



The Lutheran Urban Ministry
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September 2019 News from your Ministry Manager

Do you remember when you used to write in the margins of your notebook in school? It was often the snippets of thoughts at the moment or idle doodles on the paper.

The Miriam Webster dictionary defines the word **marginalize** as “to relegate to an unimportant or powerless position within a society or group”.

Many words and phrases are used to describe communities or groups as marginalized. Some of these are: the disadvantaged who exist on the sidelines of society, living in poverty, unemployment (those unable to work and those who long for work), living with physical/mental health/developmentally delayed disabilities, the victims experiencing the fear, shame and helplessness of human trafficking, those who suffer discrimination because of differing sexual orientation (LGBTQ), the previously incarcerated, and people of a particular ethnicity and/or country of origin, to name some.

The innermost emotions are often of powerlessness, unimportance, and of feeling unseen and unvalued.

This community of fellowship, friendship and spiritual care, the Lutheran Urban Ministry (the Urban), is comprised of many marginalized and vulnerable people in the West End of Winnipeg, many who live in extreme poverty. The Urban strives to feed the body and the spirit of those who attend. Strength and brokenness, faith and despair, resilience and hopelessness are within many of the stories shared. It is an incredible group of staff and volunteers and Urban community members who come through the door - sharing a lot of laughter, life stories, some tears at times and hope.

Ride for Refuge, October 5, 2019 <https://rideforrefuge.org>

- Please consider saving the date if you'd like to ride or walk for the Urban – our third year for participation!! We're hoping for more teams this year and it's sure a lot of fun!!
- Please consider donating to a team member on one of our teams (Urban Epiphanies, Gloria Dei Lutheran, CrossWalkers, The Board Walkers, First Lutheran or St. Mark's In Motion) in support of the Urban.
<https://rideforrefuge.org/charity/theurban>

The links to the **Ride for Refuge website** are also on our website www.theurban.ca for joining a team, starting a team or donating to a walker/rider for the Urban. The proceeds of this Urban fundraiser are used toward operating expenses such as program expenses, security costs, etc. Security is a necessity for the safety of vulnerable children and adults and our security is at the door during all of our open hours.

Please visit our newly designed website! The website address is the same (www.theurban.ca). Our new website supports video and will regularly feature short snippets of happenings at the Urban! 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>

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. 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

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.