2025
- 4.  **Nordic Service at the Swedish Church, 4 pm.**
(pg. 8)
- 6. Church Café 12-noon (pg. 8)
- 10. Nordic Bazaar 10 am (pg. 4)
- 11.  **Third Sunday after Easter, 10.30am**
- 13. Church Café 12-noon (pg. 8)
- 15. Golden Age Club, 12-noon (pg. 8)
- 16. Folk dancing, 7.30 pm (pg. 8)
- 17. Sønderjysk Kaffebord (Cake Buffet), 2 pm (pg. 10)
- 18.  **Fourth Sunday after Easter, 10.30 am**
- 20. Church Café 12-noon (pg. 8)
- 24.  **Starburst, Family Service. 4:00pm (pg. 9)**
- 25. **No service**
- 27. Church Café 12-noon (pg.8)
- 30. Folk dancing 7.30pm (pg. 8)

Sunday
Services at
10:30 am marked
with a flag. Services
in Danish  or
English .

JUNE

- 1.  **Grundlovsdag (Constitution Day), 10 am (pg. 7)**
Open Air Service at Sunset Mindepark (No Service in Toronto), 1 pm
- 3. Church Café 12-noon (pg. 8)
- 6. Folk dancing 7.30 pm - End of season party (pg. 8)
- 8.  **Pentecost Day 10.30 am**
- 10. Church Café 12-noon (pg. 8)
- 15.  **Trinity Sunday 10.30am**
- 17. Church Café 12-noon (pg. 8)
- 19. Golden Age Club BBQ, 12-noon (pg. 8)
- 22.  **Second Sunday of Trinity, 10.30 am**
Skt. Hans Fest and Lottery (pg. 7)
- 24. Church Café, 12- noon (pg. 8)
- 29.  **No Service (Canada Day)**

JULY

- 6.  **Fourth Sunday of Trinity 10.30 am**
- 7. Danish Summer Camp starts
- 13.  **Fifth Sunday of Trinity, 10.30 am**
- 20.  **Sixth Sunday of Trinity, 10.30 am**
- 27.  **Seventh Sunday of Trinity, 10.30 am**
Summer Service and BBQ

Blessed it is to forget oneself

For many years, there has been a great focus on self-development, being your best and most perfect self.

But now, fortunately, more and more people are realizing that the first step in developing oneself is to forget oneself. Psychologist Svend Brinkmann has argued that we don't actually need self-development, but self-dismantling, because true presence is self-forgetfulness.

I recently came across the same wisdom in one of H.C. Andersen's fairy tales, *The Teapot*.

The story is about a teapot that is very proud.

It is the most important part of the tea set, which is a very fine set, so it considers itself to be exceedingly distinguished. But then it starts to get damaged – a chip breaks off the spout, and later part of the handle breaks as well, and the teapot is put away on a shelf. Eventually, it is given to a woman who begs for cooking fat. She uses it as a flowerpot and fills it with soil – which, for a teapot, is like death.

But in the soil she places a flower bulb, and the bulb sprouts, and it grows, and the teapot says:

"The bulb sprouted, I saw it, I forgot myself in its beauty – blessed is it to forget oneself in others."

I remember hearing that little tale when I was a child. I probably didn't understand much of it back then, but reading it now as an adult, I must admit there are deep layers in it, new realizations.

It's truly a story about gaining life when you feel like you've lost it and about finding joy in self-forgetfulness by watching something outside yourself blossom.

Out of the breakdown, something wonderful grows – something one could never have dreamed of. That is, in a way, what we are also meant to understand in Christianity, and what can be so difficult: that the one who loses their life will find it. We do not create the meaning of our lives ourselves – we receive it from others. The little flower bulb becomes the very heart of the teapot, beating and keeping it alive. And even when the teapot is eventually shattered, it still holds the memory of that joyful self-forgetfulness that arises when it becomes absorbed in something outside of itself.



Pastor

Kirstine Rasmussen

For it is true that it is often in others, or in nature, that we forget ourselves.



And strikingly, it's not until the teapot has been broken by life that it gains these insights. When it stood on the tea table, flaunting its Chinese tea leaves, it only thought: "Damn, I'm good."

In that situation, there's not much self-awareness. But sometimes – if not often – self-awareness comes through adversity. It is a valuable realization to make: that one can become happy by forgetting oneself in others, as H.C. Andersen so movingly describes in the tale of *The Teapot*.

So let us plant flower bulbs.

Nordic Bazaar is almost here...

MAY 10, 10 AM TO 2 PM

This year, we welcome the other Baltic nations to put up 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-Ordering of Imports and Sandwiches. Pre-ordering of imports **only for pick-up** on the day of the bazaar will occur as usual (window closes end of day May 7). But remember – **any orders for shipping will not be accepted or processed** until after the bazaar day. We will allow pre-orders of sandwiches as well – but **only in quantities of 20 or more, and orders must be placed no later than end of day May 5.** The sandwich orders will be ready for pick-up by 12 noon. Both these changes are put into effect to allow for more

choices of product to be available for those who come in person to shop at our bazaar.

We are grateful that both imports and sandwiches are very popular – but also want to be fair to those 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 jewelry and gifts on the main level, white elephant both inside or out (depending on the weather); and **after 11 am**, all sorts of food, refreshments, and sandwiches in the Royal Hall. We look forward to seeing you there!!!





2025 Danish Federation News

The Federation of Danish Associations in Canada is holding its **44th Annual Conference and AGM** in Calgary this year. The conference takes place 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”.

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.

Notes from DLC AGM

We had a very good meeting at our AGM on Sunday April 6, 2025 with almost 50 members participating either in person or via Zoom. Thank you for taking part in this important meeting.

We heard reports from President Sune Overgaard and Pastor Kirstine Rasmussen, after which we reviewed the financial statements from last year, and the proposed budgets for this year, all of which received unanimous approval from the members. We heard reports from the activity groups, and the Board members, whose term was up and who had all agreed to stand for re-election were acclaimed for another two-year term. The Norgaard Trust is now accepting grant applications. Forms are available at the church or on the website.

Our Director of Outreach, Susanne Truelssen, reported that the board has held a couple of planning meetings with a view to determining how best to prepare the organization for future sustainability with respect to values, participation, volunteering, and financial support. We need to think outside the box to make significant changes to ensure that we do

have a future – and this needs to be done now. This includes looking at a new mission statement, seeking expert advice with regards to funding and potential business development, recruitment of volunteers, and community involvement. To help us in determining the who, what, when, and where – we will soon be sending out a Community Engagement Survey seeking your responses to these questions. The survey will be anonymous, and replies are not due until September – so please take your time and tell us what you think.

We will have results ready to share later in the year. Our focus will be to have concrete plans ready and on a roll in time for a big celebration of our 70th anniversary in 2027. We will be looking for video interviews, stories in our newsletter, fundraising events – anything to help make our future bright and strong, and worthy of a proud celebration.

As always, your comments, thoughts, ideas, etc. are encouraged and welcome – please share them with any Board member.

The Board

Now that we are well into Spring...



*Sune Overgaard,
President of
the board.*

It is nice to finally see signs of nature's renewal on flowers, trees, lawns, and even birds, and it is the time to reach out with many events that are looked forward to and enjoyed at our Church and Cultural Centre.

Fastelavn was held indoors, and we have had another Starburst Family Service. We recently held a successful AGM with very good participation. The Holy Week was

celebrated with palms, a solemn Friday, and of course the excitement and joy of Easter morning. Many also enjoyed our annual entertaining Royal Dinner, which included the unveiling of the new picture of the Danish Royal couple.

May starts off with a Danes Worldwide 5 Km Walk/Run. Then we visit the Swedish church for our second annual shared Nordic Service. Next comes the Nordic Bazaar (Yes, there is a theme here. We want to share events with groups that we have a history with). **Our bazaars are some of our most important and popular events – make sure you don't miss it. Pre-orders for imports and sandwiches are available – check it out.**

The Federation has its annual Conference and Seminar in Calgary this year. Any and all are welcome to participate.

We move into June with Constitution Day celebrations at Sunset Villa. Later we have our Skt Hans Fest and Lottery. The service, BBQ, and lottery draw have

always been popular and hope to see you there. In July we are bringing back our Danish Summer Day Camp for kids. Details can be found on our website. We will close out July with a summer service and BBQ in our park.

You may have noticed that this newsletter covers May, June, and July. And the next one will cover August, Sept, and Oct. We are doing this for a couple of reasons. Postage rates have significantly increased, and with most of our regular activities on summer break, there are not many other events happening in July and August. In addition to closing down on the long weekends, we are also doing this for a couple of Sundays in August. Please be sure to check out the calendar and website for details of all the above.

A Community Engagement Survey will be sent out a bit later in May or June. We need this input to help keep us moving forward. We are a church AND a cultural centre. Together we can make this happen.

Best wishes for an enjoyable and safe early Summer.

Sune Overgaard

Skt Hans Fest and Lottery Draw

Sunday June 22.

This Mid-Summer Festival will start with a short service for the whole family. Afterwards we will go into

our lovely park (weather permitting of course), and enjoy a traditional Sankt

Hans program complete with a BBQ, songs, a bonfire, and strawberries and ice cream with our coffee. Bring your

own lawn chairs if you like. At 1:00 pm we will have the draw for the lucky win-

ners of our Sankt Hans Lottery. All ticket stubs must be received by then to be eligible. Please join us for a fun and entertaining event.



Skt Hans Lottery – 2025

Sunday June 22.

The Sankt Hans Lottery will soon be upon us! Tickets will be distributed by early May with the draw taking place at our Sankt Hans Fest.

We encourage you to purchase a book or two as the lottery is a major source of funding for our church. As always, we are very grateful to

the generous donors of the prizes - including **Malmholt Fine Jewelers**, and a couple of church members. For ticket information, please contact any board member. Tickets are also available at the church or via our website.

We look forward to your support – and Good Luck!!!

Constitution Day at Sunset Villa

SUNDAY JUNE 1

The annual *Constitution Day* festivities are happening at Sunset Villa on Sunday June 1. The park opens at 10 am and they have exciting events for most of the day.

It is always an enjoyable day in the country. We will hold our annual outdoor service in the

Mindepark at 1 pm. We hope you will join us for this lovely event.

Please note: There will not be a service in the Toronto Danish church on Sunday June 1. We hope to see you at the Mindepark instead.



Come and dance with the folk dancers

The Folkdancers are still dancing in the "Royal Hall" most Fridays through to June 6, we start at 7:30 pm.

If you would like to try dancing the Danish way, or felt your feet move during our Royal dinner performance, you are always welcome to join us, even as we prepare for our "Grundlovsdag" performance at Sunset Villa.

You can find our dance dates in the church calendar and come and see us at Sunset Villa. Our spring session will finish with a get-together in June before we break for summer.

Check our website: www.danishfolk dancers.ca for dancing dates, or Email us at: info@danishfolk dancers.ca

GOLDEN AGE CLUB

I hope you all had a wonderful Easter with family and friends. We will meet on May 15th. for a delicious lunch and hygge. Our annual barbecue will be on June 19th. in the park. The members present at our April luncheon agreed to meet early in June to celebrate Astrid Simola at her daughter's wishes. We will let you know when the actual date is set.

Looking forward to seeing everyone. Take care and stay safe. **Lilly**



CHURCH CAFE ON TUESDAYS

"Friendship is a promise that is renewed every time two friends meet and smile."

Many friendships are made each week at the Church Cafe so do come if you can. We continue to meet every Tuesday in May and June at noon for chats, songs, jokes and of course the celebration of our birthdays and other special occasions. Most times we bring our lunch and sign up for making dessert and we usually hear about a special topic before playing our card games or dice.

Our last day before our holidays is June 24. Have a great summer holiday! See you again in September. **Liselotte**



Nordic Service

MAY 4 @ 4 PM

SWEDISH LUTHERAN CHURCH 1847 BAYVIEW AVE

THE DANISH, ESTONIAN, FINNISH, AND SWEDISH
CHURCHES INVITE YOU TO AN ENGLISH-
LANGUAGE CHURCH SERVICE.

AFTER THE SERVICE WE'LL SERVE COFFEE AND
TRADITIONAL NORDIC TREATS.








**PAY WITH
E-TRANSFERS
AND CREDIT CARD**

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

Read more on

danchurch.ca/pay



Starburst Family Service

May 24, 4 pm

Join us once again for an afternoon service filled with worship, reflection, and community as we explore the **symbolism of glasses**.

Following the service, we will gather for a time of fun, creativity, 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!

IN MEMORIAM

Gurli Agathe Bondegaard Ahlgreen

Born: June 27, 1928, Gislev, Denmark

Died: February 14, 2025, Toronto, Ontario

Ella (Kruse) Garrad

Born: January 31, 1938, Aarhus, Denmark

Died: January 6, 2025, Toronto, ON.

Johannes Jensen

Born: November 14, 1932, Grinsted, Denmark

Died: April 11, 2025, Toronto, Ontario.

Glenn Davis

Born: 1952, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Died: March 20, 2025, Toronto, Ontario.

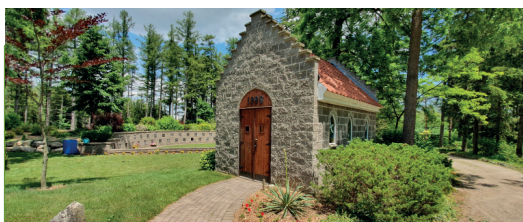
BAPTISM:

Liam Jensen Spittle

Baptized April 27, 2025

Parents: Sarah Christine Spittle

James William Spittle



SUNSET MINDEPARK - THE DANISH URN CEMETERY IN ONTARIO

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

Sønderjysk Kaffebord – Danish All You Can Eat Cake and Coffee

Saturday, May 17 at 2:00 PM – at the Danish Church
We're trying something new – and something delicious!

Join us for a true taste of Danish tradition with a **Sønderjysk Kaffebord** – a classic Southern Jutland-style cake table with “all you can eat” homemade cakes, buns, and endless coffee. Our very own Danish baker, **Anna**, will prepare a beautiful selection of traditional Danish cakes and pastries – just like you remember from home (or have always wanted to try!).

The Sønderjysk Kaffebord is more than a meal – it's a cultural experience rooted in community, hospitality, and hygge.

Come with a sweet tooth and a friend – and get ready to enjoy an afternoon of warm company, strong coffee, and an abundance of cake.

Entrance is \$25 at the door (cash or e-transfer).

Please let us know if you are planning to come – just so we are sure to have enough cake for everyone.

Everyone is welcome!



DANISH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TORONTO

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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



Danske
Sømands- og
Udlandskirker

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ACTIVITY CONTACTS

Music Coordinator	Brigitte Bogar	416-270-0333 music@danchurch.ca
Bazaars	Kirstine Rasmussen Lisa McConnell Keri Pedersen	437-772-7247 bazaar@danchurch.ca 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	



My Canadian Adventure

I've always dreamt of going overseas. At first, it was to experience the big U.S.A. in the south. But then I noticed another country—almost as big as the States, just a bit further north: Canada. “Exciting,” I thought. It was a country I knew existed but surprisingly knew very little about. The more I read about it, the more intrigued I became, and it didn't take long for me to decide that this was the destination I wanted to go to.

When I arrived, one of the first things that fascinated me was the fact that signs, announcements, and messages were in both English and French. One day, at a Walmart, I picked up a Harry Potter DVD. It said “Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets,” and a little further down on the cover, “Harry Potter à l'école des sorciers.”

Little by little, it became clear that Canada's culture is a mix of almost every culture. As I began to understand this, I wondered, “Can it even be one land with one culture when

“But I've learned that it is very much a culture—and one country—indeed”

you embrace so many different ones in one place?” For example, in kindergarten, they celebrate Ramadan, Christmas, Chinese New Year, and Diwali. And in winter, they don't call it a “Christmas market,” but a “Winter market.”

But I've learned that it is very much a culture—and one country—indeed. One that welcomes all cultures to create one united land. It shows that even if you believe in one religion, come from a certain tradition, and have a family from one country, your best friend can come from completely different ones.

In a global society with so many different religions, cultures, and countries—with a lot of conflict, and sometimes a growing feeling of division and alienation—maybe Canada's wish to welcome everyone and build a united culture from many is a template the rest of the world could look at and learn from.

Oskar Bang Hansen

