



The Lutheran Urban Ministry
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“Reconciliation is getting to know one another”, Mary Simon, Governor General: National Post, July 26, 2021

November 2022 News from your Ministry Manager

Who are the people who are a part of our Lutheran Urban Ministry community?

- **The families:** single Moms, single Dads, Moms and Dads, Grandparents with children and grandchildren who live with them, and Grandparents with custody of their grandchildren;
- **Young men and older men** who live in a few group homes nearby within walking distance;
- **Some live with mental health issues** such as PTSD, FASD, anxiety, depression, bi-polar, etc.;
- **People without a home of their own and currently sleeping on the sofas or floors of relatives or friends;**
- **Some are homeless (recently or chronically)** and struggle with mental health issues and/or addictions, or a job loss, or a relationship break-up - and they walk with feelings of helplessness and hopelessness;
- **People living in poverty - unemployed, working poor, or on disability and struggling with the food insecurity of rising grocery costs:** long walks to the nearest grocery store without the luxury of price shopping at multiple stores - sometimes coupled with disabilities and walking with a cane or walker in the winter;
- **People struggling with housing insecurity:** vulnerable families who are forced to compromise and rent from price gouging landlords when looking for a decent house to rent and often reduced to living in substandard housing; **people looking for work;** and **people who used to work and can no longer do so;**
- **80% of our Urban community are First Nations, Inuit and Métis.** Some came to Winnipeg from First Nations reserves, looking for a new life in the city - and deal with loneliness, poverty and marginalization;
- **Many live with pain, grief and loss from the intergenerational after-effects of residential schools or the 60s Scoop.** They have incredible inner strength as they do their best to navigate through this life;
- **Single men and women looking for a better place to live than where they presently reside:** searching for the stability of a safe, clean and affordable apartment block or rooming house; and,
- **Elders/seniors** who are struggling with loneliness, poverty, grief, loss, worry, and often disability as well.

Pandemic Notes: Pandemic worries are not yet over in Winnipeg and the Urban continues with the following:

Until Further Notice: the Urban is continuing the suspension of all regular programming (coffee hours, sharing circles, men's group, worship services, etc.) in the lower level of Lutheran Church of the Cross, due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation. *Struggling and vulnerable single people and families (in the same numbers as pre-pandemic times when we were open downstairs) are continuing to come to the Urban - bagged lunches 4x/week are distributed outside (Wednesday men's lunch, Wednesday & Thursday supper times and Sunday lunch). Our meal teams are happy to help us in this way and we are so very grateful for this. Our website calendar shows available dates for meal teams. Fellowship is happening briefly in the parking lot as long as weather permits! Worship services and sharing circles will resume when the pandemic is over.*

We have changed our pre-pandemic emergency food bags to an equitable “one food item” (if enough in our pantry) per person (two items if a family) once or twice each week during the distribution of bagged lunches. Gloves, socks, seasonal jackets etc. (and weekly bread/pastries) are also distributed outside.

Masks and 2 m social distancing continue to be mandatory on the church sidewalk and parking lot. The line sometimes overflows to the city sidewalk if necessary and all current gathering sizes are enforced as per provincial regulations. The Urban provides a disposable mask if needed.

Our website: www.theurban.ca. Please keep our vulnerable Lutheran Urban Ministry community in your prayers. Please contact me: rhonda@theurban.ca for additional information, or to have your meal team added to the calendar.

Kind regards, Rhonda Gorham,
Ministry Manager, Lutheran Urban Ministry Corp.

We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of age, ability, health, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expressions, language, sexual orientation, life circumstances, marital status, race, or anything else which sometimes divides us. The Urban is committed to racial equity. We welcome diversity and uniqueness. Our unity is in Christ, whose grace is freely given to all. All are welcome. The Lutheran Urban Ministry Corp. is a member of Reconciling Works – Lutherans for Full Participation www.reconcilingworks.org