

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

August 2020
Volume 8, Issue 6

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

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.



Message

2020 Season after Pentecost Newsletter

Pastor's Musings

Waiting on God...and the Provincial Health Officer

At a recent teleconference with faith leaders, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry said she expects that the maximum of 50 people for public gatherings would continue until next summer. That's right...next summer. Summer 2021.

How good are you at waiting?

In the church we talk about Advent as a season of waiting and looking forward to the advent or coming of God: the first coming as the infant Jesus and the second coming as the triumphant Lord. But we only wait for **four weeks!** We light the Advent wreath to count down this time of anticipation. Some people enjoy Advent calendars with a treat behind the door for each day. But I wonder if it makes a difference in this kind of waiting because we actually know what the end date is: Christmas! (Although remember we don't know the date for the **second** coming!)

As we continue in this holding pattern with the COVID-19 pandemic, we don't have a definitive end date. We can't say how many weeks so there's no point in figuring out how many candles to light on the pandemic wreath or how much chocolate to buy for the COVID calendar. (Although chocolate may be a wonderful way to mark this time of waiting, many are now also concerned about a different kind of "weighting" - the dreaded COVID 15 pounds©)

Some of us are probably finding out that we really are not all that patient after all. We prefer certainty and deadlines, so we can plan out our lives. (Dare I book a holiday in January? Will it be safe to travel by then?) But perhaps that just is an indicator of our human tendency to think **we** are actually in control!

All it takes is being with someone who has received a difficult diagnosis or been involved in an accident to realize that our lives are not always under our control.

We who say we are followers of Jesus Christ, who are people of faith, are being put to the test in learning to live and walk in faith, not knowing, not seeing a definite finish line. Hebrews 11:1 provides us with a succinct definition of what walking in faith is: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (NRSV) Easy to say, but sometimes so difficult to actually do!

Take the story of Peter stepping out in faith in response to Jesus' invitation to come to him on the water in Matthew 14:22-33. In commenting on this story where Jesus starts walking on the water towards the frightened disciples who are stuck in a boat on a stormy sea, *Sundays & Seasons* notes: "In the midst of life's storms, our prayers are often for Jesus to immediately rescue us and restore a sense of calm. But instead, Jesus calls us out of the boat and into

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the storm...When Peter's courage is shaken by a strong wind, he begins to sink, and he once again turns to Jesus for strength. Is fear and doubt a hindrance to living faithfully, or are they simply part of the process? In her TED Talk on "How to Make Stress Your Friend," Kelly McGonigal reframes the physiological indications of stress—sweat, shortness of breath, racing heart—as indications that your body is preparing you to meet the challenge ahead (TEDGlobal, June 2013, ted.com). Peter's distress reorients his trust in Jesus and prepare him for his ministry ahead. How might our fears and stressors turn us toward Christ and propel forward our ministry?" (*Sundays & Seasons*, ©2019 Augsburg Fortress, p. 236.)

Now there's a question to ponder while we wait!



Please pray for Chagai as he hopes to return home in the next two weeks from Juba, South Sudan. Donations may be made to the Emergency Fund at Mount Zion to assist Chagai during this unexpected delay. Thanks God for answered prayers as Aluel arrived home safely on July 28.

“Like New” Items for Sale

- Spitfire Scout 3-Wheel Power Scooter;
- Oxygen Generator (Brand New)
- Lift Sleeping Chair

Great prices! For more information please call Barb Davison at 604 431-0111.



Do you believe it? Our summer is half over. I hope everyone is finding peace and joy in this current way of living and keeping safe within the guidelines mapped out by Dr. Bonnie Henry.

Council met in July and we will meet again in August. Every month we discuss where we go next as a congregation - are we ready for in-person gatherings? We also talk about our tenants who have been impacted by this pandemic.

We recently created a Refugee Sponsorship Task Force to review all new requests for sponsorship. This committee will make recommendations to council.

Something else we are working on is updating our appraisal of the church and the Synod Office for insurance purposes.

During the month of July our COVID-19 Task Force has worked on developing a “COVID-19 Safety Plan for Employees”. It will be posted in our church and on our website in the near future.

My thanks to all of you for the many and varied ways in which you contribute to the well-being of our church, our congregation and community.

God bless all of you and, above all, stay safe.

Lyna, Chairperson, Church Council

Just Thought You'd Like to Know...

	June 2020	YTD 2020
Income	\$23,435	\$ 71,261
Expenses	\$13,088	\$ 97,275
Surplus/(Deficit)	10,347	(26,014)

Thank you for your faithful support!



The July-September edition of **Eternity for Today** is still available. Plus the October-December edition has just arrived!

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>

Lift Installation Update – More Waiting

We received a conditional pass from Technical Safety BC, but continue to await final inspection by the City of New Westminster. We look forward to our return to in-person worship and gatherings with the opportunity to facilitate movement of people

Anti-Racism Resource: Check out this free viewing of the documentary Reserve 107 at <https://www.reserve107thefilm.com/> for a story of reconciliation in Saskatchewan among Lutherans, Mennonites and the Young Chippewayan Band.



Excerpts from
A Letter from
Bishop Susan Johnson



Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus. Last year we began a four-year emphasis on *Living our Faith*, an invitation to *Pray, Read, Worship* and *Love*. I am writing to you today to ask for your help and support for next year's emphasis — *Read*.

Over the last year, as a whole church we tried a variety of engaging ways to *Pray*, grow in our experience of prayer and deepen our regular prayer practice. It has warmed my heart to hear about all the ways you have been living out this invitation to be more intentional in your prayer life. I've also learned new ways of praying myself as we shared weekly reflections from members across the church (elcic.ca/livingourfaith/resources.cfm).

This September, we begin the second year of this emphasis focusing specifically on *Read* — the practice of regular reading of scripture.

By the way, just because we are moving into a year of focus on reading the Bible, this doesn't mean we are not praying anymore! Our hope is that with each of these four years, we will deepen our spiritual practices, build on what we learn and how we are *Living our Faith*.

To begin growing our focus on reading the Bible, we invite you to join us in a Bible book of the month book-club type of approach. Each month from September 2020 to August 2021, we hope the whole church will focus on reading the same book of the Bible. We have received permission to use the introductory sections from the *Lutheran Study Bible* to help provide context for each book. And we have asked a broad array of people from across the ELCIC to write questions to help us engage more fully in a discussion of the monthly readings...

We will share more information as plans are finalized leading up to September 2020 when we will be reading Genesis. Be sure to sign up for our '*Living our Faith: Read — Bible Study*' email list (<https://elcic.us3.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=995f38ab3f3a9fb43ccc1bc2d&id=ad24529601>) and invite your congregational members to sign up, visit the website (elcic.ca/LivingourFaith), and watch for more information via ELCIC News and social media.



Farewell and Thank You from Inspire Ministry

Led by the Holy Spirit, Inspire Ministry discerned God's call to leave their rental space at Mount Zion and move to worshipping in homes. They appreciated being here these past few years and look forward to returning for special occasions when they need a larger space. We pray God's blessings upon them as they follow God's leading into their neighbourhoods.



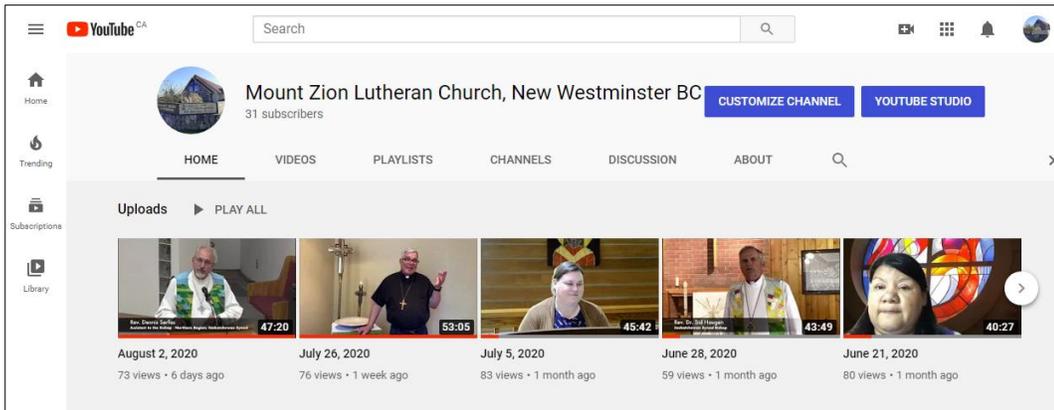
Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

Please check the website of Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) for how you can help vulnerable people in other parts of the world: <https://www.clwr.org/>

As a member of the Humanitarian Coalition, CLWR welcomed the Canadian government's plan to match donations to provide assistance following the disaster in Lebanon. CLWR will be responding through its partners in ACT Alliance who are on the ground in Lebanon, focussing on immediate needs including shelter, food, clean water and trauma care. CLWR is accepting donations now on its website at clwr.org/lebanoncrisis. Donations can also be made by phoning its office at 1-800-661-2597 or by mailing a cheque to 600-177 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 0W5.

Mount Zion's Online Presence

Worship at Mount Zion Still Looks Like This!



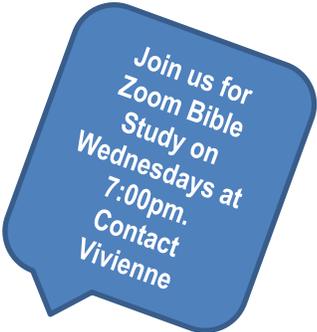
Please note: Pastor Marlys is away from August 20-27. (She will be available for emergency pastoral care only.) Join other ELCIC congregations from across Canada for worship on August 23. Check out <https://www.elcic.ca/publichealth/livestreaming.cfm> for a list of worship services being offered.

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

ZOOM Coffee Time - Sunday mornings at 11:00am

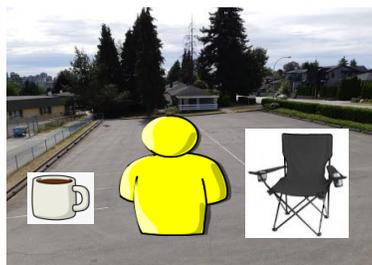
Bring your own beverage and treats ☺

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!



SPECIAL PARKING LOT COFFEE TIME – AUGUST 16 at 11:00am

Book your spot now! According to the Order of the Public Health Officer, only **fifty (50)** people may be present, so we need to keep track of how many are coming. We need your name, contact information and if you're coming in a car, so please contact the church office, 604-521-0120, to reserve a place.



Please note:

- ☆ Bathrooms will be available for emergency use only.
- ☆ Bring a mask, and, if possible, your own hand sanitizer.
- ☆ Bring your own beverage, snacks and chair (if necessary we can provide plastic chairs from the church.)
- ☆ Proper physical distancing (2m) must be maintained.

The **good news** ☺ is we can visit and celebrate God's presence together in person!

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
- ☆ Have travelled outside of Canada within the last 14 days
- ☆ Are a close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19

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