

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

October 2021
Volume 9, Issue 8

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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.



2021 October Newsletter

A Prayer for Wisdom and Peace When Making Big Decisions¹

Dear Heavenly Father,

You number our hairs and determine our days; you hang the stars and feed the sparrows; you open doors no one can shut and shut doors no one can open. Surely, we can trust you when the time comes for making big decisions, or for that matter, any decisions. We are in just such a season again, Father, and we know we are not alone. We will trust you for generous wisdom, straight paths and peaceful hearts, all for your glory.

How we praise you for being the decision-making-God. It's not our decisions, but yours that make all the difference. We will plan, but we trust you to order our steps. We will pray, but know you will answer according to what is best. We will seek counsel, but count on your Spirit to lead us to the truth in what we hear from trusted friends and mentors. We will search the Scriptures, but not look for proof texts but only for you, All-Knowing God.

Free us from the paralysis of analysis—wanting to make the right decision more than we want to be righteous people; wanting to be known as wise people more than we want to know you, the Source of Wisdom. Free us from the idolatry of assuming there's only one "perfect" choice in any given situation. Free us from making decisions primarily for our comfort and other's approval. Free us to know that good choices don't always lead to the easiest outcomes, especially at first. Free us from second and twenty-second guessing our decisions. Free us from fear of failure or making mistakes.

Gracious God, no matter if it's wisdom about buying or selling, vocation or vacation, this place or that place, this person or that person, we know that in ALL things, your will is us to becoming more and more like Jesus. Give us this passion; make it our delight.

So, Father, make us more and more like Jesus, even as we trust you for the opening and closing of doors that are in front of us. All for your glory—in our eating and drinking; and in our whatever's, whenever's and wherever's. Amen.

¹Adapted from Smith, Scotty. <https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/discernment>

It's Time!

*"For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven."*
Eccl. 3:1

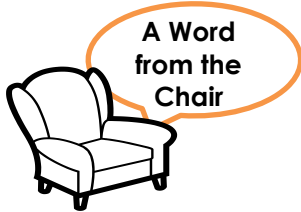
It's Time! The October 2021 calendar tells me I have reached the grand age of 65. By August 2022 I will have been the pastor at Mount Zion for 20 years. That's a l-o-o-o-n-g time! This past year's health challenges, followed by six weeks of recovery following hip replacement surgery, lots of prayer and simply waiting, confirmed for me that **I am ready to retire.** It's Time!

But I believe this is also an opportune season, God's timing, for me as your pastor and for us as a congregation, to enter this time of discernment and transition. The global pandemic has already forced us to make changes in ways we had not anticipated, but God's purpose and timing have created many good things from this unprecedented situation.



It's Time! To assist us in this process Bishop Greg Mohr will join us for worship on **Sunday, November 7th** followed by an introduction to prepare us for the coming months and year. Bishop Greg himself is retiring at the end of December this year, so he is well-prepared to lead us into this liminal space of leading when we don't know where we're going! (Which is exactly what the Synod Learning Day was about: **more to come later!**)

It's Time! To pray, listen, discern, plan, wait...all those things we do together as we discern what God is already doing in preparing and leading us. I hope you too will find the prayer on the first page of this newsletter to be helpful as we face the coming days trusting the One who holds us and our time in the palm of God's hand.



It has been another busy month. The most exciting activity centred around Mount Zion reconvening in-person worship and coffee time. The second big event was the BC Synod Convention. My thanks to our delegates, Norma Houde and Pastor Marlys, and to all who helped in the planning and preparation of both of these events.

I would like to thank council and the many volunteers who tend to the church and our congregation's needs on a daily basis. The tasks are endless; preparing financial statements, recording services, organizing communion, reading lessons, answering phones, fixing contrary computers, planting bulbs for spring, baking cookies, praying for others, even mopping up when a toilet floods, just to name a few.

I pray that God will watch over you and bring you peace,

Lyna Kiviste, Council Chairperson



Not everyone can attend worship in person, but the wonders of technology enable Bruce & Bev Cornish to be a part of worship☺



A Time to Celebrate & Give Thanks to God November 7

Bishop Greg Mohr is retiring at the end of this year. He will be joining us in worship on Sunday, November 7 at 10:00am. Following the service he will lead us in an introduction to liminal space and making transitions in ministry. We also want to take this time to celebrate and give thanks to God for Bishop Greg's ministry. (Yes, there will be cake!) Please join us for worship and fellowship. If you are unable to attend but wish to send greetings and a note of gratitude, please send an email to prmarlys@shaw.ca or use regular postal mail.

Mutual Ministry Team

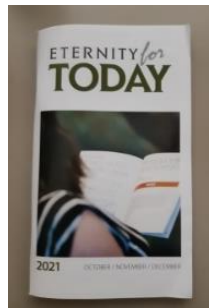
Mount Zion is looking for three or four new people for the Mutual Ministry Team. Please pray about your possible involvement or someone you think may be suitable for this team. The following items identify the role for the Mutual Ministry Team.

- 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.

Devotional Booklets

The October-December edition of *Eternity for Today* is still available. Please contact the church office to arrange for pick-up or delivery. Or pick up one on Sunday morning at 10am! An online version is also available through



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

Thanksgiving Offering Thank You!

We received \$460 in this year's Thanksgiving Offering for the Emergency Relief Fund.

Confirmation!

Confirmation Classes begin again in November on Sundays at 4:00pm. The minimum age to begin confirmation is 12 years as of December 31. This year we will be studying the Catechism. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Marlys at the church office.

<p>Just So You Know... The chart to the right gives you a snapshot of our financial situation for the month of September, as well as for the year to date. Thank you for your faithful support!</p>	Non Designated	Sep 2021	YTD 2021	<p>Please remember in your prayers the upcoming Annual Budget Meeting on Sunday, November 28 at 11:30am. A formal notice of this meeting can be found on the final page of this newsletter.</p>
	Donation	\$ 9,750	\$ 62,722	
	Rent	\$ 2,824	\$ 19,309	
	Subsidy	\$ -	\$ 18,808	
	Other Income	\$ 78	\$ 1,299	
	Expenses	\$ (14,094)	\$ (122,215)	
	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)	\$ (1,442)	\$ (20,077)	

In-Person Worship Service with Holy Communion Sundays in November at 10:00am

We continue to gather in the building for worship.
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:

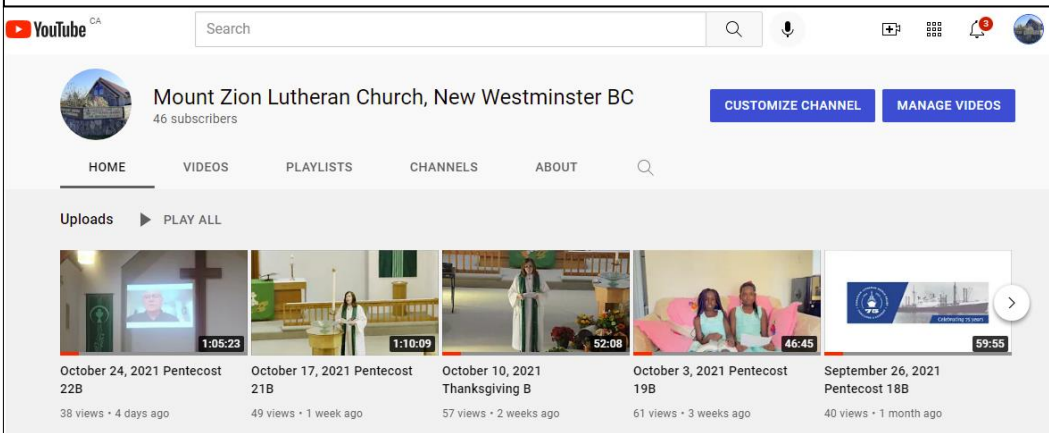

- ☆ We will meet upstairs in the sanctuary.
- ☆ **Dress warmly. Doors and windows are open to ensure good ventilation.**
- ☆ Offering box will be in the foyer at the end of the service
- ☆ Refreshments will be served in the Lower Hall 😊

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


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.

Pray

- 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



zooming Right Along...

Bible Study Reflections: contact mountzion930@gmail.com for the Zoom link
Church Council & COVID-19 Task Force



British Columbia Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Convention Report

Journey. Together: Liminal Space

October 21-24, 2021

We gathered together at 7:00p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 21 in an online ZOOM meeting format and 87 registered delegates. We were led in prayer to give us eyes to see, ears to hear and hearts to know God's wishes.

Please go to the website www.bcsynod.org for the Complete Bulletin of Reports we discussed at convention as well as the names of the eight newly-elected Synod Council Members. Our Bishop's Report is 33 pages.

The B.C. Synod has elected Pastor Kathy Martin as Bishop. Pastor Kathy will assume the Office of Bishop as of January 1, 2022. Other elections included Chairperson: Pastor Eric Krushel and Secretary: Tarynn McKenzie with Jerry Nieman continuing as Treasurer. We will be well taken care of. We look forward to announcing the date for the bishop's ordination soon. Please keep Bishop-Elect Kathy, Bishop Greg, as well as the incoming and outgoing Synod Council members in your prayers.

Delegates had the opportunity during October to attend Training Sessions so we would know how to ZOOM to conduct the business of our Church. This included Bylaws and Amendments, Election of a Bishop, Electronic Voting, as well as the Proposed

Budget and Financials Statements. (Thanks to Jerry Neiman.)

Our Opening of Convention on Thursday evening included a Tribute to the Tribes of B. C. This included Singers and Drummers from the Newhawk Tribe of Bella Coola as well as those from Kamloops.

Friday saw us in session for 12 hours.

Rev. Susan Beaumont joined us for the Synod Learning Day on Saturday, Oct. 23 from 10am-3pm to explore the experience of moving through a liminal season and clarifying 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.

A brief session took place on Sunday from 9 a.m. until our worship started at 10:30.

This was a very busy convention. Thanks and best wishes go with Bishop Greg. Welcome to Pastor Kathy and the new Synod Council. Congratulations to retiring Council Chairperson Stephen Holmes with heartfelt thanks.

Thank you to the members of Mount Zion for the opportunity to be part of this remarkable Convention.

Blessings to everyone,
Norma Houde



Flooring Project Finished!

The new floors have been laid throughout the Lower Hall and other areas on the lower level. Many thanks to Akok Deng, Don Leech, Paulos Nizghi and Yohannes Solomon for doing the heavy lifting and moving of furniture before and after the installation project.

Once again we are enjoying coffee time and meetings in the Lower Hall. We appreciate everyone's co-operation in taking care of the floors by lifting furniture instead of dragging it.



Memo

To: Members of Mount Zion Lutheran Church
From: Church Council
Date: October 31, 2021
Re: Notice of Annual General Meeting

As per Bylaw 7 (Congregational Meetings), Section 5:

Written notice of all congregational meetings shall be sent to all members and to the rostered minister(s) under call to the congregation at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the date of the meeting. Written notice must be sent:

- a. by mail, unless a member has provided his or her email address to the Congregational Council, in which case written notice must be sent by electronic mail;
- b. by posting the written notice on the congregational website; and
- c. by posting the written notice in a public area within the church building.

Please note the following ministerial order which applies to meetings governed by BC's *Societies Act*

Electronic attendance at corporate meetings

3 (1) Despite anything in a corporate enactment, a person who is entitled to participate in, including vote at, a corporate meeting may do so by telephone or other communications medium if all of the persons participating in the meeting, whether by telephone, by other communications medium or in person, are able to communicate with each other and, if applicable, vote at the meeting.

Notice of Upcoming Annual Budget Meeting
Sunday, November 28 at 11:30am
Mount Zion Lutheran Church Lower Hall & via Zoom

If you do not plan to attend in person, we encourage you to sign in or phone in for the Zoom meeting at **11:15am** to provide time for dealing with any technological difficulties☺

Contact mountzion930@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Thank you for your prayers and participation in the congregational life of Mount Zion Lutheran Church.