

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

Summer 2021
Volume 9, Issue 6

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As we transition to communicable disease status from pandemic, check the church website for updates on in-building worship and gatherings.

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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.



Message

2021 Summer Newsletter

Summer Break Finding a Quiet Place

“The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.” (Mark 6:30-31, NIV)



What a lovely invitation from Jesus to go with him to a quiet place and get some rest! Sadly, so many of us are not very good at taking a break, of getting the rest our bodies and souls need – until we are forced to take that break.

The global pandemic has certainly enforced such a break for many of us, or at least slowed us down somewhat and narrowed our circle of gatherings. But with the end of the public health emergency in BC and many restrictions being lifted, what will we do? Will we revert to our pre-pandemic behaviours which created “human doings” rather than “human beings?” Or will we retain some of that slower, more careful pace where we notice the details of life around us? One person commented that, as she was looking for signs of hope and spring, she was noticing the small changes and seeing the beauty in her own backyard.

I am hoping and praying that we will not be like the disciples, who were too busy even to eat. I am hoping and praying that we will hear and accept Jesus’ invitation to find a quiet place with him and to rest. After all, it is one of the commandments, that we take a sabbath rest – and that means a whole day, not just one hour for worship!

After my first sabbatical in 2009 where I read and participated in a retreat on Sabbath, I learned the importance and necessity of taking a day each week. Since Sunday is a busy time for me, I have set aside Mondays as my Sabbath. Now, as I age and my body dictates even more what I can and cannot do, I savour Sabbath as a day of rest. I encourage you to also find a day that works for you to take that chunk of time to rest, to spend time with Jesus in a quiet place. It is a necessary and healthy thing to do! As we read in Genesis, even God rested on the seventh day.

So where is your quiet place? My ideal is a warm, sunny beach, but I can’t always go there. Most Mondays my quiet place is on my deck or in my living room, curled up in comfy clothes, reading, relaxing...drinking coffee☺

This year, my summer break comes with six weeks of medical leave. Prayers have been answered as I await hip replacement surgery on July 26. I am grateful that my sister and her husband

will come to spend some time with me as I recover. I appreciate your prayers at this time.

As well, Mount Zion's COVID-19 Task Force recognized their own need to take a break, so this August we will be taking advantage of the many worship services offered online by other congregations.

May God bless us all with rest and re-creation this summer. And when we gather again in the fall, I look forward to hearing about your quiet place.

-Pastor Marlys

Emergency Pastoral Care Coverage

While Pastor Marlys is away on medical leave, the following pastors are available to provide emergency pastoral care:

July 21-August 9

Pastor Christoph Reiners
778.685.0299 (cell)

July 26-August 9

Pastor Jennifer Wilson
(contact Mount Zion church office to get her cell number)

August 10-24

Pastor Nathan Fong
pastor@graceburnaby.com or
604-433-1515 (church)

August 24-September 10

Pastor Eric Krushel
604-936-2939 (church) or
604-220-5450 (cellular)



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.



A Word from the Chair

Council met once again by Zoom at the end of June. Here are some of the highlights:

The **Worship Team** continues to explore what worship will look like as the Public Health Orders relax and will reflect on what we have learned during this pandemic. The

Property Management Team presented various quotes to council to replace the flooring in the lower hall. A congregational meeting will be held on July 18, 2021 for further discussion. The **Sunday School Team** met in June via Zoom to brainstorm on how to engage our Sunday school children over the summer and into September. The team plans to send out a card to the children. They are also looking for a way to bring all the children together over the summer. The **Joy Team** is looking forward to a time when we can all celebrate baptisms, meet new members and attend other joyful events during the pandemic.

Council members attended two BC Synod Lay Leaders Meetings. The purpose of these meetings was to give everyone the heads up that effective July 1, 2021 all Public Health Orders regarding worship will be dropped, provided the number of people receiving vaccines goes up and the number of people testing positive for COVID-19 goes down. These Orders will be replaced by "Guidelines" for worship. During these meetings Bishop Greg's message was "Don't rush!" His suggestions were that we use the summer as a time for hope and healing, and a time to reflect upon what works for our own church and how we can be safe together.

Finally, please note that while council met monthly last summer during the pandemic, we are taking this summer off to rest and recharge.

Until then, please remember Pastor Marlys in your prayers as her hip surgery on July 26 nears. As well, reach out to those in need of a smile, a friendly voice or a helping hand.

God bless,
Lyna Kiviste, Council Chairperson

Just So You Know...

The chart to the right gives you a snapshot of our financial situation for the month of May, as well as for the year to date. Thank you for your faithful support!

Non Designated	May-21	YTD 2021
Donation	\$ 11,767	\$ 31,360
Rent	\$ 2,037	\$ 9,710
Subsidy	\$ 6,709	\$ 18,808
Other Income	\$ 861	\$ 1,143
Expenses	\$ (10,028)	\$ (74,806)
SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)	\$ 11,345	\$ (13,785)

COVID-19 Task Force Update

The COVID-19 Task Force met three times in June, twice by Zoom and once in person at the church to prepare for worship. Items on our agenda included reviewing Public Health Orders and deciding on in-person worship for Mount Zion, YoungNak and Creekside.

In consideration of Mount Zion, the Task Force made the decision to hold an in-person worship service on June 13, 2021. With much time and effort, and the collaborative work of eight people, we were able to return to Mount Zion and worship together as People of God for the first time since March 15, 2020. Our one and only service in the church this summer will be on July 18, 2021. Now we will wait and see what September brings.

With regard to both YoungNak and Creekside Churches, the Task Force agreed that both could start holding services inside the church provided they followed Public Health Orders.

For the time being, our working group will continue to meet as needed.

God bless, rest, stay safe, stay cool!

COVID-19 Task Force

Pastor Marlys, Norma Houde, Shirles Burton, Monica Deng, Vivienne Welters and Lyna Kiviste

In-Person Worship Service with Holy Communion Sunday, July 18 at 10:00am

The province of British Columbia has moved to Step 3 of its Restart Plan, so we are now able to worship in-person without restrictions. **Yes, we can sing!** The service will be recorded and posted to Mount Zion’s YouTube channel if you are not able to attend in the building.

Out of respect and concern for others we recommend physical distancing and wearing masks indoors. We know that masks prevent more than just COVID-19. So in order to maintain good health, out of love for one another, we encourage everyone to continue to follow some of these safe interactions, especially knowing that not everyone is fully vaccinated. We do so, out of love for one another so that people can visit family and loved ones in hospital and care facilities. Others, like Pastor Marlys, are awaiting surgery and need to be healthy.

Please note:

- ☆ Bathrooms will be available.
- ☆ A mask is recommended.
- ☆ Respect people’s needs for distance.
- ☆ We will meet upstairs in the sanctuary.
- ☆ Communion will be at the end of the service
- ☆ Offering box will be in the foyer at the end of the service
- ☆ Refreshments will be served 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 have travelled outside of Canada within the last 14 days
- ☆ You are a close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19

Notice of Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, July 18 at 11:30am

Mount Zion Lutheran Church Lower Hall & via Zoom

The purpose of this meeting shall be to approve the expenditure of funds of up to \$37,539 to remove, prepare, level and replace the flooring in the Lower Hall, hallways, stage and stairs.

Devotional Booklets

The July-September edition of *Eternity for Today* is now available. Please contact the church office to arrange for pick-up or delivery. Or pick up one on Sunday, July 18. An online version is also available through <https://elcic.ca/app/dailydevotion/www/index.html>

Book Nook Update!



Our Little Free Library team is happy to tell you that our funding application with the Missions Committee has been approved for the full amount! This means our Little Neighbourhood Library, and money for the two benches (on order), will be paid, in full, by the Synod Missions Committee. We are thankful for the support as we trust God’s Spirit is in the midst of our desire to help neighbour connect with neighbour. The Missions Committee is always pleased to support congregations with their experiments in finding ways to build relationships with our neighbours.

The changeover in books from neighbours is good to see. If you have books in good condition, **especially children and young adult books**, you can add them to the bottom shelf of the book nook or drop them off in the

office and we’ll put them out as needed. **As of July 7th there were no children’s books left**, so clearly there is a need! (FYI: Mount Zion’s Little Free Library was mentioned in the Summer 2021 MVHRA Newsletter which is sent out by the local residents’ association☺)

From the start of this experiment we have stepped out in faith trusting God would lead us one step at a time... *going not knowing*. As often happens, in the waiting, an opportunity has come to step out again, in faith, and try something new. See below for more information on the *Honouring Memories Planting Dreams Heart Garden*.

Thank you from the Book Nook Team:

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



As we continue to hear the tragic news unfolding from the sites of former Indian Residential Schools, and wonder what kinds of appropriate actions we can take, a suggestion to plant a garden was found on the website for the ebook *Shattering the Silence: The Hidden History of Indian Residential Schools in Saskatchewan* (<https://www2.uregina.ca/education/saskindianresidentialschools/>)

“Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams (HMPD) is an annual event celebrated in spring, where people of all ages across the country can plant heart gardens in memory of the children lost to the Indian Residential School System


and to honour residential school survivors and their families and the legacy of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).” (Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams Information Sheet) Even though it is now summer, some people from Mount Zion are planning to plant such a garden.



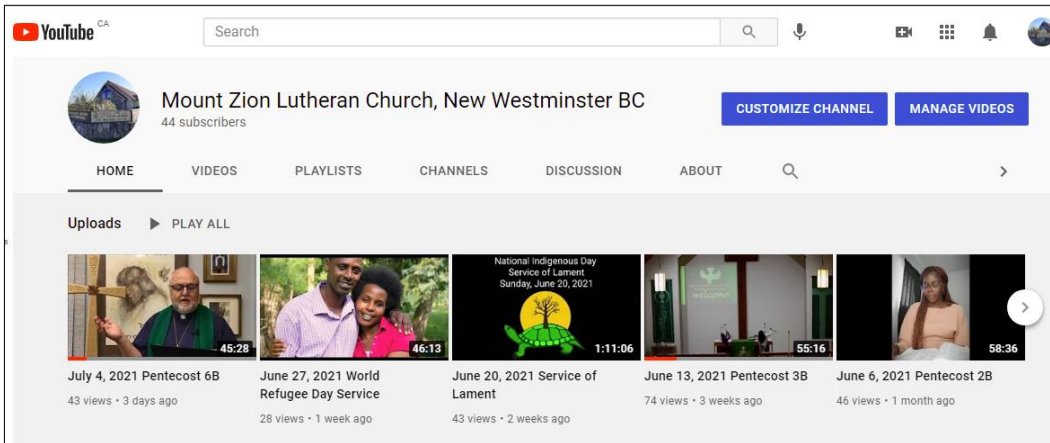
And a message from Vivienne Welters: The residential school tragedies have left some of us wondering what we can do. There is an e-petition requesting federal support for locating unmarked graves on former Indian Residential School sites across the country. If you believe in this cause please forward this info to everyone you know: <https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Sign/e-3484> For clean water: <https://www.change.org/p/justin-trudeau-clean-water-for-indigenous-communities-drinking-from-the-great-lakes-basin> You are also encouraged to write to your Member of Parliament (it’s free, no stamp required!)

Mount Zion's Online Presence

Worship at Mount Zion Still Looks Like This in July!



- People struggling with isolation
- Healthcare & frontline workers
- People in nursing homes with limited visitation
- Thank God for vaccines and many answered prayers.
- Pastor Marlys and others recovering from surgery
- Safe travel for those visiting family and/or on holiday



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.

During the month of August please visit another church in person or online. The following link from National ELCIC provides a list of congregations and worshipping communities who are livestreaming or providing other resources: [livestreaming \(elcic.ca\)](http://livestreaming(elcic.ca))



Bible Study
Church Council
COVID-19 Task Force
Coffee Time

Join us for Reflections on Wednesdays at 7:00pm by Zoom. Contact Lyna Kiviste or Joanne Ganske for info.

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 this summer for virtual refreshments and visiting. You need a computer, tablet or smartphone for the audiovisual connection. You can also connect by telephone for an audio experience at Please contact Lyna Kiviste or Joanne Ganske for assistance.



Thank you to **YoungNak Community Church** for their gift of TWO boxes of hand sanitizer! Now that's putting love into action:
Love God. Love Your Neighbour.

