



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

August 2022 News from your Ministry Manager

The familiar faces of our Urban community were so good to see after our July month of holidays!

Pastor Barry Bence (St. Paul’s, Brunkild) continues to email his weekly mid-week and Sunday devotionals to me. I print them and we tuck them into the bagged meals. His “thoughts from a pastor’s heart” are so welcomed by those who drop by. So often I hear the question, “did you put that paper in the bag”? We’re hoping that if Covid numbers drop, we can plan that sometime this fall we can resume the worship services (although we will mandate masks inside). Pastor Barry has already said that he’d lead our first service. For many years before the pandemic he preached once a month at the Urban and he’s really loved by people who attended our services.

Back to school is right around the corner! The children who walk over to the Urban with their parents and/or a grandparent attend schools in the West End neighbourhood, or are visiting for the day.



2022 Walk/Ride Fundraiser for the Urban! Saturday, September 10, 2022 (rain date: Oct. 1), 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. kick-off location at **Abundant Life Lutheran Church, Birds Hill**. If you’d like to form a team or join a team, please contact me. or use this link to sign up: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/lutheran-urban-ministry-corporation/p2p/2022GoingTheDistance/>

Info will be on the website shortly. Fun for all ages - and there will be walk and ride distances to suit everyone from 3 years old to the 90s! BBQ lunch outside Abundant Life, provided by the Urban afterward. *Going the Distance for the Urban* is our only fundraiser and replaces our participation in the annual Ride for Refuge.

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. 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 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