

# THE CAREGIVER

LuMinHoS  
Lutheran Ministry in  
Hospitals of Saskatoon

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#### LuMinHoS

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Chaplain Reverend Ron Bestvater

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#### MISSION STATEMENT

*LuMinHoS is a ministry of spiritual care sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ, with Lutheran patients and their families in the Saskatoon hospitals*

#### VISION STATEMENT

*LuMinHoS will present the comfort of Christ to ALL Lutheran patients admitted to Saskatoon Hospitals*

#### Thank You

LuMinHoS cannot adequately thank the following for your prayers, gifts of time, talent, and treasure. God bless you!

Atch and Co.

D'Arcy Hande

Inter Church Health Ministries

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Bernard and Dorine Mintzler

Rev. Fran Schmidt

St. Olaf Lutheran Women Kindersley

Warren and Wendy Stevenson

Bernie and Ruth Zuk

## Memorable Commemoration by Ron Bestvater, Chaplain

When LuMinHoS Board approved a sabbatical for me, they set three priorities: to rest, to study, and to travel someplace I hadn't been before. After six weeks of rest, I started my studies—which just happened to prepare nicely for the trip! Someplace I had never been before just happened to be where a Rostad tour was going during my sabbatical: some of the Luther Heritage sites in Germany, starting in my father's birthplace of Berlin! He decided to come along, and so did my brothers! We had a memorable trip with our Dad, and got to visit together some of the historic sites where Martin Luther had lived and worked five hundred years ago. The Castle Church where Luther is supposed to have posted the original document of the 95 Theses; the Black Cloister, where Martin and Katarina von Bora Luther, nun-turned-housemistress and land-owner,

raised family and hosted students, dignitaries, and travelers; the City Church where Luther most preached to the common people; and so many others—Leipzig, Erfurt, Eisenach, Halle, Dresden, Buchenwald, Prague. One place fascinated me more than others: the Wartburg Castle, where Luther spent 10 months surrounded by the memory of Saint Elizabeth of Thuringia. She was a 14<sup>th</sup> century mystic who set the foundations for hospice and hospital care in her selfless giving to the poor and sick in the villages below the castle. Is it just a coincidence that a white rose figures in the symbols associated with both St Elizabeth and Martin Luther...? More study needed—and maybe more travel! A truly memorable way to commemorate 500 years of reformation and a wonderful gift of renewal and rest. Thank you, LuMinHoS

### Thank you Pastor Michael!

Pastor Michael Diegel was contracted by the LuMinHoS Board to cover the chaplain's visitation ministry during the sabbatical February-May 2017. He went beyond the call of duty, completing over 400 visits, responding to many emergency requests, and providing spiritual leadership for Board meetings, the Annual General Meeting, and Volunteer Management Committee meetings. During his service, Pastor Diegel worked out a new communication system between the Visitation Committee and the Chaplain which has proven its value since Pastor Ron's return. Pastor Michael was also called upon to offer support to the Spiritual Care staff and journey with them through the initial reactions to the unexpected decision by the government to cut their positions. His caring and diligent ministry was just what LuMinHoS needed while Chaplain Ron was away. On July 18, about twenty people from the LuMinHoS organization came out for a bbq honouring Pastor Diegel's ministry, when thank yous and tokens of appreciation were presented to Pastor Michael, Annamarie, and their sons. If anyone wishes to contribute to the appreciation card, please mark your donation, "Pastor Michael Appreciation." As part of his remarks, Pastor Michael commented on the intensity of his four-month interim: "I guess if I wasn't in the hospital visiting these past four months, I was on the soccer pitch cheering for my boys!"

Thank you Pastor Diegel! We pray God's blessing on your future ministry.

## President's Message - by Gord Martens



### Urgent Financial Appeal

Due to a significant reduction in donations over the summer, LuMinHoS has been forced to rely on long term savings to cover expenses for September and October.

Please continue to pray for, and support, the LuMinHoS ministry as we continue to focus on God's will for this important work.

## The Future is 'bright' for LuMinHoS

We live in a world of constant change! Some are small changes while others are changes of significance. Are we ready to respond to change? How will we respond? Is change an opportunity for growth?

I'm sure the residents of the Caribbean Islands, Cuba and Florida are asking some of the same questions in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. Is the future still bright? How can it be?

Over the past months since the Provincial Budget we were faced with a 'change' in the Spiritual Care Departments of the Saskatoon Hospitals. Indeed change may be a mild term! In fact the Spiritual Care Department was closed (or will be shortly). As a Board we faced many of the same questions cited above:

- How will we get the lists of names of our Lutheran patients;
- Do we still have a ministry;
- What does the future hold.

It has been a time of confusion and upheaval, and yet through all of this has emerged a bright and glowing vision for LuMinHoS!

- Do we still have a ministry?

**Yes we do!** More so than ever! Pastor Ron Bestvater has been tirelessly pursuing options of ministry in light of the changes to the Spiritual Departments. His findings have been very positive! Yes indeed there is an **ever growing need for our ministry**. He has in fact had

nursing staff approach him during this change period asking for spiritual help for patients. No pill addresses the needs of the soul, and the staff in our Saskatoon hospitals find themselves looking for the comfort our ministry of God's love and forgiveness brings to those facing health issues.

So, yes the ministry will change, but with that comes opportunity. We are looking at opportunity to extend the contact we have with our Lutheran patients beyond hospital stays. The lists of patients will still be there although in different form. **Our ministry is to be true to the calling God has given us through the LuMinHoS organization.** More than ever the Good News of Salvation is needed.

It may involve more input from you, our faithful supporters and Prayer Warriors. When a fellow Lutheran is in hospital we will be looking for your help in the form of a phone call or email advising Pastor Ron and his fellow visitation team of the opportunity.

- *Please keep the ministry of LuMinHoS in your prayers daily.*
- *Please keep supporting the cost of our ministry on a regular basis as we continue to respond to God's guidance in new ministry opportunities to both patients and staff in our Saskatoon hospitals.*
- *Invite others around you to become a part of our Prayer Partner supporters.*
- *Consider becoming a part of our Board of Directors or one of our committees as we move ahead to more and greater opportunities to share the redemptive love of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

**2 Tim. 1:10** - *But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.* In His service,

Gord Martens, Chairperson - LuMinHoS

### News from the Saskatoon Health Region About Spiritual Care

Our chaplain has been in close contact with the spiritual care staff of the Saskatoon Health Region since the government austerity cuts were announced in March. We have all been asking how these cuts will affect our ministry. Recently he sat down with Brian Zimmer, the interim director of Spiritual Care and Director of Mission for St. Paul's Hospital. The questions we have been asking were part of their conversation. Here is the gist of Brian's response.

Who is directly affected by the cuts to spiritual care? "All of the health region staff who are paid to provide spiritual care services have received their notices and will no longer be employed with the health region as of September 27, 2017."

Will church-sponsored chaplains and our volunteers be able to visit in the hospitals after September 27? "Yes. You will be able to visit the patients who are members of your denominations as always."

How will we get access to the lists of patients who request spiritual care—the denominational lists? "We are still working on those transition plans, but I can tell you where they stand right now. Nothing will change at St. Paul's Hospital, so it will be

business as usual for you. At Saskatoon City Hospital, the Volunteer Work Force department has graciously agreed to continue providing the denominational patient lists through their office space and administrative staff. We are not sure what is going to happen yet at Royal University Hospital, but have received assurances from the Ministry of Health that the lists and some office space will continue to be available to denominational chaplains and volunteers after September 27."

What about the patients who request spiritual care but have no denominational affiliation or religious preference? "We know you are all diligent and caring individuals and that you will respond to every request presented to you and we hope you will document the ministry you provide to patients and their families and friends who do not belong to your denomination. This kind of documentation may help in the future if new possibilities for spiritual care develop in the health region."

We are grateful for the work that the Health Region's Spiritual Care Staff have done to make these transition plans. We have been richly blessed with collaborative and caring relationships with them and are deeply grieved to see them go. Only as we continue to visit in the hospitals will the full scope of losing their collaborative support become known. One very important unknown is how the Protestant Chapel services at City Hospital will be coordinated. Please keep this in your prayers.

**REFORMATION COMMEMORATION BANQUET OCTOBER 28**

Excitement is mounting for the Reformation Commemoration Banquet, October 28, 2017, at the Western Development Museum. Tickets, \$35/person, are now on sale in the hands of LuMinHoS church representatives! Get yours soon! Be a table captain, organize your friends so you can enjoy the evening together. Convey this to Rhonda or, if you prefer to get a ticket directly, would like to sit with someone special, contact her at [billardr@sasktel.net](mailto:billardr@sasktel.net). Deadline for tickets is October 15, 2017.

We have a lineup of great entertainment, including the Saskatoon Men's Chorus, a hand bell choir, the Ackermann duo and...a mystery performer! Our keynote speaker, Donna Pyle of Spring, Texas is very excited to join us in Saskatchewan, with the prospect of seeing the Northern Lights! She is a member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Her address will focus on *how to make Lutheranism relevant to upcoming generations*. You will have an opportunity to purchase from her collection of Bible studies, devotional and topical materials. Visit her website at Artesian Ministries <https://www.artesianministries.org> and browse through her publications.

We are working on a "quasi" German meal (not all Lutherans are German!) and hope to please everyone! If you have food allergies or definite dislikes to certain foods, please let Rhonda Billard-Gore know at [billardr@sasktel.net](mailto:billardr@sasktel.net) or phone her at 306-244-4743. WDM will try to accommodate!

Pictured below, left to right:  
 --Pastor Michael and Annamarie Diegel's son on the soccer field.  
 --LuMinHoS congregational rep from Messiah Lutheran Church (PA) completed a 10 km walk for Diabetes this summer in Iceland, this after 16 foot surgeries. Congratulations, Jenn!

**Inter-Lutheran Banquet**  
to Commemorate the  
500th Anniversary of the  
**Reformation**



Western Development Museum  
Saturday,  
**October 28, 2017, 6 pm**  
Dinner and Entertainment  
Guest Speaker  
**Donna Pyle**  
Lutheran Author/Book Sale

**Tickets \$35**

Available from  
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All Lutheran Churches



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Dr. Martin Luther

**Thanking Our Sponsors**  
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 Saskatoon Men's Chorus

**Organized by LuMinHoS**



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