



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

### **March 2022 News from your Ministry Manager**

**Cold, snowy, icy, and windy weather** just doesn't seem to let up as we've moved into March! Anyone needing to walk any distance in the city has such a difficult time navigating through the sidewalks. Every person with a car has white knuckles trying to see past the snowbanks at the end of roads, lanes, and driveways. We'll all be so happy to see spring!

**Masks** will continue to be required on the church property during bagged meal pickup at the side door (Sunday lunch, Wednesday men's lunch, Wednesday and Thursday evening bagged meals). The pandemic hasn't finished with us yet and the Urban isn't finished with mask wearing until the danger of Covid-19 transmission has passed in Winnipeg.

**Urban worship services:** we're holding off awhile yet on resuming worship services. I continue to hear of too many people who have contracted Covid lately - and it's better to wait than hear that someone is home sick who had unknowingly passed it around downstairs at the Urban. We're looking forward to our men's, women's and co-ed sharing circles resuming after we feel comfortable for awhile following a healthy resumption of worship services.

**So much gratitude** for the individuals, churches, congregation members, prayers, meal teams, and volunteers - all form the backbone of the Lutheran Urban Ministry in a myriad of ways.

**Food insecurity** in Manitoba will continue to worsen with food prices continuing to rise. Many who attend the Urban are unable to work because of a variety of reasons, or are looking for work, or the paycheque doesn't stretch for groceries until the end of the month. Food and housing insecurity is a huge source of worry for a lot of people.

### **Pandemic Notes: Pandemic worries are not yet over in Winnipeg and the Urban continues with the following:**

**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). Check out our new video on our website, "Urban Gratitude"!

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, 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](http://www.reconcilingworks.org)