



The Lutheran Urban Ministry  
Rm 25, 560 Arlington Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 1Z5  
rhonda@theurban.ca  
204-774-3143  
www.theurban.ca

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

## February 2022 News from your Ministry Manager

**The Omicron Variant** has infected many in our Urban community in the past month. We have heard that in many cases a whole family has come down with it and often hear reports of someone’s illness from their friends or family members as they stop by to pick up a bagged meal. I’ve had lots of requests for prayers.

**This Winter Weather has been exceptionally cold and windy.** Treacherous for walking on the sidewalks and quite a few of our regular attendees have various mobility issues that make it so difficult for getting about on slippery and snow-covered sidewalks. We’ve given out a lot of great donated winter jackets and boots and there are many people who are warmer in their walking because of this thoughtfulness!

**Resources of Wonderful Outreaches and Agencies** are located in key locations of Winnipeg and, for some, because of life circumstances more than one outreach is utilized as times and programs differ. However, often an individual is only able to access the assistance of an outreach within walking distance because of age, mobility, or younger children walking with the parent(s). Our Urban community knows that they are precious to us.

**Excess Donated Toques and Scarves for the Urban** have been dropped off at: *John M. King School, Pinkham School, West Central Women’s Resource Centre, Arms of the Cross Housing Inc., Daniel MacIntyre St. Matthews Community Assoc., and Manitoba Multifaith Immigration Council-Welcome Place.* So much gratitude to the abundance of knitters who have warmed the heads and necks of so many people here in the inner city. All of our Urban Christmas gift bags contained toques, scarves and mitts and we have given out a lot from the side door during bagged meal pickups.

### **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.

**The Lutheran Urban Ministry has so much gratitude** for our volunteers and the meal teams; for the pantry donations, for the prayers; and for all those who donate financial support toward our operating expenses.

**Our website:** [www.theurban.ca](http://www.theurban.ca). Check out our new video on our website, “Urban Gratitude”!

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

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. The Urban is committed to racial equality. 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](http://www.reconcilingworks.org)