



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

September 2022 News from your Ministry Manager

School starting generated lots of comments about going back to school from Urban kids coming by with their parents or grandparents. The Urban was given 25 new backpacks from two congregations and enough school supplies to put quite a bit into each one. All 25 were given out in the past two weeks and such happy faces!

Food insecurity has greatly increased with the rise of grocery prices. Many in our Urban community, who previously stopped by to pick up a bagged meal occasionally, are now coming by regularly. The Urban will be continuing our bagged meals given outside the side door after we re-open downstairs as well. At that time, on Sundays, worshippers will take their bagged meal home when they leave the service – and when it’s possible to be maskless – may choose to stay and eat it at a table. Those attending sharing circles on Wednesdays and Thursdays will do the same once our programming resumes. Currently we are distributing approximately 1,300 bagged meals per month.

Future reopening for worship services and sharing circles: We continue to monitor the safety of reopening downstairs. We are still hoping for this fall sometime, but at this moment hospitalizations are on the upswing in Winnipeg and we have many in our Urban community who are vulnerable with underlying health conditions.



2022 Walk/Ride Fundraiser for the Urban on September 10 was a huge success! Thanks to so many for your support!! Our kick-off location was at Abundant Life Lutheran Church, East St. Paul, followed by a bbq lunch provided by the Urban. The *CanadaHelps Going the Distance for the Urban* portal is open until October 31, 2022. <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/lutheran-urban-ministry-corporation/p2p/2022GoingTheDistance/> Save the date next year for Sept. 16, 2023!! Photos of the event: <https://www.theurban.ca/going-the-distance-2022-photos>

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