



The Lutheran Urban Ministry
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March 2018 News from your Ministry Manager

Spring is around the corner! So many smiles and spirits seem to lift with the temperature rising and more daylight!

The Urban No-charge Family Bingo immediately follows the 7:00 p.m. meal on the second Thursday of every month. On March 8th, 94 people had supper and played bingo. Twelve children played along with their parents or grandparents (and two were in strollers). Quite a few toys had been donated and of all the young ones went home with something they liked. We always welcome gently used items like toasters, kettles, coffee makers in good working condition, toys and games for all ages, kitchen items and backpacks. The bingo winners (six games) receive a prize bag and first pick of the prizes and at the end of the evening everyone goes home with something.

Unstable housing situations: So often in our sharing circles we hear of unsafe living conditions: landlords who do not make necessary repairs; break-ins into apartments and rooming houses; stories of drug deals happening down the hall; or, a fire that creates the necessity to move. The safe and caring environment of our sharing circles gives voice to those who wish to speak about their struggles and the knowledge that they are heard within the group.

A safe place to sit and talk, have a meal, listen to others, receive spiritual care, voice opinions and concerns and worship on Sunday is so appreciated and mentioned so often by new people and those who have come to the Urban for many years. Many families attend. There are always children seated on small chairs at the two colouring tables.

Compassion is constantly shown by those struggling with life issues themselves. Last Sunday a man whose name was drawn for a bag of emergency food, quietly handed it to another man who he knows from our men's group. He told me afterward that the other man needed it more. Last week in the sharing circle, a woman who has experienced many tragedies and losses gave encouragement and reassurance to a man who spoke of despair.

Sharing Circles continue each week for women on Wednesdays 4:30-5:30, Co-ed on Thursdays 5:45-6:45 and Wednesdays bi-weekly at the Men's Group 1:30-2:30. Three hours spent each week in fellowship, prayer, listening and sharing, laughter and sometimes tears.

The Lutheran Urban Ministry Short Documentary Film has been released!!

- This film was made possible by an ACTS of the MNO Synod grant and the Urban is so grateful for the opportunity to bring the Urban to you. We are hoping that you will enjoy having a peak into typical Lutheran Urban Ministry days, worship, meals, sharing circles and some of the events of 2017.
- Produced by Rick Scherger of Fate Communications, we feel that the heart and soul of the Urban has been captured (12 minutes long). <http://www.fatecommunications.ca/Hope.html> or through Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FatPtzT9HhY>

Thank you to the meal teams who ensure that no one leaves the Urban hungry and to all those who donate groceries for our emergency food. Our website calendar shows available dates for meal teams: <http://www.theurban.ca/calendar.php> Please contact me: rhonda@theurban.ca for additional information or to add your meal team to the calendar.

Kind regards,
Rhonda Gorham
Ministry Manager
Lutheran Urban Ministry