

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

May 2020
Volume 8, Issue 3

Inside this Issue

- 1 Pastor's Message
- 2 Chairperson's Report
Online Worship
- 3 CLWR Appeal
Prayer Requests
Zoom Coffee Time
- 4 Lift Installation Update
Virtual Meetings

During the COVID-19 pandemic we are following provincial health protocols. There will be NO in-person worship services, meetings or events.

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.



Pastor's Musings

Some thoughts from the beginning of COVID-19 era:

March 22, 2020

This is the first Sunday that worship was cancelled. We've never cancelled worship before, even when it's been snowing and streets almost impassable. We've always had the church open – and sure enough, there would be someone looking to worship. Like the Christmas we had so much snow and it was people from the neighbourhood who walked to church since they couldn't get to their own church.

But this is different...so completely different.

It's strange to be sitting here in my office on a Sunday morning – and the building is empty! Not even Marg and Don are here – or Norma.

This definitely fits in that long list of "Things They Don't Teach You at Seminary."

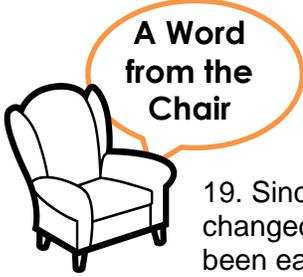
About 10:15 I decided to wander into the sanctuary. And at first it felt almost eerie to be walking into this empty building. But as I meandered down the aisle I thought about the people who normally would have been sitting in that pew. And I started to pray for each one...And this sense of peace and purpose came over me. I could still be a pastor at a time like this. And I almost laughed as I realized that the predictability of people sitting in "their" pew enabled me to picture them sitting in that pew and then to pray.

When I turned around to face the altar I also felt the echoes of the previous day when three of us gathered to prepare for our very first online worship service. Wherever two or three are gathered in my name...and I knew that right at this time there were several people gathered around whatever device they had to share in worship via YouTube.

So thank you God for technology, but especially for your Spirit who continues to breathe life and hope into us, even while we are practising safe distancing that keeps us apart physically. But we are together in Spirit...family of God always.+

Preparing worship space in your home:

I have heard some enjoy settling into a favourite recliner with a cup of coffee in hand as you prepare for online worship. Wonderful! I'm glad to hear you are comfortable☺ Grab your Bible so you can follow along with the readings. Light a candle as a visual reminder of Christ's presence with you in your home. (Try doing it as you hear the chimes on the video!) And don't forget! When you wash your face, mark the sign of the cross on your forehead to remind you of your baptism and that you are God's beloved child.



A Word from the Chair

It is hard to believe that it has now been six weeks since our church doors were closed to in-person services due to COVID-19. Since then our lives have changed completely. It has not been easy and, quite frankly, it has been challenging for many. As we practice social isolation I think it is so important to remember that **we are still connected** through

our love of God and his love of us. We are connected through our online worship services, through the scriptures and our prayers. We are also connected as we reach out, seeking alternate ways to wrap our way around each other and our community. Yes, it feels different, but as Dr. Bonnie Henry stated, "We will get through this storm. It is not forever".

God bless you and stay safe,
Lyna, Chairperson, Church Council



Just Thought You'd Like to Know...

	March 2020	YTD 2020
Income	\$ 10,094	\$ 30,055
Expenses	\$ 28,523	\$ 59,339
Surplus/(Deficit)	(18,429)	(29,285)

Please note: The deficit includes the recent payment of \$15,554 for insurance.
Thank you for your faithful support.

Worship at Mount Zion now looks like this!

Online worship services are available on our YouTube channel, Mount Zion Lutheran Church, New Westminster BC. Check our website for updates and information at www.mtzionlutheran.ca

We are always looking for people to video the Bible readings at home and/or come to the church to lead the singing. Please contact Pastor Marlys at 604-521-0120.

Thank you for your support and encouragement during this unusual time. God is using this pandemic to push us to reach out way beyond our building! After all, the church is not a building. The church is God's people. Thanks be to God for unexpected gifts!



Baling Days have been postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions. While quilting and packing school and learning kits have been suspended, one of the ways you can continue supporting CLWR's We Care program is by donating a *quick kit* or *hygiene kit*.

CLWR has also issued an **Urgent Appeal**. Your support is critical as CLWR partners work on the frontlines to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and offer care to those affected. You can find out more information and/or donate online at <https://www.clwr.org/>

**Please Pray for...
Chagai and Aluel**



Your prayers and financial support for Chagai Lual and his wife Aluel Nyok are still needed as they await the re-opening of international borders and flights to return home to Canada. Currently they are in Malakal, South Sudan. Donations may be made to the Emergency Fund at Mount Zion to assist them during this unexpected delay.

CLWR's ministry to the most vulnerable in this COVID-19 crisis, especially in:
Southeast Asia, Jordan, Ethiopia, Jerusalem and Refugee Camps

Gardening at Mount Zion



Calling all people who love to dig in the dirt and make our grounds beautiful! The garden crew has returned and plan to garden once a month. The next garden gathering will be **May 5, 2020 at 1:00pm**. Lyna Kiviste writes: "We (our merry gardening crew) think we could manage to keep and feel safe with a max of five. If you hear of anyone else who is interested in gardening let me know. There is a lot to do (edging, pruning, adding top soil) and I could organize a second crew to come at a different time. Watch for our tulips to pop." **Note:** You can contact Lyna at 604-520-6300.

**Do you miss getting together and visiting after church on Sundays?
Then join us on Sunday mornings at 11:00am.
Bring your own beverage and treats☺**



**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. (And 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!

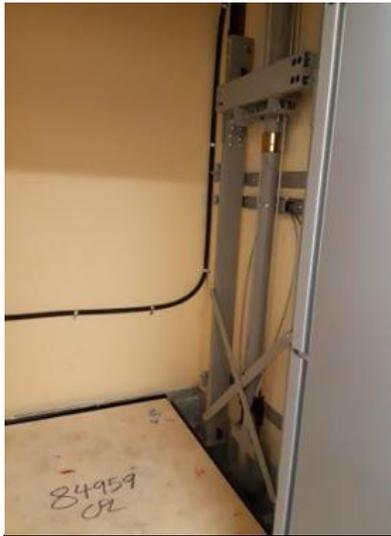
Please remember to pray for your church council as they continue to meet via Zoom. They are thoughtfully and prayerfully considering what to do with various government programs and benefits available at this time. The BC Synod has made a generous gift of \$10,000 to each congregation, a gift made possible through the sale of various properties. This is welcome news, especially in light of our Saturday tenant's decision to move on elsewhere, effective July 31. We are grateful for the various ways God has provided... and look forward to the surprises and opportunities God has in store next.

Lift Installation Update

Whoop hoo! The lift is expected to be operational in about two weeks, pending inspections by the City of New Westminster and Technical Safety BC.



Peering down the lift shaft from upstairs...



Lift mechanism installed



Lift entrance - upstairs



To the Left: entrance to motor room for lift
To the Right: extended LCW storage room



Automatic door is in place and operational

Saturday, May 23, 10:00am
Rejoice!
Together in the Risen Lord...
A joint Zoom gathering for Roman Catholics and Lutherans. More info to follow.

A few wise words...
"COVID-19 may be closing down the church, but it can't close down our faith!"
-A wise woman from Mount Zion

Virtual Meetings

Societies now have the option of hosting virtual or hybrid meetings even if the society's bylaws and the Societies Act, and any regulations under these acts, state otherwise. This is the result of a [ministerial order](#) that will remain in force for the duration of the current state of emergency. Where a notice is required, instructions for participation can be provided in lieu of a physical location.

(<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/business/not-for-profit-organizations/societies-agm-covid-19>)

.