

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

July - August 2022
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With constant changes in public health protocols, check the church website for updates on in-building worship and gatherings.

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Mount Zion Lutheran Church
930 Cumberland Street
New Westminster BC V3L 3H4

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

2022 Summer Newsletter #2

Twenty Years: That's A Score!



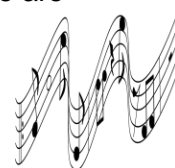
PASTOR'S PEN
A word from the heart
Pastor Marlys

Twenty years! On July 14, 2022 I celebrate my twentieth anniversary of ordination which took place at Peace Lutheran Church in Fort St. John, BC. As described in *Worship Wordbook*: Ordination is "The rite of conferring the ministry of Word and Sacrament upon those persons whom the Church determines to be rightly called by the Holy Spirit to baptize, preach, absolve, teach, bless, and to preside at Holy Communion." (p. 134)

Bishop Gerhard Preibisch was the presiding bishop. My parents, sister and her family, five seminary classmates and internship supervisor Rev. Jim Whaley made the trek to the Peace Country for the occasion. Many friends and colleagues from Fort St. John were also in attendance, including two Roman Catholic priests and a Baptist minister. Surprise visitors from Mount Zion, Bob and Judy Kochendorfer, were also present! Participants in the service included people who had supported me throughout my journey towards ordained ministry, many from Peace Lutheran and people like the church secretary (Roman Catholic) and my former school superintendent (Mennonite Brethren.) I mention these people because, for me, the call to ordained ministry came from a variety of sources just as the support throughout my twenty years of ordained ministry has also come from a diverse group of people, including people outside the Christian church. God's Spirit moves in many ways and often through unexpected people.

As many of you know, despite *my* intentions, that same Holy Spirit prompted the call to ministry with the people of Mount Zion Lutheran Church in New Westminster, a ministry which began on August 15, 2002.

Twenty years of ministry together – that's a score! And I don't just mean the twenty years, because, according to the *Cambridge Dictionary*, "score" can also mean "achieving something" and "a piece of written music showing all the parts for all the different instruments and voices." I think that is an apt description of these twenty years of ministry together at Mount Zion. There are parts for different voices and instruments, but each one is needed in order to perform the music the composer has created. In this case the composer is our Creator God who has given each of us different gifts to work together as the body of Christ. We have made some beautiful music together over the years, and I thank God for each one who has played their part!



-Pastor Marlys

Sunday In-Person Worship Services with Holy Communion at 10:00am

The services will be recorded and posted to Mount Zion's YouTube channel.

In order to maintain good health, out of love for one another and for the sake of those who are not vaccinated, such as children, **we recommend everyone wear a mask indoors, sanitize hands, and practise physical distancing. Please also note:**

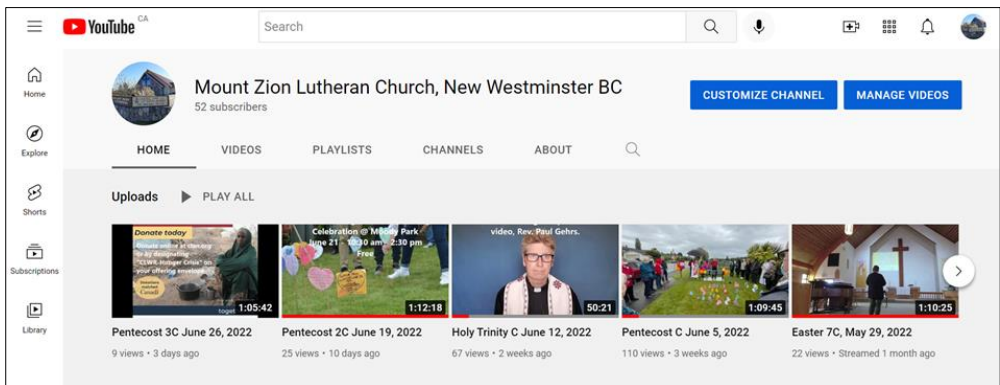
- ☆ We will meet upstairs in the sanctuary.
- ☆ Offering box will be in the foyer at the end of the service
- ☆ We will serve refreshments in the Lower Hall.

Help Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses. 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
- ☆ You are a close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19

Mount Zion's Online Presence

Online Worship Services can be found on our YouTube channel, Mount Zion Lutheran Church, New Westminster BC: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxctwh0wAVAJgBzV3B3eApw>



Bible Study & Reflections continue throughout the summer on Wednesdays at 7:00pm via



Please contact moutzion930@gmail.com to receive a Zoom link.

If you would like to video the Bible readings, please contact Pastor Marlys at 604-521-0120.

COVID-19 Task Force Update

The COVID-19 Task Force recently met to review Mount Zion's current COVID-19 safety protocols. Collectively the decision was made to continue the practice of recommending the wearing of masks during worship and maintaining physical distance, especially when singing. The current practice of using a drop-off box at the end of the service for offerings will continue. Likewise, we will continue with processional communion in the way we have been doing it for the past few months.

An extra table will be set up for our after service tea, coffee and sweet treats to encourage less people at every table. The doors will be open for ventilation throughout the summer.

All of these cautionary practices will be in place for the duration of the summer and will be reviewed again by the COVID-19 Task Force at the end of September.

God bless all of you. Stay safe and enjoy the summer.

- submitted by *COVID-19 Task Force*:

Pastor Marlys, Vivienne Welters, Norma Houde, Monica Deng, Lyna Kiviste



Connections

What in God's Name is Going On Around Here?

For those of you who have been at Mount Zion awhile, you will remember we asked this question of ourselves many years ago and, the good news is, we continue to ask it! We ask it to discover who God might be calling us to be in our rapidly-changing world. And we do this best by getting outside, finding ways to “be with” our neighbours: experimenting, trying new things, getting to know each other and the neighbours better.

Our latest “experiment” was learning about and planning the Honouring Memories-Planting Dreams (HMPD) afternoon we had on June 4. It began with the Annual Neighbourhood Garage Sale, inviting the neighbours to learn and “plant” a heart in the garden at Mount Zion or at their own home, and continued with learning about Indian Residential Schools at Mount Zion.

Many, many thanks to everyone who helped make the Garage Sale and the Honouring Memories Planting-Dreams Day all we were hoping for, and more. From helping with getting the banners “planted” on our lawn to the faithful garden gnomes for clean-up (in the rain!) and to all those who came out to help at both the Garage Sale and our afternoon event: thanks be to God for all of you. I do not think there was a time throughout the months leading up to the Garage Sale and HMPD’s event when we worried about making it happen. Sometimes we had to wait a bit, but God, in God’s faithfulness, worked everything out for good.



One of the dreams for this event was making connections with the neighbours and this certainly provided an opportunity to do that. We experienced a few ‘God Moments’ meeting people from the community and, we trust, we will continue to build on the relationships that were made. Next year the timing may be right for FW Howay School to be involved in some way. Who knows what might unfold?

As we continue on this journey of opening ourselves to our neighbours, I have a feeling God has much to show us and teach us about what it means to love our neighbour in very practical ways, regardless of who they are.



So, you may be thinking, “What’s next?” Good question! Do you have an idea for ways to “be with” our neighbours? It was Pastor Marlys who helped us in choosing HMPD. Maybe YOU have an idea for engaging with the neighbours around the church. Or maybe an idea for how we might do something in our own neighbourhoods? We would love to hear your ideas.

We still have funds remaining from the BC Synod grant for a second bench and also money set aside for a Neighbourhood BBQ that was postponed due to the pandemic. How about a BBQ in August or September? Does that interest you? Do you have some ideas for getting the neighbours to join in? You can help out with something you are interested in - with no long- term commitment - unless the timing is right for you. You may want to continue to explore with the Community Connections Team ways we might discover what God is up to in the lives of our neighbours.

So, lots to ponder in the coming weeks...☺

- Vivienne Welters on behalf of Community Connections Team



What’s Next? Here’s a possibility! Massey Victory Heights Residents Association is looking for individuals who have a bit of time to help work on projects. Computer skills an asset and a desire to serve our neighbourhood. For details contact president@masseyvictoryheights.com or check their website at <http://www.masseyvictoryheights.com/index.html>

Important Financial Information

Some highlights for May vs April 2022:

- ☆ >\$5000 increase in offering in May
- ☆ \$8,800 parking revenue in April
- ☆ \$24,400 insurance expenses in April

Non Designated	ACTUALS 2022		BUDGET 2022		
	MAY	JAN to MAY	ANNUAL	VARIANCE	
Donation	\$ 14,695	\$ 39,807	\$ 102,290	\$ 62,483	61%
Rent	\$ 4,675	\$ 26,699	\$ 34,754	\$ 8,055	23%
Subsidy	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Other Income	\$ 805	\$ 885	\$ 9,000	\$ 8,115	90%
Expenses	\$ (15,535)	\$ (88,202)	\$ (203,679)	\$ (115,477)	57%
SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)	\$ 4,640	\$ (20,811)	\$ (57,635)	\$ (36,824)	



Ordination Anniversary Celebration

You are Invited to join us on Sunday, July 10 to worship with us, and then join us for lunch, as we celebrate a significant milestone for Pastor Marlys, the 20th Anniversary of being an Ordained Minister. We look forward to recognizing her many gifts during worship and as we share lunch together.

Celebration of 20 Years of Ministry: Mount Zion with Pastor Marlys

More details to follow!



Volunteers Needed!

Summer's Here!

That's a wonderful thing for everyone. It means time to take a bit of a break - especially for those who faithfully show up to help out during the service or at coffee time.

As the graphic says, MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK. People who faithfully have been helping in worship and coffee time would welcome a break. This is not about taking the whole summer off but rather a week or two for vacation. We need people to help with tasks like: clicking the slides to move the service along, or ushering a few Sundays, or if you are a bit more technically-inclined, Don can teach you how he videos the service. No need to edit just yet - Pr. Marlys does that.

We do not want anyone to feel they must attend or have a job for life.

We also know that when we ask, we receive, so here's a nudge for you to consider giving a bit of your time to helping out on Sundays, wherever you feel you are best suited.

Contact Pr. Marlys or Vivienne or talk to the person you might like to help. I know they would willingly give you some hands-on teaching so you're comfortable with whatever you'd like to try.



- Vivienne Welters

CLWR Urgent Appeal



Donate online at clwr.org/hungercrisis or through your offering envelope by designating "CLWR-Hunger Crisis."

A historic hunger crisis is threatening to push more than 50 million people in sub-Saharan Africa—half of whom are children—to the brink of starvation.

CLWR, together with partners in the Humanitarian Coalition, is appealing for donations to respond to this crisis.

Your support will provide life-saving aid to vulnerable families in countries like Ethiopia and South Sudan.

The impact of your donations will be doubled by the matched funding provided by the Canadian Government until July 17th.

Please join CLWR in prayer for those suffering and consider donating.

Visit clwr.org/hungercrisis or call 1-800-661-2597 (Mon-Fri 8:30am-4pm CDT) to learn more.



Please note: Pastor Marlys is on holidays from August 10-24. For emergency pastoral care please contact Pastor Eric Krushel at 604-936-2939 (church) or 604-220-5450 (cellular).



Patience still required as we continue to wait for repairs to be completed. Did you know there is a shortage of cement? We are now on a cancellation list as we wait for a cement truck!

Church Office Update

Church Council made the difficult decision to eliminate the position of office secretary/receptionist since there is so little office work to be done. We wish Shirles well in her future endeavours.

Scent-Free Zone

Did you know some people have severe allergies to perfumes and scented items? To enable all to breathe freely Mount Zion Lutheran Church is a **scent-free zone**. We appreciate your co-operation by not wearing perfume, cologne or using scented toiletries. Thank you for caring for one another!



- for survivors of residential schools and all who grieve for loved ones in unmarked graves
- for people who do not have access to clean water, food, medicine or health facilities
- for people living with senseless discrimination and violence
- for missing and murdered indigenous women and girls and their families,
- for people suffering from starvation
- for the upcoming ELCIC National Convention (online) on July 15-16
- for volunteers for ministry
- for Vicki in her temporary home in Langley

Transition and Worship Team Updates

****REMINDER****
LAY-LED SERVICES ON JULY 17 AND AUGUST 14

Would you like to read? Or lead the prayers?
Please consider participating in one of these services as we worship through the summer.
Readers are also needed for all services - see the sign-up sheet in the foyer. You can also read over video! Call or email the office if you'd like to participate in that way.
The end goal of the Transition Team is to have a playbook in place to continue the day-to-day work of the church and Sunday services in the time to come after Pastor's retirement. If you would like to be involved in that overall effort, or the Worship Team, just let Katie, or anyone on council know.
-submitted by *Katie Nieman*



Pray for Peace in Ukraine
Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) is accepting donations online at clwr.org/Ukraine or by designating CLWR-Ukraine on your offering envelope.

Vacation Bible School



Good Shepherd Lutheran and St. Laurence Anglican in Coquitlam join together for Vacation Bible School

When - Aug. 16 - 18, 2022, 9:00am to 12:00 noon

Where - Good Shepherd - 1504 Spruce St. Coquitlam

Hear stories about Jesus, make cool crafts, sing great songs, play fun games, eat super snacks and make lots of new friends!

This is for **children ages 4 to 12.**
(Mount Zion children are welcome!)

For more information and to register click on:

<https://www.saintlaurence.ca/events/vbs> or call 604-936-5423.

There is **No Charge** for registration but donations are welcome.

This Summer's Events

Wednesdays
7:00 p.m. via Zoom
Mount Zion Bible Study & Reflections

Sunday July 3
10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Worship with Communion & Healing Prayer
11:30 a.m., Lower Hall
Coffee Time

Sunday July 10
10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Worship with Communion
11:30 a.m., Lower Hall
Coffee Time & 20th Anniversary of Ordination of Pastor Marlys

Sunday July 17
10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Lay-Led Worship
11:30 a.m., Lower Hall
Coffee Time

Sunday July 24
10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Worship with Communion
11:30 a.m., Lower Hall
Coffee Time

Sunday July 31
10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Worship with Communion & Pick Your Favourite Hymns
11:30 a.m., Lower Hall
Coffee Time

Sunday August 7
10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Worship with Communion
11:30 a.m., Lower Hall
Coffee Time

Sunday August 14 & 21
10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Lay-Led Worship
11:30 a.m., Lower Hall
Coffee Time

Sunday August 28
10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Worship with Communion
11:30 a.m., Lower Hall
Coffee Time & Celebration of 20th Years of Ministry at Mount Zion with Pastor Marlys

And always be looking for what God is already doing in your neighbourhood☺