



The Lutheran Urban Ministry
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May 2021 News from your Ministry Manager

NOTE: Due to new Province of Manitoba outdoor gathering restrictions announced to begin on May 9th we are distributing the bagged lunches quickly to keep the church sidewalk line at less than 5 people. We are moving people along quickly so that if a line forms on the city sidewalk it is as short as possible and socially distanced.

Covid-19 Vaccination Clinic Info: Now open to all who self-identify as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit:

- A vaccination is available without being asked to provide further proof. The following Indigenous clinics have times set aside for both appointments and walk-ins: **On Mondays & Tuesdays** both vaccine clinics in Winnipeg — located at the **Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre (Win Gardner Place, 363 McGregor Ave.)** and the **Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre (181 Higgins Ave.)** — are open exclusively for walk-ins.

Mother's Day: Yesterday we had lots of Moms (many with their children along), Grandmas/Kookums, and Aunties stopping by to pick up bagged lunches and a flower — all brought by the same congregation who has been faithfully in our website calendar for years on the second Sunday of every month. This congregation has three meal teams who take turns four times per year.

Meal Teams: The Urban is so grateful to all of our meal teams; and also to the congregation dropping off sandwiches at the end of every month for so many years; and we have so much gratitude as well as to our dedicated volunteer who, for more than ten years, makes wonderful lunches for our Wednesday men's lunch.

Pandemic Notes:

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.

*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.*

- Mid-week and Sunday devotionals are emailed to me from Pastor Barry Bence, printed and tucked into lunch bags.
- 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 bi-weekly bread/pastries) are also distributed outside.
- Masks and 2 m social distancing are 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. 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, 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