

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

April 2025 News from your Ministry Manager

The Urban Prayer Bucket (the prayers from the Easter Vigil 2024 to April 2025)



Every Sunday in the lower level of our rented space at Lutheran Church of the Cross, the Urban has a 1:30 p.m. worship service with communion. During the coffee hour, before the service begins, there is a Prayer Bucket with paper and pencils beside it.

Well, that Prayer Bucket was originally an ice cream pail but it was repurposed for a wonderful purpose! *Prayers!!* And oh, there are so many prayers each Sunday. Prayers from the heart for oneself, for friends, family, for others in the worship service, for neighbours, prayers for the homeless, for the West End and for the world. Prayers for healing, for the lonely, the bereaved, for a job. Prayers for grandchildren, for pets, for wars to end, and for worries to ease.

When the worship service is beginning, the prayers are brought up to the pulpit to be read during the prayers of the church. Our Urban community write such beautiful prayers. Sometimes children’s prayers are in the Prayer Bucket as well. “Lord in your mercy” “Hear our prayers”.

I always reassure our Urban congregation that their prayers are not tossed away after the worship services. I add them to the others, into a box in my office (see photo above of 11 months of prayers 2024-25).

On Victor Street, at First Lutheran Church, an Easter Vigil is held every year at 8:00 p.m. A sacred fire is lit in the church courtyard for the start of the Easter Vigil and we gather around the fire for the first prayers before entering First Lutheran for the candlelight service. Every year, **underneath the kindling are all of the Urban prayers** – 11 months of them (we close every July for holidays) – and the smoke from the prayers symbolically go up to our Creator, who knows, loves, and always remembers the prayers of each person who has written them. Of that, I’m sure.

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