

### May 2020 News from your Ministry Manager

Until further notice, the Urban has suspended all regular programming (sit-down community meals, coffee hours, sharing circles, men's group, worship services, etc.), in the lower level of Lutheran Church of the Cross, due to the provincial COVID-19 pandemic situation. This is an especially difficult time for our city's most vulnerable citizens.



**Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10, 2020:** 75 bagged lunches were distributed outside on Mother's Day, including a gift bag for all of the women who attended (on trolley in the photo). Each gift bag contained donated grocery items, treats, and full sized Avon products and Avon summer flip-flops.

A Sunday worship message for printing is sent to me weekly from Pastor Barry Bence who preaches once a month at the Urban. This is tucked into every Sunday lunch bag and also his mid-week devotional finds its way into every Wednesday supper bagged lunch.

The Urban is a primary place of worship for many who attended regularly - average attendance for worship has been 80. There are so many pleased comments that "Pastor Barry" has sent his worship service. Spiritual care provided with the sandwich!!

I am also receiving prayer requests in place of the slips of paper that in "regular times" are added to our Sunday prayer bucket to be read during the prayers of the church.

During these limiting and uncertain times, the Lutheran Urban Ministry is dedicated to continuing to help our Urban community in the best way that we are able to while maintaining social distancing and safety procedures.

**In place of the Wednesday Men's Group Lunches, Wednesday & Thursday Community Suppers, and Sunday Lunches:** Bagged lunches (sandwich, juice box, etc.) to take home are given outside the door in place of meals. The schedule is posted on the north side door of Lutheran Church of the Cross. 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.

*Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic situation in Manitoba, the Lutheran Urban Ministry is committed to enforcing 2 m social distancing and enforcing the City of Winnipeg Order of no more than ten individuals gathered at any time on the sidewalk or parking lot of Lutheran Church of the Cross during bagged lunch distribution.*

**Postponed until further notice:** The remaining Thursday "Get Better Together" workshops (with lunch incl.) facilitated by the Wellness Institute; and the remaining "Mental Wellness Facilitated Co-ed Sharing Circles" (grant from WRHA), facilitated by the Canadian Mental Health Assoc.

**Continuing: Winnipeg Harvest Foodbank at the Urban:** Those registered for Winnipeg Harvest Foodbank will continue to pick up their hampers on foodbank days. However, each hamper is brought outside the side door to the recipient.

**Please keep our vulnerable Lutheran Urban Ministry community in your prayers.**

**Please visit our website!** ([www.theurban.ca](http://www.theurban.ca)). Also, check out: **The Lutheran Urban Ministry Short Documentary Film: Hope is Never Lost** (12 minutes) captures the heart and soul of the Urban. View from our website or through YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FatPtzT9HhY>

Please contact me: [rhonda@theurban.ca](mailto: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

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.