



The Lutheran Urban Ministry
Rm 25, 560 Arlington Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 1Z5

November 15, 2016

November 2016 News from your Ministry Manager

Three months have gone by so quickly since I took this position as Ministry Manager of the Urban. Cold weather is on the way but since most walk everywhere (and often walk for 30 minutes to get here), a late fall is a real bonus! We have had some wonderful donations of handmade mitts, toques and scarves for men, women and children (and socks!) and we have given some out now and saving some for the brutal weather when some mitts have been lost or another layer of socks needed.

There are so many stories shared at the Urban. The impact of the Residential Schools and the 60s Scoop (forced adoptions) are a reality of the lives of numerous people who attend. Also many people have been raised in multiple foster homes and many have had their children taken into foster care. Mental illness, fetal alcohol syndrome, addictions, physical disabilities, poverty, homelessness, substandard/dangerous rooming houses and just plain despair are some of the day-to-day living experiences of our Urban community.

The Urban is very thankful to be the recipient of an ACTS of the MNO grant that has enabled us to begin a 32 week program of Trauma, Grief and Loss circles every Thursday and for every other Wednesday Men's Group. Sharing, insights, healing, new friendships, communication and understanding are already underway. Adrian Jacobs, Keeper of the Circle of the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre and Linda and Rick Martin of Indigenous Pathways are among the facilitators of these very moving sharing circles.

Every week I hear many times, "could I just talk to you for a minute and maybe you could say a prayer for me". Yes, there are soup kitchens in Winnipeg and although the Urban is not a soup kitchen, we do serve meals. The Lutheran Urban Ministry is a refuge to many – for Sunday worship, friendship, spiritual care, conversations, prayers, laughter, tears – and that is served with a side order of food! Jesus was always concerned with the state of the stomachs of those who gathered; and through our wonderful meal teams, the generosity of those who give toward our operating expenses to keep us going, those who donate food, and through the support of the MNO Synod and congregations, no one leaves hungry, there is always enough.

Kind regards,

Ministry Manager
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