

Kirkebladet

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The Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver 6010 Kincaid Street, Burnaby, British Columbia V5G 4N3 Canada www.danishchurch.vancouver.bc.ca

Pastor's Report



The seasons are a marvelous thing. They influence us more than we might realize. Some prefer one time of the year while others prefer another. I have always

liked summer: warm weather, vacation, water - what's not to like? Despite me liking summer though, summer does not come without a price.

Despite nature getting out of hibernation and dormancy during spring, it is as if we humans put our everyday into the same during summer. All the usual activities are cancelled – closed for summer. Outdoor facilities might open, but only at the cost of fewer indoor activities. That is the price of summer.

This year I felt this transition from spring to summer very strongly. With nine students for confirmation, not only keeping me busy for the past three seasons, but entertaining me as well, suddenly it had come to an end with the coming of summer. My students got confirmed. I sang for myself the lovely song by Kim Larsen, 'Åh, de

smukke unge mennesker', which in a translation would sound something like:

"Oh, the beautiful young people: / like butterflies in morning light / on summer's very first warm day / so suddenly they take their flight.

What they seek, what dreams they chase, / only they can truly know. / Oh, the beautiful, blooming youth –/ may their years in sunlight grow."

I still like summer. But maybe what is most important is not what season you like. Maybe the transition between them is what makes the seasons marvelous. Because the transitions are what brings us variation so that we never stagnate. As I thought of this, I recalled another lovely Danish song by Dan Turéll called 'Jeg holder af hverdagen'. In a translation it would sound something like this:

"I cherish the everyday / Not as a contrast to celebration and color, the glitter and the fanfare — / That too has its place, / With all its lingering ashes, / So much left unsaid, half-formed, / Drifting, hanging in the air afterward, / Like a kind of psychic hangover / That only morning coffee can cure. / Yes to the parties! Room for all euphoria! / Let a thousand pearls rise and burst! / But oh, what joy it is, afterwards, to lie down / In the bed of rest and everydayness, / Facing the familiar — and yet not so familiar — view once more."

I wish all of you a splendid Summer.

Pastor Carsten







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From the Board



We have had a number of significant events this year so far. The College and Career group continues meet on а monthly basis. you are interested in joining the

events, please reach out to the office for more information. Last month we had a Bob Ross Painting session that was a lot of fun. Maybe even some Father's Day presents came from this activity.

The annual Tea and Bake Sale had a number of people coming in to sample, and take home, various Danish food traditions. There were a number of other booths set up with crafts for sale. Other significant events so far this year include the annual Rummage Sale and the semi-annual Work Party.

Our bible studies have finished for the summer. However, they will be starting again in September. These are on Thursday from 9:30am – 11:00am and you can join us either through Zoom or in person in the church library.

We held the first of our Afternoon Games in May. If you enjoy playing board games and or group games, join us on the second Sunday of the month just after the lunch. If you have a game you want to share with us, that sounds great too.

I used to watch a British TV Series called May to December. It was about this couple who got together in spite of their age difference. Thus the name May to December. There were cultural differences, energy differences, knowledge differences, and more. However, they persevered and overcame hurdle after hurdle to build a life together. When I look around the church, I am reminded of this series. We are a group of people that seem to span the May to December gap. I think we need to be reminded of this gap as we focus on the years to come as a church community. Like those characters in the series, we need to work together to overcome the hurdles we face trying to build this church community together for the future.

Have a good summer making memories with family and friends. Be safe.

Robert Taylor, Board President

The Unveiling of a Stone

In 2022, the Granly Danish Church closed its doors after more than 50 years of service. Throughout its existence, it served many Danes living in Surrey and beyond – initially as an annex of the Danish Church in Vancouver, and from 1978 onward, as an independent congregation.

With the closure, it was decided that the proceeds should benefit the Danish Churches in Burnaby, Edmonton, Calgary and Toronto, plus other organizations across Canada. Scholarships administered by the Church in Burnaby would be established, and other forms of outreach would be explored. All of this has come true.

With the above made possible, there also emerged a desire to give thanks. In early 2023, Jack Larsen proposed the idea of a commemorative stone in honour of the Granly Church. A stone seemed ideal: it would be permanent and would complement the existing features of the Church's Memorial Walk.

In 2024, work on the stone began. The first step was selecting a location. A spot near the main entrance of the church was chosen so the stone would be visible to many and serve as an invitation to former members of Granly to feel part of the Church in Burnaby. The etching was inspired by a beautiful drawing of Granly Danish Church created by Ole Pii in 1987.

The stone was unveiled on May 4, 2025, the same day as the 80th Anniversary of the Danish

Liberation was celebrated in the Church. On behalf of the former Granly Church community, Bente Pastro offered these words of gratitude:

"We would like to express our gratitude to the board and the congregation for installing a permanent memorial of Granly Church at your entrance. It is a beautiful picture of our sister church, filled with fond memories for both old and new members."

May the legacy of the Granly Danish Church not only live on through the proceeds that have supported so many Danish communities across Canada, may it also live on in new

Grant Daniel Church
156-2022

traditions, events, and celebrations inspired by the church and its people. May the stone be an invitation for us to continue creating fond memories together.

Confirmation Enrollment 2026

Are you interested in being confirmed in 2026? Registration for classes has begun and we look forward to hearing from you.

Confirmation is available for teenagers throughout BC (even Washington State). Classes can be either virtual, physical, in-home, self-preparation, or a mix thereof. When I know how many students I will have, I will touch base with everyone and arrange a unique program for the students to follow — a program that will take into consideration where they live, who they are, and what days they are available.

In Denmark almost 70% of the age group were confirmed in 2022 making it a widespread rite of passage between childhood and young adulthood. Also, confirmation confirms the promise given by God to each of us in our baptism. During the classes you will, as a student, get a chance to discover your own spirituality by learning about Christianity and participating in rituals.

If you are interested, write an email to Pastor Carsten before the 25th of August.

The family and friends of **Lisbeth Madsen** would very much like to thank Pastor Carsten and everyone involved in the beautiful memorial service for her on June 2, 2025. The fact that the organist slept in just added to the fun! And yes, a memorial service, while sad, is always improved by laughter and, ultimately, great food. A special mention... the eulogy by Carsten was fantastic. There wasn't a dry eye in the house. Lovely church, lovely service, lovely day... many thanks!

Cheers, Bruno Madsen



Thank you so much for all the kindness, support and memories shared during mom's passing. **Ella Doris Wolder** (nee Madsen) ~ January 10, 1935 – January 27, 2025

Sandra Alexander and family

College and Career Group

The College and Career Group have arranged the following events through the summer months:

| • | Friday, June 27 th at 7:30pm The Rec Room Brentwood #2106, 1920 Willingdon Avenue Burnaby, BC V5C 0K3 | The Rec Room is an entertainment hot spot with arcade games, pool/billiards, indoor archery and a great restaurant. All the Rec Room guests must be 19+ years old unless accompanied by their legal parent. |
|---|---|---|
| • | Saturday July 26 th Outdoor Rock Climbing In Squamish (rides provided) | More details to come. |
| • | Friday, August 29 th at 7:00pm T-shirt making/decorating In the church hall | |

For information on the College and Career Group in general or specific events, contact Cydney Rasmussen via email at crasmussen@danishchurch.vancouver.bc.ca.

News from the Scholarship Committee

(Margit Hansson, Manfred Hoff, Lene Olesen, Jorgen Rohweder)

UBC Granly Prize

The following students have each received \$1,500 as recipients of UBC's 2025 Granly Prize in the Danish Language:

- Luc Angelini
- Ikra Aziz
- William Gao
- Frederik Jacobsen

This is the second year that we have awarded this Prize at UBC. Congratulations to all the recipients.

Scholarship Committee continued ...

Burnaby School District - Granly Legacy Fund

A total \$9,000 payment was made to Burnaby School District No. 41 and subsequently disbursed at \$1,000 each to deserving students at the qualifying schools as follows:

- Katrine He Ecole Alpha Secondary
- Amanda Li Burnaby North Secondary
- Daniel Tong Burnaby Central Secondary
- Daniel Shibary Cariboo Hill Secondary
- Mateya Sigur Moscrop Secondary
- Farhiya Dahir Byrne Creek Secondary
- Amity Dominelli Burnaby Mountain Secondary
- Zara Thomas Burnaby South Secondary
- Angelica Bargh Learning Pathways Program

News from the Community Services Committee

(Lene Olesen, Jorgen Rohweder)

Burnaby School District No 41

For the second year, \$5000 has been donated to Burnaby Central Secondary School's neurodiverse program.

The students are divided into two classes according to age and there are big differences in their abilities. There are always needs that can't be met with the funds a program such as this receives.

As the Vice-Principal wrote in her email: "This contribution will directly enhance the educational experiences of our students, providing them with the tools and opportunities they need to succeed. With your help, we can continue to create an inclusive learning environment that empowers each student to reach their full potential."

The funds will support the Access Program which will help bridge gaps and provide access to quality education for those who might otherwise not have it. Your kindness is not just an investment in our program, but in the future of every student who benefits from it."

Community Services Committee continued ...

Burnaby School District No 41

A donation of \$10,957 was made to the Burnaby School District's Byrne Summer Learning program 2025 which runs for 3 weeks in July 2025.

As explained by the District Principal, Community Education & Child Care in her email: "The program serves 40 high school students and aims to provide newcomer refugee students with opportunities to experience summer fun, and connect with peers, school staff and the community. The program fosters students' sense of belonging, self-confidence, and strengthens their network of support. All these contribute to improved academic progress and community engagement, which decreases drop-out rates among newcomer students, and reduces teen isolation and stress. The Byrne Creek Youth Summer Settlement Program includes youth leadership activities, educational field trips, sporting events, and entertainment."

After receipt of our donation the Manager, Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) from the Burnaby School District, wrote: "Please convey our heartfelt thanks to the Board and the entire church community for their generous support to the newcomer students who often come from conflict zones and war-torn countries. This program will be a window to a childhood they never got to experience back home. Words cannot express how much it is appreciated by the students, their families, and our program."

Burnaby Safe House

Burnaby Safe House is a second-stage shelter for women and children leaving unsafe and abusive situations. This is the second year we are supporting them in their important work.

They operate a safe residence with 4 rooms. In 2025 we have donated \$8,000 covering approximately one year's operating cost for one of these rooms in their Burnaby Safe House residence.

Community Services Committee continued on Page 12

July 2025

| Sun. | Mon. | Tue. | Wed. | Thu. | Fri. | Sat. |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|------|--------------------------------|
| | sten will be / July 2 -19 | 1 | 2 | 3 Ladies Aux. 12noon | 4 | 5 |
| 6 Service (Eng.) 11am w/ Clifford R. | 7 | 8 | 9 Kom-Sam. 1:30pm | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| Service (Eng.) 11am w/ lay pers. | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 Service (Dan.) 11am | 21 | 22 Board Mtg. 7pm | 23 Service Dania Home 11am | 24 Service Dania Manor 10:30am | 25 | 26 College & Career Grp. |
| 27 Service (Eng.) 11am | Swe./Can. Rest Home 10:30am | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

August 2025

| Sun. | Mon. | Tue. | Wed. | Thu. | Fri. | Sat. |
|--|------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|------|
| | | n holiday Augi from the Augi | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 Service (Dan.) 11am | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 Ladies Aux. 12noon | 8 | 9 |
| Service (Eng.) 11am w/ lay pers. Board Games | 11 | 12 | 13 Kom-Sam. 1:30pm | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 Service (Dan.) 11am w/ lay pers. | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Service (Eng.) 11am w/ lay pers. | 25 | 26 | 27 Service Dania Home 11am | 28 Service Dania Manor 10:30am | 29 College & Career Grp. 7:00pm | 30 |
| 31 Service (Eng.) 11am | | | | | | |

Whole Way House

At the AGM in April 2025, we reported as follows regarding donations in 2024 for Chelsea Terrace, which is just north of our church, and consist of several residences for Veterans or low income housing, so they are literally right on our doorstep.

"Whole Way House is a registered Canadian charity serving vulnerable seniors and veterans who are facing marginalization, disabilities, addiction issues and/or mental health issues across Vancouver, Burnaby, Surrey and Victoria. Whole Way House is involved with the Chelsea Terrace housing complex just up the street from the church. Jørgen visited the Veterans Manor site to learn about their needs. A cheque for \$15,300 was sent in December 2024, there was also a separate cheque for \$2,000 covering 'welcome baskets'."

The \$15,300 covers the following areas of assistance:

- \$3,000 Provides Welcome packages for 15 new tenants & Clean Teams
- \$3,900 Holiday Family Dinners and Boxes of Hope
- \$3,200 Social Programs: Morning Coffee & Tea Time. Super Smoothies & Soup Weekly Program & Monthly Birthday Parties
- \$1,200 Social Monthly Adventures
- \$4,000 Chaplaincy.

In response we received the following message from Jenny. M. Konkin, President & Co-Founder of Whole Way House:

"WOW! I just received the check from the church and I'm just blown away. Thank you so so much for helping to bring this together to love and support your vulnerable neighbours at Chelsea Terrace through Whole Way House. What a blessing!!!"

We are incredibly grateful and praying that God will continue to use us to build healthy communities and support those who are feeling lost and alone."

From the Memorial Walk Committee



We are commemorating the beautiful bronze plaques on the Memorial Walk which were produced by pattern maker Benny Svensson. On graduation from his apprenticeship, Benny was presented with a bronze medal by King Frederick IX, Queen Margarethe's father. Benny also, with permission of the Danish Royal Family, designed the beautiful initials of Queen Margrethe which are above the front door of the church.



The first plaque was installed on January 25, 2004, for Pastor Immanuel Rasmussen who died December 11, 1996.

On the Memorial Walk you will see names of people who have made contributions to our Church, such as Professor C.B. Christensen, a founding member of the first Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver.

At the Dedication Ceremony of the plaque for C.B. Christensen on October 23, 2011, Pastor Bodil Toftdahl said: "When you walk down the Memorial Walk here by the Danish Lutheran Church in Vancouver, you have an important piece of Canadian history right before your eyes. These plagues are the markers of people who made contributions to the patchwork of peoples and traditions, beliefs and values which made Canada such a great nation."

Thank you, Benny Svensson for your expert work in producing the beautiful plaques!

For information on the Memorial Walk, contact Poul Erik Rasmussen, 604-526-1233; or Steen Larsen, 604-551-5063.

Danish Community Events

Scandinavian Midsummer Festival June 21 & 22, 2025

Photos from Liberation Day and Confirmands



















Life Events

Baptisms

The following baptisms were held in the church:

Lola Lærke Bruns $^{\sim}$ on the 20^{th} of April. Johannes Riley Vallaster Putter $^{\sim}$ on the 27^{th} of April. Leah Konggaard Iskov $^{\sim}$ on the 30^{th} of April. Karoline Konggaard Iskov $^{\sim}$ on the 30^{th} of April. Dakoda Caleb Carter $^{\sim}$ on the 21^{st} of May.

Confirmations

The following young people were confirmed in the church on the 25th of May:

Dakoda Caleb Carter
Lena Foremann
Iben Hanne Margot Hamilton
William Kaj Thorning Hamilton
Leah Konggaard Iskov
Josef Kaj Russell McDonough
Thomas Patrick Russell McDonough
Richard Peerkold Mikkelsen
Johannes Riley Vallaster Putter.

Funerals

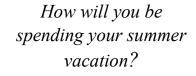
Michael Paul Kubasek was celebrated in the church on the 19^{th} of April. Ella Doris Wolder was celebrated on the 3^{rd} of May. Lisbeth Madsen was celebrated in the church on the 2^{nd} of June.

Happy Summer Everyone













Whatever you choose, be well, be happy, relax and enjoy yourself!







We'll see you again for all our usual activities in September ♥





Save the Date

Important future church dates we want you to reserve.

- Terry Fox Run Sunday, September 14th
- Movie Club returns on September 17th
- Harvest Dinner, September 28th
- Fall Bazaar, October 25th



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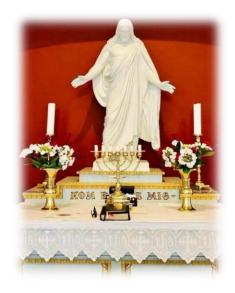
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Memorial Garden: Poul Erik Rasmussen, 604-526-1233

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