



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

December 2022 News from your Ministry Manager

Since March 2020 we have continued to err on the side of caution with re-opening downstairs with worship services and sharing circles. Many people who attend the Urban have underlying health issues. **We are planning our first worship service since the pandemic began in mid-January 2023 with Pastor Barry Bence leading the worship.** He plans to have a candle lighting in memory of family members and friends who have passed away since our last in-person service. Masks will be required and will be removed when receiving communion.

We plan to resume sharing circles sometime in February as well, and these are in the planning stages. For the time being, masks wearing will still be required to be worn on the church property when picking up a bagged meal and also indoors when our worship services and sharing circles resume. During sharing circles, social distancing of chairs and mask wearing will also be required - a cordless microphone will be passed from person to person because many people are very soft spoken and masks make voices so much quieter. We will be inviting pastors and congregation members to ring the doorbell and come and sit with us in our sharing circles when they resume.

Bagged meals will continue Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays from the side door after we re-open downstairs. Those attending the worship service will also receive their bagged lunch when they exit the church after the service. Those who prefer to can eat their bagged lunch at a table downstairs after the service instead of taking it home.

As 2022 comes to a close, the Urban is grateful for the continued financial support in so many ways that make the Lutheran Urban Ministry possible. I am particularly grateful for the volunteers who help me every week and for the meal teams, and the congregations who donate food items for the pantry and all who help to make these bagged meals and emergency food possible. We are currently distributing 1,200 – 1,400 bagged meals per month (4x/wk).

As this year comes to a close, we pray for our much-loved Urban community. We pray for those who are lonely, worried, cold, scared, homeless, struggle with food insecurity, housing insecurity, struggle with a disability or illness, an addiction, grief, and loss. We pray for the missing Indigenous women and girls and we pray for the families of those who have been found murdered.

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. 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