

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

September 2021
Volume 9, Issue 7

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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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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 September Newsletter

With Praise & Thanksgiving

 "With praise and thanksgiving to God everliving,
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face."¹ 

As Thanksgiving Day approaches, before indulging in turkey and all the fixings, many families have a tradition of asking each person to name one thing for which they are grateful. This year I am grateful for successful hip surgery, for being able to walk freely and to no longer be in pain. I must confess that when I regained consciousness in the recovery room, my first thoughts were: "I woke up. Thank you, God!" I appreciate all your prayers, cards, flowers, words of encouragement, and offers of assistance during this time. So I echo the words of the apostle Paul to Philemon:

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother [and sister.]

The hymn, "Praise and Thanksgiving," reminds us of being grateful for everyday things. Recently a family member mentioned he was thankful for stinky kitchen garbage, because it meant his sense of smell was working – something he realized was important because it meant he did NOT have COVID-19. Thankful for stinky garbage – who knew?!

Taste, smell, sight, breath, hearing, touch... Thank you, God!

As a church family we will enjoy our own unique Thanksgiving meal as we gather for worship in the building for a one-month trial period, beginning with Thanksgiving Sunday, October 10. Each Sunday, as we gather for worship, we will also celebrate Holy Communion. Sometimes the word *eucharist* is used for this sacrament. This Greek word has been used by the Church since the first century because the Lord's Supper is the Church's central act of Thanksgiving. Then over coffee let us count our blessings together!



-Pastor Marlys

¹ Omer Westendorf © 1964, World Library Publications. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-721558



While council had the summer off our Property Management Team (Yohannes Solomon, Don Leech, Wayne Weholm) along with other volunteers refused to slow down. Among other tasks, they were busy preparing for the installation of the new flooring in our lower hall. Our garden gnomes (Coreen Benson, Iris Axe, Bruce Cornish and Norma Houde) were also kept busy watering, weeding and watering some more to keep our gardens looking well cared for.

Our financial team also remained busy throughout the summer. This month our treasurer (Paulos Nizghi) presented council with a draft 2022 budget in preparation for our annual budget meeting in November.

Other committees will be meeting to discuss such topics as worship, Sunday School, insurance policy, requests for refugee sponsorship and mutual ministry. If any of these topics are of interest to you, please let a member of council know as we are always looking for new volunteers to help in so many ways. If you ask, "Can I help?" trust me, the response you will get is "Yes!"

Mount Zion council members plan to attend the BC Synod Convention in October where they will not only take a closer look at what God is up to and where are we going, but they will also elect a new bishop as Bishop Greg has made the decision to retire.

We continue to move through a time of change. While change can sometimes feel uncomfortable it encourages creative thinking and opens our minds to new possibilities. As we are moving through this change, I would ask that you please keep Bishop Greg, Pastor Marlys and council in your prayers.

God bless,

Lyna Kiviste, Council Chairperson

Mutual Ministry Team

Mount Zion is looking for three or four new people for the Mutual Ministry Team. Please pray about your possible involvement or someone you think may be suitable for this team. The following items identify the role for the Mutual Ministry Team.

- a. To work with the congregational council/board to ensure clear and realistic expectations are developed for council/board members, rostered ministers, congregational ministries and staff.
- b. To support effective communication among the congregation, rostered ministers and staff.
- c. To act as a confidential sounding board and support team for rostered ministers and staff.
- d. To review and provide timely compensation recommendations to the congregational council/ board for rostered ministers and staff if there is no other personnel team in place.
- e. To work towards conflict resolution as it arises and involves the rostered minister or other staff members.

For more information you may wish to speak with Norma Houde or Vivienne Welters who have served with the Mutual Ministry Team.

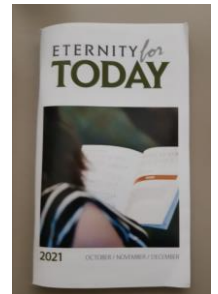


Emergency Appeal: Haiti

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

Devotional Booklets

The October-December 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, October 10 or one of the following three Sundays. An online version is also available through



<https://elcic.ca/app/dailydevotion/www/index.html>

Thanksgiving Offering (October 10)

Gifts given in the Thanksgiving offering envelopes will be used for Emergency Relief (which assists with Christmas hamper purchases, etc.) If you wish to support another Mount Zion ministry, please write the designation on your envelope.

In-Person Worship Service with Holy Communion

Sunday, October 10 at 10:00am

We will gather in the building for worship for a trial period of one month. The service will be recorded and posted to Mount Zion's YouTube channel if you are unable to attend in the building.

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 require everyone to wear a mask indoors, sanitize hands, and maintain physical distancing.** That also means we will be able to **SING** safely☺

Please also note:

- ☆ We will meet upstairs in the sanctuary.
- ☆ Offering box will be in the foyer at the end of the service
- ☆ Refreshments will be served in the Lower Hall☺ (when the flooring is completed!)

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

Opportunities to Share Your Creativity

Volunteers & Items Needed for Thanksgiving Display

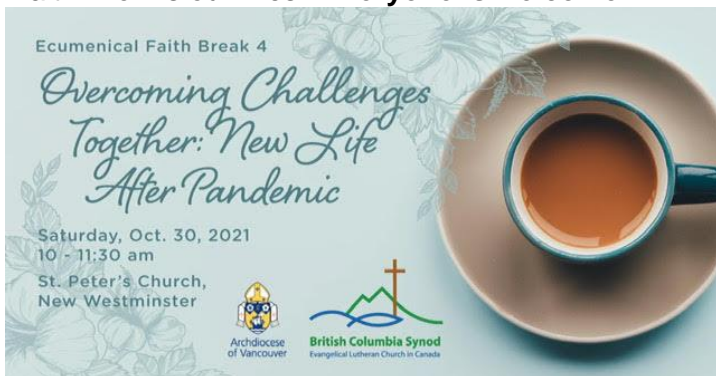


**Massey Victory Heights Residents Association Decorating for Halloween
October 31
(also known as Reformation Day!)**

Mount Zion would like to participate in this neighbourhood opportunity. We will be discussing ideas over coffee time, beginning on October 10, in preparation for decorating on the final weekend in October. Lots of possibilities!

Faith Break 4: October 30

Once again Lutherans and Roman Catholics will be engaging in sharing experiences and how our faith informs our lives. **Everyone is welcome!**



(Depending on public health protocols at the time, this may be a hybrid event with attendance in person at St. Peter's Church as well as via Zoom. Stay tuned!)

To register go to:

<https://beholdvancouver.org/events/ecumenical-faith-break-overcoming-challenges-together>

Book Nook Update: Coming Soon – A Bench!



Can you picture a bench near the Book Nook?
 We are happy to report that the bench has arrived! We also have a generous offer from a member of Mount Zion to pour the concrete foundation needed to support the bench.
 We were also pleased to see our Neighbourhood Book Nook included in the local paper (picture included), along with other Book Nook locations in New Westminster. If you'd like to read more click <https://www.newwestrecord.ca/local-news/heres-where-to-find-those-awesome-little-free-libraries-in-new-westminster-3080994>

It has been interesting and exciting to see how this idea has unfolded... one step at a time. We look forward to seeing what other things God might have in store for us as we seek ways to engage with neighbours around the church.

Thank you from the Book Nook Team:

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

September 30 Orange Shirt Day & National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

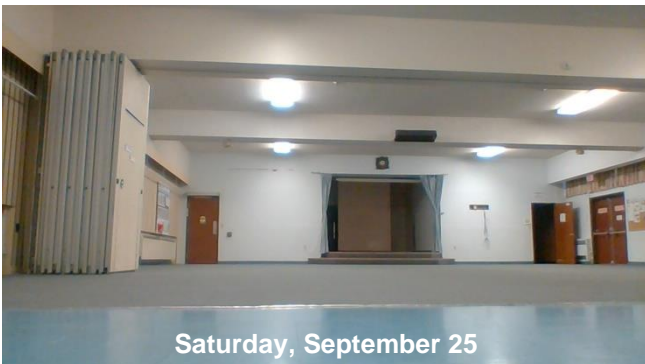


Thursday, September 30, is Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Not only is this a day to remember indigenous children who were forced to attend residential schools, but also a time to learn more about reconciliation and how all of us can become involved in making change so that all God's children are welcomed and given the same opportunities, like clean water and safe housing. Here are some links to resources for learning and participating in Truth and Reconciliation.

- Drum for the Children on September 30, 2021: Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc is calling upon people around the world to gather –safely– to drum and sing for the missing children of Indian Residential Schools. All the details at this link: <https://tkemlups.ca/drum/>
- Some Survivors stories are found at: <https://www.jibc.ca/office-indigenization/orange-shirt-day>
- Check out <http://www.orangeshirtday.net/> and
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/national-day-truth-reconciliation.html>

Please note: The Church Office will be closed on September 30.

Flooring Project Begins!



British Columbia Synod Convention

Journey. Together: Liminal Space

October 21-24, 2021 - Online meeting format

".. for many years now, the church has been living in a liminal space, seeking to discern God's activity among us, in our communities, out there in our neighbourhoods. We seek to follow God's call, to see what it is that God is up to, out there, around us, in and through others, and to discern how God wants us to be part of God's gracious, loving presence in this world."

-Bishop Greg Mohr, in his report to Synod Convention

Please remember to pray for the upcoming Synod Convention, particularly as we elect a new bishop with the upcoming retirement of Bishop Greg Mohr. Mount Zion's delegates are Norma Houde and Pastor Marlys. However, everyone is welcome to attend. Please note the following information for **Visitors and Guests**: Visitors and Guests do not need to register for the 2021 BC Synod Convention. The meeting will be livestreamed via YouTube for public viewing. Access links will be posted on the BC Synod website - 2021 Synod Convention page closer to the Convention dates.

The following poster provides information about the Synod Learning Day on Saturday, October 23.




What Is God Up To?

*How to Lead When You Don't Know
Where You are Going*

We have one foot rooted in something that is not yet over, while the other foot is planted in a thing not yet defined, something not yet ready to begin."

Susan Beaumont

**Learning Day via ZOOM
at BC Synod Convention**

Saturday, October 23rd
10:00am - 12:00pm
1:00pm - 3:00pm

Liminal Seasons

- CHALLENGING
- DISORIENTATING
- UNSETTLING

"We strive to move forward with purpose and certainty. Instead, we feel as though we are trudging through mud, moving away from something comfortable and known, toward something that can't yet be known."

**Bring a Team or
come on your own!**

BC Synod participants:
\$15 per person
\$45 per congregation

Other participants:
\$15 per person

Registration:
[Click here to Register!](#)



Please note that the Learning Day portion on Saturday, October 23 will not be livestreamed. **Registration is required in order to participate in the Learning Day.**

Rev. Susan Beaumont is the presenter for the Synod Learning Day. She will join us on **Saturday, October 23rd ~ 10:00am – 3:00pm PDT**. She will explore the experience of moving through a liminal season and clarify the differences between decision-making and discernment, and how each of them can be used as we seek to understand the new things God wants us to learn.

In preparation for the Synod Learning Day, at our next two Wednesday Reflections time, we are exploring some questions provided by Susan Beaumont. These questions centre around the themes of

- What Have We Lost?
- What Did We Assume?
- What Wants to Emerge?

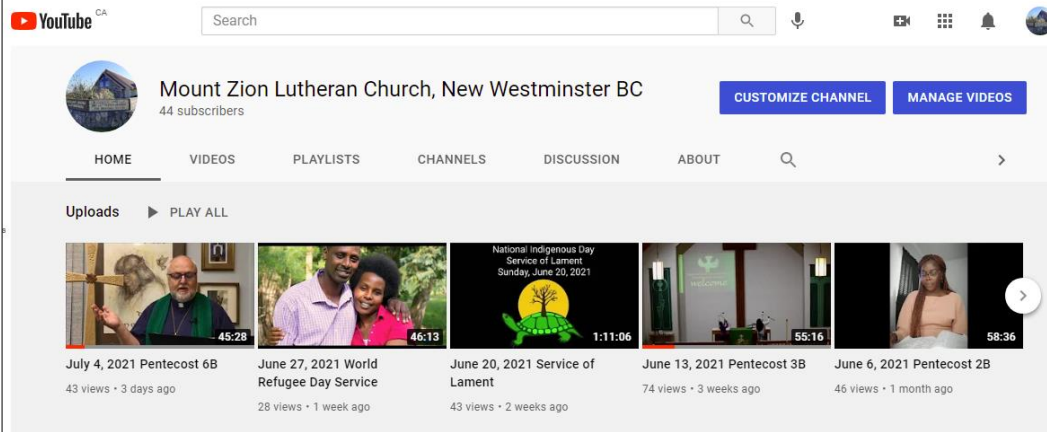
We also have the opportunity for synod-wide conversation and discussion on **A Thoughtful Thursday: October 7, 2021 at 7:00pm via Zoom.**

Click on the link below to connect to the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89714659204?pwd=NHR0Smk3cTJyMUxEZWRRIM3BSZUdRQT09>

Mount Zion's Online Presence

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.



- Teachers, students, healthcare & frontline workers
- People who are ill with COVID-19
- Thank God for vaccines and many answered prayers.
- Families who have had a loved one die due to drug overdose or COVID-19
- Safe travel for those visiting family and/or on holiday



Zoom ing Right Along...

**Bible Study
Church Council
COVID-19 Task Force
Coffee Time**

Join us for Reflections on Wednesdays at 7:00pm by Zoom:
Contact moutzion930@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

ZOOM Coffee Time - Sunday mornings at 11:00am

Bring your own refreshments. Relax in the comfort of your own home.



**ZOOM
COFFEE
TIME**

Join us on Sunday mornings for virtual refreshments and visiting. You need a computer, tablet or smartphone for the audiovisual connection. The Zoom link is available by contacting moutzion930@gmail.com

Please be patient as we figure out how to do coffee time in the Lower Hall and virtually – at the same time!



O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



(Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 317)