

June 2020 News from your Ministry Manager

The Urban is closed for holidays for the month of July

Until further notice, the Urban is continuing the suspension of 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 COVID-19 pandemic situation.

The Lutheran Urban Ministry is committed to enforcing 2 m social distancing on the church grounds of Lutheran Church of the Cross during bagged lunch distribution.

In the meantime, we are continuing to provide physical and spiritual nourishment in the best way we can in the present circumstances:

Father's Day, Sunday, June 21, 2020: Bagged lunches were distributed outside on Father's Day. In honour of Dad's (living and deceased and in honour of father figures) a gift bag was given to all of the men who attended who stopped by for a bagged lunch. Each gift bag contained donated socks and toothpaste from congregations, treats, and donated full sized men's Avon products.

In place of the Wednesday Men's Group Lunches, Wednesday & Thursday Community Suppers, and Sunday Lunches:

Bagged lunches (sandwich, dessert, juice box, etc.) to take home are given outside the door in place of sit-down meals at our regularly scheduled mealtimes. 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. **Fellowship** is happening in the parking lot!

We have so much gratitude for our volunteers and the meal teams, for the prayers, and for all those who provide financial support toward our operating expenses.



Father's Day gift bags on trolleys; bagged lunches in the white bags.

Sunday devotional messages for printing are sent to me weekly from Pastor Barry Bence who has preached 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. Spiritual care provided with the sandwich!!

Sunday, June 28, during the bagged lunch pick-up, Pastor Nancy Walker will be leading 4 brief worship services with communion for the Urban on the front lawn of Church of the Cross. Eight chairs, 2 m apart and socially distanced communion on the front step of the church. We are planning also to do the same one Sunday in August, September and October outside. Pastor Nancy will be speaking above the traffic noise!!

Continuing: Winnipeg Harvest Foodbank at the Urban. Those registered for our 560 Arlington St. 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. Winnipeg Harvest has recently reduced foodbank dates to once a month.

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

Please visit our website! (www.theurban.ca). Links to our 2020 Ride for Refuge **fundraiser for the Urban** - October 3. It's exciting this year with lots of Freestyle options besides walking or riding! Join an Urban team, form an Urban team or donate to one of our participants! This is a national fundraiser for charities and non-profits working with the vulnerable and disadvantaged.

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.