

We Worship, We Grow, We Serve,
We reach out in love sharing God's
message of hope through Jesus Christ.

March 2021
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He is not here! He is risen!!

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During the COVID-19 pandemic we are following provincial health orders. All in-building worship services and gatherings are cancelled.

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We recognize and acknowledge the Qayqayt First Nation, as well as all Coast Salish peoples, on whose traditional and unceded territories we gather.



mount zion **Message**

L U T H E R A N

2021 Easter Newsletter



Celebrating Easter

Last year I wrote these words on Palm Sunday:
“Nothing is the same. But perhaps this year, this Holy Week, is an opportunity to understand in a unique way that in order to get to Easter Sunday we have to go *through* Good Friday. There has to be a death before there can be resurrection. What do we need to let go of? What do we need to bury first? And then...wait. Deal with the emotions of loss and grief, of not being in control or knowing what is going to happen or when it will happen. That first Easter the disciples were lost and had no idea what would happen. Remember it took THREE DAYS before there was resurrection! What new life, what new hopes does God have in store for us?”

In many ways, this year everything is the same! Despite Dr. Bonnie Henry's recent announcement that faith communities can gather inside buildings for religious services, here at Mount Zion we will continue to gather online for worship. We make that decision out of love and concern for our neighbours and ourselves, not wanting to put anyone at risk for COVID-19. Perhaps we can gather outdoors at some time in the future, but for now we will do what is safe, as well as what is manageable for all. Having worship services, whether indoors or outdoors, requires a team of people to ensure compliance with all the safety protocols that need to be in place. We appreciate your patience – and your prayers.

As we enter Holy Week 2021 I share these words again from our bishops to the members of the ELCIC in their pastoral letter for Holy Week 2020:

“Remember, that we are Easter people, and that our risen Lord is walking with us in these difficult days. Although we are not able to physically gather in worship, Easter is not postponed. Resurrection is coming! Jesus still comes to each of us into our isolation and says peace be with you!”



Holy Week

Worship Schedule

Maundy Thursday, April 1

7:00pm on Zoom (for Zoom link,
e-mail mountzion930@gmail.com)

Good Friday, April 2

Online worship service on our YouTube channel: Mount Zion Lutheran Church, New Westminster BC

Easter Sunday, April 4

Online worship service on our YouTube channel, which will be available beginning at 8:00am.

May God bless you throughout this Holy Week and Easter season!

Book Nook: Connecting with Our Mount Zion Neighbours



We often talk about finding simple ways of connecting with our neighbours. Mostly it has been about opening our eyes to see what God might be up to in the lives of the people who live near us. An idea came up at the AGM around the possibility of getting to know the neighbours around Mount Zion: a book nook. This is a free little library, where you take a book or leave a book, like the samples in the picture. You may have seen one in your neighbourhood already.

Now it is time to put our thoughts on this into action! We are hoping to have a Zoom meeting of interested people to gather all your good ideas.

This is not so much about *doing* right now, although that will certainly come. This first get-together is about gathering ideas. A good way to start might be to use the Who, What, Where, When and How approach. Who might offer to build it? What kinds of books should we

fill it with to start? Where should we position it for the best use? When would we like to have it done by? How might we let the neighbours know it's up and running?

If you or someone you know would like to be a part of this fun Spring missional experiment, please e-mail Vivienne at mountzion930@gmail.com.

Devotional Booklets

- The April-June edition of *Eternity for Today* is available. Please contact the church office to arrange for pick-up or delivery. An online version is also available through <https://elcic.ca/app/dailydevotion/www/index.html>
- A large-print devotional, *Christ in Our Home*, is also available. Please contact Margaret if you would like to be added to this list of recipients.

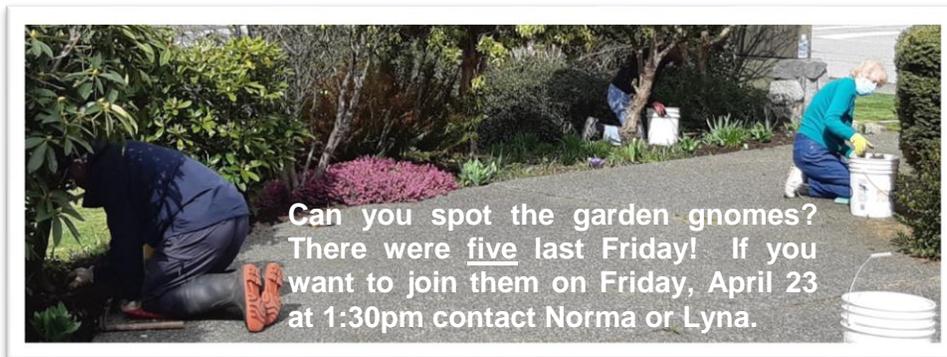


Can You Help?

Aluel Nyok's orphaned 16-year-old niece, Nyakong Nyok, is living in Uganda. However, due to the pandemic and loss of employment Aluel is unable to send money to support her at this time. Aluel needs \$150/month to assist with supporting her niece.

Can you help? Please contact Aluel or the church office. Thank you!

Mount Zion's Garden Gnomes



Can you spot the garden gnomes? There were five last Friday! If you want to join them on Friday, April 23 at 1:30pm contact Norma or Lyna.



Note the prayerful postures!
There are lots of garden stories in the Bible.
Remember Jesus was buried in a tomb *in a garden!*