



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Rev. Richard Engel

"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'" Matt. 9:36-38

A Lutheran patient I visited last week was recovering from a well needed surgery. An active church member, he gave thanks for the faith-filled care provided by his church and family. He also gave thanks for the wisdom received by another friend, who had a similar surgery. The wisdom imparted to him was not from a nursing or physician's perspective. In fact, it wasn't even from a medical perspective. The wisdom, which was a great help to this person, was from a *patient's* perspective. "Without that knowledge," this patient confided, "I would have never known what to expect in hospital during recovery."

Often, a patient feels as if they are a foreigner within the hospital environment. Don't misunderstand the patient, for they are very thankful to have access to care in their time of need. Many patients make a point of telling me the care they receive is so appreciated (thank you nurses and care teams!). However, with doctors and nurses, pressed for time to dispense with care, tests and updates in as little time as possible (in order to see as many patients as possible) and often with little communication that makes sense to a patient unversed in 'doctor-speak,' how can one not feel 'harassed and



helpless' in the hospital bed? Thanks be to God a few patients know someone who has been to hospital, someone who is willing to share their experience and so prepare them for their hospitalization. All patients would appreciate such a friend.

"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few." This excerpt from the gospel reading for the third Sunday after Pentecost has accompanied me these last few weeks. The compassion and comfort Jesus freely offers through clergy and spiritual care workers in the hospital is necessary to any patient's physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. More recent studies attest to this. And new studies, which I was able to view at the 10th Annual International Conference on Ageing and Spirituality, confirm this, without a doubt (in my opinion).

After three years of pausing denominational volunteers and LuMinHoS lay visitors, we finally have movement towards them being officially welcomed in our hospitals once more. Our Wednesday Morning Chapel services now take place at a new time and in a new space, at the request of hospital

LuMinHoS Vision Statement:

LuMinHoS will present the comfort of Christ to all Lutheran patients admitted to Saskatoon hospitals.

staff on the Transitional Care Unit at City Hospital. These are amazing steps towards the acknowledgment within the hospitals of faith as a 'social determinant of health' (paraphrasing a title of one of Dr. Ellen Idler's research papers).

But, after three years of pausing (and waiting), the denominational volunteer pools have nearly disappeared. Together with other denominational chaplains, we are in a time of recruitment and training. Please pray that the Lord may send

out labourers into his harvest in Saskatoon hospitals. You may see requests for volunteers in upcoming church bulletins and here in this newsletter. Prayerfully consider if Christ's call to love and serve in this way might be a call to you. The harvest is indeed ready to receive the grace, acceptance, and love we carry in Christ's name to the hospital beds.

**Rev. Richard Engel, Hospital Chaplain
Coordinator for Inter-denominational Worship
in Saskatoon Hospitals.**

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR

Gord Martens



O Lord, our God, how blessed are we! Not only have You given us Your Word, which offers and imparts to us all the fruits of the redemption of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, but You have also opened our

eyes, so that we may know Your grace and in firm confidence receive it. Though the world, the Law, our heart, and our conscience condemn us, what do we care? Your Word declares us free of all guilt. O keep us in such faith unto our end and grant that all members of our congregations may appreciate the great treasure which they possess. Help them and us to triumph over all attacks of the devil, the world, and our flesh and finally to depart this life in peace and to be received into Your eternal kingdom. Hear us for the sake of our risen and victorious Champion, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Walther's Prayer for Faith in the Word.

We live in an ever changing world and it can seem like all is out of control. The ministry of LuMinHoS brings the assurance of God's promises at a time when it is easy to worry, at a time when sickness afflicts and thoughts of our frail mortal existence threaten to shadow our faith. And we hear the words of the 23rd Psalm speaking encouragement

with "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, for you are with me. Your rod and your staff comfort me". Satan would that we doubt the precious promise of eternal life through the sacrifice of Jesus but God's Word brings us assurance and comfort and sets our eyes on Jesus. Our ministry has brought this powerful message to the bedsides of our Lutheran brothers and sisters for over 40 years. God's promises are true and His Word never fails us, even in the shadows of death.

Our ministry is possible because of you, our faithful supporters. Without the prayers lifted up to the throne daily by so many prayer warriors we could not carry on. Thank you.

I would like to reach out for your help in our ministry. We have two immediate needs (details on next page). We pray that God would prepare the hearts of some individuals to step out and join our ministry. This is a most rewarding part of the ministry.

If the Lord has laid the burden of serving on your heart, please contact Pastor Richard Engel or myself for further discussion. We trust God will send the right persons to fill these needs. Jesus tells us in John 4:35 'Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes and see that the fields are white for harvest.'

May God grant you a wonderful summer.

LUMINHOS VOLUNTEER NEEDS – Summer/Fall 2023

• ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



We are in need of an **Administrative Assistant to our Chaplain**.

This position entails attending the 4 board meetings yearly, certain committee meetings and the recording minutes of these meetings. Also to assist in preparing Agendas for Board meetings and Annual General meetings. Time commitment would be about 5 - 10 hours per month. Please pray that someone might step up and fill this role.

• LAY HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS

We are also looking for **Volunteer Lay Visitors** to assist our chaplain with hospital visits, enabling him to be available for the most urgent visits and **volunteers to assist with weekday worship services**. The time commitment is determined by each volunteer.



Lay Visitors

Looking for a flexible and impactful volunteer opportunity in the wider church? Do you have experience or a desire to lift up those who are not feeling well? Then, prayerfully consider becoming a **lay visitor** with LuMinHoS – Lutheran Ministry in Hospitals of Saskatoon!

LuMinHoS needs volunteers to visit patients in Saskatoon hospitals and residents in Parkridge Center. Previous experience with hospital/care home visitation would be an asset. However, a willingness to learn the ministry of presence, and, a desire to share the comfort of Christ with others, are the only prerequisites! For more information, please contact Pastor Richard Engel, Hospital Chaplain, at 306 229 1663 (call or text). Or, email at chaplain@luminhos.org.



Worship

Worship Volunteers

The interdenominational worship committee for Saskatoon hospitals is looking for volunteers to assist with weekday worship services. Since the pausing of denominational volunteers in 2020, our list of contacts has become very short! Would you prayerfully consider volunteering?

There are immediate opportunities for musicians to provide worship music, leaders to plan and lead worship, patient porters (to wheel patients to and from service), and communion assistants (when holy communion is celebrated). Training and support to navigate in the hospital worship environment will be provided. For more information, please contact Pastor Richard Engel, Interdenominational

Worship Coordinator, at 306 229 1663 (call or text). Or, email at chaplain@luminhos.org.



The LuMinHoS 2023 AGM

Sunday, September 10, 2023

**7:00 pm at Good Shepherd Lutheran
1215 McKercher Drive, Saskatoon**



Did you know? that LuMinHoS continues to be supported entirely through donations from faithful individuals, congregations and organizations who understand the importance of our ministry? Donations are thankfully received, without cost, **online by e-transfer** to info@luminhos.org, through **credit card** or **Paypal**, or **by mail** (cheques, money orders or credit card information) sent to **PO Box 23019, RPO Market Mall, Saskatoon, SK S7J 5H3**. **Charitable donation receipts will be mailed to donors.**



KatieLu's Café



The events Committee held a Katie Lu Café on March 26 at Aspira Hunter Village. Gaye-Lynn Kern provided a wonderful musical experience for our listening pleasure. We also held a small auction, the star of which was a cake made by Andrea Cameron. We were able to raise approximately \$3500 with this event.

Many thanks to the committee members, to all those who assisted with this and especially to all those who attended. Also, we are very thankful to Aspira Hunter Village for the use of their dining room once again. It is a beautiful space to be able to host the Katie Lu Cafés. And special thanks to Gaye-Lynn Kern for sharing her talent with us.

With God's Blessings,
The Events Committee



Put on your walking shoes for the 2023 LuMinHoS WALK-A-THON

Saturday, Sept. 16
at 10 a.m.

starting at Zion Lutheran
323 4th Ave.S., Saskatoon



Plan to be part of our walk-a-thon.

Get in shape while gathering pledges!

Pledge sheets will be available on the
LuMinHoS Website, www.luminhos.org,
(under "Events") by Aug.1st

Join us for a beautiful walk along the banks
of the South Saskatchewan River.

Please remember to bring a bottle of water.

Can't get out to walk in person? Consider
walking the halls of your building or if you're
a mall walker then that can count too.

Whether or not you decide to walk in person
or do a virtual walk, LuMinHoS looks forward
to your generous support.

TRIBUTE GIFTS

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF:

Joan Meyer

Rev. Kristin Soveran
Rev. Allan Gundahl
Wayne Hyde & Cheryl Bauer-Hyde
Rev. Dr. Gordon & Brenda Jensen
Pamela Smith
Earl & Debra Hagman
Mildred L. Siegel
Albert & Joyce Schmidt
Doris Burns
Renate Bishopp
Ruby Lang
Del Menger
Coralie Geving
Karen Harilstad
Donald & Doris Slind
Lavina & Rodney Carter
Murray & Verna Echorst
Margaret Lissel
Karen Stepko

Carol & Gary Brandt
Vern & Fern Keil
Sonia Butalia
Judith Bergstrom

Joan and Don Meyer

Isabella Sundby
Diana Fast
Rev. Heather Kleiner
Wayne Carlson
Del Menger
Rev. Allan Grundahl
Rev. Dr. Ken & Margareth Peterson
Renate Bishopp
Adele Rempel
Barbara & Elmer Schultz
Margaret Hall
Rev. Ron Bestvater
Lovina Walper
Coralie Geving
Marie Ebbert
Hali Hamel

Patti Pfeifer

Rev. Allan Grundahl

William & Adeline Karstens

Hubert & Joyce Karstens

Forest & Bernel Jensen

Hubert & Joyce Karstens

Bill Bishopp

Renate Bishopp

Edith Kobir & Kelly

O'Leary Kobie
Wayne Kobie

Emil Jerry Schnedar

Marilyn Schnedar

Norma Berner

Bernard Mintzler

Otto Markwart

Sharon Markwart

Joan Acton

Robert & Shirley Gordon

Ruth Olson

Gordon & Illa Knudsen

Edwin Loessin

Ruth Hosegood

Eileen Carlson

Wayne Carlson

GIFTS IN HONOR OF:

Pastor Richard Engel

Elmer Klassen

Marilyn Schnedar

Del Menger

LuMinHoS Ministry

Evelyn & Edward Schultz



Thank you

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Visit our website: www.luminhos.org Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/Luminhos

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