

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

June 2021
Volume 9, Issue 5

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During the pandemic we are following provincial health orders. Check the website for updates on in-building worship services.

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(604) 521-0525 (fax)

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

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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 June Newsletter

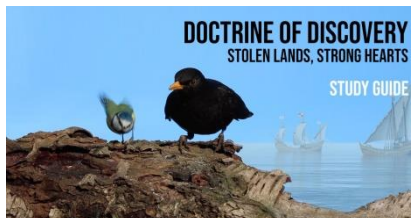
Broken Hearts

"It has been devastating and heartbreaking to hear in the news that the remains of 215 children buried in unmarked graves have been found on the Kamloops Indian Residential School grounds."



Thus begins the letter from the bishops of the ELCIC with a renewed call for reconciliation. The entire letter can be found in this newsletter, beginning on page 5. Although many non-Indigenous people were shocked by such news, it was common knowledge for decades among Indigenous people about such burial sites and undocumented graves.

Canadian history has whitewashed what happened to Indigenous people for centuries, so it is imperative for those of us who are "settlers," and especially those of us who claim to be Christians, to become educated. The exploitation of Indigenous people and their lands began with Papal Bulls (or decrees) of the 15th century which gave Christian explorers the right to claim lands they "discovered" and lay claim to those lands for their Christian monarchs. Any land that was not inhabited by Christians was considered "empty" and deemed available to be "discovered", claimed, and exploited. Such lands included the Americas and Africa. Residential schools



and the Indian Act in Canada, as well as legislation in other countries perpetuated this notion of sovereignty and white supremacy. As Christians we have so much to learn, to repent of, before we can truly begin to work towards healing and reconciliation with Indigenous people. On Wednesday evenings we will be viewing and discussing this documentary. Please email mountzion930@gmail.com for the Zoom link. Even if you cannot join us on Wednesdays, the documentary and study guide are available here: <https://www.anglican.ca/primate/tfc/dri/doctrineofdiscovery/>

On June 6, 1944 Canadians were involved in a battle against Nazism and white supremacy. We remember that day with pride.

As I write this today, on June 6, 2021, Canadians again need to engage in the battle against white supremacy. In addition to learning about our Canadian story, our accomplishments as well as atrocities, here is a link to 10 practical things we can do to support Indigenous communities at this time: <https://www.ictinc.ca/blog/10-things-you-can-do-kamloops-indian-residential-school>

With June marking National Indigenous History Month, it is appropriate and timely to being this long, overdue journey. We

Pastor's Message
continued from Page 1...

need more than a month but we must begin now. Behold, now is the acceptable time! **A note of warning:** This is not an easy, quick, nor comfortable process. So we pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us in our learning, in our repenting and in our transforming to be sisters and brothers in Christ to all of our neighbours. Jesus has commanded us to love God and to love neighbour.

No more excuses, no more exceptions. No more broken hearts

-Pastor Marlys



Worship in a Pandemic

Rev. Dr. James Hendricksen, an ELCIC pastor in Alberta, is conducting a research study about the impacts of congregations moving to online services during the COVID-19 pandemic. From this research, we wish to learn something about your experiences participating in online worship. We would like to know what your congregation attempted to provide, how you felt about it and how well it met your needs. We would like to know some of what you appreciated about these services and what changes, if any, you would like to see in future presentations. Finally, we would like to know what effect these services have had on your attitudes toward online and in-person worship and how this experience might shape your plans with respect to online or in-person worship.

The survey will take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete.

For more information, please click this link

[\[https://drive.google.com/.../1bsyt5wjzhBhTiQeERxy.../view...\]](https://drive.google.com/.../1bsyt5wjzhBhTiQeERxy.../view...).

To complete the survey click on this link

[\[https://mact.limequery.com/418649?lang=en\]](https://mact.limequery.com/418649?lang=en).

Book Nook Progress!



Saturday, June 5 was a cloudy day, but the rain held off at the appropriate times. The post to support the Book Nook is firmly in the ground, in thanks to a great team. We had diggers, levellers, concrete helpers and design consultants. Thanks to Paulos Nizghi, Katie Nieman, Trenton and Glenys Welters, Pr. Marlys Moen, Barb Davison, Byron and Vivienne Welters, and Don Leech (who made sure the books will stay dry when the sprinklers pop up☺)

Next step - installing the Book Nook! Look for Mount Zion's neighbourhood Little Free Library to be ready for its first visitors very soon.

With the proximity to F.W. Howay School and the need for appropriate books for youth and children, we welcome your donations. The premise is to *Take a Book, Leave a Book.*

Thank you from the Book Nook Team:

Barbara Davison, Lyna Kiviste, Pr. Marlys, Sophia Robinson, Glenys Welters, Vivienne Welters

In-Person Worship Service with Holy Communion

Sunday, June 13 at 10:00am

Book your spot now! According to the Order of the Public Health Officer, only **fifty (50)** people can be present. You must **pre-register by NOON on Friday, June 11**. Please contact the church office, 604-521-0120, with your name and contact information. We also require a **signed waiver** which is included with this newsletter. If possible, please return the waiver by dropping it off at the church, by scanning and emailing it before the service, by regular mail, or by bringing it with you, unless you have provided one already.

The service will be recorded and posted to Mount Zion's YouTube channel if you are not able to attend in the building.



Please note:

- ☆ Bathrooms will be available.
- ☆ A mask must be worn.
- ☆ Proper physical distancing (2m) must be maintained.
- ☆ We will meet upstairs in the sanctuary.
- ☆ **Only the Cumberland entrance will be used.**
- ☆ Congregational singing is not permitted at this time.
- ☆ Socializing before and after the service is also not permitted.

Help Prevent the Spread of COVID-19. Please DO NOT COME if:

you have any of the following symptoms:

- ☆ Fever
- ☆ Chills
- ☆ New or worsening cough
- ☆ Shortness of breath
- ☆ New muscle aches or headaches
- ☆ You have travelled outside of Canada within the last 14 days
- ☆ You are a close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19

Devotional Booklets

- The July-September edition of *Eternity for Today* is now available. (We still have copies of the April-June edition.) 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. We are limited to 10 copies of this resource, but are looking into other options. Please contact Margaret to be added to a potential list of recipients.

Items to Give Away: a big Panasonic microwave, a Sony TV and stand, a set of everyday dishes for 8 with a few chips, and a couple of occasional chairs. If you need any or all of these items, or know of someone who does, please contact the church office 604-521-0120, with your name and contact information.

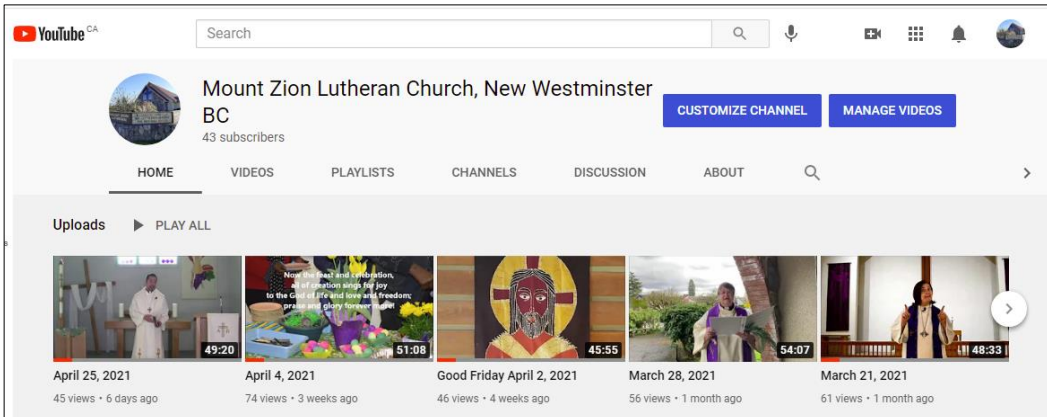
<p>Just So You Know... The chart to the right gives you a snapshot of our financial situation for the month of April, as well as for the year to date. Thank you for your faithful support!</p>	Non Designated	Apr 2021	YTD 2021
	Donation	\$ 5,636	\$ 19,594
	Rent	\$ 1,904	\$ 7,673
	Subsidy	\$ 10,000	\$ 12,099
	Other Income	\$ 3,926	\$ 4,222
	Expenses	\$ (30,328)	\$ (64,620)
	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)	\$ (8,862)	\$ (21,032)




EMERGENCY APPEAL
COVID-19 Crisis in India

Donate now at www.clwr.org
or by designating
"CLWR - India" on your
offering envelope.

Mount Zion's Online Presence Worship at Mount Zion Still Looks Like This!



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.



- People struggling with isolation
- Healthcare & frontline workers, teachers
- People in nursing homes with limited visitation
- COVID-19 crisis in India
- Thank God for vaccines and many answered prayers. Grant patience while we wait for our turn.



zooming Right Along...

**Bible Study
Church Council
COVID-19 Task Force
Coffee Time**

Join us for Reflections on Wednesdays at 7:00pm. Contact Vivienne Welters.

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 on the 4th Sunday of the month) 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 moutzion930@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!

COVID-19 Task Force Update

Public health orders now permit worship services in the building, provided we follow many protocols. We are experimenting with in-building worship on Sunday, June 13 and will then assess what future worship and gathering options may be possible. Such events require several volunteers, so if you are interested in helping, please contact the COVID-19 Task Force: Shirles Burton, Monica Deng, Norma Houde, Lyna Kiviste, Pastor Marlys, or Vivienne Welters. We look forward to gathering again in person, so please continue to pray for the health and well-being of all.



June 1, 2021

A Renewed Call to Reconciliation

It has been devastating and heartbreaking to hear in the news that the remains of 215 children buried in unmarked graves have been found on the Kamloops Indian Residential School grounds.

We invite all members across the ELCIC to join us in offering our heartfelt empathy and prayers for the families of those children, for the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation, for the City of Kamloops and for First Nations Communities across Canada as they grieve this loss. Let us offer solidarity, support and care to all who are feeling grief, anger, trauma and the need for healing. Please join us in praying for comfort and peace.

News about undocumented deaths of our nation's Indigenous children is tragic. Yet, as Richard Jock, CEO of the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) said, "[it] is sadly not a surprise and illustrates the damaging and lasting impacts that the residential school system continues to have on First Nations people, their families and communities." This is further proof of the sinful and abusive legacy of these schools — schools in which the church and government were active participants.

The remains of these children show us the depth of our systemic racism and the lengths that the dominant culture was willing to go in order to destroy another culture. Many of us can connect our ancestors to the history of the dominant culture. Knowledge of this cruel history is something that demands our repentance, but also asks us to faithfully work for a better and different future.

We name today the devastating and ongoing cultural, emotional, and spiritual impact that residential schools continue to have on Indigenous peoples

In 2011, the ELCIC made a commitment to promote right and renewed relationships between non-indigenous and Indigenous Peoples within Canada. In 2015, the ELCIC repudiated the *Doctrine of Discovery*. We committed ourselves to seek greater understanding of the issues facing Indigenous peoples, and to walk with Indigenous peoples in their ongoing efforts to exercise their inherent sovereignty and fundamental human rights.

We call on all members of the ELCIC to re-engage in the work of reconciliation to which we have been called in baptism. This means educating ourselves on our history and understanding. It means listening to the voices that are often marginalized or silenced in our conversations.

It also means insisting on accountability. Talk with your government representatives and encourage them to follow through on recommendations #71-#76 of the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada \(TRC\) Calls to Action](#) dealing specifically with Missing Children and Burial Information. Talk with your pastor, your deacon and your faith community about responding to Calls to Action #59-#61 in your context.

If you are looking for further resources, please consider the following:

[2011 ELCIC Convention Resolution on Encouraging Right Relationships with Indigenous Peoples](#)

[2015 ELCIC Convention Resolution repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery](#)

The Anglican Church of Canada [2019 Apology for Spiritual Harm](#)

[Anglican Church of Canada Reconciliation Toolkit](#)

Indigenous Ministries award winning film [Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen lands, Strong Hearts](#)

[The KAIROS Blanket Exercise](#)

[The TRC Calls to Action](#)

Lastly, we return again to our need to pray. Pray for Indigenous siblings, for right relationships, for your community, and for ourselves as we continue to live into our ministry of reconciliation in Christ's name


Join us in prayer:

Faithful God,

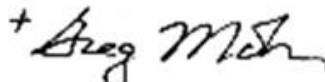
We remember the many, many, Indigenous children who did not return from residential school, including those whose remains were discovered on the grounds of the Kamloops (Tk'emlúps) Residential School. Grant comfort in the midst of grief and trauma. Strengthen the Secwépemc people, Indian Residential School survivors, their families and their communities as they process this tragic loss. Renew our commitment to the journey of truth-telling, mourning and responsibility and guide us in the ways of healing and love.

Amen.

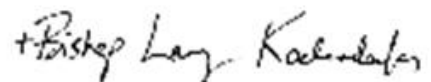
Yours in Christ,



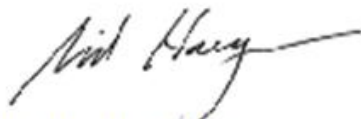
The Rev. Susan Johnson
National Bishop, ELCIC



The Rev. Dr. Greg Mohr
British Columbia Synod



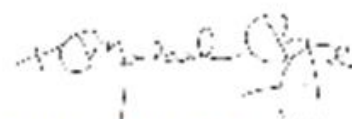
The Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer
Synod of Alberta and the Territories



The Rev. Dr. Sid Haugen
Saskatchewan Synod



The Rev. Jason Zinko
Manitoba/Northwestern
Ontario Synod



The Rev. Michael Pryse
Eastern Synod

Release, Waiver of Liability, and Assumption of Risk Agreement Relating to COVID-19

EVERY VISITOR MUST SIGN THE BELOW AGREEMENT BEFORE ATTENDING AT ANY
SERVICE AT THE CONGREGATION

**(BY SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT, YOU WILL WAIVE CERTAIN LEGAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING
THE RIGHT TO SUE. PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!)**

Date of Initial Visit: _____

Name: _____

Name of Guardian (if applicable): _____

Home Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

In consideration of Mount Zion Lutheran Church of New Westminster (the "Congregation") permitting me access onto its property and premises at 930 Cumberland Street, New Westminster (the "Property") for the purpose of worship, meetings, gatherings and other events

I ACKNOWLEDGE AND AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

I have been made aware that and acknowledge:

- The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is contagious and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. As a result, federal, provincial, and local governments and federal and provincial health agencies recommend physical distancing and have, in many locations, prohibited the congregation of mass groups of people.
- The risks of COVID-19 are not fully understood, and contact with, or transmission of, COVID-19 may result in risks including but not limited to personal injury, illness, permanent disability, death, damage, loss, and expense, the exact nature of which are not currently ascertainable.
- The Congregation has put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 at the Property; however, the Congregation is not responsible in any manner for any risks related to COVID-19 or if my family members or I develop COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID-19.
- Attendance at the Property carries with it certain inherent risks related to COVID-19 transmission that cannot be eliminated regardless of the care taken to avoid such risks. Inherent risks may include, but are not limited to: (1) the risk of coming into close contact with individuals or objects that may be carrying COVID-19; (2) the risk of transmitting or contracting COVID-19, directly or indirectly, to or from other individuals; and (3) injuries and complications ranging in severity from minor to catastrophic, including death, resulting directly or indirectly from COVID-19 or its treatment.
- By attending the Property, I could increase my risk and my family's risk of contracting COVID-19.

I voluntarily accept and assume the risk that I may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by attending the Property and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, death, damage, loss, and expense.

I understand that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 at the Property may result from the actions, omissions, negligence, breach of contract, or breach of statutory duty of myself and others, including, but not limited to the Congregation, the BC Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (the "**Synod**"), and the Congregation's and Synod's respective directors, officers, managers, employees, agents, servants, representatives, and contractors (collectively the "**Lutheran Parties**").

I agree, on behalf of myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns to hereby release, waive, discharge, and covenant not to sue the Lutheran Parties from any and all causes of action, claims, demands, liabilities, requests, damages or any recourse whatsoever that I now have or may have in the future, in respect of any personal injuries or other damages which may occur or arise as a result of exposure to COVID-19 during my visit to the Property, whether caused by the negligence, breach of contract, or breach of statutory duty of care of the Lutheran Parties or otherwise.

I will abide by the Congregation's safety and COVID-19 guidelines at all times while I am on the Property and will follow and comply with the instructions of the Congregation's leaders, employees, and volunteers with respect to COVID-19 precautions;

I represent and warrant that I do not have symptoms of COVID-19, have not been diagnosed with COVID-19, am not awaiting the results for a COVID-19 diagnostic test, have not been in close contact with or have a household member with COVID-19, and have not travelled internationally within the last 14 days. If any of these conditions apply to me, I will not enter the Property;

I understand that this permission to attend at the Property may be revoked at any time by a Congregation representative for failure to comply with COVID-19 safety guidelines and, if revoked, I agree to leave the Property immediately;

I agree that this Release, Waiver of Liability and Assumption of Risk Agreement extends to all acts of negligence by the Lutheran Parties, whether a COVID-19 infection occurs before, during, or after my attendance at the Property, and is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the laws of British Columbia and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall continue in full legal force and effect.

I have read this Release, Waiver of Liability and Assumption of Risk Agreement, fully understand its terms, understand that I have given up substantial legal rights against the Lutheran Parties by signing it, and have signed it freely and voluntarily without any inducement, assurance, or guarantee being made to me. I intend my signature to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability to the greatest extent allowed by law.

Signed at _____ this ____ day of _____, 20____.