

THE CAREGIVER

THE LUTHERAN CARE SOCIETY
A HOSPITAL MINISTRY

February 2014
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THE LUTHERAN CARE SOCIETY
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Chaplain Reverend Ronald Bestvater
Cell (306) 229-1663

MISSION STATEMENT

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

VISION STATEMENT

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

Immediate VOLUNTEER Needed

LCS is in need of a **volunteer who would be interested in researching and writing grant applications** to increase much needed funding. If you are interested, please contact **James Dietrich (306) 931-7625**.

Volunteers also needed in other areas. If interested, please contact a Management Team member, contact information on third page.

Chaplain Ron Bestvater's Message: Amazing Love, Amazing Grace

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son,
that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life." -John 3:16

Ross Volmer is one of the people who makes Holding Crosses for the Lutheran Care Society. He got the pattern from Henry Wichert, who started the idea here in Saskatoon. He picked it up from a Christian Digest article that told the story of the man who made the first one to fit in the hand of his wife who was in a coma. When she awoke, she asked "Where's my holding cross?", thus the name. For a long while Henry was alone in making the Holding Crosses. A number of people have since joined the corp. We give out the crosses in the hospitals in Saskatoon to help people remember to pray for others, and

to comfort people by remembering as they hold on to the cross that God is holding on to them by the cross of Jesus. Ross has made several hundred of the holding crosses now. Ewald held it when he had his last communion with Pastor David. One woman had it put on a leather strap so she could wear it when she couldn't hold it. A number of people have made reaching for the cross their last act. We want to say thank you to the people who make these holding crosses. We haven't forgotten the people who make other kinds of crosses but we'll remember them another time. But most importantly, we want to

praise and thank our Heavenly Father for our Saviour Jesus Christ on the Cross. Praise be to Jesus! Amen! Such amazing love, such amazing grace.



A Pastors' Thank You Breakfast was held on February 12 at Luther Heights. All Lutheran Pastors and retired pastors from Saskatoon and the surrounding area were invited to enjoy a time of shared fellowship. Allan Grundahl and Rev. Ron Bestvater each spoke about the Lutheran Care Society and congregational and ministerial participation within it.

Remembering Ewald Draeger by Pastor Gene Grant

Ewald was a faithful servant of God, the Church, and the Lutheran Care Society Hospital Ministry. For many years he was the treasurer of the LCS. Though he did not attempt to become computer literate, the books were always accurate and he carried out the work promptly. He aimed for nothing less than perfection in this ministry. Ewald was dependable. Except for illness, Ewald was sure to be at board meetings and the many LCS fundraisers. He was a strong voice for the LCS, and urged board members, "Do your part in financial support."

Ewald was called to his eternal home on January 2, 2014. It was a moment of very mixed feelings hearing about his passing. He was a faithful board member, but also a good friend. He will certainly be missed. In death there is also Good News! His funeral was a victory celebration, for those who attended rejoiced that throughout his life Ewald held fast to the faith into which he had been baptized. Now his heavenly life is just beginning! Thanks to Pastor David Hunter and Chaplain Ron Bestvater who conducted the service.



The board of the Lutheran Care Society expresses sincere thanks to all who gave memorial donations in memory of **Ewald**.

MORE OPTIONS FOR GIVING: The board has undertaken some initiatives to make it easier for those who wish to support the work of the LCS financially: Two options are: **Pre-authorized donations (PAD)**. A sign-up form is enclosed with this newsletter. This allows you to make monthly contributions to LCS through a direct deposit from your bank account either on the 15th or 30th of the month. This simplifies the process for you and provides an assured income to the LCS.

Canada Helps website (www.canadahelps.org) can now be used to make a donation. Entering Lutheran Care Society of Saskatoon in the search field will bring you to the page where you can donate using your credit card. You will have the ability to print the charitable receipt immediately from the webpage. Your donations enable the work of the Lutheran Care Society to continue. We sincerely thank you for your support.

Co-Presidents' Message by Audrey Miller and Karen Heise



It's 2014! What does God have in store for us this year? We really don't know for sure, do we? But we do know that God is at work in our lives and that He will provide.

In our fall newsletter you may remember we wrote about how the Lutheran Care Society is restructuring and that there were two areas of focus – one was increasing the volunteer base as we only have one paid employee and that is our chaplain. The other was increasing our finances in order to move from 60% to a full time chaplain position. Pastor Ron works diligently to bring the comfort of Christ to those Lutheran patients who find themselves in Saskatoon hospitals and the needs are increasing for his time at each of the three hospitals. In this newsletter you will read about the new structure of the LCS and meet some of the people who have joined the Volunteer Management Team. We are pleased with the work they are doing and how it has decreased some of Pastor Ron's administrative workload. Now we are boldly going ahead with our plans to increase the chaplain position to fulltime, hence you will find enclosed a letter of appeal for assistance in helping to make this happen. We ask that you give it your prayerful consideration.

We can think of the many ways God has blessed the Lutheran Care Society over the past 30 years and we pray

those blessings continue as we move forward. We remember Ewald Draeger, a faithful servant and Board member who died January 2, 2014. We are grateful for another devoted servant, Lovina Walper, who resigned in January after 20 years on the Board. So we ask for your continued prayers for this ministry and for all who volunteer and participate in the work of the LCS.

Whether you find yourselves in a nice warm winter location or remain to enjoy a beautiful sunny Saskatchewan winter, may God bless each of you as you are a blessing to others.

THE 2013-2014 LCS BOARD

Co Presidents: **Audrey Miller & Karen Heise**
Vice-President: **Gene Grant**
Secretary: **Bernice Gullason**
Treasurer: **Diana Fast** (elected position)
Newsletter: **Alice Olson**

Other Board Members: **James Dietrich, Allan Hjelte, Renate Bishopp, Lorence Peterson**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

March 9: Steak night fundraiser at Smitty's Restaurant, Market Mall at 7:30 p.m.. RSVP by Feb 24 to Wendy at 306-373-2713 or 306-227-6385. Tickets are \$25.

May 4: AGM at Heritage Hall, Zion Lutheran Church, Saskatoon. Potluck supper at 5 p.m. followed by AGM and Service of the Word for healing.



Back Row: Pastor Ron Bestvater, John Riggs, Wendy Stevenson
Front Row: Allan Grundahl, Rhonda Gore-Billard, Ruth Bachiu,
Harold Hesje (Chair)

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT TEAM

The LCS Board of Directors has undertaken a process of restructuring the organization. A significant reason for this change is to ease the load of day-to-day administrative and planning tasks for the Chaplain, allowing a more complete focus on the hospital ministry. Within this Management team with Rev. **Harold Hesje** as chair are four committees: **FINANCE (John Riggs 306 270-0258)** is working to assist the board and the Treasurer in managing the finances of the Lutheran Care Society in order to meet the goals of a full-time chaplain. This includes increased ease of donations to the LCS through Canada Helps website and pre-authorized donations (PAD).

COMMUNICATIONS (Ruth Bachiu 306-683-3440) has the task of raising the profile of the LCS through current and new communication means. The LCS now has a dedicated email (luthcaresoc@sasktel.net) and will soon have a Facebook page where information will be posted.

EVENTS (Rhonda Gore Billard 306 244-4743 and Wendy Stevenson 306 373-2713) is tasked with creating events to celebrate and to pray for the work of the LCS, as well as providing fundraising opportunities. This team has already been busy coordinating the Volunteer Breakfast, the Pastors' Breakfast and a fundraising Steak Night.

VISITORS (Bishop Allan Grundahl, 306 244-3748) is for the purpose of supporting hospital visitors through training and recruitment, and through arranging supply chaplains for covering absences when necessary. The Hospital Visitor volunteers continue to provide strong support for the

The LCS annual Hymn Sing combined with the Martin Luther Anniversary Celebration was held on November 3, 2013 at St Paul's Lutheran Church. It was an evening of singing led by the Sunshine Gang, informational lectures on Martin Luther's life by Rev Roger Nostbakken and an entertaining skit of the Luthers performed by Gaye-Lyn Kern and David Kirton. The evening concluded with fellowship and delicious cupcakes provided by St Paul's Lutheran Church Women.



Chaplain, through their direct efforts in the hospitals, providing friendship and comfort to patients. **Those interested in potentially being lay hospital-visitors are invited to City Hospital on Friday, March 14, 2 p.m.** for an explanation of what is involved with hospital visiting.

Thank you to HOSPITAL LAY VISITORS - Jenn Ewles, Donna Fenner, Donna Gash, Anne Halliwell, Shane Hein, Del Mengerling, Alice Olson, Verla Schmirler

There are two new committees directly under the board: **Reformation 500 Year Anniversary Celebration (Renate Bishopp 306 343-0156)**, will plan an annual event bringing together all Lutherans in celebration of the upcoming 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.

Resource Development Committee (James Dietrich 306 931-7625) is responsible for generating funds to meet financial goals. This committee needs general committee volunteers as well as a volunteer with some experience in grant writing as noted on the front page as this could be a another source of revenue.

A significant source of strength for LCS is the involvement of volunteers. Please give prayerful consideration to volunteering on one of the committees that might interest you. If you have any questions or want to volunteer please contact the individual chairs whose phone numbers are listed on this page.

A Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast was held on Wednesday, December 4, 2014 at Luther Heights, with 23 in attendance. This event brought together hospital visitor volunteers, the Lutheran Care Society's Board of Directors and the Management Team for a time of fellowship and to recognize the valuable contributions of volunteers to the LCS. Rev. Harold Hesje was our host: he asked each of us to share something about ourselves with the group, as well as the connection each has to the LCS. Pastor Ron shared some of his thoughts and concerns regarding the hospital ministry and the impact that it can have. We hope all who were able to attend enjoyed the breakfast and we look forward to having another event such as this next Advent season.



THANK YOU TO All individuals, congregations. Women's organizations, Lutheran Church-Canada Central District, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Saskatchewan Synod, businesses, and all others who have donated so generously. All donations are receipted for income tax purposes.

Charities registration No.11902 5997 RR0001

Donations for LCS Hospital Ministry may be mailed to: Lutheran Care Society of Saskatoon PO Box 23019 RPO Market Mall Saskatoon, SK S7J 5H3

In Memoriam

In Memory of Ewald Draeger

Elenora Wudrick	Ken & Marie Ebbert	Gene & Esther Grant	Affinity Credit Union - (Melfort)
Lovina Walper	Martha Hoffman	Ed & Audrey Miller	Elma Wutzke & Family
Wilmer & Alice Hamp	Gordon Smith	Ray Allison	Anne Jensen
Heather Kleiner	Wilbert Draeger	Eileen Hippe	Gladys Schindel
Delores Mengerig	Bernice Sharp	Brian and Gail Blaney	Alice Olson
Ken & Margaret Peterson	Mildred Kerber	G. Olson	Ron & Marlene Belke
Doreen Woodley	Judy Wilke	Ella Propp	Marcella Strange
Karen Heise	Edna Webb	Diana Fast	Marilyn Smith & Family
Don & Rita Belke	Elna Wood	Linda White	
Raymond & Yvonne Gatzke	Michael Kerber	Wayne & Eileen Carlson	
Allan Grundahl	Eileen Bateman	Jerry & Van Lundgren	
James & Shirley Peever	Thomas & Bernice Gullason	Gordon & Sharon Morley	

In Memory of Pauline Derr

Reinhold & Margaret Propp
Wayne & Carol Knock
Dwight & Cathy Thall
Valva Derr
Gladys Schindel

In Memory of Wilf Kern

Vern & Ruth Bachiu

In Memory of Robert Heise

Walter & Annette Heise
Liesa Temple
Marcia Cook
Linda Chaneske
Karen Heise
Charles & Edna Rathgeber

In Memory of Family Members

June Haug

In Memory of Charles Theilman

Carol Theilman

In Memory of Barry Boreen

Beverly Boreen

In Memory of Floyd Letrud

Eldora Connolly

In Memory of Clarence Bendig

Anne Bendig

In Memory of Ray Dahlen

Thor & Margaret Kliev
Gordon & Illa Knudsen

In Memory of Danielle Hoggan

Allan & Brenda Hjelte

In Memory of Edward Wutzke

Elma Wutzke

In Memory of Elmer Ullrich

Dorothy Ullrich

In Memory of Phyllis Guebert

Alfred & Nancy Guebert

In Memory of Arnold Solsten

Judith Solsten

In Memory of Joshya Van Os

Judith Solsten

In Memory of Leonard Jabush

Ella Propp

In Memory of Mary Scoular

Howard & Frieda Wagner

In Memory of Martha Loessin

Edwin & Miriam Loessin

In Memory of Adele Voss In Memory of Charles Brewer

The Kazcur Family

In Memory Of Bill & Shirley Heise

Robert & Vina Heise

In Memory of Earl & Emma Aebig

Diana Fast

In Memory of Edward Wudrick

Florence Wudrick & Family

In Memory of Peter Farmer

Hugh & Angela Farmer

In Memory of Elsie Lutz

Howard & Frieda Wagner

In Memory of Granddaughter Brittney Schantelle Fehr

Olinda Fehr

In Memory of Melvin & Gertrude, Ted & Edna

Lowell & Isabel Erlandson

In Thanksgiving for All Who Touched our Lives

Robert & Vina Heise

We will be publishing lists of donations from churches, women's organizations, etc. at different times during the year.

For this newsletter it is: *Congregations*

St. Paul Lutheran - Radisson
Zion Evangelical Lutheran - Saskatoon
St. Olaf Evangelical Lutheran - Swift Current
Lutheran Church - Springside
Trinity Lutheran Church - Leader
Redeemer Lutheran Church - Biggar
Hanley Evangelical Church - Hanley

Augustana Lutheran - Saskatoon
Faith Lutheran - Saskatoon
Mount Calvary Lutheran - Swift Current
St. John's Lutheran - Laird
St. John North Prairie Lutheran - Preeceville
Trinity Lutheran - Gravelbourg