

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

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

**E-mail:** mzoffice@shaw.ca or  
prmarlys@shaw.ca

**Phone:** (604) 521-0120 (office)

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

**Website:** [www.mtzionlutheran.ca](http://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.



# mount zion **Message**

L U T H E R A N

2022 Easter Newsletter

## Experiencing EASTER

**PASTOR'S PEN**  
*A word from the heart*  
Pastor Marlys



As we begin to emerge from the restrictions and isolation of the pandemic, are you feeling a bit like a butterfly emerging from its cocoon? If so, then you are well on your way to experiencing Easter!

Butterflies have long been a symbol for resurrection. Beginning as an egg which hatches into a caterpillar, there is no hint of the ultimate glorious reality of a butterfly. That lowly caterpillar eventually is entombed in a cocoon, portraying the crucifixion and burial of Jesus. How dark, dismal and dead it must be inside that cocoon. But that cocoon tomb is not the end for the butterfly. Rather it emerges in all its amazing glory and colour to soar in new life, a stunning image of resurrection. Alleluia! Christ is risen!



With the invasion of Ukraine, the ongoing violence, famine, and uncertainty for people in Ethiopia, Yemen, Eritrea, Sudan and other parts of the world, it certainly seems like much of the world is contained, even entombed in a cocoon where there is no freedom of movement, no light, no hope. In a world that seems more like Good Friday than Easter Sunday, we need to tell the whole story. Despite the sadness that may come to us from time to time; despite the way the world seems, the powers of evil and death have indeed been defeated. Christ IS risen.

Easter changed everything, and Easter continues to change everything. Remember that the Easter proclamation is not just "he is not here," but "he is risen." There is life in the midst of death, hope in the midst of despair, and love in the midst of hate. All because the risen Christ promises, "Lo, I am with you always." I am with you in the breaking of the bread, in the drinking of the wine at his supper, in the waters of baptism, in the gathering of his people, in the reading of the Word, in the midst of creation...



Christ IS risen. In our baptism we have been joined to his death and resurrection so we too can live in resurrection hope. We are called to proclaim this hope despite the circumstances in our lives which may suggest otherwise, which may leave us feeling as if we are stuck in a cocoon. Christ IS risen. Know that Easter is coming!

-Pastor Marlys

We celebrate Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 17 at 10:00am.

# 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, as we continue to require 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, with proof of vaccination/exemption required at least until April 8.

**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 have travelled outside of Canada within the last 14 days
- ☆ 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/UCxctwh0wAVAJqBzV3B3eApw>

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

Wednesday evening Bible Study and Reflections continue on Zoom at 7:00pm. Contact [mountzion930@gmail.com](mailto:mountzion930@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.

## Sunday School

We continue to be thankful for the children and youth at Mount Zion.

We recognize that at this point we will still be contacting the Sunday School children by mailing Easter material to them.

We also recognize that some children will begin to attend in-person service. For those children we will meet with them during coffee time on the stage downstairs.

We will also continue to see how God will guide Sunday School in regards to our time together, our relationship to others in the congregation, and our community.

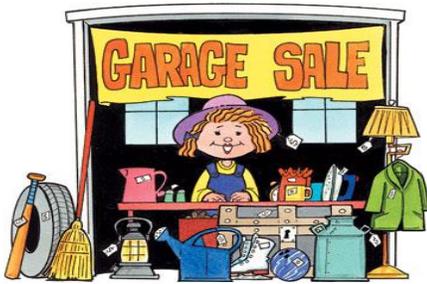
We look forward to hearing from you and to seeing you.

- Bernice Birzneck  
on behalf of the Sunday School Team

## Transition Team

**Katie Nieman** is leading the Transition Team, which is responsible for creating a plan to deal with the time between Pastor Marlys' retirement and the arrival of a new pastor. Because there is a shortage of pastors, the reality is there may be no interim pastor available. The Transition Team's function is different from a Call Committee which is tasked with the responsibility of conducting the call process for a new permanent pastor. **Please pray! Contact Katie if you are interested in learning more about the Transition Team.**

## The Annual Neighbourhood Garage Sale is back!



*Saturday, May 7*

*8:00am – 2:00pm*

*COME TO BUY... COME TO SELL... COME TO HELP...*

### 4 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

1. *Come to buy stuff and meet the neighbours.*
2. *Come to sell your stuff at a table and meet the neighbours.*
3. *Be a helper by transporting stuff before sale day or help on sale day.*
4. *Be a cookie maker*

*It's your choice... 1, 2, 3 or 4?*

## COVID-19 Task Force Update

According to BC Public Health Orders (PHO), as of March 11, 2022 faith-based organizations are no longer required to limit capacity during worship nor are participants required to wear masks. As of April 8, 2022 proof of vaccine is no longer required to access non-essential events such as coffee time. Even though the PHO's allow for the lifting of the above restrictions, the COVID-19 Task Force is committed to moving slowly. Safety is paramount. The COVID-19 Task Force meets again at the end of April.

This is what you can expect:

- wearing of masks is RECOMMENDED
- physical distancing is REQUIRED until the end of April
- proof of vaccine no longer required to access events such as coffee time, effective April 8, 2022
- windows and doors will be opened for ventilation
- signs on doors will remain in place reminding people to stay at home if they have symptoms of COVID
- capacity limits for employee offices will remain in place (to be reviewed end of April)
- sign-in sheets will remain in place (to be reviewed end of April)
- renters given permission to decide on restrictions for their own group while adhering to existing PHO's

- COVID-19 Task Force:

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



### Damaged Stairs

Little has changed since the vehicle impact in February. The stairs to/from the parking lot continue to be inaccessible. Repairs to the retaining wall require an upgrade to current seismic standards so we are waiting on the concrete company, as well as replacement of the railings. Thank you for your patience!



### Easter Breakfast

Please sign up if you plan to attend Easter Breakfast on **April 17 at 8:00am**. If you want to help with breakfast preparations contact Katie Nieman.



As promised in the Lenten newsletter we have more news for you about our next experiment. The BC Synod Missions Committee has approved the Honouring Memories Planting Dreams experiment. The Community Connections was incredibly pleased to get the news!

So, you might be asking, "What is this all about?"

Celebrated in May and June, Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams invites people of all ages to plant heart gardens in memory of children lost to the residential school system, to honour residential school survivors and their families, and to support the legacy of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). The act of planting represents our commitment to reconciliation. Hearts can be made by anyone of all ages and backgrounds.

June 21 is National Aboriginal Day. We recognize that truth and reconciliation are not a one-time event but an ongoing commitment to continuous learning and change. Many of us feel helpless in the face of so much that has happened to our Indigenous brothers and sisters. We wanted to offer the opportunity for people to learn more for themselves and the children in their lives. It provides a tangible way to acknowledge our part in what has gone before, and to show our support for the work of the TRC and all Indigenous people.

Mount Zion is a scent-free zone. Please refrain from wearing perfume or cologne. Please choose scent-free soaps, shampoos, sunscreen, hairspray, etc. Thank you!



# Connections

We will start simply by offering neighbours the opportunity to help in planting the first heart garden on the lawn of Mount Zion. To advertise we will use posters, signage and in-person conversations at the May 7 Neighbourhood Garage Sale in which Mount Zion participates. We will encourage involvement throughout May.

**On Saturday, June 4, we are planning a neighbourhood afternoon get-together.** There will be opportunity for visiting, flower-making and more flowers to be added in the garden. We will offer everyone simple refreshments, including heart-shaped cookies from our neighbourhood bakery and juice, weather permitting.

The heart garden is a way to continue offering space for people to come together, to hear each other's stories, and to open our hearts and minds to ways of listening for what God might be up to in the lives of those around us.

To ensure we respect the wishes of Indigenous people of New Westminster we hope to connect with our local Qayqayt First Nations neighbours. We also hope to engage with our neighbours across the lane from FW Howay School.



We look forward to your participation too!

- Vivienne Welters  
on behalf of the Community Connections Team

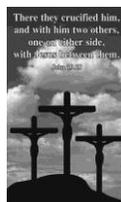
## Devotional Booklets

The April-June edition of **Eternity for Today** is now available. Please contact the church office to arrange for pick-up or delivery. Copies of the large-print devotional booklet, **Christ in Our Home**, are also available. Please contact Margaret Leech if you would like to receive the large-print devotional.

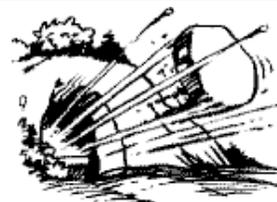
From Palm Sunday



to Good Friday



we look forward to



Easter Sunday!

## Important Financial Information

Some highlights for February 2022:

- Donation (Envelopes) = 47% vs monthly budget
- Rental revenues = 89% vs monthly budget
- Expenses = 78% vs monthly budget
- Deficit = (\$5,125) which was higher than anticipated/budget deficit (\$3,175)
- Comparison with 2021: Jan to Feb 2022 deficit was \$1,299 higher than Jan to Feb 2021

Non Designated	FEB 2022	YTD 2022	Annual Budget
<b>Donation</b>	\$ 4,119	\$ 8,177	\$ 102,290
<b>Rent</b>	\$ 2,580	\$ 5,035	\$ 34,754
<b>Subsidy</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Other Income</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,000
<b>Expenses</b>	\$ (11,824)	\$ (23,081)	\$ (207,878)
<b>SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)</b>	\$ (5,125)	\$ (9,869)	\$ (61,834)

Please prayerfully consider if you are able to increase your giving at this time.



# Good Friday

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday, 15 April 2022  
12:15PM

Join us for a processional stations of the cross through New Westminster. There will be readings at each station along the walk and opportunities to 'carry the cross'.

We will meet at the Provincial Courthouse steps (651 Carnarvon St.) and process west along Carnarvon, with stations along the way. The procession will finish at Holy Trinity Cathedral, (514 Carnarvon St.) via Church Street from Columbia Street.

Refreshments of hot cross buns, coffee, tea, and juice will be served in the hall after the procession.

### This Quarter's Events

Tuesdays in Lent  
7:00pm, via Zoom  
*New Westminster Ministerial Association Lenten Series*

Wednesdays in Lent  
7:00 p.m. via Zoom  
*Mount Zion Lenten Reflections*

Thursdays in Lent  
7:00 p.m. via Zoom  
*BC Synod Doctrine of Discovery Series*

Sunday April 10  
10:00 a.m., Sanctuary  
*Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday Worship Service with Holy Communion*

Thursday April 14  
7:00 p.m., Sanctuary  
*Maudy Thursday Service*

Friday April 15  
10:00 a.m., Sanctuary  
*Good Friday Service*  
Noon, Court House on Carnarvon  
*Stations of the Cross Walk*

Sunday April 17  
8:00 a.m. Lower Hall  
*Easter Breakfast*  
10:00 a.m., Sanctuary  
*Easter Sunday Worship Service with Holy Communion*

Sunday, April 24  
10:00 a.m., Sanctuary  
*Holy Humour Sunday Service*



#### Pray for Peace in Ukraine

Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) is accepting donations online at [clwr.org/Ukraine](http://clwr.org/Ukraine) or by designating CLWR-Ukraine on your offering envelope.