



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 2021 News from your Ministry Manager

- It's so encouraging that the majority of those who stop by the Urban have been vaccinated. We continue to require that masks are worn on the church property. With the worry of variants and a fourth wave, this ensures an added measure of safety for those in line during our bagged meal distributions (1,000 – 1,100 bagged meals distributed each month). Children, the unvaccinated, and people with underlying health conditions are especially vulnerable. There's a lot of talking and catching up that happens in the line!
- When our sharing circles begin again there will sure be a lot to catch up on. I'm guessing a few months of general conversations in the men's, women's and co-ed sharing circles of how we've all been and what's happened in our lives during the pandemic time - before we move on to specific topics.
- Every week, Pastor Barry Bence (St. Paul's, Brunkild) emails his mid-week devotional and Sunday gospel reading / prayers / sermon to me. I print and fold the pages and it's given to individuals and families along with their bagged meals. Spiritual Care in the bag! So many have mentioned how much they look forward to reading them.

**2021 Ride for Refuge, October 2** – this is our yearly fundraiser for the Urban. Virtual format again this year with freestyle options as well as riding and walking for the Urban! **To form a team, join a team, or donate to a participant:** <https://rideforrefuge.org/charity/theurban>

## 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](http://www.theurban.ca). Please keep our vulnerable Lutheran Urban Ministry community in your prayers.

Please contact me: [rhonda@theurban.ca](mailto: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](http://www.reconcilingworks.org)