

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

January 2022  
Volume 10, Issue 1

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During the COVID-19 pandemic we are following provincial health orders and recommendations. 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.



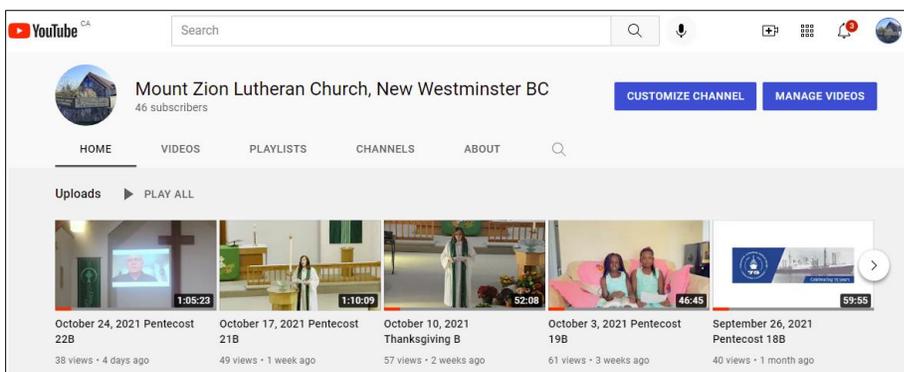
# Message

2022 January Newsletter

## Worship Returns to Online Only

In light of rising case counts and out of concern for one another, Mount Zion's COVID-19 Task Force decided to cancel in-person worship services for the month of January. They will meet again during the week of January 23 to determine future plans.

**Check out online worship services on our YouTube channel, Mount Zion Lutheran Church, New Westminster BC.**



If you would like to video the Bible readings, please contact Pastor Marlys at 604-521-0120 or [prmarlys@shaw.ca](mailto:prmarlys@shaw.ca). Other events and gatherings continue on Zoom:



**Sunday Coffee Time**  
**Church Council & COVID-19 Task**

**zooming Right Along...**

**Bible Study Reflections**

**Please contact [mountzion930@gmail.com](mailto:mountzion930@gmail.com) for more info or to receive a Zoom link.**

Check our website ([www.mtzionlutheran.ca](http://www.mtzionlutheran.ca)) or call the church office (604-521-0120) Monday through Thursday mornings for updates and information.

We continue to pray for wisdom as we journey together during this time of pandemic. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we love God and love our neighbour.



# Welcome to 2022!

It seems like the Facebook meme is coming true: 2022 just means 2020 too! Others have commented how they feel like they are living in the movie *Groundhog Day* because the same things keep happening over and over, seemingly without end. Once again we are in the midst of restrictions and lockdowns. Did some of the progress in 2021 (like in-person worship, larger gatherings, etc.) really happen or was it just a dream?!

As I was reflecting upon 2021, especially with an ongoing pandemic, I realized I was sounding a lot like some of the psalmists and prophets, especially when they were wondering where God was in the midst of the ongoing struggles. The hymn, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" came to mind, maybe because it is often used as a hymn for a new year. It is based on the beginning of Psalm 90:

*"Our Lord, in all generations you have been our home.*

*<sup>2</sup> You have always been God—long before the birth of the mountains,*

*even before you created the earth and the world.*

*<sup>3</sup> At your command we die and turn back to dust,*

*<sup>4</sup> but a thousand years mean nothing to you!*

*They are merely a day gone by or a few hours in the night.*

*<sup>5</sup> You bring our lives to an end just like a dream."*

Yes, even while troubles last, God continues to be our help, our guide and guard, and our eternal home.

Written by Isaac Watts in 1714, Hymnary.org reports that this was a time of turmoil and fear that the persecution of Protestants would resume upon the death of Queen Anne. "*The Psalter Hymnal Handbook* editors write that this hymn "expresses a strong note of assurance, promise, and hope in the LORD as recorded in the first part of Psalm 90, even though the entire psalm has a recurring theme of lament" (*PHH*). Thus, this hymn is appropriate for celebration, but particularly as an assurance in times of lament or fear, or as a song of our own faith and trust in the face of trials."

As we begin this New Year, we lament the losses and sorrows of this past year with the deaths of loved ones and the many occasions we were unable to gather as we are accustomed to doing, but we also celebrate the many joys and God's faithfulness to us. There have been so many answers to prayer, especially for healing, and many unexpected blessings in the midst of staying home and learning to connect in different ways. We have learned we are resilient and flexible, even in times of anxiety – and even when we may be tired of being resilient and flexible!

**"O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come." *May God grant us strength and hope for each day to come as we continue to make our home with our ever-faithful God. Amen.***

## 74 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

1. O God, our help in a - ges past, Our  
 2. Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy  
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, Or  
 4. A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are

3  
 hope for years to come, Our shel - ter from the  
 saints have dwelt se - cure; Suf - fi - cient is Thine  
 earth re - ceived her frame, From ev - er - last - ing  
 like an eve - ning gone; Short as the watch that

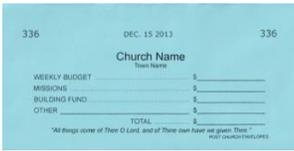
6  
 storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home!  
 arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.  
 Thou art God, To end - less years the same.  
 ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.

This tune in a higher key, No. 73.  
Baptist Hymnal 1991 74  
WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748  
MUSIC: (ST. ANNE 8.6.8.6 (C.M.)) William Croft, 1678-1727

## 74 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

5. Time, like an everrolling stream,  
Bears all its sons away;  
They fly, forgotten, as a dream  
Dies at the op'ning day.

6. O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,  
And our eternal home.



## Offering Envelopes 2022

Offering envelopes are ready for 2022. Thank you for your generous support of Mount Zion.

## Mutual Ministry Team

Mount Zion is looking for three or four new people for the Mutual Ministry Team. Please pray about your possible involvement or someone you think may be suitable for this team. The following items identify the role for the Mutual Ministry Team.

- To work with the congregational council/board to ensure clear and realistic expectations are developed for council/board members, rostered ministers, congregational ministries and staff.
- To support effective communication among the congregation, rostered ministers and staff.
- To act as a confidential sounding board and support team for rostered ministers and staff.
- To review and provide timely compensation recommendations to the congregational council/ board for rostered ministers and staff if there is no other personnel team in place.
- To work towards conflict resolution as it arises and involves the rostered minister or other staff members.

For more information you may wish to speak with Norma Houde or Vivienne Welters who have served with the Mutual Ministry Team.

## Canada Lutheran

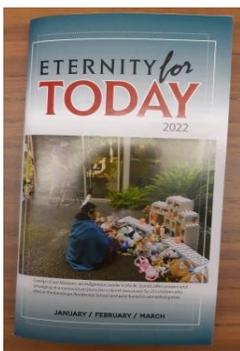


The *Canada Lutheran* is the magazine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) which is the denomination to which Mount Zion belongs. Mount Zion Lutheran pays for subscriptions through the Congregation Subscription Plan (CSP) at a rate of \$19.48/subscription. If you wish to assist with costs, you may designate an amount for *Canada Lutheran* on the "other" line of your offering envelope.

Please contact Margaret Leech at 604-521-0120 or [mzrecords@shaw.ca](mailto:mzrecords@shaw.ca) if you wish to add/remove your name from the subscription list.

*As the magazine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the mission of Canada Lutheran is to engage the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada in a dynamic dialogue in which information, inspiration and ideas are shared in a thoughtful and stimulating way.*

## 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*, may also be available. Please contact Margaret Leech for information.



- Teachers, students, healthcare & frontline workers
- People who are ill with COVID-19
- Thank God for vaccines and many answered prayers.
- Families who have had a loved one die due to drug overdose or COVID-19
- Safe travel for those visiting family and/or on holiday

Thank you for the many cards, greetings and gifts I received over Christmas. I also appreciate your prayers and support as we continue to be partners in ministry for another year. God's peace+ to all.

Pastor Marlys



# PADANG RELIEF SOCIETY

## January Update

Padang Relief Society (PRS) operates SOS Children’s Village in Malakal city in South Sudan. This home is designed to shelter, feed, clothe, educate and give medical assistance to 150 children whose parents have died from the war and various diseases in South Sudan. Many of you provided financial assistance at the end of 2019 to relocate 35 of these children from Juba to Malakal which is a safer, more stable and sustainable place.

At SOS Children’s Village the children receive free medical and dental care but PRS must buy the medicine and supplies. Some of the food is provided by the World Food Programme. PRS has worked hard to establish such partnerships with other organizations but your help is also greatly needed.

It costs PRS \$15,000 per year to provide the operational funds for the SOS Children’s Village for items such as clothing, education fees and medical supplies for these children. That works out to only **\$100 per child for one full year of support.**

Consider a gift to support one or more children for this coming year. One donor has already committed to providing \$7,500 as long as PRS raises the matching amount by **January 31, 2022.**

There are many opportunities to contribute to various projects and areas of need, so please pray about where to give your donation. If you sense God’s leading to provide a gift to assist orphaned children in South Sudan, please make your cheque payable to Padang Relief Society and mail to:

**Padang Relief Society**  
10-1025 Queens Avenue  
New Westminster BC V3M 1M4

**Please note: Your donation is tax deductible.**

Your prayers and financial donations are greatly appreciated.

## Stephen Ministry

On February 23, 2020 at its Annual General Meeting, Mount Zion approved the use of Lay Training funds to train two new Stephen Leaders who are then equipped to train others as Stephen Ministers. Then COVID-19 interrupted those plans. Now that the training of Stephen Leaders has moved online, we are hoping to proceed. **Please pray for God’s Spirit to call those who have a heart and gifts for Stephen Ministry to train as Stephen Leaders.**

Mount Zion did have a team of Stephen Ministers more than 25 years ago, but many may not remember what they did. So in case you are wondering what Stephen Ministry is, here is a description from their website: (<https://www.stephenministries.org/stephenministry/default.cfm/917?mnb=1>) “Stephen Ministry offers a proven and effective way to organize, equip, and supervise a team of congregation members—called *Stephen Ministers*—to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties.” Stephen Ministry is about equipping people to use their gifts in ministry, helping people grow in their faith, providing care and support for hurting people, building up the congregation as a caring community, and reaching unchurched people with the love of Jesus. Their mission fits so well with the mission of Mount Zion which is to reach out in love, sharing the message of God’s hope through Jesus Christ.



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message of hope through Jesus Christ.**

Many of you may recall the blessing we do at the beginning of the year:

O God, you revealed your Son to all people by the shining light of a star. We pray that you bless this church home and all who gather here with your gracious presence. May your love be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The following is a blessing for you to do in your own home. Peace be with you+



## BLESSING FOR A HOME AT EPIPHANY

### Greeting

May peace be to this house and to all who enter here.

By wisdom a house is built and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. *(See Proverbs 24:3-4)*

The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust for ever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting-places. *(see Isaiah 32:17-18)*

### Inscription

20+CMB+19

[The magi of old known as]

**C** Caspar, **M** Melchior, and **B** Balthasar

Followed the star of God's Son who came to dwell among us

**20** two thousand

**19** and nineteen years ago

+ Christ, bless this house

+ and remain with us throughout the new year.

[CMB – Latin words *Christe mansionem benedica* or “Christ bless this house”]

### Prayer of Blessing

O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, bless this house and all who enter through this door. Make us ready to leave all behind and follow your light as did your servants, the magi. May we in this year proclaim your everlasting glory in a world troubled by fear and sin; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*(Then everyone may walk from room to room, blessing the house with incense or by sprinkling with water, perhaps using a branch from the Christmas tree. Or you may use a lighted candle to lead the way from one room to the next.)*

### Sending

*(People may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of their baptism.)*

May the Lord watch + over our going out and our coming in, from this time forth and forevermore.

**Amen.**

(Adapted from *Sundays & Seasons*, copyright © 2012 Augsburg Fortress and *Welcome Home: Scripture, Prayers and Blessings for the Household, Year of Luke*, page 69; Augsburg Fortress, 1997.)

