



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 2025 News from your Ministry Manager

On June 29th, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Cross had their last worship service due to a declining number of parishioners. The Winnipeg Free Press and the CBC were there with their cameras. It was a beautiful worship service filled with memories, nostalgia and some grief - but also with hope and excitement. Over 50 years ago, Church of the Cross built Arms of the Cross Housing Inc. (a non-profit income adjusted apartment block) across the back lane on Burnell St. In 2024, Church of the Cross gifted itself to Arms of the Cross. *Construction will begin inside the church building in the summer of 2026 to create between 29 and 38 bachelor and one-bedroom apartments – as affordable housing for seniors.* The vision of the original members continues in this wonderful way of serving others.

The non-profit Lutheran Urban Ministry Corp. has been a grateful tenant of Church of the Cross for the past 13 years. They have been a wonderful landlord, and also right now in the present time our new landlord Arms of the Cross. The Church of the Cross council and congregation have shown so much love and care over the years for our Urban community in countless ways. The Urban has been extremely fortunate to rent in the lower level of the church.

I'm very excited that the Urban will be moving to a new home at First Lutheran Church on June 1, 2026! First Lutheran, at 580 Victor St. here in the West End, will be our new landlord, and we're so grateful for this. And I have to say that I am super excited, as First Lutheran is my home congregation for the past 20 years - a warm, loving, and inclusive place - and I know that the Urban will feel at home there. Our Urban community constantly warms my heart.

In the meantime, while we're still located at Church of the Cross, *our weekly schedule remains the same until we move.* Before the move, we'll plan our new weekly schedule in conjunction with First Lutheran's own church hall availability schedule - and once we're there, we will be continuing with our men's lunch/sharing circles, women's sharing circles, women's drop-in, and co-ed sharing circles. *At First Lutheran each week, the Urban will have two early evening bagged supper distributions two days per week (8-9/month). Our Urban Sunday worship will be with the congregation of First Lutheran on Sunday mornings, and together we'll have coffee/fellowship following the service.*

The Urban is so grateful for the continued support of our MNO congregations in so many ways. This *wonderful non-profit Lutheran outreach to the struggling and marginalized here in the West End of Winnipeg, is a partner ministry of all of our MNO congregations.* Our focus on spiritual care and fellowship has created something really special.

To our MNO Congregation Members and Clergy: *Please join us anytime in Sunday worship at 1:30 and pray with us – and join us anytime in fellowship in our sharing circles:*

Sunday Worship Service: door opens at 1:00 p.m. with coffee/tea. Worship service 1:30 – 2:15 p.m.

Men's Lunch/Sharing Circle every Wednesday - Downstairs at Noon

Please stop by at 12:00 p.m. Noon (*ring the doorbell*) for lunch and great fellowship and conversation!

Women's Sharing Circle every Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. (until 3:30 p.m.)

Please arrive at 2:00 p.m. (*ring the doorbell*) for coffee/tea/dessert and great fellowship and conversation!

Women's Drop-in every Wednesday from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Please drop in (*ring the doorbell*) for coffee/tea/cookies and visiting together! Kids & grandkids welcome to come with you and we have colouring and arts and crafts to keep them busy.

Co-ed Sharing Circle every Thursday at 4:30 p.m. (please arrive at 4:30 p.m.)

(*ring the doorbell*) Join us for great fellowship and conversation! And coffee/tea/dessert.

- 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