

KIRKE HILSEN

FEBRUARY-MARCH-APRIL 2026

MUSIC SERVICES
ROYAL DINNER
SUMMER KIDS CAMP
JOIN THE FASTELAVN
CELEBRATION
AND MORE!

DANISH LUTHERAN
&
CULTURAL CENTRE



DANISH
LUTHERAN CHURCH
& CULTURAL CENTRE
TORONTO

NORDIC SPRING BAZAAR
COMING SOON!

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

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY, MARCH & APRIL 2026

FEBRUARY

- 1.  **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, 10.30 am**
- 8.  **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany, 10.30 am**
- 10. Church Café, 12-noon (pg. 6)
- 13. Folk Dancing, 7 pm (pg. 6)
- 15.  **Family Service 10.30 am - Fastelavn (pg. 5)**
- 21.  KnitWits, 1pm (pg. 7)
- 22.  **1st Sunday in Lent, 10.30 am- Soup Sunday & Music Service (pg. 5)**
- 24. Church Café, 12-noon (pg. 6)
- 27. Folk Dancing, 7 pm (pg. 6)
- 28. Movie Saturday "As in Heaven", 1pm (pg. 7)

MARCH

- 1.  **2nd Sunday in Lent, 10.30 am**
- 8.  **3rd Sunday in Lent, 10.30 am**
(Remember: Daylight Saving)
- 10. Church Café, 12-noon (pg. 6)
- 12. Golden Age Club, 12-noon (pg.6)
- 13. Folk Dancing, 7 pm (pg. 6)
- 14. KnitWits, 1pm (pg. 7)
- 15.   **4th Sunday in Lent, 10.30am.**
- 22.  **The Annunciation of Mary, 10.30am - Bishop & DDKU visit (pg. 13)**
- 24. Church Café, 12-noon (pg. 6)
- 27. Folk Dancing, 7 pm (pg. 6)
- 29.  **Palm Sunday, 10.30 am - Annual General Meeting (pg. 10)**

APRIL

- 3.  **Good Friday, 10.30am (pg. 5)**
- 5.  **Easter Sunday, 10.30am (pg. 5)**
- 7. Church Café, 12-noon (pg. 6)
- 10. Folk Dancing, 7 pm (pg. 6)
- 11. KnitWits, 1pm (pg. 7)
- 12.   **2nd Sunday after Easter, 10.30 am**
- 14. Church Café, 12-noon (pg. 6)
- 16. Golden Age Club, 12-noon (pg. 6)
- 17. Folk Dancing, 7 pm (pg. 6)
- 18. Royal Dinner, 6 pm (pg. 12)
- Danish Federation Spring Meeting, 2 pm (pg. 8)
- 19.  **3rd Sunday after Easter, 10.30 am - Musical Service (pg. 12)**
- 21. Church Café, 12-noon (pg. 6)
- 25. Movie Saturday "The Pact", 1pm (pg. 7)
- 26.  **4th Sunday after Easter, 10.30 am - Confirmation**
- 28. Church Café, 12-noon (pg. 6)

MAY

- 2.  Starburst Family Service, 4 pm.

THE STRENGTH OF BEING SOFT

As part of the new year, I have started to meditate - at least, I'm trying to - by using an app that is meant to help me ... well, I'm not entirely sure with what. A woman's voice calmly guides me through breathing and silence. One day, as I sit there, she talks about strength. About finding inner power. About standing firm. I'm not quite sure what to do with that.

The Chinese New Year is fast approaching, bringing in the Year of the Horse, a year associated with energy, determination, and forward momentum. "Put yourself in the saddle," one might say. "You have the power. Show your strength." Strength is usually something we admire—both personally and as a society, but when strength is manifested by a threat, speaking loudly and making demands, I wonder- Is this really the only kind of strength we know? Or is there another?

The novel *Atmosphere* makes a distinction between bravery and courage. The author describes bravery as being unaffected by what others fear; courage, on the other

hand, as being afraid but still choosing to walk the path. It is an important distinction.

Much of the strength we praise is built on hiding fear, drowning out doubt, and keeping up appearances. Courage, however, requires something else. It requires honesty, and the willingness to stand by one's vulnerability.

Bravery can be exposed as a kind of performance. It gives the impression of fearlessness, but often at the cost of honesty. Courage, by contrast, makes no such claim. It doesn't deny fear; it acknowledges it and moves forward anyway. In that sense, bravery can be an illusion, while courage is the only strength that is real—because it begins in truth.

The world has decided that being soft is the same as being weak. But experience and wisdom tell a different story. What is soft and flexible is often more durable than what is hard and brittle. What is rigid breaks; what can bend survives. In a storm, it is not the stiffest trees that remain standing, but those that can sway with the wind.



*Pastor
Kirstine Rasmussen*

Admitting fear requires more strength than pretending it isn't there. Having the courage to fail takes you further than never taking a step. Accepting one's fallibility is not a defeat, but a way of being human. We're all fragile. And perhaps this is where strength truly begins: In the recognition that we don't carry the burden alone. We need one another. Life is not lived forward by willpower alone, but also by trust. True strength sometimes reveals itself in the quiet—in listening, in openness.

Perhaps strength is not always about climbing into the saddle and riding hard ahead. Perhaps strength is also about dismounting. About bending without losing oneself. About choosing courage over power. In a world that cries out for strength, it may be that what truly sustains us is something else entirely. That's something I'll meditate on for a while.

IT IS THE END OF JANUARY OF THE NEW YEAR



*Sune Overgaard,
President of
the board.*

Time to reflect on the old year and share plans for the new one. 2025 was perhaps not a particularly exceptional year, but still a year that we lived through without floods or pandemic or other unfortunate events. We had to face increased living and operating costs but were still able to keep the doors open and welcome our guests with a warm smile. Our Fall/Christmas Bazaar was a tremendous success with almost 700 participants. It was also nice to see good participation at the Lucia Pageant and our Christmas services.

As a charity, we are always looking for ways to get support both physically and financially, and we are very grateful to enjoy this help from our members. We also like to help those less fortunate, and have again been able to donate to the North York Food Bank and to the Yonge Street Mission. We have also provided education grants to a couple of appreciative students via the Norgaard Trust Fund.

We are planning the events you have come to know and enjoy, as well as wanting to try new and different ideas. The feedback from our engagement survey flagged these main comments: a need for occasional transportation support, a desire for Danish cooking classes, occasional lecturers and presenters; and creating a wish list from the church for specific needs. The Church Board will be reviewing these

suggestions with the plan to implement them when and where possible. We think we are getting very close to completing the design for the new Finch Window. Check out the proposal in this newsletter.

2026 also means it's time for our annual membership renewal. A form should be sent with the newsletter, or one can be pulled from the website. Our AGM will be on Mar 29, so make sure you respond before then. Our Bishop and DDKU General Secretary will be visiting Mar 20 to 24. As they will be anxious to meet with our members on Sunday Mar 22, please plan to attend so they can see you. Fastelavn, Music & Soup Sunday, Easter, Royal Dinner, Confirmation, and Spring Bazaar are all coming soon.

The annual Federation Conference is hosted by Sunset Villa this year and

ties in nicely with the Constitution Day celebrations. Similarly, the Heritage Seminar will be held in Cambridge right afterwards and led by Pastor Kirstine as the headmaster. She has put a very inspiring program together with several outstanding Danish presenters.

The Kids Day Camp will be July 6-10 this year. Application forms for these programs will be available at the church and on our website.

As you can see, our Danish Church and Cultural Centre is alive and well. And we want to keep it that way – including searching for and implementing new and different ways for you to participate. But keep in mind that this can only happen if you participate with your heart, your wallet, your arms and legs, and last but not least – your smile!!

Sune Overgaard

FASTELAVN IS ALMOST HERE!



Come join the party! Bring your best costume and come to Fastelavn Sunday February 15 to celebrate with a special Family Service, which includes special songs and music. After the service, we will gather downstairs for lunch together – complete with Fastelavns-boller. There'll be Fastelavns-games, and of course Beat the Barrel!!

We will have treats for children and adults as well.

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

MUSIC & SOUP SUNDAY -WHAT A COMBO!



On Sunday Feb 22 we will have a special music service highlighting ABBA music – something very new and different. Make sure to come out and see what this is all about.

And after the service we will go downstairs and enjoy a lovely bowl of soup. The kitchen will prepare two kinds – both super tasty and what you need to warm you up on a cold February day. Just what the doctor ordered!!



COME TO OUR EASTER SERVICES!

March 29:

Palm Sunday: Family-friendly service

April 3:

Good Friday: Liturgical music service

April 5:

Easter Sunday: Festive service celebrating the resurrection

All services start at 10.30 am.

RECURRING EVENTS

RETURNED FROM OUR CHRISTMAS BREAK ON JANUARY 9, TO OUR 40TH SEASON.

We are working off all that holiday food and goodies in a fun and enjoyable way, so if you like to join us, we meet every second Friday, from January through March, and you will have a chance to participate in lots of Danish Folk dances.

Beginners are always welcome.

This season we dance from **7:00 pm** to 10 pm (with a coffee break). The dates are in the calendar or on our website. See you, at the church, downstairs in the Royal hall, from **Friday February 13.**



Bring comfortable shoes for dancing.

The folk-dancers

info@danishfolk dancers.ca
www.danishfolk dancers.ca



Church Café celebrates birthdays year round.

WELCOME TO CHURCH CAFE TUESDAYS

HAPPY 25th ANNIVERSARY to The Church Cafe Club Jan. 27!

We will meet at noon on Feb. 10 to celebrate Valentine's Day and also on Feb 24. In March, we will meet on Tuesday 17 for St. Patrick's Day (remember to wear green!), and again on Tuesday 31. We will meet every Tuesday in April.

As usual I will write to the group before our meetings and let you know our plans.

Liselotte

GOLDEN AGE CLUB

I hope you are enjoying this up and down winter weather. The GAC will restart on March 12th with a delicious lunch and we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

The club will meet again on April 16th for lunch and welcome spring. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone again.

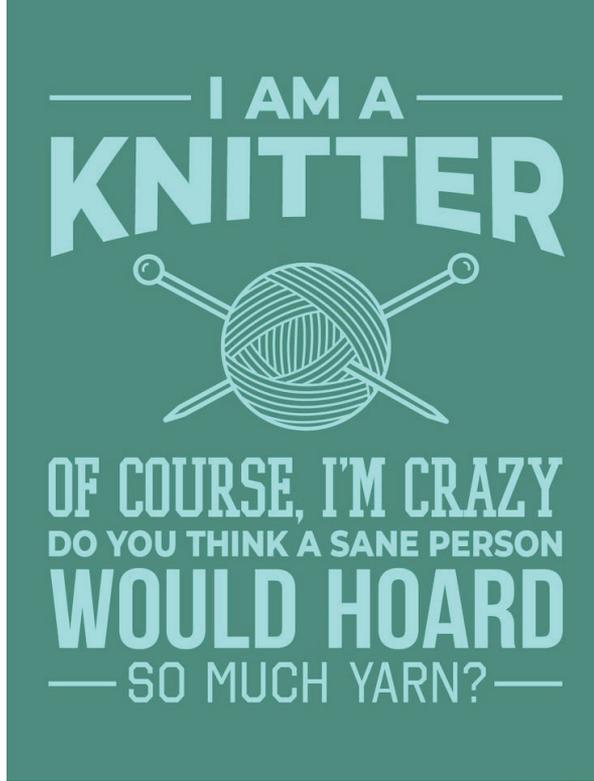
*Take care and stay safe,
Lilly*

BE PART OF KNITWITS!

Attention knitters or potential knitters: Knitwits continues this year stronger than ever!

Be part of our cozy KnitWits gatherings this winter. We meet in the church to chat, drink coffee, and work on knitting projects together for the upcoming Bazaars.

Whether you're casting on your first stitches or you've knit for decades, all skill levels are welcome. We have yarn and patterns available if needed. Come be part of the hygge and help us stitch a little joy into this cold season!



"MOVIE"-SATURDAYS AT THE CHURCH

DU SOM ER I HIMLEN (AS IN HEAVEN)

One day at the end of the 1800s, 14-year-old Lise's life is changed forever. She is the eldest of her siblings, the first in her family to go to school and full of hope and confidence in life. But when her mother goes into labour, it quickly appears that something is wrong. As night falls and the labour progresses, Lise begins to understand that a day that began in childhood might end with her becoming the woman of the house.

Saturday February 28 at 1 pm



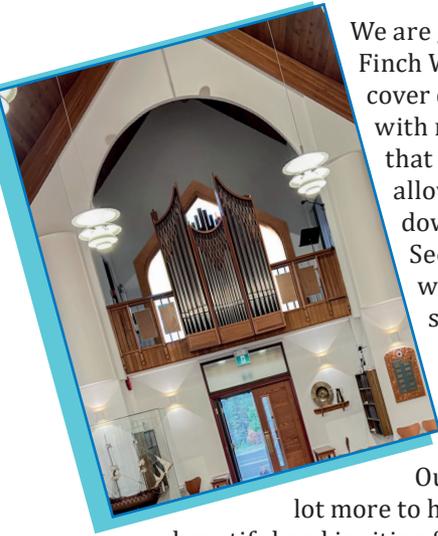
PAGTEN (THE PACT)

It's 1948 and 63-year-old "Out of Africa" author Karen Blixen (pen name: Isak Dinesen) is a lonely literary sensation — until she meets talented 30-year-old poet Thorkild Bjørnvig. She promises him stardom if he will obey her unconditionally.

Saturday April 25 at 1 pm



FINCH WINDOW UPDATE



We are getting very close to the final design of the Finch Window. The preferred design, which is on the cover of this newsletter, has a large wooden frame with multi-coloured glass. The colour is a blue tint that matches that of the altar pictures, and will allow light through, but with double-paned windows keep exterior weather where it belongs. Seen from the inside, you will see the large wooden frame which compliments the main support beams of the sanctuary.

This window replacement will not be expensive. Keep in mind that the current window did last for more than 60 years.

Our current **Finch Window Fund** will need a lot more to help ease this cost. Help us make the entrance beautiful and inviting for all. Happy to hear your thoughts. A decision will be made at the AGM.

The Board

2026 DANISH FEDERATION NEWS

The **Ontario Region** of the Federation is holding its **Spring Meeting** at the church on **Sat Apr 18 at 2 pm**. All the Ontario members are invited to take part and share the latest news within the Federation. After the meeting, many of the members will be taking part in the Royal Dinner.

The Federation of Danish Associations in Canada is holding its **45th Annual Conference and AGM at Sunset Villa** this year. The conference, which is hosted by the Sunset Villa Association will take place from June 4 to 7, culminating with Constitution Day celebrations. In addition to the Conference, the Federation is also holding its **Annual Heritage Seminar (Højskole)** in Cambridge from June 8 to 12. The theme will be “**Making Denmark Great Again**” and will be led by pastor Kirstine Rasmussen who has arranged for some special and intriguing presenters.

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



THANKS FOR A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR!

We had another exciting, well-attended, and successful bazaar on Sat Nov 15. We want to thank all the many volunteers who took part in this event. The net results set out below are fantastic.

Tusind tak – The Bazaar Committee

FINAL RESULTS	2025
Bake/Deli/Cafe Booth	\$2,686
Christmas Booth, Danish Shop, One of a Kind	\$3,465
Gløgg & Æbleskiver	\$1,062
Import Booth	\$23,365
Jewelry Booth	\$2,718
Sandwiches	\$9,388
Silent Auction, White Elephant	\$1,900
TOTAL	\$44,584

CHRISTMAS LOTTERY RESULTS

We held the draw for our Christmas Lottery, which had sales of almost \$4,000, at our Lucia Party. 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 with their wonderful prizes.



Here are the lucky lottery winners – Congratulations !!!

1st Prize: \$1,000 Cash	Erik Nielsen	ticket # 0208
2nd Prize: Gold Dagmar Cross	Ann Schweighofer	ticket # 1956
3rd Prize: Georg Jensen SS Bowl	Peter Kjaer	ticket # 0917
4th Prize: Harry Potter Lego	Emma Sorensen	ticket # 0154
5th Prize: Royal Copenhagen Figurine	Jetta Jensen	ticket # 0032

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Our **2026 Membership Drive** is on now. Please sign up to be a voting member before the AGM – cost is \$20. Forms are available on our website or at the church.

Tax Receipts for donations made in 2025 are soon 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. Unless asked for separately, donations for January and February 2026 will be included next year as part of your 2026 contributions.



The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for Sunday March 29 after the service. You can either attend in person or participate via Zoom. Please make an effort to join us that day. Finances and programs from last year, and budgets and plans for this year will be reviewed, along with elections for board members whose terms have expired. Your participation will be needed to make this meeting meaningful and constructive.

The Board is currently looking for people who are willing to participate and commit to being part of the team that can plan and deliver services to our members with an eye for the longer-term involvement, sustainability, and evolution of this organization. We need fresh people with fresh ideas and fresh legs. Contact any Board Member if you are interested.

Our treasurer has had complaints from our bank regarding the correct name to put on cheques issued to the church. Our legal name is "**Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto**" and that is what they want on the cheques. Please do your best to accommodate this request. Keep in mind we can also receive payments via e-transfer and credit card in case that is any easier. And soon we will have the facility to only tap for payments of any type.

WE ARE ACCEPTING DONATED ITEMS

Planning your spring cleaning and wondering where to donate your gently used items? Bring them to the Church!

We are accepting donations of almost anything! From ornaments to jewellery, bags, purses, accessories, dishes, and more for our upcoming Bazaar and White Elephant sale (Please note **we don't accept clothing**).

We're also interested in fabric, linens, needlework supplies, paints, and crafting tools as we create a new Makers Corner, a space to inspire hands-on making.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Kirstine.



NORDIC SPRING BAZAAR COMING SOON

Best to plan ahead!! Our Spring Bazaar is Saturday May 23 from 10 am to 2 pm. It will be the usual bazaar format with the regular booths again this year, AND we've invited our friends from the Swedish and Finnish Churches to be part of the day.

Rules for Pre-Ordering of Imports and Sandwiches. Pre-ordering of imports for pick-up on the day of the bazaar will occur as usual. Be ready for the online opening hopefully the week of April 20. Orders for shipping may not be processed until after the bazaar. We will allow pre-orders of sandwich-

es as before, **but only in quantities of 20 or more.** We made these changes to have products available for those who come in person to our bazaar. We're grateful that imports and sandwiches are very popular, but we also want to be fair to those that show up.

Join us for this big event. European hotdogs and drinks will be sold outdoors; imports, jewelry and gifts on the main level, white elephant in the parking lot; and after 11 am, food, refreshments, and sandwiches in the Royal Hall.

We look forward to seeing you there!!!

Kids Camp:

Step into a World of Fairytales!

We are excited to invite children to a magical week-long Summer Camp inspired by the timeless fairytales of **Hans Christian Andersen.** From **July 6-10, 2026,** we will open the door to a world of wonder, imagination, and creativity.

This camp welcomes both **Danish-speaking and**

English-speaking children, creating an inclusive and joyful environment where stories, play, and friendships cross languages and cultures. Our theme is **Fairytales,** and throughout the week we will explore some of Andersen's stories in playful and creative ways.

Through **arts and crafts, cooking and baking, outdoor adventures in the park,** and perhaps even **bringing a fairytale to life on stage,** chil-

dren will experience the stories with all their senses. Each day invites curiosity and creativity, encouraging children to dream, create, collaborate, and discover the deeper messages hidden within fairytales.

Join us for a week filled with storytelling, laughter, creativity, and a little fairytale magic.

9 AM to 4 PM
Admission Fee: \$260
Sign up by May 15
Extended hours \$50





Royal Dinner: You are invited!

Let's celebrate our annual Royal Dinner on Saturday **April 18 at 6:00 pm** in the Royal Hall at the church together.

The full course roast beef dinner prepared by chef Hemant and his team will be served along with musical entertainment, refreshments, raffle prizes, songs to sing, a folk-dance performance, and a special guest speaker. Don't miss out on this opportunity for a great dinner evening.

We 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. Reserve on a first come - first served basis on the sign-up list at the church. Pre-payments are preferred and can be done by e-transfer or credit card, or in person at the church with cash or cheque. Join us for another exciting evening of food, fun, and celebration.

Hope to see you there!



New Music Services in 2026

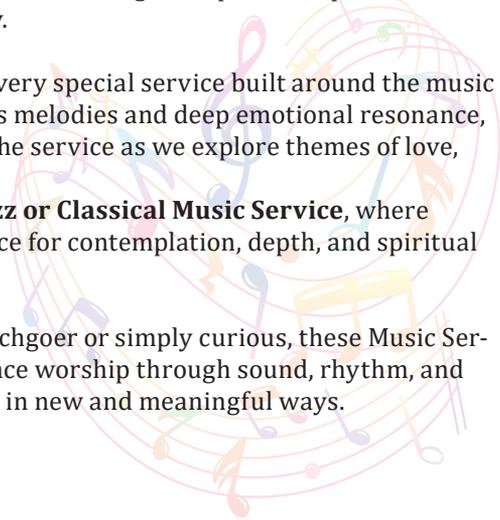
In 2026, we are excited to introduce a new series of **Music Services**, where worship and music meet in original and inspiring ways. Throughout the year, our services will explore different musical genres — **Pop, Jazz, Classical & Gospel** — each offering a unique atmosphere for reflection, prayer, and community.

We begin on **February 22** with a very special service built around the music of **ABBA**. Known for their timeless melodies and deep emotional resonance, ABBA's songs will be woven into the service as we explore themes of love, longing, hope, and faith.

On **April 19**, we invite you to a **Jazz or Classical Music Service**, where rich musical traditions create space for contemplation, depth, and spiritual stillness.

Whether you are a long-time churchgoer or simply curious, these Music Services are an invitation to experience worship through sound, rhythm, and emotion — and to encounter faith in new and meaningful ways.

Everyone is warmly welcome.



SPECIAL VISIT FROM DENMARK: JOIN US ON SUNDAY, MARCH 22



We are delighted to announce that we will soon be welcoming special guests from Denmark to our church: **Bishop Mads Davidsen** and **Dean Selma Ravn**.



Their visit is an opportunity for them to experience our church firsthand and to learn more about our congregation, our community life, and the unique role the Danish Church plays for Danes and Danish Canadians in Toronto. They are here to listen, to observe, and to better understand how our church functions as both a spiritual and cultural home far from Denmark.



To mark this occasion, we warmly invite **everyone** to join us for **Sunday Service on March 22**, followed by a **Danish lunch**.

After the service, there will be time to meet Bishop Davidsen and Dean Ravn, enjoy conversation, and share your own experiences of being part of the Danish–Canadian community in Toronto.

Your presence matters. The strength and spirit of our congregation are best shown when we gather together, and this visit is a wonderful chance to show who we are — as a church, as a community, and as people connected by faith, culture, and shared stories.

We hope to see you there!

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



IN MEMORIAM

Ingelise Jönsson Hansen

Born - 1947, Vojens, Denmark.
Died - Aurora, ON, January 13, 2026

Ole Beyer

Born - July 25, 1943, Copenhagen.
Died - Niagara Falls, January 18, 2026

BAPTISM

Zoe Rui Xin Yan Chau

Baptised: December 7, 2025.

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)

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

More Info: www.mindepark.ca



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.





DANISH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TORONTO

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Phone in Church Hall: 416-222-0990. Office: 416-222-2494

E-mail: mail@danchurch.ca

Website: www.danishchurchtoronto.ca

Facebook: 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

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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	

10 CHURCH SNAPSHOTS



November and December in the Church:
1-3: Danish Christmas Bazaar, 4: Christmas Concert,
5-7: Lucia Pageant, 8-9: Birthdays celebrated on
Church Cafe, 10: DCCC Christmas Lunch.

