

THE CAREGIVER

LuMinHoS
Lutheran Ministry in
Hospitals of Saskatoon

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LuMinHoS
PO BOX 23019, SASKATOON, SK. S7J 5H3,
luthcaresoc@sasktel.net
Chaplain Reverend Ronald Bestvater
Cell (306) 229-1663

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*

Save the date – Musical Mosaic

The Annual Musical Mosaic will be held on Sunday, April 19, at Augustana Lutheran Church, 1201 Broadway Ave. More information will be available later in March.

Thank You

The annual Fundraiser Dinner and Silent Auction was held on Sunday, March 1, at Smiley's Restaurant. Thank you to all who sought out donations for the silent auction; to all who donated items to the auction; and to all who attended the fundraiser and made the silent auction a success. Your contribution is most appreciated!

Chaplain Ron Bestvater's Message: LuMinHoS

Return to the Lord Your God

Something you might not have known about LuMinHoS... God uses this ministry to help people return to their faith! Returning to God is a major theme of the Bible. We live our lives in such a way that we often do not even realize that we have become removed from God and need to return. Then along comes a hospital visitor or the chaplain. They offer to pray, to leave a comforting and encouraging verse of Scripture, to return again with the love of Christ... and suddenly another dimension of the crisis in our life is clear.

One of the prophets saw so clearly the need for returning: "I will return again to my place, until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my

face, and in their distress they seek me, saying, "Come, let us return to the Lord, for he has torn that he may heal us, he has stricken, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day, he will raise us up, that we may live before him." (Hosea 5:15-6:2)

Returning begins with God returning to central place in our hearts and lives. This happens just by acknowledging our guilt and asking God's forgiveness. It happens by seeking God's presence when we are in distress. Returning to God is full of hope for wholeness and healing, for a new life, the new life we know in Jesus. Returning to God leads to the resurrection of Jesus.

This wholeness and healing has a definite form. Returning to God involves a more balanced, more disciplined lifestyle through self-denial; more reasonable, more human work schedules through collaboration; more serious, more significant spirituality through daily prayer; more authentic, more enthusiastic faith through unselfish serving; more joyful, more inspiring worship through regular attendance.

May God continue to shape and use LuMinHoS for the ministry of returning: "Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful; slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love!"



The Pastor's Breakfast was held on Wednesday, Feb. 11 at Luther Heights. There were 21 in attendance this year. Thanks to everyone who attended and to those who contributed to breakfast, especially the catering staff at Luther Heights. Our message at this breakfast was to emphasize the need to have a LuMinHoS representative in each congregation to help promote an awareness of the need for spiritual care in the hospital settings.

Pictured at left:
Chaplains, Pastor Bob Jarrock and Pastor Roger Nostbakken



Volunteer Visitor Donna Gash, Board Member Pastor Lowell Guebert and volunteer Rhonda Gore-Billard enjoy conversation at the Coffee House on Jan. 25th, held at St. Paul's Lutheran.



Co-Presidents' Message by Audrey Miller and Karen Heise

This issue of **The Caregiver** is designed to inform you about some things you might not know about LuMinHoS. LuMinHoS began as The Lutheran Care Society in September 1980. Pastor Gene Grant recently described some insights during the years from 1980 to 2015.

In 1980, Pastor Gene was working as the chaplain for the Lutheran Sunset Home Community. There was a growing senior population, and Pastor Gene was finding it increasingly difficult to meet the needs of hospitalized Lutherans. Some churches had very faithful lay visitors and local pastors did their best to provide the sacraments to hospitalized patients. On occasion, a serving pastor did not feel properly equipped for bedside counseling and ministry. There were Lutherans

receptive to ministry but not attached to a congregation. Coordination was needed for these important aspects of hospital ministry.

Pastor Gene called together a group of Lutherans from both ELCIC and LCC synods to discuss the idea of having a trained hospital chaplain. As they say, the rest is history. Since that time, many faithful people have been involved in this ministry as chaplains, volunteers, visitors, board members, supporters (financial and prayerful). To God be the glory for the success of this ongoing hospital ministry! "But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him." 2Cor. 2:14.

Through the years, serving chaplains have represented both the ELCIC and LCC synods. At the onset, those synods provided substantial financial support. A financial constraint on

those synods in recent years has meant less and less financial support for hospital ministry. This has meant a greater need for individuals and congregations to provide the shortfall.

What does Pastor Gene see as the biggest challenge for hospital ministry today? Financial stability is certainly a challenge. He believes that when people are fed the Word, they will come to recognize their place in God's service. As servants of Christ we will provide for His ministry. Pastor Ron is supported so that he can be the servant God has called him to be.

Pastor Gene is delighted to see the expanded involvement of the Volunteer Management Team that engages more people in the ongoing work of LuMinHoS. He challenges LuMinHoS to reach people through current technology (internet/computer) about our ministry and its needs.

Why Choose PAD....

We have elected to support LuMinHoS with monthly pre-authorized gifts because we feel hospital visitation is important. Recently I went through a health issue requiring out of province heart surgery. I was surprised to learn that not everywhere in Western Canada do Lutherans enjoy hospital visitation as we do in Saskatoon. We also saw this when my dad had hip surgery several years ago in Winnipeg.

Throughout my decade on the board of LCS, we saw significant financial reductions in support of the work of the LCS from both major Lutheran synods. This certainly showed the board, and us personally, that we need to fund this important ministry ourselves or we risk losing this Ministry.

Our personal choices with the gifts that God has provided to us show the value we place on important Ministries. We thank God for LuMinHoS and the work of Chaplain Ron Bestvater. The Ministry opportunities that this work provides are absolutely amazing. James Dietrich

Things You May Not Know About PAD

- PAD is Pre-Authorized Donation.
- PAD allows a direct deposit from your bank account to LuMinHoS. You can be assured that your donation will always reach LuMinHoS in a timely fashion.
- PAD forms are available from the LuMinHoS treasurer, Diana Fast. She will complete the banking information for LuMinHoS once you submit the form to her with your information.
- PAD is the most effective means of budgeting for LuMinHoS, since it provides a steady monthly source of income to the organization.
- PAD carries no cost to LuMinHoS.
- PAD can be discontinued at any time.

Could we send you The Caregiver by email? Email us at luminhos@sasktel.net!

One of LuMinHoS' Most Recent Additions

Meet Dude, a pet therapy dog that makes LuMinHoS visits along with volunteer visitor Stephanie Peachey. Dude is a 10 year old Shih Tzu that has been visiting Lutherans in hospital for about a year now. Dude has been a part of the Peachey household since he was eight weeks old, and has loved people since he was a tiny puppy. He started out going to work with Stephanie while she worked in a nursing home, and was happy to watch the people there all day.

Stephanie began volunteering with St. John's Ambulance about four years ago after seeing a table highlighting therapy dogs at a public event. There is an evaluation and certification process through St. John's which evaluates the dog for gentleness, ability to interact with people, ability to handle loud noises or excitement and responsiveness with the handler. As well as working

with adults, the dog is evaluated on working with children. One aspect of working with children is having a child read out loud, and the dog corrects any mistakes. Really, it's the handler but reading to a dog is less stressful for the child. Dude passed all three evaluations and is certified to visit all ages in many different situations.

Currently Stephanie and Dude visit in hospitals, nursing homes, schools, day cares, churches, public events, SIAST, the University, the airport – anywhere they are asked to go. Stephanie saw an opportunity for involvement with LuMinHoS while attending a Lutheran Care dinner, and spoke with Pastor Ron. He passed the information on to Pastor Grundahl, and Stephanie and Dude attended an information meeting for volunteer visitors. Dude loves his visiting time and is always excited to go. People love having him come.

There are so many ways to be a blessing to others. The next opportunity for Stephanie and Dude is an invitation to be visitors in the children's hospital. Stephanie has been such a good ambassador for LuMinHoS that her husband Reg is a volunteer visitor as well. The three visit most often at St. Paul's.



Chaplain Ron Bestvater, Stephanie, and Dude visit with Anne Halliwell, a former volunteer visitor.

"Who teaches us more than the animals of the earth?" Job 35:11

The Cross in My Pocket

Hospital visitor Donna Gash was looking for something to give those she visits. She turned to a member of her congregation, Kathy Hollinger. Kathy has been a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church all her life and enjoys volunteering and conversation.

While some of Kathy's skills are limited, she enjoys using yarn on plastic canvas to make intricate and attractive designs. One of the items is a small cross in a pocket-style holder. Her mother types up the poem "The Cross in My Pocket", by Verna Thomas, and Kathy tucks a copy into each of these creations. Donna purchases them for enough to cover materials and then picks out those patients she thinks will be receptive, reads the poem to them

as a prayer and gives them one to take home. The cross and pocket are small and light, just right for tucking into a purse or a pocket and bringing out from time to time to be reminded of the Saviour's love...a message both Donna and Kathy want to see shared.

If others are interested in the cross in my pocket project or some other fairly simple item Kathy could make, she may be contacted at her parents' home at 306-343-7396 or hollinger@sasktel.net.



THE CROSS IN MY POCKET

I carry a Cross in my pocket,
A simple reminder to me
Of the fact that I am a Christian
No matter where I may be.

This little Cross is not magic
Nor is it a good luck charm.
It isn't meant to protect me
From every physical harm.

It's not for identification
For all the world to see.
It's simply an understanding
Between my Saviour and me.

When I put my hand in my pocket
To bring out a coin or a key,
The Cross is there to remind me
Of the price He paid for me.

It reminds me, too, to be thankful
For my blessings day by day
And to strive to serve Him better
In all that I do and say.

It's also a daily reminder
Of the peace and comfort I share
With all who know my Master
And give themselves to His care.

So I carry a Cross in my pocket
Reminding no one but me
That Jesus Christ is Lord of my life
If only I'll let Him be.

In Memoriam

Eva Finnes Bequest

LuMinHoS gratefully acknowledges the bequest from the estate of Eva Finnes to support the mission and ministry of LuMinHoS.

In Memory of Esther Grant

Royden & Rose Ingram
Ella Propp
Heather Anderson
Delores Mengerling
Henry & Marlene Wichert

In Memory of Ewald Draeger

Walter & Gertrude Hembroff

In Memory of Fred Schindel

Gladys Schindel & Family

In Memory of Bob Heise

Walter & Gertrude Hembroff
Karen Heise

In Memory of Edward Wutzke

Elma Wutzke & Family

In Memory of Don Antill

Henry & Marlene Wichert

In Memory of Wilbert & Edna Schmirler

Verla Schmirler

In Memory of Emil Erickson

Henry & Marlene Wichert

In Memory of Thor Jensen

Violet Van Allen

In Memory of Lavawn Jensen

Violet Van Allen

In Memory of Jacob Jensen

Violet Van Allen

In Memory of Kenneth Clarke

Violet Van Allen

In Memory of Marion Njaa

Thor & Margaret Kliev

In Memory of Peder & Ingrid Tanjerd

Ivar & Mildred Moen

In Memory of Peter & Margit Moen

Ivar & Mildred Moen

In Memory of Bill & Shirley Heise

Walter & Gertrude Hembroff

In Memory of David Heise

Karen Heise

In Memory of Uncle Kenny Ekre

Of Hawley, Minnesota

Allan & Brenda Hjelte

In Memory Of Chuck Goretcke

Jo Goretcke

In Appreciation of Our Wedding

Merv & Sabrina McGill

In Memory of Earl & Emma Aebig

Diana Fast

In Memory of Harold Aebig

Diana Fast

In Memory of Ken Njaa

Fern Anderson & Ken Finnestad

In Memory of Ken and Molly Njaa

Vern & Ruth Bachiu

In Memory of Glen Vollmer

Jim & Karen Hopkins

In Memory of Helen Niska

Green Valley ELW

In Memory Charles Brewer

Daughter Margot Kaczur & Family

In m Memory of Baby Thomas Michael Cheriyan

Arvid & Carol Andvaag

In Memory of Beverly Gutenberg

Laird Girl Friends – Betty Ann,
Sheila, Rita, Ruby, Rosa, Pat, Judy,
Anne, Carol, Grace Fern, Grace Marie,
Mary Jane, Peggy & Diana

In Honour of Lovina Walper's Birthday

Hubert & Joyce Karstens

In Thanksgiving to Ron Bestvater, for Care of Baby Thomas & Family

Arvid & Carol Andvaag

In Thanksgiving to Pastor Ron & LMHS Volunteer Visitors for their very important work

Allan & Brenda Hjelte

In Memory of Christian Parents Lewis & Emma Walper

Lovina Walper

Churches

Augustana Lutheran Church, Saskatoon
Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Outlook
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Hawarden
Christ Lutheran Church, Kipling
Faith Lutheran Church, Saskatoon
Hanley Evangelical Church, Hanley
Lutheran Church, Springside
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Maple Creek
New Stockholm Lutheran Church, Stockholm
Nut Lake Lutheran Church, Rose Valley
Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Watrous
Peace Lutheran Church, Rush Lake Prairie View
Peace Lutheran Church, Kamsack
Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, Davidson
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Saskatoon
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Prince Albert
Rock of Ages Lutheran Brethren Church, Saskatoon
Salem Lutheran Church, Shaunavon
Saskatchewan River Evangelical Lutheran Church, SK River
St. John North Prairie Lutheran Church, Preeceville
St. John's Lutheran, Humboldt
St. Olaf Evangelical Lutheran, Swift Current
St. Paul Lutheran, Radisson
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Saskatoon
Trinity Lutheran Church, Churchbridge
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Janzen
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Saskatoon
Zion Lutheran Church, Nipawin