

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

July 2020  
Volume 8, Issue 5

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

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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.



2020 Season after Pentecost Newsletter

## Pastor's Musings

*Embrace the Grace!*

This phrase captured my attention although I no longer remember where I saw it! But it has become a theme for me during this extraordinary season of ordinary time in the church.

Who knew that a global pandemic would bring some much-needed relief for our fragile environment? *Embrace the Grace!*

Who knew that online worship would reach out to so many people, and reconnect Mount Zion with people who no longer are able to come to the building? *Embrace the Grace!*

Who knew that a time of lockdown and slowdown would enable a global community to come together in protest against systemic racism – and maybe actually do more than just pay lipservice in agreement that it is wrong? *Embrace the Grace!*

Who knew that we could be flexible and adjust so quickly to a change in circumstance? *Embrace the Grace!*

Who knew that we would be in lockdown for so long?

Who knew...and I'm sure you can add to the list.

Well, embrace the Grace! The grace of God who continues to sustain us and journey with us during these uncertain times.

*Embrace the Grace!*

I know this is not an easy time for many. Some struggle with working from home and homeschooling their children. Some are working on the frontlines of healthcare. Some are testing positive for COVID-19. Some are survivors of COVID-19. Some have lost their jobs or been laid off. Some are bored because there is not much to do. Some are lonely and feeling isolated because they either dare not go out in public and/or family cannot visit.

Perhaps reading "*Embrace the Grace!*" feels trite. But I believe God is at work in and through us. And God is gracious! I am experiencing that as I receive your phone calls checking in on me, emails that you are praying for me, and your cards and notes of support and encouragement. I experience God's grace through you as you are patient and understanding while I am learning how to do several new things like online worship, meetings and gatherings.

I am particularly grateful to:

- ☆ Don Leech who has faithfully been behind the camera for every worship service posted on YouTube
- ☆ Vivienne Welters who maintains the church website and hosts church meetings and gatherings on Zoom

And thanks be to God for making us in God's image, a God with endless creativity and imagination, gracious (and really necessary!) gifts for such a time as this, capturing our attention and returning our focus to the things that really matter. *Embrace the Grace!*

**A Word from the Chair**



**What is council up to?**

While we typically do not meet in July and August, this year we have decided to meet throughout the summer. Although we are now into Phase 3 of COVID-19 reopening, the BC Synod recommends that we wait until **well** into phase 3 before opening our churches to in-person services. In the meantime, our council has created a COVID-19 Task Force to develop a re-opening plan. There are many rules and guidelines to consider. Like many churches we are seeking an opinion from our insurance provider on liability as it pertains to COVID-19

and re-opening. WorkSafeBC requires we create and post a safety plan that takes into consideration our employees and members of our congregation. We are not racing to re-open but, when we do, we want to have the best plan in place that will lessen the risk of infection and transmission of COVID-19. If anyone is interested in being a part of the COVID-19 Task Force or wants to be a part of our cleaning team please contact me at 604-520-6300.

We continue to remember you in our prayers. Please remember Pastor Marlys and council in your prayers.

God bless you and keep safe.

Lyna, Chairperson, Church Council

**Just Thought You'd Like to Know...**

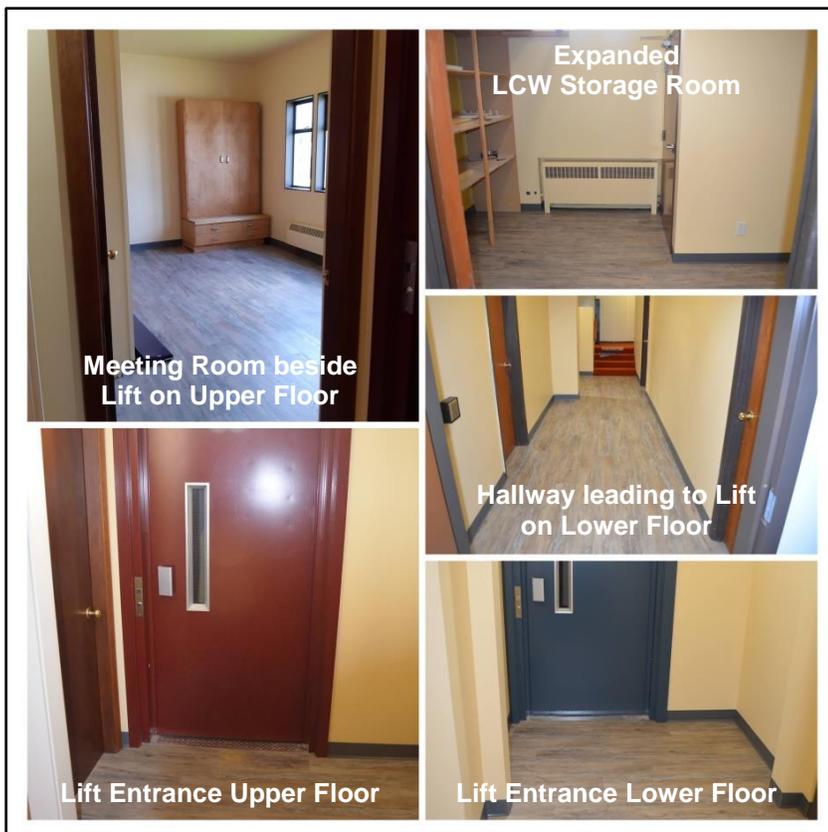
	May 2020	YTD 2020
Income	\$10,415	\$ 47,827
Expenses	\$12,109	\$ 84,082
Surplus/(Deficit)	( 1,694)	( 36,255)

**Thank you for your faithful support!**



The July-September edition of **Eternity for Today** is now 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>

**Lift Installation Update**



We are still awaiting final inspections by the City of New Westminster and Technical Safety BC.

We look forward to our return to in-person worship and gatherings and the opportunity to facilitate movement of people from one floor to another.

Meanwhile, a crew will be busy returning all the music to the cabinet in the refinished meeting room beside the lift on the upper floor.

The Lutheran Church Women (LCW) will also be able to return all their various items to their newly expanded storage room.

Thank you to Bruce Cornish and the members of the Lift Installation Task Force for their faithful oversight.

We have much to celebrate when we can gather together again!

In the meantime, we give thanks to God for the safe completion of this project.

# Mount Zion's Online Presence

## Worship at Mount Zion Continues to Look 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](http://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.

**Please note: Pastor Marlys is away from July 6-21.** (She will be available for emergency pastoral care.) Join with other ELCIC congregations from across Canada for worship on July 12 and July 19. Check out <https://www.elcic.ca/publichealth/livestreaming.cfm> for a list of worship services being offered.

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

**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 ☺



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](mailto: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 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 from Malakal, South Sudan. Donations may be made to the Emergency Fund at Mount Zion to assist them during this unexpected delay.