

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

November 2020
Volume 8, Issue 9

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Notice

During the COVID-19 pandemic we are following provincial health protocols. Most in-person 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.



mount zion **Message**

L U T H E R A N

2020 Season after Pentecost Newsletter

Pastor's Musings: Grief and Hope

November – already?! Maybe it is good we did not have 20/20 vision in January to see how this year was going to unfold, especially after mid-March: a year of abrupt shifts and changes, leading to an extended period of living in alternate ways for health and safety—with no definitive end in sight! November also marks the end of the church year. The worship resource, *Sundays and Seasons*, reminds us that “November’s themes focus on the end—the end of the church year, the end times, and the end of our earthly lives...November is a time to honour grief and to preach hope. Where Jesus is, there is hope for the faithful.”¹

Reasons to grieve may include (but are not limited to):

- + Death of family members and loved ones
- + Loss of any kind: health, job, income, relationship, home, familiar routines, pet, independence, etc.
- + Aging process with accompanying physical and mental changes

COVID-19 and its many restrictions have certainly changed how we grieve, but it is important to grieve our losses of any kind. An excellent resource, *The Faces of Grief*, provides the following quote: “Don’t avoid the pain; the only way to get over the pain is *through* it—not under, above, or around it. Some grief is never gone. It’s a forever-hole in our hearts—such as the suicide of a loved one or the death of a child or partner. We simply learn to live with it. And yet other types of grief, when processed, are finished at some point in time. We may be changed by it (in some ways of which we’re aware and many of which we’re not), but we really are done grieving.”

(https://www.womenoftheelca.org/resources?fwp_paged=4)

As we acknowledge the many losses in this past year, we also look for the ways which have helped us to go *through* this time, the ways in which we have found hope: answered prayer, signs of God’s presence in so many people and places, God’s word, and in many, many other ways. Once more I want to share some encouragement from *The Faces of Grief*: “In the end, however, grief won’t have the last word. While the way through is difficult, we know God holds and surrounds us with lavish love, caressing comfort and serene strength. That same God who walks with us day by day through the grief also holds out to us the promise of new life. Hold on to that hope and keep walking toward the Light, which is the Christ.” As this church year ends, we look forward with hope and anticipation to the promises of Advent. Thanks be to God! Amen.

¹“Preparing for November.” *Sundays & Seasons 2020, Year A: Guide to Worship Planning*. Copyright © 2019 Augsburg Fortress. p. 289.



Do you believe it? It is the beginning of November already. (Dare I say, 55 days to Christmas and counting!)

Council has been busy going over our income and expenses, preparing a budget for our Budget Meeting this month. It is challenging though, not knowing what 2021 will bring. Our budget meeting this year will be different because of the pandemic. While a limited number are able to attend in person, we will also be conducting this meeting via zoom. Hope you can join us. Please try.

Behind the scenes, our property management team continues to work on projects to maintain the upkeep of the church. People involved with Sunday School are exploring creative ways to work with our children. We are in the process of updating our appraisal of the church and synod. Finally, once again we contributed a Remembrance Day wreath on behalf of Mount Zion in honour of those who were lost.

Stay safe and God Bless,
Lyna

COVID-19 Task Force

OUR DUTY TO CARE

In our October Newsletter the COVID-19 Task Force talked about Mount Zion’s “duty to care” for people on our property. We introduced you to 3 of 11 legal recommendations to congregations on how to manage risk of liability. This month our goal is to discuss three other recommendations and what the task force is doing to comply.

1. Stay current with the orders and guidelines issued by regional health officers.

The COVID-19 Task Force meets weekly and reviews new and revised provincial and federal health regulations as posted on government websites and Work Safe BC. From there we update and make modifications to our practices and procedures. It is important to note that in our agreements with renters, they too are required to stay on top of current public health orders and protocols and abide by them accordingly.

2. Impose COVID-19 protocols on renters as a condition for use of church premises.

Mount Zion has gone to great lengths to ensure that all of our renters follow provincial guidelines as a condition for using our church. All of our written agreements with renters include an expectation to follow provincial guidelines in order to ensure safety for all who enter Mount Zion. These agreements are updated as needed. We

have also established a system to monitor the renters to ensure compliance and have followed up on concerns.

3. Confirm COVID-19 coverage with insurer.

As with other faith-based organizations, our insurance company offers limited protection against loss resulting from a disruption of operations due to COVID-19. General restrictions to address this pandemic do not qualify for coverage. The insurance coverage protects against financial deficit due to a limitation or loss of use as a direct result of someone contracting COVID-19 while on our premises.

WorkSafe BC protects our employees. Should someone else contract COVID-19 while on our premises, Mount Zion can mitigate the risk of civil liability by complying with and keeping up-to-date on all Public Health Orders and Work Safe BC regulations. The provincial government’s recent legislation rules that we are not responsible if due diligence is applied

COVID-19 Task Force:
Deng Biar, Shirles Burton, Monica Deng, Norma Houde, Lyna Kiviste, Marlys Moen, Vivienne Welters

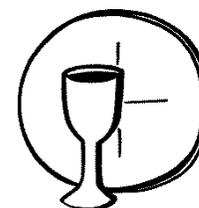
Canada Lutheran Subscription: Please note: Margaret is finalizing our subscription list. Let her know if you wish to have your name added or deleted from the list. If you wish to contribute to the cost of subscription, our costs are \$18.56 per subscription plus applicable GST/PST.





In-Person Worship Service (Lower Hall) with Holy Communion

First Sunday in Advent, November 29 at 10:00am



Book your spot now!

According to the Order of the Public Health Officer, we can only have as many people as we can fit in with the required physical distancing (i.e. 2m separation) in place. **We can seat 30 people safely.** You must **reserve a spot ahead of time.** 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 before the service, or by regular mail.

All in-person events are subject to the latest public health orders. Please listen to Dr. Bonnie Henry and Fraser Health Authority.

Please note:

- ☆ Bathrooms will be available for emergency use only.
- ☆ Bring a mask, and, if possible, your own hand sanitizer.
- ☆ Proper physical distancing (2m) must be maintained inside and outside.
- ☆ We will meet in the Lower Hall. Some doors will be open to provide ventilation, so **dress warmly**☺

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

you have any of the following symptoms:

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

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Notice of Annual Budget Meeting, Sunday, November 29 at 11:30am Via Zoom and In-person (Lower Hall, Mount Zion)

A formal notice is included with this newsletter, including how to connect by Zoom. Even if you do not own a computer, smartphone or tablet, you can still attend the meeting by telephone. Please follow the information given in the formal notice. If you have any questions about how to join, either by phone or online, please contact Vivienne Welters at mountzion930@gmail.com or 604-916-2694.



**Zoom Discussion
Wednesday,
November 25
7:00pm**

Mount Zion Lutheran is joining with other people from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada in reading the book of **1 Kings** throughout November as part of the Bible Book Club. Check out resources at this website: <https://elcic.ca/livingourfaith/biblebookclub.cfm> or contact the church office for copies to be mailed to you if you do not have access to a computer. You may also enjoy this video: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/1-2-kings/>



Thursday, December 3 at 7:00pm

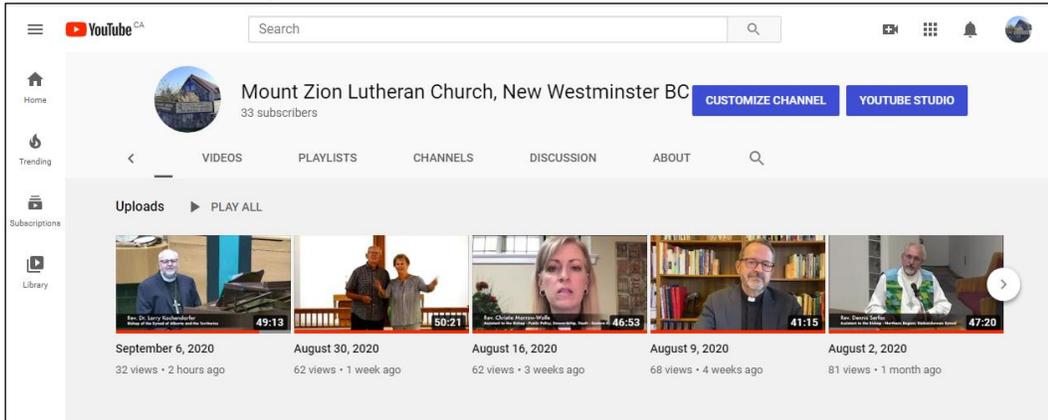
The BC Synod and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver are pleased to present a joint Advent service online. Join us for an evening of prayer, songs and contemplation.



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Mount Zion's Online Presence

Worship at Mount Zion Still Looks Like This!



Pray

- For our November 29th in-person service and Annual Budget Meeting
- For our healthcare workers
- For people in nursing homes who have limited visitation
- Thank God for many answered prayers.

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.

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

ZOOMing Right Along... Bible Study
Church Council
COVID-19 Task Force
Coffee Time

ZOOM Coffee Time - Sunday mornings at 11:00am

Bring your own beverage and treats. Relax in the comfort of your own home (pj's & recliners most welcome☺)



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

Devotional Booklets

- The October-December edition of *Eternity for Today* is still 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*, is also available. Please contact Margaret if you would like to be added to this list of recipients.

A Prayer for Putting on a Mask

Rev. Dr. Richard Bott, the current Moderator of the United Church of Canada, composed this beautiful prayer for when we put on our masks. He has given permission for it to be shared, asking only that we attribute it to him.

Creator,
as I prepare to go into the world,
help me to see the sacrament
in the wearing of this cloth –
let it be “an outward sign
of an inward grace” –
a tangible and visible way
of living love for my neighbours,
as I love myself.

Christ,
since my lips will be covered,
uncover my heart,
that people would see my smile
in the crinkles around my eyes.
Since my voice may be muffled,
help me to speak clearly,
not only with my words,
but with my actions.

Holy Spirit,
as the elastic touches my ears,
remind me to listen carefully –
and full of care –
to all those I meet.
May this simple piece of cloth
be shield and banner,
and each breath that it holds,
be filled with your love.

In your Name
and in that love,
I pray.

May it be so.
May it be so.



Thanksgiving Worship

On Sunday, October 11 twenty-five people gathered for worship outdoors. Many thanks to Weholms and Imries for sharing their canopies and to Kochendorfers and Norma Houde for the Thanksgiving display. We managed to get through most of the service before we literally were showered with blessings! Because of the canopies we were not soaked, although many were a tad chilly. Here are a few photos from that day - and there is a video of the service as well on our YouTube channel.





Memo

To: Members of Mount Zion Lutheran Church
From: Church Council
Date: November 12, 2020
Re: Notice of Annual General Meeting

As per Bylaw 7 (Congregational Meetings), Section 5:

Written notice of all congregational meetings shall be sent to all members and to the rostered minister(s) under call to the congregation at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the date of the meeting. Written notice must be sent:

- a. by mail, unless a member has provided his or her email address to the Congregational Council, in which case written notice must be sent by electronic mail;
- b. by posting the written notice on the congregational website; and
- c. by posting the written notice in a public area within the church building.

Please note the following ministerial order which applies to meetings governed by BC's *Societies Act*

Electronic attendance at corporate meetings

3 (1) Despite anything in a corporate enactment, a person who is entitled to participate in, including vote at, a corporate meeting may do so by telephone or other communications medium if all of the persons participating in the meeting, whether by telephone, by other communications medium or in person, are able to communicate with each other and, if applicable, vote at the meeting.

If you plan to attend the meeting **in person**, please **book your spot now** by contacting the church office at 604-521-0120.

Notice of Upcoming Annual Budget Meeting
Sunday, November 29 at 11:30am
Mount Zion Lutheran Church Lower Hall & via Zoom

If you do not plan to attend in person, we encourage you to sign in or phone in for the Zoom meeting at **11:15am** to provide time for dealing with any technological difficulties☺ You **must** use the phone information below to connect with the meeting. Do **NOT** use Mount Zion's telephone number. For a copy of the proposed budget mailed to you, please contact the church office between **November 23-25**.

In order to maintain security of the Zoom meeting, the Zoom connecting information is available to church members by contacting the church office at 604-521-0120 or Vivienne Welters at mountzion930@gmail.com .

Thank you for your prayers and participation in the congregational life of Mount Zion Lutheran Church.