



Kirkebladet

November - December 2025

Nr. 6 – 90 år.

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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

The Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver

6010 Kincaid Street, Burnaby, British Columbia V5G 4N3 Canada

www.danishchurch.vancouver.bc.ca



Pastor's Report

If you visit our library, you will discover something new. We have installed a virtual conference system, a system enabling us to host Bible Studies and Confirmation Classes online.

Modern technology... I had a conversation with one from the congregation the other day about just that. 'Where to stop?' was the question we tried to answer together. We did not discuss aesthetics although it could be a good reason for stopping. Rather we discussed whether we believed modern technology would at some point backfire or if it would at some point set aside human beings.

It is hard to say. With the various chatbots, a fear is that we as humans might be more efficient, but as we leave cognitive processes to the computer, we stop to develop ourselves. This for sure could be a backfire.

Regarding setting aside human beings, then this really is not a new issue. Machines have done that ever since the industrial revolution.

After some time, we concluded that modern technology could not set aside humans for one reason: 'The Human Touch'. People will still in the future prefer having a pastor writing and conducting a sermon and eulogy. People will still in the future prefer having a human being looking after their loved ones.

Following the conversation, I reflected upon what made 'the human touch' so special. My conclusion surprised me. What is great about 'the human touch' is that it is flawed. It makes mistakes. A computer calculates, but humans are emotional, subjective, imperfect, and surprisingly enough that is what makes humans better than computers.

Still technology can be used. I remember when I set up my first online Christmas Service during Covid. It was appreciated. The computer told me this as it showed me how much it was streamed, but more importantly the residents of the local care home told me. Turned out they, as they said, with the help of technology, could have their first Christmas Eve Service with a human touch for many years. They used to go to church; now they could not. But then somehow could anyway. Not As in the good old ways, but close enough.

I wish all of you a Merry Christmas. May it be full of joy and human touches.

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From the Board

Have you ever thought, “What day is the Church Bazaar? or “When is the Lucia Concert this year”, or “Is the upcoming service a Danish service or English service?”

Well, we are working hard to help you know this without scrambling around to find the latest update from the pastor or the last Kirkebladet. Our Church website has a calendar feature that will provide all the current information right on your device (phone, tablet, PC), etc. I know that some people will read this and say, “that website calendar is so confusing to look at”. You may be right, it might be a bit confusing and we are constantly working on making it easier to navigate and keeping it up to date. However, what you may not realize is that you have the ability to synchronize your personal calendar on your phone with the website calendar. This does not put your personal information

on the web or release any information from your device. It simply gives you a link to the church calendar that shows up in your personal calendar so you do not have to look in different locations for calendar events. I tried it for the first time last week and was amazed at how easy it was to do. You go to the website calendar and at the bottom of the month list it asks if you want to subscribe to the calendar. If you click on the button to agree, the screens walk you through the process for the type of device you are using (iCal for Apple users, etc.). When you acknowledge all the steps, you end up with all the church events listed in your electronic calendar. If you try it and do not like it, you can easily unsubscribe or delete the Church Calendar from your device. In the short time I have used it, I have checked a number of events to confirm when it is happening.

In addition, your church group (like church Auxiliaries) can let the church office know of an event or a change to an existing event and it will get reflected in the web calendar and all people with the Church calendar connected to their device (phone, iPad, computer) will have the new event or changes to the event automatically available in their calendar.

We are working hard to enhance our use of proven technology (such as website calendars, conferencing equipment that Carsten refers to in his report, membership

software to more efficiently handle member information changes and tax receipting).

We recognize that many of the church members are becoming increasingly more dependent on technical tools such as emails and websites and would like to have access to accurate information faster. We continue to work on making information more accessible.

If you have any suggestions, please let our webmaster know by sending an email to webmaster@danishchurch.vancouver.bc.ca

At the same time, be patient with us as we get these things sorted out and tuned for you, the user.

There are other functions coming down the pipe as well. We are looking to provide each member with web access to their own information through a member portal.

Through this member portal you will be able to look at things like - what distribution lists you are on at the church, remove or add yourself to the various lists we have, what your giving is for the year-to-date and more.

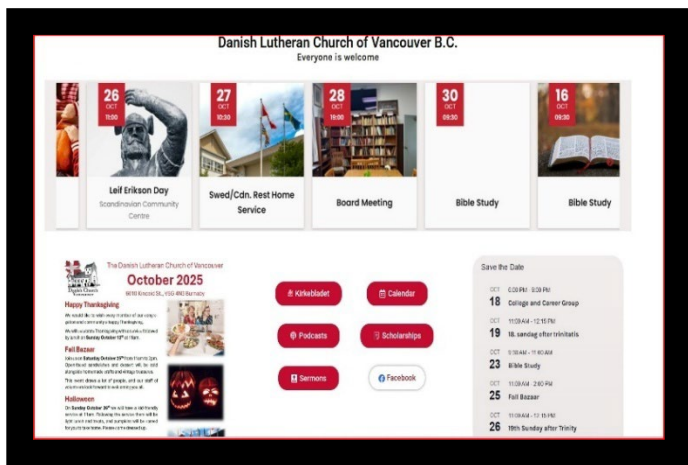
To some this might be a scary concept, to others it might be a welcome "It's about time".

Whatever camp you are in, we are trying to make church life flow a bit better for you.

Feel free to reach out to me any time.

We hope you have a great run up to the Christmas season and look forward to seeing you at one or more events coming up... Check the calendar.

Rob



Get to know the Church Website:

<https://danishchurch.vancouver.bc.ca/>

Our homepage

The Danish Lutheran Church

Mortens Aften



Mortens Aften is a celebration of St. Martin of Tours. The legend says he hid in a goose pen to avoid being appointed Bishop. The geese gave away his location with all their noise, so he said we should eat them each year to punish them.

The geese are very lucky this year, we couldn't find anyone to cook them, or ducks.

We are once again able to offer a catered luncheon on

Sunday, November 9, 2025 at 12:30pm after church.

The menu will be a 3-course meal of **Salad, Roast Beef and Dessert for \$35.00.**

RSVP to the office @ 604 298-6112 or email schaffe@danishchurch.vancouver.bc.ca

No later than Sunday, November 2, 2025!

We cannot collect cash at the door and we need to let the caterers know how many will be dining in advance.

You can pay with cash, credit card, cheque or,

e-transfer to donations@danishchurch.vancouver.bc.ca

(please still call or email to be put on list).

As always, we can meet dietary requirements and offer a Vegetarian option.

All Saints Dinner and Service



This year the All Saints service is on Sunday, November 2, 2025 at 5pm (*sorry, no 11am service*). This special service remembers those who have had a Funeral or Memorial in the past year, followed by a short candlelit vigil outside at the Memorial Walk. If you have a relative or close friend you would also like to have remembered by the pastor, please contact the Church office.

A dinner for \$15 is available after, please email or phone the office to be put on the list.

College and Career Group (Col/Car Grp)

We had so much fun arriving in Character and Costume for 1950's Bourbon Club October Halloween Event. "Mitzy" & "Phil" were voted best Characters with lots of accents and jokes through the night. Biggest thanks to Robert & Ida Taylor and Sharon for all the behind the scene work to make this such a memorable night for us.



Upcoming Events for College and Career Group:

Vancouver Christmas Market

When: Friday, November 28 2025 at 7pm

Where: Jack Poole Plaza 1055 Canada Place Vancouver by the Olympic Cauldron

RSVP by November 1 for Pre Sale Tickets

Julefrokost Potluck with Risalamande and Pakkelege: A Danish Gift Exchange Game

Join us at the Parsonage in Burnaby for a little taste of some old and new Danish traditions.

When: Friday, December 19, 2025

RSVP by December 12, more details to follow!

As always, we can provide rides to and from events! More details to come leading up to events.

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

Scholarship Committee

A member of the Scholarship Committee since its inception in January 2023, Manfred Hoff, has recently decided to step down from the committee. We wish to thank Manfred very much for all the work he has put in to getting the Scholarship Committee started, as well as his input on the last two years' applications. In his stead we are pleased to welcome Gunhild Royston as our new member.



Some of our recipients in 2025

Visit to Spirit of The Children Society

In May, Jørgen Rohweder and I visited Spirit of The Children Society in New Westminister where we met Trey Bell, Program Director. SOCTS is an Indigenous non-profit society serving families in Burnaby, New Westminister and the Tri-Cities (Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody).

They work to empower and strengthen Indigenous families, providing support and resources by offering a variety of programs.

The Spirit of the Children provides services to children up to 6 years old, youth 7-19, and families.

The facility in New Westminister is very well equipped to enrich the lives of the younger children, and they get their funding from various government agencies.



Spirit of the Children Society Youth Hub



The youth meet in Port Coquitlam at the Youth Hub, their only funding is for two Youth Enhancement Workers.

In early September we visited the Spirit of the Children Youth Hub in Port Coquitlam. We met with Marsha, who is in charge. She has been with SOTCS for about six years, and in this position for six months. The position had been vacant for a while, so she had to pick up a lot of loose ends.

The youth group is split in two: Ages from 7-11 years old (Tweenies) and 14-17 years old (Teenagers). The latter could go to age 19.

Marsha has done a great job of creating a games room and a meeting room also used for various crafts. They had a summer program and were able to use a van for outings. Marsha is very excited about the Youth Hub and has many ideas for new projects.

In addition to money for craft supplies and equipment, Marsha's wish list includes training for staff to deal with youth with greater needs.

Trey Bell estimates funding for programs at the Youth Hub is about \$27,000 for a year and it includes:

- Food Security and Traditional Cooking Programs
- Cultural Outings & Land-Based Learning
- Craft Supplies, Cultural Teachings, and Recreational Resources

At the September Board Meeting it was decided to donate \$15,000 this year to Spirit of the Children's Youth Hub as they have a great need for funding to serve their vulnerable youth.

Lene Olesen

November 2025

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
2 All Saints Service 5pm Supper to follow	3	4 Knit2gether 1pm	5	6 Bible Study 9:30am Ladies Aux 12noon	7	8 *
9 Service (Eng) 11am Mortens Aften Lunch 12:30pm	10	11 Dania Remembrance Day 11am	12 Kom-Sam. 1:30pm	13 Bible Study 9:30am New Auxiliary 12:30pm	14	15
16 Service (Danish) 11am	17	18	19	20 Bible Study 9:30am Dania Manor 10:30am	21	22
23 Service (English). 11am Spring Cal. Meeting 12:30pm	24 Swedish/Can. Rest Home 10:30am	25 Board Mtg. 7pm	26 Dania Home 11am	27 Bible Study 9:30am	28 Coll/Car Group 7pm	29
30 Fam Service 11am Christmas Workshop 12:30-3pm						* No events Nov 1

December 2025

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2 Knit2gether 1pm	3	4 Ladies Aux. 12noon	5	6 Lucia Concert 7pm
7 Service (Danish) 11am	8	9 Board Mtg. 5pm Big Band 7pm	10 Kom-Sam. 1:30pm	11	12 Service in Victoria 5pm	13 Service in Nanaimo 12noon
14 Service (Eng) 11am Lunch Board Games	15	16	17	18 Dania in Church 10:30am	19	20
21 Christmas Service and Concert 3pm	22 Swedish/Can Rest Home 10:30am Norwegian Service 7pm	23	24 Christmas Eve Services 2:30/4:00pm	25 Christmas Day Danish 11am	26	27
28 Service (Eng) 11am	29	30	31	Jan 1 New Year's Day Service 3pm		

Church Services

Memorials

Ritta Fisker Sigvardsen was celebrated in the church on the 6th of September.

Anne Shirley Christensen was celebrated in the church on the 20th of September.

Vagn Thorbjørn Møller Andersen was celebrated in the church on the 5th of October.

Margaret Lucy Møller Andersen was celebrated in the church on the 5th of October.

Gurli Hedegaard Mølby was celebrated in the church on the 14th of October.



Christmas Service Calendar

- **Kid-friendly Christmas Service** followed by **Christmas Workshop**
Sunday November 30th at 11am.
- **Swedish Christmas Service**
Sunday November 30th at 7pm.
- **Victoria Christmas Service** (Redeemer Lutheran Church in Langford)
Friday December 12th at 5pm.
- **Nanaimo Christmas Service** (Hope Lutheran Church in Nanaimo)
Saturday December 13th at 12noon.
- **Care Home Christmas Service** (in the church)
Thursday December 18th at 10.30am.
- **Nine Lessons and Carol Service** with **Christmas Concert**
Sunday December 21st at 3pm.
- **Norwegian Christmas Service**
Monday December 22nd at 7pm.
- **Christmas Eve Service**
Wednesday December 24th at 2.30pm and 4pm.
- **Christmas Day Service** (in Danish)
Thursday December 25th at 11am



Nine Lessons and Carols / Christmas Concert

As a new thing we will this year try to combine two of our Christmas traditions: The Nine Lessons and Carol Service – a contemplative service Pastor Carsten introduced to the church – and the Christmas Concert.

Dating more than 40 years, it has not been an easy decision to change the structure of our beloved Christmas Concert. It has for many years been the gathering stone for all musicians connected to the church. We believe it still can be in the future – although in another form.

Combining the two events seemed beneficial for both as both events focuses on music. With the adding of the spiritual layer of the service to the concert though, we hope that the event will not only draw former musicians and participants out, but new as well.

The event will take place on **Sunday December 21st at 3pm** making it a great way of celebrating winter solstice, celebrating how darkness through the miracle of Christmas will always turn to lightness.



Big Band Concert



On Tuesday, December 9 at 7pm...

Come and join the South Van Big Band for the annual Christmas concert. A night filled with swingin' Christmas tunes and holiday favourites. From White Christmas to Søren Banjomus, the orchestra will make sure your toes are tapping, your spirits are lifted, and that the season shines a little brighter for the whole family.

Santa Lucia / Luciafest



This year’s Santa Lucia performance will be on Saturday, **December 6, 2025 at 7pm**, with **doors open at 6pm** for shopping in our Christmas Shop.

We are excited to have Andrea and Allison Wardrop returning to teach and lead the participants with skillful accompaniment from Austen Doyle, one of our organists.

They all have a lot of experience with the program and developing young singers. We can also look forward to our Nisser showing up downstairs!

The tentative dates for rehearsals are Sundays in November after service. There is no age limit, just some ability and joy in participating in the practices and performances .In addition to the concert in the Church, our young choir will sing at Christmas by the Fireside at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre on December 12.

If you are interested in being part of this tradition, please contact the office at 604-298-6112 or schaffe@danishchurch.vancouver.bc.ca Your information will then be forwarded to our program leaders. Thank you

Danish Community Events

Kroaften Nov. 7 at 6pm Sandwich order Dec. 5 at 6pm- Kroplatte for Jul Contact Danishhousesociety@gmail.com	Seniors Luncheon Nov. 14 noon Dec. 12 noon (Christmas!) Contact Laura Olufsen at 604-294-0749 tmolufsen@gmail.com	Christmas by the Fireside Come for Hygge and to see our Lucia Choir sing! Dec. 12 at 6:30pm Contact Else Rollke 604-620-1632 danishhousesociety@gmail.com
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Christmas Workshop

Put this in your calendar!

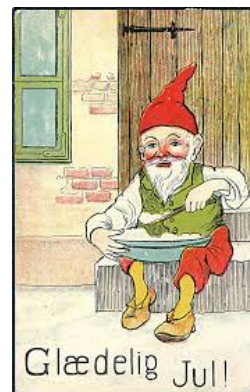
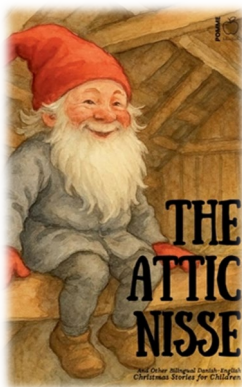
Following the Family Sunday Service on November 30, is our annual Juleværksted.

This busy activity-packed afternoon runs from 12:30 to 3pm

The tradition continues of weaving hearts and stars, decorating gingerbread cookies as well as making classic Danish cookies.

And there are always other miscellaneous craft supplies too.

Of course we will be going up to the tower attic to feed Rice pudding (Risengrød) to those mischievous Nisser living up there.



Join us on New Years' Day



At 3pm on January 1st,

for a special service to thank God for the year that has passed and look forward to the new year and its blessings.

Kransekage and 'Bubbles' will follow downstairs to say 'skål' to each other and 2026. All are more than welcome.



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Fax: 604.299.7775

Church Directory



DANISH CHURCH OFFICE

Open 9am to 12noon on Tues./Wed./Thurs.

Phone: 604-298-6112

Email: office@danishchurch.vancouver.bc.ca

Secretary: Susanne Pagh Chaffe

Email: schaffe@danishchurch.vancouver.bc.ca

PASTOR CARSTEN MØLGAARD HANSEN

Friday is the Pastor's day off

Phone: 604-521-8014

Email: pastor@danishchurch.vancouver.bc.ca

THE BOARD: board@danishchurch.vancouver.bc.ca

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Webmaster: Claus Sørensen, webmaster@danishchurch.vancouver.bc.ca

Ladies Auxiliary and memorial coffee: Ebba Grey, 604-990-3550, ebba@shaw.ca

The New Auxiliary: Doris Nielsen, 604-534-3707, knudnielsen@shaw.ca

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

prasmussen@danishchurch.vancouver.bc.ca

Søndags Skolens Kvindeforening: Lene Olesen, 604-539-7555, wolle@telus.net

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Kirkebladet: kirkebladet@danishchurch.vancouver.bc.ca