



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

October 2021 News from your Ministry Manager

- Canada celebrated the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th. The Urban is committed to understanding and following the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). It is essential that Canadians view reconciliation as ongoing. Approximately 80% of our attendees are Indigenous (we live on the land of the Ojibwe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples from time immemorial, and the homeland of the Métis Nation). Many of our attendees have grown up in Winnipeg, some from rural areas or towns, and many have moved here from reserves/or have family ties to a reserve. Within our Urban community are also immigrants from many countries.
- The TRC definition of reconciliation: ". . . Reconciliation is about establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in this country. In order for that to happen, there has to be awareness of the past, an acknowledgement of the harm that has been inflicted, atonement for the causes, and action to change behaviour."
- This new National Day is a time for education of past history, reflection, truly listening and understanding the scope of the inter-generational trauma, grief and loss, and recognizing the necessity of our individual commitment as Canadians to making this country truly a "just society" for all. With this ongoing process of healing – as a country we should never forget what has happened and work toward real change. This day is also a huge celebration of the strength, resiliency, and rich culture of the First Nations of Canada.

2021 Ride for Refuge, Oct. 2 – our yearly fundraiser for the Urban. We are so grateful to the teams from Lutheran Church of the Cross, Abundant Life, Gloria Dei, the Urban Board, and First Lutheran - and to all those who donated!

2021 Going the Distance, Sept. 11 – the 2nd annual fundraiser for the Urban organized by Epiphany Lutheran and joined by two bike riders from Faith Lutheran. We are so grateful for this event and to all who donated to the walkers and riders!

Pandemic Notes:

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.

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