



The Lutheran Urban Ministry
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April 2018 News from your Ministry Manager

A constable from the Winnipeg Police Service spoke to our Urban community on the topic of Crime Awareness and Personal Safety on April 11 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. He presented information where volunteers act as extra “eyes and ears” for their community and local law enforcement. The program improves community safety through deterrence, education and awareness. Many questions were asked and the Urban will schedule this presentation every six months or so as the message is so important. Almost every person who attends the Urban walks to all of their destinations, day and night; and many have stories of feeling unsafe or have experienced an assault at some time. Prevention and awareness is a message that can't be repeated often enough.

Fellowship: Although there are always newcomers, there is a core group of approximately 130 people who regularly make the Urban a place to gather for conversation, fellowship, worship, friendship, a meal, coffee/tea, a listening ear and spiritual care. The Urban has its roots going back 15 years when it began as a clothing bank in the basement of First English Lutheran Church. Trust has built because of the respect and honour that the Urban has for the spiritual traditions and beliefs of our First Nations peoples.

We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of age, ability, health, ethnicity, gender identity, language, sexual orientation, life circumstances, marital status, race, or anything else which sometimes divides us. We welcome diversity and uniqueness. Our unity is in Christ, whose grace is freely given to all. All are welcome

Children of all ages come to the Urban: On Wednesday and Thursday evenings there are usually five or six children sitting at the colouring tables and on Sundays often 12 children from infants and up attend. Lots of laughter and busyness at those tables!

Sharing Circles continue each week for women on Wednesdays 4:30-5:30, Co-ed on Thursdays 5:45-6:45 and Wednesdays bi-weekly at the Men's Group 1:30-2:30. Three hours spent each week in fellowship, prayer, listening and sharing, laughter and sometimes tears. Every year we are so very fortunate to have approximately six to eight students from St. Mary's Academy. They volunteer approximately 10 hours of their time to the Urban. They have helped in the kitchen and with serving and they have also been attending our co-ed sharing circles. Many have come back to sit in the circles even after their school volunteer requirements have been completed.

The Lutheran Urban Ministry Short Documentary Film has been released!!

- This film was made possible by an ACTS of the MNO Synod grant and the Urban is so grateful for the opportunity to bring the Urban to you. We are hoping that you will enjoy having a peak into typical Lutheran Urban Ministry days, worship, meals, sharing circles and some of the events of 2017.
- Produced by Rick Scherger of Fate Communications, we feel that the heart and soul of the Urban has been captured (12 minutes long). <http://www.fatecommunications.ca/Hope.html> or through Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FatPtzT9HhY>

Thank you to the meal teams who ensure that no one leaves the Urban hungry and to all those who donate groceries for our emergency food. Our website calendar shows available dates for meal teams: <http://www.theurban.ca/calendar.php> Please contact me: rhonda@theurban.ca for additional information or to add your meal team to the calendar.

Kind regards,
Rhonda Gorham
Ministry Manager
Lutheran Urban Ministry