

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

January 2021
Volume 9, Issue 1

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E-mail: mzoffice@shaw.ca or
prmarlys@shaw.ca

Phone: (604) 521-0120 (office)
(604) 521-0525 (fax)

Mount Zion Lutheran Church
930 Cumberland Street
New Westminster BC V3L 3H4
Canada

Website: www.mtzionlutheran.ca

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



2021 Epiphany Newsletter

Pastor's Musings: An Ecstatic Epiphany!

Epiphany follows immediately after the 12 days of Christmas. The word *epiphany* means "revelation" or "showing forth" or "manifestation." During Epiphany we observe the manifestation of God in Christ to all the nations of the world. God has appeared. God is revealed to the Wise Men as the child Jesus, and later as an adult when he is baptized, anointed with the Holy Spirit and called God's beloved Son. The Season of Epiphany runs from January 6 to Ash Wednesday, February 17. During Epiphany we reflect upon being children of light.

This time in the Church is also about how God's glory is revealed in Christ, and this is particularly so on the final Sunday in Epiphany Season which is always celebrated as the Transfiguration of our Lord. This amazing event is about Jesus' journey to the mountaintop with four of his disciples where he is transfigured before them, revealing again God's glory and his identity as God's Son as it is once more proclaimed from the heavens.

So as we continue on this journey through the Season of Epiphany, what are your "Aha" moments? When do you experience a revelation of God? In the gospel stories, these events typically happen in ordinary settings with ordinary people, not necessarily with religious leaders in a place of worship. I encourage you to continue to be open to God's revelation **to you wherever you are!**

The other thing to note with these revelations of Jesus is that it changes those who experience it. So again, I encourage you to reflect upon how your experiences of God's revelations have changed you. Or maybe consider also how epiphanies for others have transformed their lives.

During this time of pandemic with its constantly changing ways of living and interacting, one thing I am constantly marvelling at is how God continues to reveal God's presence and activity, especially in the simple and ordinary things of life. As 2021 unfolds, even with the unexpected assault on Washington's Capitol Building on the Day of Epiphany, even with the unexpected slowdown of vaccine production, even with the unexpected resignation of Canada's Governor-General, even with....God is at work. God is in control. And God is all about surprising us and revealing God to us. And just maybe, like the Wise Men who were warned in a dream to avoid the dangers of the current political power and returned home by another way, we too may find our ways being changed and having to readjust our plans. But we too will find our way home, as God continues to lead and guide us. I look forward to hearing about your Ecstatic Epiphanic Experiences!

-Pastor Marlys



Isn't it wonderful to say goodbye to 2020 and welcome in a new year? Thanks be to God!

What is council up to? Our first order of business is to prepare for our Annual General Meeting on Zoom in February. All of the teams, including the financial team, are busy preparing financial statements and reports to include in the 2020 Congregational Annual Report. Everyone is looking ahead to upcoming activities.

The BC Synod held a Zoom Lay Leaders Meeting in January to discuss the use of technology to facilitate annual general meetings. Council deeply appreciates BC Synod's guidance and support and routinely attends these monthly meetings regardless of what topic is being discussed.

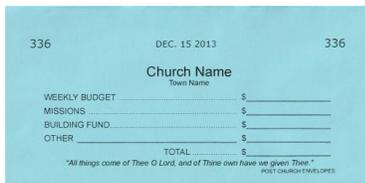
While Mount Zion is closed to in-building worship the COVID-19 Task Force will continue to meet in the new year. Our goal is to stay on top of the provincial health orders and use these guidelines to ensure the safety of our employees.

As we move in the direction of spring and feel the light of Christ within us, may we continue to reach out to others around us, sharing our challenges, our joys and our hopes for 2021.

God bless and stay safe,

Lyna Kiviste
Chair of Council

Offering Envelopes 2021



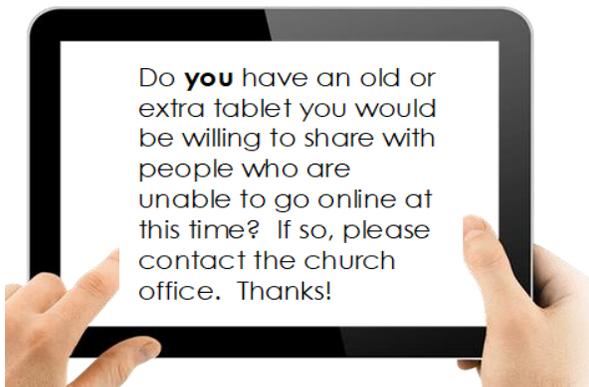
Offering envelopes are ready for 2021. Your envelope number will remain the same as 2020.

Please continue using your remaining old envelopes until we can get your new box to you. Any date will be fine as deposits are made at mid and end of each month. Post-dated cheques will be in safe keeping until the date on each cheque.

If you have used all your envelopes just submit your offering in a plain envelope giving your name. I will add your number.

Thank you for your generous support of Mount Zion. Best wishes to you and your families for a happy, healthy year to come.

Margaret Leech
Financial Secretary



Do **you** have an old or extra envelope you would be willing to share with people who are unable to go online at this time? If so, please contact the church office. Thanks!

from Babs Findlay who was delighted to receive more than **50** birthday cards for her 90th birthday!

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



Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
In Mission for Others



Mount Zion Lutheran is joining with others from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada in participating in the Bible Book Club. We are reading the book of **Ecclesiastes** throughout January and looking forward to the book of **Jeremiah** in February. Check out resources at this website:

<https://elcic.ca/livingourfaith/biblebookclub.cfm> or contact the church office for copies to be mailed to you if you do not have access to a computer. You may also enjoy these videos:

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/ecclesiastes> and <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/jeremiah>

Can You Help?



Aluel Nyok's orphaned 16-year-old niece, Nyakong Nyok, is living in Uganda. Because she is a minor Aluel is unable to sponsor her at this time. Adoption is a lengthy, costly process and almost impossible to find proof of the deaths of Nyakong's parents. Aluel had been providing financial support for her niece's living expenses and schooling. However, due to the pandemic and loss of employment Aluel is unable to send money at this time. 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!**

Your prayers are also appreciated, especially since Uganda is currently undergoing stress and violence with the recent presidential election, in addition to COVID-19.

Devotional Booklets



- The January-March 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.

Looking for a New Home

These chairs and sofa are looking for a new place to call home. They belong to a neighbour of Len and Isabelle Imrie. If you could use some new-to-you furniture, please contact Len at 604-889-5064.

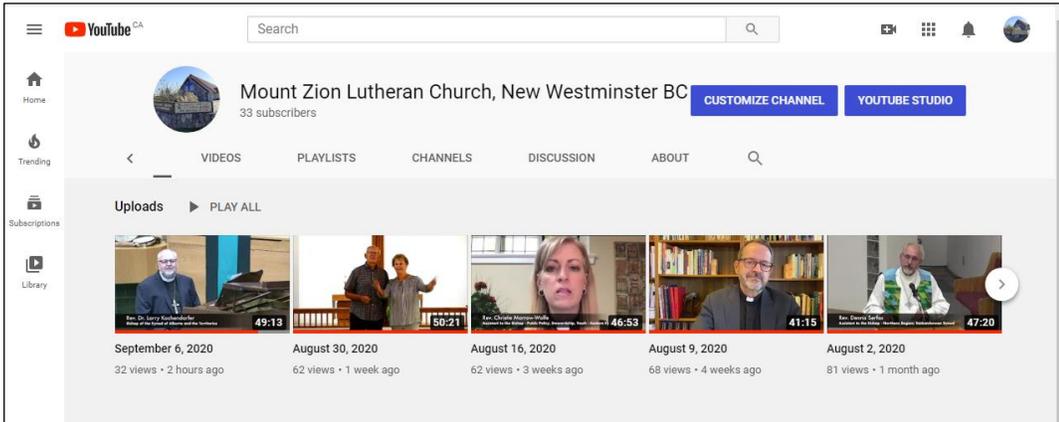


Mount Zion's Online Presence

Worship at Mount Zion Still Looks Like This!



- People struggling with isolation
- Healthcare & frontline workers, teachers
- People in nursing homes with limited visitation
- Thank God for vaccines and many answered prayers. Grant patience while we wait for our turn.



Check out online worship services on our YouTube channel, Mount Zion Lutheran Church, New Westminster BC. We are always looking for people to video the Bible readings. Please contact Pastor Marlys at 604-521-0120.

Join us for Zoom Bible Study on Wednesdays at 7:00pm. Contact Vivienne



Bible Study
Church Council
COVID-19 Task Force
Coffee Time

ZOOM Coffee Time - Sunday mornings at 11:00am

Bring your own beverage and treats. Relax in the comfort of your own home.




ZOOM
COFFEE
TIME

Join us on Sunday mornings (except when there's a church council meeting) for virtual refreshments and visiting. You need a computer, tablet or smartphone for the audiovisual connection. (You may also be able to connect by telephone only, technology permitting.) Please contact Vivienne Welters at mountzion930@gmail.com to assist you with Zoom Coffee Time. You can also check in with her by telephone about a phone-only connection. Hope to "see" you soon!

Just So You Know...

The chart to the right gives you a snapshot of our financial situation for the month of December, as well as for the year. We give thanks to God for unexpected income in the form of subsidies from the federal government and the BC Synod, especially during a pandemic with restricted rental income.

Non Designated	Dec-20	YTD 2020
Donation	\$ 10,000	\$ 102,816
Rent	\$ 2,169	\$ 35,173
Subsidy	\$ 229	\$ 50,692
Expenses	\$ (16,760)	\$ (170,261)
SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)	\$ (4,363)	\$ 18,419



Memo

To: Members of Mount Zion Lutheran Church
From: Church Council
Date: January 25, 2021
Re: Notice of Annual General Meeting

As per Bylaw 7 (Congregational Meetings), Section 5:

Written notice of all congregational meetings shall be sent to all members and to the rostered minister(s) under call to the congregation at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the date of the meeting. Written notice must be sent:

- a. by mail, unless a member has provided his or her email address to the Congregational Council, in which case written notice must be sent by electronic mail;
- b. by posting the written notice on the congregational website; and
- c. by posting the written notice in a public area within the church building.

Please note the following ministerial order which applies to meetings governed by BC's *Societies Act*

Electronic attendance at corporate meetings

3 (1) Despite anything in a corporate enactment, a person who is entitled to participate in, including vote at, a corporate meeting may do so by telephone or other communications medium if all of the persons participating in the meeting, whether by telephone, by other communications medium or in person, are able to communicate with each other and, if applicable, vote at the meeting.

Voting will be conducted by using the "Raise Your Hand" feature on a Zoom call or by roll calling of those who are participating by telephone.

Notice of Upcoming Annual Meeting Sunday, February 28 at 11:00am via Zoom

We encourage you to sign in or phone in for the Zoom meeting at **10:45am** to provide time for dealing with any technological difficulties☺ You **must** use the phone information below to connect with the meeting. Do **NOT** use Mount Zion's telephone number. For a copy of the annual report to be mailed to you, please contact the church office between **February 15-18**. Digital copies will be emailed in mid-February.

Please Contact the Church Office for the ZOOM log-in information

Thank you for your prayers and participation in the congregational life of Mount Zion Lutheran Church.

Annual General Meeting



If you are interested in being a part of Church Council, the Nominating Committee is looking for people who feel God is leading them to participate in church leadership. Please contact Tigisti Glaizghi.

In order to vote and/or be elected to Church Council you must be a member of Mount Zion Lutheran Church. Visitors are welcome to attend and participate in the meeting's discussions.

How to Become a Member at Mount Zion

Have you ever wondered how to become a member at Mount Zion? As defined by our constitution, you become a member in **one of three ways**: *received in baptism; through new membership, or transfer from another congregation.* You remain an active member when you receive communion and contribute through your offerings. That's why we like you to fill out a communion card and use your offering envelopes.

In addition to all the other benefits of being an active member, it also means you are eligible to vote at congregational meetings and to be elected to church council. If people are not actively involved with the congregation for more than two years, then they are moved to a responsibility list, but they do not cease to be a member. The only way to lose your membership status is by death, transfer to another congregation, or by request to be removed from the membership list.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Mount Zion, please contact Pastor Marlys at prmarlys@shaw.ca or 604-521-0120. Membership classes can be conducted on ZOOM if there is sufficient interest.

Mount Zion Church Council Team Descriptions

Mount Zion's Church Council operates with an executive and teams. Team leaders are members of church council, but any individual can serve (play!) on any team, providing everyone with an opportunity to serve and play together. The following list outlines the teams and some duties. If you would like to be a part of a team please contact Lyna Kiviste or one of the Church Council members. **Please note: Some responsibilities have changed due to public health orders.**

WORSHIP

- Lectors, Acolytes, Ushers, Pulpit Supply, Communion: set up & clean up, launder & iron linens, polish silver/brass, communion bread, check supplies with Pr. Marlys to order
- Prepare Narthex: communion cards, pencils, pew clean up, post hymn numbers
- Worship folders, collection plates, candle lighting supplies, guestbook, water and glasses, children's colouring supplies, table with information, sign up sheets, cards, etc.

Special Services: Advent, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, etc.

- Music: Musician, Special guests/groups

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

- Maintenance, Rentals, Contracts, Budget, Lawns, Furnace, Roof, Gutters, Insurance

PARISH EDUCATION

- Sunday School, English as a Second Language (ESL) Bible Study, Adult Education, Vacation Bible School (VBS), Bible Studies, Confirmation, Youth Group, Christmas Tree

JOY (Outreach and Fellowship)

- Coffee, Greeters, Community, Advertising, Hospitality, Dinners, Special Events (often coordinated with LCW events), Congregational Picnic, Easter Breakfast, Soup Lunches

STEWARDSHIP

- Money, Time and Talent

Pre-Authorized Giving: Several members have requested pre-authorized debiting to facilitate their giving of offerings. On the following page you will find a form letter, enabling you to provide authorization to Mount Zion Lutheran Church to debit your bank account. Contact Len Imrie for further information.

_____/_____/_____
(month, date, year)

Mount Zion Lutheran Church of New Westminster
690 Cumberland Street
New Westminster, BC V3L3H4

Subject: Authorization to debit account

Dear Treasurer,

This letter is to acknowledge that Mount Zion Lutheran Church of New Westminster is hereby authorized to debit my account below in the amount of \$_____ on the _____ day of every month for my donation.

Please withdraw the funds from the following bank account:

Bank Name: _____

Bank Address: _____

Bank Transit No: _____

Name on the account: _____

Account No: _____

Please allocate my donation as follows:

Current Expenses	\$_____
Building Fund	\$_____
BC Synod Support (Missions)	\$_____
Other (specify)	\$_____

I enclose a "VOID" cheque from the account.

Sincerely,

Signature/Name