



Danish Lutheran Church
Burnaby, BC

History of Granly



Granly Danish Church
Surrey, BC

In 1923 Danish Immigrants in Vancouver formed Ansgar congregation; they held services in other churches with visiting pastors from Washington State.

The Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver, located at 19th Avenue and Prince Albert Street was consecrated in 1937. With the help of the Danish Church Abroad they were served by Danish pastors, who each came for a five year period.

Pastor Arnold Vang arrived in 1960 and in 1962 he bought a parcel of land in Surrey with a small house and some outbuildings. About 2000 new Danish immigrants had settled in Surrey in the late 50's and early 60's. It was a long trip to the Danish Church in Vancouver and Pastor Vang was asked to have services in Surrey. At the start there were two afternoon services every month. It was called Granly (spruce shelter) because of the many tall trees.

Most of the male immigrants were farmhands or trades people and they spent many hours fixing the house and moving some of the buildings on the property. In preparation for his move back to Denmark in 1966 Pastor Vang sold the property to the Danish group in Surrey. That year it was consecrated as an Annex Church to the Danish Church of Vancouver. Existing buildings were expanded and more were added; a house was built for the pastor and family.

Granly became a gathering place for not only church services, but also social events such as Spring Dinner, Midsummer gatherings and Christmas events.

The first of Granly's many full-time pastors arrived in 1978. Over the years the congregation dwindled and in 2008 Granly started having retired pastors from Denmark come for two years.

By 2021, with the congregation now mostly retired and unable to continue with the upkeep of the grounds and buildings, it was decided to close Granly Church.

Over the years the Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver grew and with the neighbourhood changing it was decided to build a bigger church in Burnaby near Dania Home, a retirement home built by the Danes in the 1940s.

With all the improvements to the roads and public transit, getting from Surrey to Burnaby is much faster. You can get from Granly to The Danish Lutheran Church in Burnaby in 20 minutes.

Members from Granly think fondly of the years they shared in Surrey.