



The Lutheran Urban Ministry
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January 2018 News from your Ministry Manager

Happy New Year! The extreme cold has been hard on those who walk everywhere. Attendance was down over the week before Christmas and through the week after New Year's due to weather conditions.

Christmas: We had a wonderful worship service on December 24th led by Pastor Barry Bence, and a full turkey, potatoes, stuffing with all the trimmings lunch. Everyone left carrying gifts!

Additional Blessings: I don't want to single anyone out by name and create embarrassment – the Urban received 100 gift bags from a family and their extended family; and also gifts for everyone from our landlord.

The Urban filled gift bags as well (150, including over 50 for children) and these were made possible by: the knitters who ensured that every bag held a toque, scarf and mitts; a youth donating his Christmas money and raising more from his congregation for the Urban in honour of his wonderful Grandma - and then buying winter jackets, toys and toiletries for the Urban Christmas; three youth groups donating boxes of cookies for the children's bags; a business owner of the Jewish faith donating the money for Christmas candy; and many new items donated that were put into the Urban gift bags.

And I could go on. There were gifts for all and also for those who missed Sunday but attended the following Wednesday and Thursday.

The Shoebox Project for Shelters, supported by Dream Manitoba Chapter: Urban women have also received shoeboxes of lovely items from the Shoebox Project.

Handbags for Hope: The Urban was also so fortunate to receive handbags for all of the women in our Urban community (each filled with personal items) from the Handbags for Hope Project.

Struggles: I always marvel at the tenacity of so many who trudge through the snow and icy streets to get here. Many who sit at our tables struggle with physical disabilities and/or mental health disabilities, live in substandard housing, apartments or rooming houses/group homes and have worries associated with those factors.

Sharing Circles: Due to many deaths within immediate families in the past 6 months, grief has continued to be a recurring topic at the Co-ed Sharing Circle on Thursdays. Many have commented on the benefit of listening, speaking and feeling heard. The Wednesday Women's Sharing has grown in size and many issues relating to women are covered. The Men's Sharing Circles continue to be lively discussions of a huge variety of topics!

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. 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