



Kirkebladet

November – December, 2026

Nr. 6 – 91 årg.



Glædelig Jul
og
Godt Nytår

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

Christmas not only marks the birth of Christ but also the turn of something; Christ for sure was a turning point. With the New Year right around the corner, Christmas also somehow marks the turn of the year. Something new is around the corner. Both spiritually and secularly.

Our Danish word for Christmas bears witness to this: 'Jul'. Or 'Yule' in English. The word relates to the Danish word for 'wheel': 'hjul'. Before Christianity came to Denmark the Vikings celebrated Winter Solstice by making a 'sun wheel' of hay and setting fire to it. It symbolized the turning of the year and the coming of lighter days.

This year has been tough on my family and I and I truly hope that this Christmas – this 'Jul'

– will be a turning point. A wheel that brings lighter days to us. As I hope for this, despite the toughness, I also look back at the past year with gratitude. Gratitude towards all the support you as a congregation and community have shown my family and me. It has been touching.

The turning of time, as I have talked about in many a sermon, is something that none of us can control. It is something that necessarily brings with it both good and bad. As time is changing, so necessarily is everything changing. From warm to cold. From good to bad. Because of that, ups and downs necessarily are a part of our world and lives. Only in eternity – a state not controlled by time and hence not controlled by necessary changing – can we potentially experience existence in sole goodness.

This train of thought gives me an odd kind of comfort. It does not remove my feelings of being both happy and joyous, sad and mad while encountering the turnings in life. But it puts everything in perspective. Below you see the Nordic symbol the 'sun wheel'. It has its roots in the bronze age, was used by the Vikings in the previously described way, and for the first Danish Christians, it also became a cross. May God be with us in all turns in life. In sharing joy and in giving comfort.



Scenes from our
Harvest Dinner



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From the Board

As I mentioned in the last Kirkebladet, the only constant thing in life (other than our God) is change. This year has exemplified that statement to me. We are finding it harder and harder to get people to step in and fill positions where people have retired or aged out of. Over the last year, we have seen this clearly. Not only do we not have enough people to act as Deacons on Sundays, we are finding it harder to back fill for people that used to take care of coffee and snacks on Sundays.

Other areas are also being affected by people aging out. In the last little while, a couple of icons in the church (Jack and Linda), have retired from being caretakers for the church.

We do have a person that will walk around the church each night to ensure things are looking okay but cannot commit to doing more at this time. Needless to say, we are now looking for a caretaker to help manage the church maintenance. We will miss the work that Jack and Linda put in to keep the church functioning properly. We wish them the best in their future initiatives and hope to see them around the church for events.

We are still able to put on well known events for the members and others.

We had a great Harvest Dinner with close to eighty people in attendance. A number of those in attendance were recipients of scholarships through the Granly Scholarship Fund. It was a fun time with songs, a solo from Ebba Siple, presentations, jokes, and even a game of Jeopardy. The food was very good and the company even better. If you have never been to one of our Harvest Dinners, I suggest you mark it on the calendar for next year. Also, a big thanks to all the volunteers that helped make the activity a success.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our plans this year for a Terry Fox Run and celebration in conjunction with Dania Society. However, we are planning on having a Royal Run in May and hook up with the Dania Society for hosting the Terry Fox Run next year.

We have also had to cancel two of our regular services as we could not find a replacement pastor for Carsten, who had personal issues and commitments. Going forward, we will put in place a structure that allows us to proceed with lay services when we find ourselves without a pastor. This way we will not have to cancel regular services. However, it does mean more leaning on volunteers to take on the roles we need to run these services.

Poul Erik has been working hard on expanding the Memorial Walk on the north side of the church. He also puts great energy into maintaining the Memorial Walk to ensure plaques for loved ones are kept clean and presentable. Thank you Poul Erik for your diligence with the Memorial Walk.

We have finally replaced our old hearing aid assistance system with a new one. This new system is intended to support us for years to come. It is also housing technology that will help members that have T-Cell or the new AuraCast functionality in their existing hearing aids to hear the pulpit directly through their personal hearing aids.

The church hosted an amazing Organ Concert put on by a Danish Organist by the name of Tina Christiansen. She is a very active concert organist with an extensive international career as a soloist, chamber musician and accompanist. She has played

extensively throughout Scandinavia, and Northern, Southern and Eastern Europe, even Russia. Tina has played solo concerts on some of Europe's largest organs, such as at St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey in London, Riga Dom in Latvia, Kaliningrad Cathedral in Russia and St Florian Stiftsbasilika (International Bruckner Festival) in Austria. Tina has played concerts with several Danish orchestras and has played the world premieres of music by more than 20 composers from Denmark and abroad. Tina is the organist and director of music at Ansgar's Church in Odense (DK), and she is the initiator and artistic director of the Odense International Organ Festival. Thank you to Tina for expanding our knowledge both of the mind and of the ear in the world of organs. Thank you also to the Music Committee for bringing this event to the church.

We wish you the very best as we move into the Christmas season. We have a number of events that we hope you find spiritually enriching. We have a Lucia concert and Nine Readings concert coming up. We have a Bazaar with prizes and Danish sandwiches (smørrebrød) coming up on 31st of October.

Please take a look at our website for upcoming events and times.

God bless.

Rob.

Fall Bazaar — Saturday, Oct. 31, 2026, from 11am to 2pm



A reminder that our Annual Church Bazaar will be on Halloween this year, October 31, 2026. There will be more space for eating our famous smørrebrød – Open-face sandwiches

The Lottery tickets have started to come in, but there are also tickets available to buy at the Bazaar.

Draw will be at 2pm!

All Saints' Service

We celebrate All Saints' Day by honouring all who have passed away, especially those who passed since last All Saints'. We do so by lighting a candle and reading names of those dear to us as a part of an evening service.

Our All Saints' Service will take place on **Sunday, November 1st at 5pm** and will replace our regular Sunday service. As a part of the service, we will walk to our Memorial Walk putting candles by the plaques. Following the service, supper will be served in the hall.

The family style supper costs \$15 and you need to sign up ahead of time by putting your name on the clipboard downstairs by the 28th of October. Payment is given when you receive your plate of food.

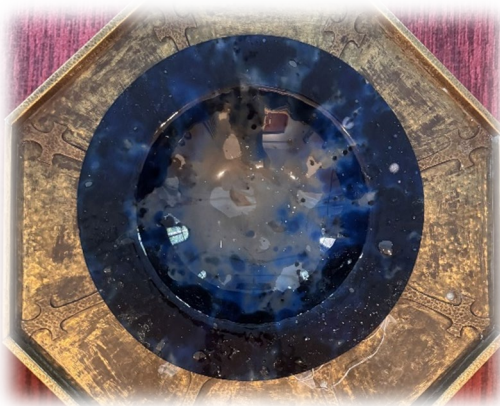
The Pastor will automatically read the names of those who had a Memorial Service in the Church since last All Saints', but please feel free to contact him if you would like him to light a candle and to read the name of a person dear to you.



Church Services

If you are considering any kind of church service, please contact the pastor and he will inform you about procedure, availability etc.

If you have special wishes, we will do our utmost to facilitate whatever you have in mind.



Memorials

Gunnar Madsen was celebrated in the church on the 27th of August.

Michael Eric Andersen was celebrated in the church on the 3rd of September.



Lucia Choir

Any child aged 4 to 15 is invited to join our traditional Lucia Choir that celebrates the joyful season of Christmas and Danish cultural heritage.

The Lucia tradition is based on the story of a young Italian woman who was a devout Christian in the 4th Century. Lucia was generous and helpful, and it is said that she - to keep her hands free for handing out food and clothing - lit her way wearing candles in a wreath on her head.



Stories of Lucia reached Scandinavia during the Viking Age, and today communities across Scandinavia have children dressed in white on the 13th of December perform processions, visiting hospitals and seniors' homes. It is an uplifting tradition proclaiming hope and generosity.



To participate, you do not need any skills in Danish, nor in singing. We will **rehearse** in the Church on the four Sundays from November 1st to November 22nd, approx. 12:45 pm-2:45 pm.

The rehearsals culminate with three **performances**: at Dania Home on Friday, November 27th at 6pm, at The Danish Church on Saturday, December 5th at 7:00 pm, and at the Scandinavian Community Centre on Friday, December 11th at 6:30pm.

To learn more and sign up, please **contact** our volunteer Choir Leader, Andrea, at: andrea.a.wardrop@gmail.com. Please include "Lucia" in your subject line.

Music Concert

On Monday, Sept 21, our Danish Church community enjoyed an evening of outstanding Danish organ music performed by Tina Christiansen, Director of Music at Ansgars Church in Odense, artistic director of the Odense International Organ Festival, a teacher at the Danish National Academy of Music and at Løgumkloster Church Music School.

Special thanks to all who helped make the evening a success, especially Susanne Chaffe for preparing the printed program, Poul Erik Rasmussen for attending to the sanctuary, Michael Dirk from RCCO for providing the screen and projecting the video of the organist, and all who provided refreshments and assisted with cleaning up the kitchen.

The Church Music Committee is small and, therefore, assistance at public music events is greatly appreciated. – **Janet Mowatt**



A little information on our pipe organ: Our pipe organ was donated to us by a church in North Jylland. Resen church had successfully lobbied the Danish government for a bigger and better organ, so their old Frobenius 1968 went into storage.

On a trip to Denmark in 2002, I contacted some of my colleagues from my organ building days to enquire about the possibility of getting a set of drawings so that I could build a small organ for our church. The opportunity arose of acquiring Resen Church's former, Danish made, organ.

I returned to Vancouver with the proposal to the Board of Directors at the time about our chance to have a genuine pipe organ to play in our church. The Board was all in favour.

The organ was shipped to Vancouver with the help of Knud Nielsen looking after the logistics of crating it for transport. Our organ arrived during the summer of 2003, and then I got to work making it fit in the organ loft in the west end of the building.

The organ originally had 5 stops or voices. We undertook the project to expand the instrument with a pedal board. Subbas16 is the stop that was added to be played with pedals. It is furthermore fitted with a pedal coupler which enables the organ to be played with a full 6 stops, thus giving the rich sound we all enjoy.

It has been my privilege to be the caretaker of our organ all these years, and it was truly a very special occasion to have the organ played by Tina Christiansen at a concert this past September. *A big thank you to Janet Mowatt and to the people who made this evening possible.*

– **Steen Larsen**

November

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1 All Saints Service (Eng) 5pm Dinner following	2	3 Knit2gether 1pm	4 Komsammen 1:30pm	5 Bible Study 9:30am Ladies Aux. 12noon	6	7
8 Service (Eng) 11am Mortens Aften lunch 12:30	9	10 New Auxiliary 12:30pm	11	12 Bible Study 9:30am	13	14
15 Service (Dan) 11am	16 Swe/Can Rest Home 10:30am	17	18	19 Bible Study 9:30am Dania Manor 10:30am	20	21
22 Service (Eng) 11am	23	24 Board Meeting 7pm	25 Dania Home 11am	26 Bible Study 9:30am	27 Col/Car	28
29 Service (Eng) 11am Christmas Workshop	30					

December 2026

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
		1 Knit2gether 1pm	2	3 Ladies Aux. 12noon	4	5 Santa Lucia Shop 6:30 Pageant 7pm
6 Service (Dan) 11am	7	8 New Auxiliary 12:30pm Joint with other Auxiliaries	9 Komsammen 1:30pm	10	11 Pastor Nanaimo 2pm SCC <i>Christmas by the Fireside</i> See p14	12 Pastor Victoria 11am Serv. See p14
13 (Eng) 11am and Lunch	14	15 Board Meeting 5pm Big Band Concert 7pm	16	17 Dania at Church 10:30am	18	19
20 Afternoon Service Nine lessons and Carols (Eng) 3pm	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve services 2 :30 and 4pm (Eng & Dan)	25 Christmas Day Service (Dan) 11am	26
27 No Service	28	29	30	31	No Service New Year's Day	

Afternoon Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Last year we combined two of our Christmas traditions: The Nine Lessons and Carols Service – a contemplative service Pastor Carsten introduced to the church – and the Christmas Concert.

Dating more than 40 years, it was not an easy decision to change the structure of our beloved Christmas Concert. But combining the two events seemed beneficial – and it was. We had a great evening full of music and meditation, celebration and community.

Because of last year's success, we will do it in the same way this year. The English event will take place instead of a regular Sunday Service on **Sunday, December 20th at 3pm**

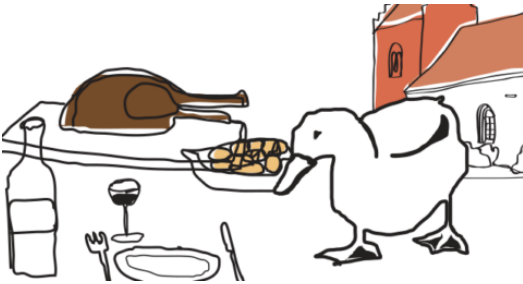


Choir

If you are interested in singing in the Choir that performs as a part of the Service, rehearsals will take place on Thursdays at 12noon (and occasional Sundays after Service). Please contact our organist, and choir leader, Janet (jamowatt@yahoo.com) for more information.

Fluency in Danish is not required; the members support one another.

Mortens Aften Luncheon



The Ducks and Geese are still safe, they aren't on the menu but there will be Roast Beef! Once again, Porter's will cater a 'dinner' for us on November 8, 2026 after the English Service in Church.

(Service at 11 and Dinner at 12:30)

The cost is \$35.00 including starter and dessert and we *offer a vegetarian option*.

RSVP to office@danishchurch.vancouver.bc.ca

or phone the office at: 604-298-6112, by November 2.

Then you can pay in one of the following ways:

1. e-Transfer to donations@danishchurch.vancouver.bc.ca (please note what you are paying)
2. Call the office with your Credit Card information during office hours,
3. or drop off cash or a cheque.

Big Band Concert

If you happen to wander past the church on a Tuesday evening throughout the year you will most likely be treated to the sound of Big Band or Jazz music emanating from our downstairs hall.

On Tuesday, December 15, 2026, at 7pm we will turn our downstairs into a club and swing to the sounds of

SOUTH VAN BIG BAND

Erik Hougaard



Christmas Service Calendar

- **Family Christmas Service and Workshop**
Sunday, November 29th at 11am.
- **Swedish Christmas Service**
Sunday, November 29th at 7pm.
- **Nanaimo Christmas Service** (Hope Lutheran Church in Nanaimo)
Friday, December 11th at 2pm.
- **Victoria Christmas Service** (Redeemer Lutheran Church in Langford)
Saturday, December 12th at 11am.
- **Care Home Christmas Service** (in the church)
Thursday, December 17th at 10.30am.
- **Afternoon Service: Nine Lessons and Carols with Christmas Concert**
Sunday, December 20th at 3pm. (English)
- **Norwegian Christmas Service**
Tuesday, December 22nd at 7pm.
- **Christmas Eve Service** (English/Danish)
Wednesday, December 24 at 2.30pm and 4pm.
- **Christmas Day Service** (Danish)
Thursday, December 25th at 11am



Juleværksted – Christmas Family Workshop

This event has become so popular over the years, even when it falls on Grey Cup Sunday!

Following a family-oriented service On Sunday, November 29th at 11am, everyone is welcome to participate in a huge variety of traditional Christmas activities. All ages jump in and get up to their elbows in icing, if that's what they like. There are also traditional paper heart and star weaving and the baking of Klejner, Vanilla Kranser, and Gingerbread cookies to cut out and decorate. We always have a big, messy, craft table for the very young and up - to the feeling very young.

Around 2:30 we must learn about the Nisse in our church tower and bring up a bowl of Rice Pudding (Risengrød) to feed him, otherwise he will make mischief at Christmas.

Please bring a healthy snack for your little ones, no lunch is provided but there will be an abundance of cookies, rice pudding and water to drink. And, of course, coffee and tea for the adults.



For those that can't attend the service, please know that the workshop starts around 12:15/12:30. We hope to clean up at 3:30

Knitting etc.



Back by popular demand! **The Knit2gether** group will be starting up on the 2nd of November at 1pm in the upstairs library. Crocheters, embroiderers, quilters, etc. will not be turned away! Bring your project and supplies and hygge for a while on the dark days of winter.

Movie Matinee

The Movie Matinee has continued to be popular but there will be no shows in November and December. See you in the new year!



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Dania Gardens



Dania Manor



Dania Home



Carl Mortensen Manor

Danish Community Events

- **Kroaften at SCC**

Friday, November 6th at 6pm

For reservations contact:

danishhousesociety@gmail.com

- **Seniors Luncheon at SCC**

Friday, November 13th at 12noon.

For reservations contact:

lauraolufsen53@gmail.com

- **Kroaften at SCC**

Friday, December 4th at 6pm

Price: \$45.00 per person

For reservations contact:

danishhousesociety@gmail.com

- **Christmas by the Fireside at SCC**

- With our Lucia Choir

Friday, December 11th at 6:30pm.

For reservations contact:

danishhousesociety@gmail.com





Church Directory

DANISH CHURCH OFFICE

Open 10am to 1pm on Tues./Wed./Thurs.

Phone: 604-298-6112

Email: office@danishchurch.vancouver.bc.ca

Office Administrator: Susanne Pagh Chaffe

PASTOR CARSTEN MØLGAARD HANSEN

Friday is Pastor Carsten's day off.

Phone: 604-521-8014

Email: pastor@danishchurch.vancouver.bc.ca

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

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Alternate: Randy Meyers, rmeyers@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: Tina Taylor, 604-461-3358, tinataylor7707@gmail.com

Memorial Garden: Poul Erik Rasmussen, 604-526-1233, sonofrasmus@shaw.ca

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

Knit2gether Group: Gert Mølhoj, 604-715-6025

Kirkebladet: kirkebladet@danishchurch.vancouver.bc.ca