

# KIRKE HILSEN

M A R C H  
A P R I L  
2 0 2 4

THE ROYAL DINNER  
WILL BE CELEBRATED

COME AND BE A PART  
OF A NEW "YOUTH  
CLUB"

ONLINE DANISH  
LESSONS

A NEW KNITTING CLUB  
IS BEING LAUNCHED



DANISH  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
TORONTO








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

THE DANISH CHURCH IS READY:

CELEBRATE  
EASTER AND  
SPRING IN  
TORONTO

# CALENDAR FOR MARCH-APRIL 2024


## MARCH

3.  **Third Sunday in Lent 10.30am**
5. Church Café 12-noon (pg. 10)
5. Danish Cafe Evening, 7 pm
8. Folk dancing, 7:30 pm (pg. 10)
9. KnitWits, new knitting club, 1pm (pg. 13)
10.  **Mid Lent Sunday 10.30am.** (Remember: Daylight Saving)
12. Church Café, 12-noon (pg. 10)
14. Golden Age Club, 12-noon (pg. 10)
16. Movie Saturday, 1 pm (pg.12)
17. **Annunciation of the Holy Virgin, 10.30am**
19.  Church Café, 12-noon (pg. 10)
22.  Folk dancing, 7:30pm (pg. 10)
24.  **Palm Sunday (Family service), 10.30am**
26. Church Café, 12-noon (pg. 10)
26. Danish Cafe Evening, 7 pm
29.  **Good Friday - liturgical service with music and readings, 10.30am**
31.  **Easter Sunday, 10.30am**

## APRIL

2. Church Café, 12-noon (pg. 10)
5. Folk dancing, 7.30 pm (pg. 10)
6. KnitWits 1 pm (pg. 13)
7.  **First Sunday after Easter, 10.30am**  
Annual General Meeting, 12-noon (in person and on zoom) (pg. 12)
9. Church Café, 12-noon (pg. 10)
12. Folk dancing, 7.30pm (pg. 10)
13. "Youth Club" first meeting, 6pm (pg. 9)
14. **Second Sunday after Easter, Nordic Service, 10.30am** (pg. 14)
16. Church Café, 12-noon (pg. 10)
18. Golden Age Club, 12-noon (pg. 10)
19. Folk dancing, 7.30pm (pg. 10)
20. Royal Dinner, 6pm (pg. 11)
21.  **Third Sunday after Easter, 10.30am**
23. Church Café 12-noon (pg. 10)
27. Movie Saturday, 1pm
28.  **Fourth Sunday after Easter, 10.30am**
30. Church Café, 12-noon (pg. 10)
30. Danish Cafe Evening, 7 pm

## MAY

4. Danish Food Fair (pg. 6)
5.  **Confirmation. Fifth Sunday after Easter, 10.30am**

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



## PASTOR'S REFLECTION

# Embracing hope in a turbulent world

In today's world, conflicts are widespread. Nearby, there's a country deeply divided. Many places suffer from war and hardship, shaping people's lives. The media often adds to this by highlighting scary and hopeless stories, filling our minds with fear.

But even amidst dire warnings of environmental catastrophe and societal collapse, there is a perspective that we shouldn't forget: Hope.



Pastor  
Kirstine Rasmussen

Insights from global experts challenges prevailing narratives of doom, revealing a world where progress flourishes. From declining child mortality to diminishing conflict, evidence suggests that humanity is moving towards a brighter tomorrow. Our greatest gift to future generations is the gift of hope.

"To relate expectantly to the Possibility of the Good is to hope," says Søren Kierkegaard in *Works of Love*. But you can also relate differently to the possibilities of the future. You can fear them.

The point is that the decision of hope is more radical than that of fear. Because in hope, you always choose to believe in the possibility of good and thus the future remains open. Fear fears the future and the possibility, and by that closing in on itself.

Hope enables us to embrace the future with positivity, even in the absence of clear indicators. It involves trusting in life and the potential for better days ahead, imbuing significance into our present experiences. Each day, hope offers an additional layer of optimism, fostering a sense of possibility and anticipation.

Choosing hope means affirming the possibility of goodness amidst uncertainty. This stands in stark contrast to succumbing to fear, which closes off opportunities and stifles growth. By embracing hope, we keep the door open to positive outcomes, even amidst turmoil and distress.

Hope and faith are intimately intertwined, as both entail trusting in something greater than ourselves. It involves surrendering to the belief that the world holds promise and goodwill, even in the face of adversity. Ultimately, hope allows us to entrust our future to a force we believe will guide us towards goodness and prosperity.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

## The early part of 2024...



*Sune Overgaard,  
President of  
the board.*

... has been different from the usual. Despite spring-like weather for a good part of it – there is now snow on the ground. Who knows what it will be like tomorrow, but with the calendar pointing towards the early part of Spring, I think most of us are hoping to move in that direction as well.

At the church we celebrated a festive Fastelavn together with many dressed up kids, beating the barrel, and a pasta lunch. We also held the draw of our Valentine's Lottery – thanks for your support. We are hoping that new events like the "Historien om Danmark" movie day, and Danish Café

**“We need new ideas and as well as participation and support to help keep our church alive and well.”**

evenings will be options for you to try.

Coming up for our early spring program we have important events like our Easter services, AGM, Royal Dinner, and even planning for the next bazaar.

This bazaar will be in a different format from the usual as we will focus just on our food booths. It will be called the Danish Food Fair (see page 6).

All our events are announced in this newsletter, on our website, on email blasts and on Facebook. Check these places for details as well as for our usual weekly activities. This includes another round of Danish lessons (see page 13) – this time via on-line instruction with a new teacher - and which proves to still be very popular.

Many of you will receive tax receipts for donations given in 2023 with this newsletter. If you think you have been missed – please let us know.

All AGMs are important to help provide understanding, guidance, and support for how we run this church. Renewed focus for a Program Coordinator, exterior landscaping and signage, cultural and other events will be discussed and updated. If you want a say in how we manage this church – you need to be a voting member and take part in the AGM (see page 12).

Our dinners are quite popular - make sure you sign up in good time for the Royal Dinner (see page 11).

Denmark has a new King Frederik after Queen Margrethe's abdication after 52 years on the throne. Join us to celebrate this new monarch and enjoy a festive evening. We will use the same format as last year with a portion of the ticket price becoming a donation.

Our church is a member of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada. This year the Annual Conference will be held in Toronto from May 23 to 26, hosted by our church (see page 7). Most of the meetings and lunches will be held at the church together with some events at the North York Novotel where the visitors will be staying. Please see the notices and registration package for more details.

I wanted to make 2023 the year of change. We needed to find new ways to get people involved. We needed to expand our outreach to include Danes

and non-Danes alike, as well as friends and neighbours from near and far. I believe we have made a good start on this journey – but there is more to do, and I want to continue going in this direction for 2024.

We need new ideas and as well as participation and support to help keep our church alive and well. Our new pastor Kirstine has picked up this torch and is doing a great job with it.

We appreciate the support we do get, both financial and otherwise, but we need more of you involved to keep it going. I hope you will join me to help make this happen. We are a church AND a cultural centre. Our doors are open to everyone.

***Happy Easter!!  
Sune Overgaard***



# NEW - DANISH FOOD FAIR - NEW

Instead of the usual spring bazaar format, we have decided to be different and focus only on the booths which involve food – ie imports, sandwiches, bake shop, coffee and dessert, and of course hot dogs at our outdoor booth.

With this in mind we have re-named it the Danish Food Fair and it will be held on **Saturday May 4 from 10 am to 2 pm.**



Imports and (this time only) also sandwiches can be pre-ordered for pick-up on that day, or available for sale on the day along with the other booths.



This is a new way to have this event and we hope you will come out and support it.

It will be an enjoyable day to sample many Danish delicacies either outdoors, inside, or to take home.



Many people will be asking about the other booths. They will return for the fall bazaar. As well, we are planning an outdoor Garage Sale in our parking lot in July – stay in touch for more details.

# 2024 DANISH FEDERATION NEWS

The Federation of Danish Associations in Canada is holding its **43rd Annual Conference and AGM** in Toronto this year – and our Danish church is proud to be the host.



The Organizing Committee has put together an interesting and inviting program with the theme “**Toronto – the Meeting Place/Forsamlingshuset**”. The conference is from May 23 to 26, and will be held mostly at our church. The visitors staying at the North York Novotel will have shuttle service between hotel and church.

We encourage our friends and members to register for the full package and take part in all the various activities. Copies of conference program and registration package are at the church, or on the website, or by contacting Sune Overgaard at [suneovergaard@hotmail.com](mailto:suneovergaard@hotmail.com). We have been able to allow our church members to participate in the Saturday Dinner/Dance at the hotel – and/or the Sunday Lunch and Closing Ceremony at the church at event cost. We hope our members will take advantage of this generous offer and join the conference registrants for these special festivities. Details and tickets will be available shortly.



In addition to the Conference, the Federation also is holding its **Annual Heritage Seminar (Højskole)** in beautiful Niagara Falls from May 27 to 31.

The theme is “Danish Fingerprints” and will be led by Simon Kangas Larsen (you may have heard of him!). Together with Pastor Kirstine Rasmussen and Susanne Truelsen they will talk about where Danes have left their fingerprints in Canada - and elsewhere.

The registration forms for the seminar are also available at the church or by contacting Rolf Christensen at [robuch@ca.inter.net](mailto:robuch@ca.inter.net).

Hope you can join us for either of these special and exciting events.



Curious about the rules regarding, for example, Danish citizenship, Danish pension, and family reunification in Denmark? Danes Worldwide and our partners in Canada invite you to a joint online information session.

Danes Worldwide, in collaboration with the Danish Embassy in Ottawa, the Danish Seamen's and Overseas Churches in Canada, the Danish Canadian Chamber of Commerce, and the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, invite you to a free online information meeting exclusively for Danes residing in Canada.

Thursday, April 4th, from 12 to 1.30 pm

The meeting is open to all Danes and spouses, family members, or others with ties to Denmark.

Read more here: <https://www.danes.dk/events/globale-danskere-i-canada/>

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## NEWS FROM THE ROYAL DANISH CONSULATE

### FOCUS ON THE ARCTIC REGION

The Consulate was present at the Arctic 360 Conference held in Toronto in February.

Ambassador, Hanne Fugl Eskjær, participated in the Annual Ambassadors Roundtable Discussion alongside ambassadors and representatives from Canada, Greenland, Norway, Finland, Iceland, Sweden and USA.

Meanwhile, Arctic Senior Trade Advisor, Helene Scherling Olsen, represented our Arctic Business Alliance members at the conference where she participated in a panel discussion about enhancing trade lanes and relations in the arctic – in particular

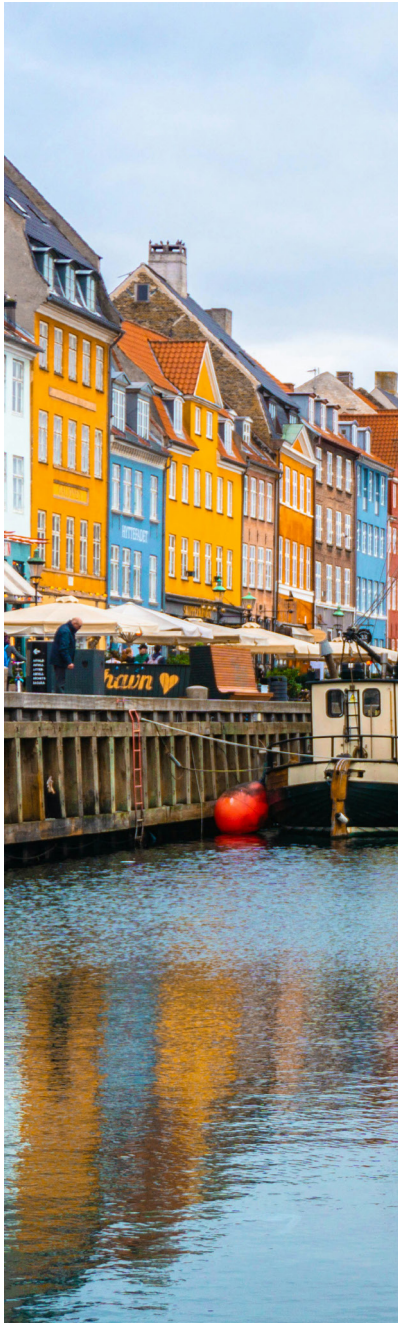


*Ambassador, Hanne Fugl Eskjær, in the Roundtable discussion at the Arctic Conference held in Toronto in February.*

between the Greenland, Denmark, the Nordic countries and Canada.

In March, we will once again host a large business delegation represented by 32 companies from Greenland and Denmark, who will join us in Toronto to take part in the PDAC Mining Conference held in Toronto each year. The delegation will start their 4-day visit with a kick-off seminar held at the Danish Consulate General followed





## LET'S START SOMETHING NEW!

- Do you like the idea of participating in Danish community activities?
- Are you usually busy with work and life and kids at 12 noon on weekdays?

Then we'd like to invite you to the inaugural dinner of a new initiative! A chance to meet peers and explore ways for us to get together and share our Danish-ness.

We like to think of this as a "Youth Club"

and by that we mean for folks who have not yet retired.

Maybe you're an expat, maybe you just got here, and maybe you're here for a little or a long while or for good – please come out and bring your ideas to help shape this new initiative.

We'll cook dinner, and you are welcome to bring something to drink so we can say SKÅL and properly inaugurate this new group.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to be part of a new community  
See you there!

**APRIL 13, 2024 AT 6PM  
72 FINCH AVE WEST**

**RSVP KIRSTINE, KR@DANCHURCH.CA**

## NORDIC SERVICE

April 14 our worship service will be a joint service with the Swedish and Finnish congregations.

After the service we will enjoy lunch and Swedish cinnamon rolls.

Come and join us for a different service and meet our fellow Nordic friends for this new initiative.



*Join us for*

## EASTER SERVICES

March 24:  
Palm Sunday  
(Family Service)

March 29:  
Good Friday

March 31:  
Easter Morning

All services start 10:30 am

## GOLDEN AGE CLUB

Sorry I had to cancel our valentine luncheon but you cannot argue with mother nature.

We will meet on **March 14** for a St. Patrick's day luncheon, please wear something green in

honour of the celebration. On **April 18th** we will meet for a luncheon to celebrate spring.

Looking forward to seeing everyone.

*Lilly*

## COME AND DANCE WITH THE FOLK DANCERS

The Folkdancers dance right here at the Church, downstairs, in the "Royal Hall" on most Fridays through May, we start at 7:30 pm and dance to 10 pm (with a coffee break).

We meet March 8, 22 and April 5, 12 & 19, check our schedule for the next dance night or send us an email.

The Folk dancers  
[www.danishfolk dancers.ca](http://www.danishfolk dancers.ca)  
email: [info@danishfolk dancers.ca](mailto:info@danishfolk dancers.ca)

## CHURCH CAFE ON TUESDAYS

Church Cafe has celebrated many special birthdays in February and will continue to celebrate birthdays in the coming months. Nice to see visitors as well!

We meet every Tuesday at noon usually with our lunch and then sign up for bringing dessert. We have had many "hyggelige" afternoons enjoying songs, jokes and chatting to friends.

In the future we will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day and our Easter season. Hard to believe Easter comes at the end of March this year.

Come and enjoy your Tuesdays with us if you can.

Glædelig Påske fra,  
*Liselotte*



# ***ROYAL DINNER***

We will celebrate our Royal Dinner – this time in honour of the new King Frederik X as well as a farewell to the former Queen Margrethe II.



The full course roast beef dinner prepared by our favourite chef Hemant and his team will be served along with musical entertainment, refreshments, a gift raffle, songs to sing, a folk-dance performance, and a special guest speaker.

Adult price will be \$50 each - with \$30 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 \$20 each for dinner only. Reservations and pre-payment are preferred on a first come – first served basis, and can be done on-line by e-transfer or credit card, or in person at the church with cash or cheque on the sign-up list.

**Join us for another exciting evening of  
food, fun, and entertainment.**

We look forward to seeing you there.



# Three Announcements from the Board

## 1) NEXT AGM 2024

The AGM will be on Sunday Apr 7 at 12 noon (ie after the service). The AGM will again be both an in-house and a Zoom meeting. The official notice and information package of this AGM will be sent out to registered members by mid-March. Along with the usual business, group, and financial reports, and election to the board, we will also review upcoming plans for the church. We need your involvement and support to help guide our church in a strong and healthy direction not only for today – but also for the future.  
[danchurch.ca/agm](http://danchurch.ca/agm)

## 2) CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Reminder that some people have still not renewed their membership for 2024. As required by Corporations

Canada, memberships have to be renewed each year. If you renew or join before March 31, you will be able to participate in the next AGM on Sunday Apr 7. The annual fee is \$20 each, and can be taken from recent donations if desired. We need written or email confirmation for membership registration. Read more here:  
[danchurch.ca/member](http://danchurch.ca/member)

## 3) TAX RECEIPTS

The official tax receipts for all 2023 donations have now been distributed (many with this newsletter). If you made donations during the year and did not receive a tax receipt, please let us know and we will look into it.

The Board



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## "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 March 16 at 1 pm**  
**(Episodes 5 & 6 - Middle ages and Reformation and Renaissance)**

**Saturday April 27 at 1 pm**  
**(Episodes 7 & 8 - Age of Enlightenment and Democracy)**



## Dive into Danish: Online Language Lessons

Exciting news for language enthusiasts! Maya Reeves, a native Danish speaker with extensive teaching experience, is bringing the joy of Danish language learning straight to your screens.

Starting from February 15th, Maya will be offering online Danish lessons tailored for individuals of high school age and above.

These interactive sessions will take place every Thursday evening, providing a perfect opportunity to immerse yourself in the Danish language from the comfort of your own home.

**Dates:** Keep an eye out on our webpage where the dates for April and May will be advertised. Thursday evenings will most likely be what's on offer.

**Cost:** \$50 for a block of 5 classes. All proceeds will go towards supporting the church's activities.

**Platform:** The lessons will be hosted on a professional learning platform, complete with comprehensive resources and materials to enhance your learning experience.

**Sign-Up:** Secure your spot by filling out the sign-up form that you find on our webpage. Please note that if there is significant interest, an additional class on Tuesdays may be offered.

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## Introducing: KnitWits

Are you passionate about knitting, want to contribute to our Fall Bazaar and 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 and help with knitting hats, scarfs etc. for our Bazaar. We provide yarn and if needed a pattern - you provide time and skills.

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

**Location:** Danish Lutheran Church

**Meeting Times:**

1-3pm on following dates:

March 9, April 6, May 18, June 8

Contact Pastor Kirstine for more information.



*Don't miss out on the fun and camaraderie! Join KnitWits and let's knit our way to warmth and friendship together!*



**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](http://www.mindepark.ca)

**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](http://danchurch.ca/pay)



**UPCOMING MEETINGS  
AT SUNSET VILLA**

Sunset Mindepark (the Danish urn cemetery) is holding its AGM on Saturday April 27 at 10 am at the library in the restaurant. Members must be registered to attend. Please see [www.mindepark.ca](http://www.mindepark.ca) for more info.

The Ontario Region of the Danish Federation is holding its spring meeting at Sunset Villa on Saturday April 27 at 2 pm. Reports and updates will be shared, including info on the upcoming Federation Conference in May in Toronto.

**Pastoral Visit**

Please contact Pastor Kirstine by email or phone if you or someone you know is in need of a pastoral visit. Pastor Kirstine is also able to bring communion to those who are not able to make it to the church.

**BAPTISMS**

**Arian Hassanaki**

Born: July 9, 2003

Baptised: January 6, 2024

**Esbén Aagaard Lowery**

Born: July 25, 2023

Baptised: January 21, 2024



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

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

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

A church associated with The Danish Church Abroad / Danish Seamen's Church /  
Danske Sømands og Udlandskirker (DSUK). [www.dsuk.dk](http://www.dsuk.dk)



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Treasurer	Lisa McConnell 14 Watson Cres. Brampton, ON, L6W 1E7	905-459-3850 <a href="mailto:lpetersen@rogers.com">lpetersen@rogers.com</a>
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### ACTIVITY CONTACTS

Music Coordinator	Brigitte Bogar	416-270-0333 <a href="mailto:music@danchurch.ca">music@danchurch.ca</a>
Bazaars	Kirstine Rasmussen Hanne Simmelsgaard Lisa McConnell	437-772-7247 <a href="mailto:bazaar@danchurch.ca">bazaar@danchurch.ca</a> 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	

Kirke Hilsen is published six times a year, 575 copies, plus online distribution on  
[www.danishchurchtoronto.ca](http://www.danishchurchtoronto.ca). Deadline next issue: April 15, 2024.

# 9 CHURCH SNAPSHOTS



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**January-February in the church:**  
1-3: Church Café celebrating birthdays  
4: Baptism of Esben Aagaard Lowrey  
5-8: Fastelavn  
9: Soup Sunday



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8



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