

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

May 2021
Volume 9, Issue 4

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During the COVID-19 pandemic we are following provincial health orders. All in-building 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

2021 Pentecost Newsletter



Pentecost & Beyond

Joining God in the Neighbourhood

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8, NRSV)



(I first shared some of these words and images in 2015, but it seems so appropriate for us to hear them again, especially in the midst of COVID-19 when we feel so restricted and unable to do many of the things we enjoy. Some even wonder if God has abandoned us as this global pandemic drags on, now into the third wave. Yet in the midst of it all, despite all these circumstances **God is at work! God’s Spirit is alive and well, empowering us to be witnesses, to share our stories of what God is doing, even as we shelter in place.)**

It must have seemed an impossible task when Jesus’ disciples heard these sending words of Jesus. After all, few travelled very far from their home villages, let alone to the ends of the earth. Plus the group was so small and often scorned, so how could this happen? Yet, with only Christ’s story and Christ’s Spirit empowering them, a tiny community of believers changed the face of the world.

Two thousand years later we still hear stories of how the Holy Spirit is at work. Here at Mount Zion we have the marvelous pleasure of experiencing a microcosm of God’s Spirit at work in the world as we hear the stories from people who have come from various parts of Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, as well as North America. We have heard stories of how God continues to draw people despite circumstances where Christianity is illegal and/or persecuted. But perhaps it is more difficult to see how God

Pastor's Message
continued from Page 1...

is at work in quiet, often unnoticed ways because they are part of our ordinary lives, things we often take for granted, like answered prayer, health, family, shelter, peace, etc.

Despite the pandemic and its accompanying restrictions we have seen how God has been at work, not just in our congregation and neighbourhoods but "to the ends of the earth" in cyberspace! Church council has been considering how we can continue to offer worship online even when we are able to gather in the building.

The promised gift of the Holy Spirit continues to empower us to be witnesses, wherever we are. We acknowledge that often our fears and reluctance inhibit us from being witnesses, but God is still at work! God is still at work – in us, in our neighbours, in our communities, and yes, in our congregation!

This summer I encourage you to look for ways God is at work already. Sometimes it may be as simple as noticing how seeds grow into plants! Share that wonder and joy with a family member or neighbour.

-Pastor Marlys

A Sign of Spring and Hope



Photo courtesy Katalin Janko



When I woke up at 5:30 this morning, I was pleasantly surprised at how light it was outside. I listened to the birds sing and thought, another sign of spring.

In our March newsletter I talked about the installation of this year's church council. Since then, council has elected the following officers: Bruce Cornish as Vice-Chairperson, Vivienne

Welters as Secretary, Paulos Nizghi as Treasurer and myself as Chairperson. On behalf of council, I would like to thank Doreen Fleury (our past secretary) and Len Imrie (our past treasurer) for their many years of service to Mount Zion.

Our council is now 14 members strong. Even though our church is still closed to in-person worship there is much to discuss during council meetings and many tasks to be done. This month we are updating our signing officers in accordance with Mount Zion Policy. Our Worship Team is discussing what worship might look like when we return to in-person worship. A special committee has been formed to explore the possibility of live-streaming our services. Two things to consider are the cost and identifying a dedicated team to film the services. The Property Management Team is kept busy with installing a sprinkler system on the front lawn at the Synod Office, responding to mold discovered in a Synod Office, testing for mold in our lower hall, flushing the water system to prevent it from going stagnant during this pandemic, repairing our heating system, meeting with lift inspectors, repairing the alarm system in the Synod Office and of course, gardening. The Parish Education Team is hearing positive feedback from the Easter packages that were mailed to children and the Joy Committee is joyfully anticipating the many things we want to celebrate when we return.

Just a few more items to share with you:

1. Our insurance increased again this year primarily because of the lift installation, upgrades to our kitchen and completion of a new insurance appraisal of our property. Because of this increase, a small task force has been created to assess if there are avenues to reduce the cost.
2. We are updating our Criminal Record Checks and, finally,
3. the COVID-19 Task Force continues to meet as needed.

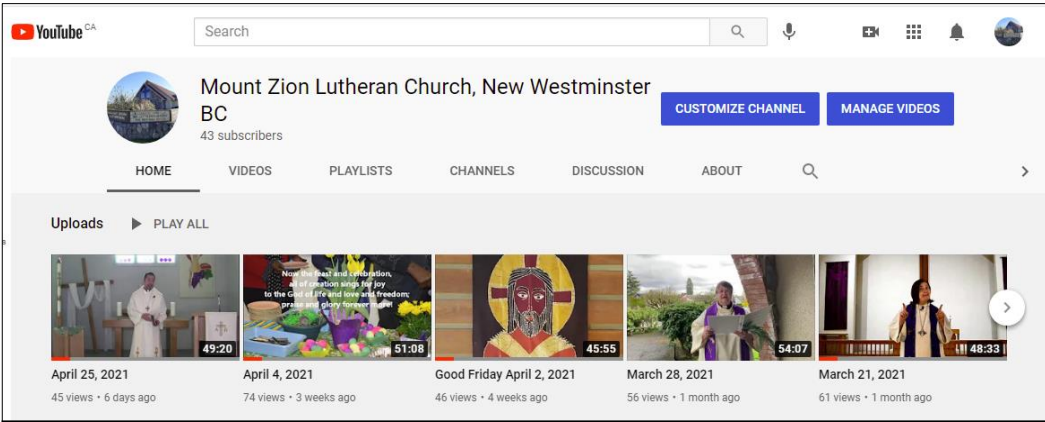
I think this captures what council has been up to. Please remember Pastor Marlys and council in your prayers.

Lyna Kiviste
Chair of Church Council

Devotional Booklets

- The April-June edition of *Eternity for Today* is 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.

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.



Bible Study
Church Council
COVID-19 Task Force
Coffee Time

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

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 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!

Worship Update: Cautious Optimism!

The COVID-19 Task Force has discussed the possibility of outdoor worship services, but we will not proceed at this time until it is safer to do so. We look forward to gathering again in person so please continue to pray for the health and well-being of all.

Upcoming Events

May 18 @ 7:30pm



Join us for an evening of community, conversation, and reflection as we explore the gifts of the Spirit in relation to the gifts we are to one another as Christians of various denominations. Bishop Gregory Mohr (ELCIC) and Archbishop Miller (RCAV) will be giving their reflections.

To register go to: <https://beholdvancouver.org/events/ecumenical-faith-break-together-in-the-spirit#register>

SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2021 @ 4:00 - 5:30 PM (MDT)
ONLINE ZOOM EVENT. LINK WILL BE EMAILED AFTER REGISTRATION

HEAR ME OUT

ANTI-ASIAN RACISM & IDENTITY

Life as a 2nd-Generation Chinese/Japanese-Canadian Lutheran



PANEL GUESTS

ENOCH MOK
DIGITAL COORDINATOR FOR LUTHERAN/YIC CAMPUS MINISTRY
CALGARY, AB

REV. DR. KAYKO DRIEDGER HESSLEIN
FACULTY OF LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
SASKATOON, SK

REV. MARGARET PROPP
CHAPLAIN OF LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY
CALGARY, AB

REV. NATHAN FONG
PASTOR OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
BURNABY, BC

Registration Link:
https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/hear-me-out-anti-asian-racism-identity-tickets-150288590219?keep_tld=1

For more information:
mpropp@ucalgary.ca



May 23 @ 3:00pm (Pacific)

In light of increased racist attacks on people of Asian descent, this upcoming presentation is of importance for all of us as we continue to be informed and transformed in learning to love one another.

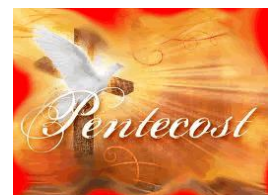
May is AAPI (Asian American & Pacific Islander) Heritage Month. Come join us on **May 23** in "HEAR ME OUT: Anti-Asian Racism & Identity" as our panel guests share a little bit about what it means to be Lutheran & Canadian of Chinese/Japanese ancestry, and the long-term impact of living in normalized racial prejudice.

PLEASE NOTE: This is a safe, open space for anyone. It is not meant to exclude the experiences of AAPI who are not of Chinese/Japanese descent. Due to the nature that our panel guests are of these specific heritages, they can only speak & reflect their own insights and/or experiences, rather than for an entire diaspora. (Note: One of the presenters is Pastor Nathan Fong!)

Registration is FREE. To sign up on Eventbrite, scan your phone on the QR code in the poster, or simply click on the link: https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/hear-me-out-anti-asian-racism-identity-tickets-150288590219?keep_tld=1

Pentecost Sunday, May 23

May 23 is Pentecost Sunday, so remember to wear red as you gather for worship that day (even if it is your red pyjamas☺) The special offering for Pentecost Sunday is designated for Padang Relief Society. In preparation for this festive Sunday, Pastor Marlys is looking for people to read John 3:16 in other languages during the service. Send your video to prmarlys@shaw.ca or contact her to arrange a Zoom recording. Thank you!



Book Nook Update!



Your Book Nook (Little Free Library) Team is underway. We have had some good conversation about ways to ensure the Book Nook space is inviting to our neighbours, both younger and older, who live and play around Mount Zion.

Little Free Libraries are a book sharing movement whose goal is to Build Community, Inspire Readers and Expand Book Access for All.

We know that our God is a God of surprises. We are open and look forward to learning about what God might be up to in the lives of our neighbours, as we step out in unfamiliar ways to experience this. Who knows what God might have in store for us?! One of the important aspects of experimenting with new things is not so much about the success or failure of what we do but, rather, *how we are transformed*.

We decided also to include a bench as we feel it invites conversation and a place to rest a bit while you go through books and make your choices. A bit closer to the church the walkway takes you to a quieter place. Should anyone want to pray, meditate, or just have some quiet time on one of the benches located there we will let them know about that too. It is a beautiful spot, one that our “garden gnomes” keep looking lovely.

This is all about offering space for our neighbours to enjoy. It is also about finding ways to connect, and possibly build relationships, with the people who live nearby.

We are hoping to have the library installed before the school term ends so everyone is aware of it and will come back repeatedly to check out what is available.

The premise is to *Take a Book, Leave a Book* (which the sign will say) so the neighbours fill it with their choices. Mount Zion will steward it to keep the bench and library looking good and to ensure a variety of books are offered.

“It’s not so much the church has a mission; it is that the mission of God has a church.”

-Alan Hirsch

The Book Nook Team:

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

Just So You Know... The chart to the right gives you a snapshot of our financial situation for the month of March, as well as for the year. Thank you for your faithful support.	Non Designated	Mar 2021	YTD 2021
	Donation	\$	3,686
Rent	\$	1,904	\$ 5,770
Subsidy	\$	2,099	\$ 2,099
Other Income	\$	84	\$ 381
Expenses	\$	(11,443)	\$ (40,074)
SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)	\$	(3,671)	\$ (17,951)

 **Canadian Lutheran World Relief**

**EMERGENCY APPEAL
COVID-19 Crisis in India**

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

Thank You for Your Generosity!

Donations for the Easter Special Offering for Seminary Support totalled \$395.00.

We have also received \$2500 towards tuition scholarships for schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.