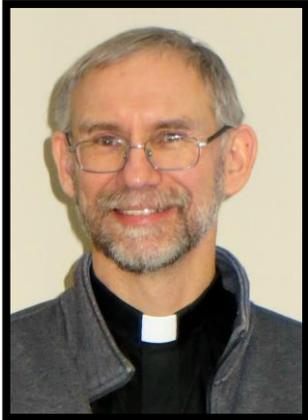


THE CAREGIVER

LuMinHoS
Lutheran Ministry in
Hospitals of Saskatoon

April 2018
Volume 33, Issue 1



LuMinHoS
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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*

LuMinHoS chose to invite some of its CELEBRITIES to the Reformation Commemoration Dinner in October.

Evelyn Schumacher, who was the “office administrator” for many years, was among them. She so enjoyed the outing that she donated a monetary gift just to say THANK YOU! We appreciate your graceful gesture!

Report by Ron Bestvater, Chaplain

2017-2018 has been a year of big changes, and there are more coming.

The previous Board showed great courage in planning a four-month sabbatical spanning two work-years. A big work load and bigger responsibility fell on to the four affiliated denominational chaplaincies when the Government of Saskatchewan terminated its spiritual care program on September 27, 2017. Sometimes, with so many administrative meetings and tasks ranging from supervising the use of the chapel in RUH to setting up a clergy team to reinstate services at City Hospital to tracking visitation and developing new partnerships within the hospital system, it seemed that actually visiting patients had become a secondary function! I am so grateful to the consistency and faithfulness of the volunteer visitors, the Volunteer Management Team, and the Board during this time. I'm so glad that this extremely busy and demanding season began with rest!

Pastor Michael Diegel, who ably covered the visitation duties during the sabbatical, noted about 240 visits in April and May, which combine with the 820 patient visits I recorded to total 1060. I also recorded 465 family/friend contacts, 135 staff contacts, 4 days off due to illness, 5 for holidays, and 9 for study, including a four-day intensive at St. Mary's University in Mundelein, Illinois with the Society of the Holy Trinity. Twice I was involved with patients and their families requesting Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD); the first led to extensive follow-up, while the second was brief and difficult. Our collegial collaboration with LutherCare Communities' Chaplains, and the demonstrations of support from pastors of all Lutheran churches, has been much appreciated. These numbers can

not include the referrals, incidental conversations in hallways, chats when crossing paths at patients' rooms, chapel exchanges, and hours of intercessory prayer which are part of our collegial ministries.

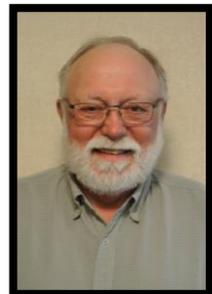
Work supported by a generous grant from the Mission and Ministry Committee of the Saskatchewan Synod for after-discharge spiritual care began in earnest in June. Of the 100 hours logged to this project since then, over 70 were directly involved with patient and family care, including pastoral support and worship initiatives. By asking all patients visited on certain days, who did not have a current church home, if they would appreciate spiritual care support for their on-going healing after discharge, a preliminary response rate of 18% has been determined. Most of these gave their contact information when asked, generating a list of about 30 patients and family members. From this experience we have developed the first draft of our after-discharge spiritual care plan for use in the next phase of this project. Learning to put everything under signatures couldn't be timelier as the new Saskatchewan Health Authority eliminates personal information from the patient religious identification lists. It looks like the Lord has been preparing us all along to meet this new challenge! Preliminary results are modest: 5 funerals which likely would not have happened, pastoral care for 5 families after the death of the patient, 9 patients supported with pastoral care after discharge, 4 with involvement of a local Lutheran pastor, 1 with a Mennonite pastor, and 4 with no local pastor. Three patients made contact with churches, 2 attended at least once. Even so, these results do indicate a large scope for after-discharge care.

In closing, let us learn from this year to pray for boldness in order to meet the next challenge: admissions staff are no longer mandated to request spiritual care-related information. We will need to boldly declare our Lutheran identity and ask that it be recorded on our medical chart. After admission we will need to tell our nurses that our faith in Christ contributes to our healing and Christ's ambassadors are part of our medical care team.*

I am thankful for the strong Christ-centred witness modeled by Lutheran Church-Canada, Lutheran Brethren, and African Lutherans in our ministry, and pray that the Holy Spirit will embolden us all.

Grateful to so many who inspire my prayers of thanks to God. rbb+

*Read more on page 3



SAVE THE DATE
LuMinHoS AGM
June 3, 2018 – 5pm
Rock of Ages Lutheran Brethren Church
Fireside Room

President's Message - by Gord Martens
The Future is 'bright' for LuMinHoS

Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!
 This greeting resounded in the churches only a few weeks ago as we celebrated the joy of Easter. We are an Easter people and rejoice in sharing this wonderful news with the world.

We just witnessed the terrible disaster with the Humboldt Broncos team which saw such loss and hurt. The world grieves along with the families of the victims and offer 'thoughts and prayers'. Many pitch in and help in whatever way they can. Questions of why were left unanswered and people gather together for comfort and reassurance.

The reassurance LuMinHoS offers on a daily basis to those in hospitals is Christ is risen. In Him we have peace and assurance no matter what the circumstance. Even in the midst of bitter grief and despair we can still cling to this hope.

We reach out to all of you to look at 'pitching in' with LuMinHoS in any way you can.

- ✝ Pray for the ministry,
- ✝ Volunteer to help in whatever way you can – perhaps consider serving on the Board,
- ✝ Support the ministry regularly with your gifts and offerings.

Thank you to all our supporters – it is only with your generous help that we can continue to share God's peace. Another way to become involved is to attend our AGM on June 3rd at Rock of Ages Lutheran Brethren Church Fireside Room. Come out, share a Potluck supper, support our ministry and take the opportunity to hear the stories of those who have received joy and comfort from our Chaplain's visit. We are doing ministry as usual and the need is growing!

Praise God.
 Gord Martens, Chair

Hawaiian Luau Fundraiser Supper

LuMinHoS held a fundraising supper and silent auction at Luther Care Village on Sat Feb. 24. We had a wonderful turnout of people ready to celebrate and honour the work that Ron Bestvater and volunteers provide to the patients in the Saskatoon Hospitals. The facility was decorated with paper flowers made from donated Christmas tissue paper. It was wonderful and festive to see so many people dressed for the occasion wearing Hawaiian clothing and some even braving the weather to wear shorts. We sold 159 tickets for the event and we were all blessed with the musical talents of Frozen Cod. 60 amazing items were donated for the silent auction and we raised an additional \$1,500 from those sales. I want to thank everyone who donated these items. We have one item left to sell and will be advertising it at a later date. In total \$9,280.50 was raised!

I want to thank everyone who helped to make it such an amazingly successful evening. I apologize if I miss anyone in this list but I want to acknowledge Joan Cole-Heine, Faith Rohrbough, Elaine Hesje, Rhonda Billard, Anne Ballentyne and Martina Stevenson and all of the people who stepped up on the night to help with silent auction item sales and decorating the tables with the tissue flowers while I was taking care of collecting money and handing out tickets.
 Wendy Stevenson, Events Committee Chair



Did you know...

The origins of LuMinHoS go back to 1979, when an energetic group of pastors and laypeople met to see how they could address the need for a Lutheran hospital ministry in Saskatoon. Next year, we look forward to celebrating the 40th anniversary of that first organizational meeting. The first part-time chaplain, the Reverend Oscar Johnson, was called in 1981.

The proposed name for the organization was 'St. Luke's Lutheran Care Society,' in remembrance of the Gospel writer, Luke the physician. Instead, the group opted to go with 'Lutheran Care Society, Inc.'. The society was supported by both the Saskatchewan Synod of the ELCIC and the Manitoba-Saskatchewan District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Over the years, eight chaplains and countless volunteers have provided spiritual care to Lutheran patients in Saskatoon's three hospitals.

We sometimes hear those who are not familiar with our work question why patients can't just have their own pastors come to visit them in the hospital. In many cases, they do. But for others, this isn't an option. Their home pastor may be out-of-town or simply too busy. Those who come to the city's hospitals from other parts of the province, as happens especially for those requiring specialized treatment, may be too far away from home for their pastor to be able to drop by. And finally, nearly half the people we visit do not consider themselves part of a congregation and therefore have no pastor they feel comfortable approaching – yet when they find themselves in hospital, the need for spiritual care becomes apparent. It is then that our Chaplain is most needed and appreciated. This important ministry must continue.

Patients do not pay any fee to be visited by the LuMinHoS chaplain or volunteer. The people involved with LuMinHoS volunteer their time and talents, with the exception of Pastor Ron Bestvater, who is now employed full-time. As the need for spiritual care in our aging population increases, and especially when the new Children's Hospital will bring even more patients to Saskatoon, we would like to call a second chaplain (perhaps part-time).

Our ministry receives a small amount of funding from the Saskatchewan Synod of the ELCIC as well as that Synod's Mission and Ministry Committee. For the most part, however, our funding comes from the generosity of congregations (particularly women's groups) and individuals. LuMinHoS is deeply grateful to those people who have given faithfully to the organization over the years and to those who have remembered us with a donation through their will.

Any of us could one day find ourselves or our loved ones in medical distress and needing the comfort of Christ, the LuMinHoS chaplain, or a volunteer can provide. You can help ensure the ministry continues not only by making a donation yourself, but by inviting your friends, families, and fellow congregation members to support one of our fundraising events.

LuMinHoS's vision is to 'present the comfort of Christ to ALL Lutheran patients admitted to Saskatoon Hospitals.' We are grateful you have joined us and have become part of that vision.

LuMinHoS is Now Online

We have exciting news! Just in time for the Hawaiian Luau fundraiser event in February, LuMinHoS was delighted to announce the launch of our new website. Please visit us at <http://luminhos.org>.

On the site, you can find not only basic information such as our mission statement and how to arrange for a visit, but also past issues of The Caregiver, a spiritual autobiography of Chaplain Ron, information about how to become a volunteer, and photos from some of our recent events.

The website also has a link to our Online Giving page through CanadaHelps. Yes! LuMinHoS does welcome online donations. As CanadaHelps uses charities' registered names for their accounts, you can only find our page from the CanadaHelps search engine by searching for "Lutheran Care Society." But it's very easy to reach the page from the Donate page of our website. For now, going through CanadaHelps is the best way to give if you wish to make a donation by credit card or by PayPal – or to donate securities. It's also very easy to set up monthly giving through this site.

When you give through CanadaHelps, you will receive a tax receipt right away by email. (If you have a CanadaHelps account and give through that, then it's easy to access all your receipts given through the account in February, when you are gathering documents together to do your taxes.) LuMinHoS will receive your gift directly into our bank account a few days after that.

LuMinHoS is also on Facebook; our account should be the only page that comes up if you search for LuMinHoS. Some fun photos from the Luau are there now. We envision the page primarily as a means of promoting our events and hope that when future events are announced, you will encourage your congregation's Facebook admin (if you have one!) to share the event through the congregation's social media accounts. We will also be posting articles that appear in Saskatchewan news sources about the changes to spiritual care that may happen as the province moves toward having a single health region this summer.

Watch for more exciting developments to our website in the coming months! And if there's something you'd like to see on the website that isn't there, our webmaster would be happy to add it. You can reach her at pamelagiles@shaw.ca.

Beyond medication – CARE FOR THE SPIRIT – here's what patients and their families need to know!

On April 8, 2018, Sunrise, a new data collection system is coming on-line throughout the Province. Sunrise will have the capacity to record and distribute religious affiliation information about patients. Because spiritual care is no longer a service offered by the Health Authority, admission clerks will not be mandated to ask for religious affiliation information. It is necessary that the patient or the patient's guardian or caregiver declare religious affiliation and request that it be entered into the record. This religious affiliation information will accompany the patient through the admission as part of the patient chart. If the nurse taking patient history does not ask whether spiritual practices are important to the patient, this information must again be offered voluntarily for the nurse to requisition spiritual care which then comes to us denominational chaplains through First Nations Health at RUH, through Volunteer Services at City Hospital, and through Pastoral Care at St. Paul's Hospital.

LuMinHoS Lay Visitors continue to help our Chaplain in each of the three Saskatoon hospitals even though the Saskatchewan Government has abolished Spiritual Care Services in Saskatchewan hospitals. The hospitals no longer ask incoming patients for their religious preference ("Privacy Issues" is the reason given) nor do hospitals then provide a denominational listing of patients (except at St. Paul's Hospital out of their Roman Catholic chaplaincy service in that hospital). Thus, our Chaplain must spend more time searching out Lutheran patients and consequently really needs the visiting help of volunteer lay persons. If you would like to be a LuMinHoS Lay Visitor in our Saskatoon hospitals, please contact our Chaplain. Then our Visitation Coordinator will walk you through the steps to be authorized. The steps are detailed on our LuMinHoS website under the "People" tab. Grateful thanks to our current faithful Lay-Visitors!

memorials

Earl & Emma Aebig

Diana Fast

Connie & Joyce Abrook

Joe Abrook

Alice Olson,

Thor & Margaret Kleiv

Gordon & Illa Knudsen

Dan Jiricka

Henry & Marlene Wichert

Walter & Muriel Tastad

Barbara Jiricka

Stella Allenback

Don Allenback

Marvin Amendt

Pat Amendt

Earnest Belke

Ron & Marlene Belke

Harvey Berner

Pastor Ron Bestvater

Barry Boreen

Bevely Boreen

Louis Braaten

Ruth Braaten

Clara & Louis Bronsch

Hugh Farmer

Thomas Michael Cheriyian

Carol & Arvid Andraag

Sven Darholm

Kathleen Darholm

George Dressler

Janice Breikreitz

Wayne Dyck

Diana Fast

Peter Farmer

Hugh & Angie Farmer

Brittney Fehr

Olinda Fehr

Shauna Fehr

Sharon & Gord Morley

Don Grant

Henry & Marlene Wichert

Esther Grant

Evelyn Schumacher

Bev Gutenberg

Diana Fast

Bonnie J. Hande

D'Arcy Hande

Ivar Harilstad

Karen Harilstad

Pastor Cezar Heine MD

Joan Cole-Heine

Edward Hippe

Eileen Hippe

Danielle Hoggan

Allan & Brenda Hjelte

Gordon & Sylvia Hope

Marilyn S. Borch

Kurt Heuchert

Sharon Heuchert

Roy Ingram

Rose Ingram

Diana Fast

Evelyn Schumacher

John Kleiner

Heather Kleiner

John Irwin

James Komar

Colin Jarvis

Anonymous

Elizabeth Jensen

Violet Van Allen

Walter Jess

Stella Jess

Don Little

John Tomchuk

Elizabeth & Albert Mantie

Jeannette Mantie

Conrad Opdahl

Joyce Opdahl

Parents

Fran Atchison

Lovina Walper

Arnold Propp

Jo Anne Propp

Pastor Reinhold Propp

Margaret Propp

Lorie Waschenfelder

Ken & Margareth Peterson

Albert Shumaker

Eva Elke

H.T. & Elizabeth Hepting

Rev Emil & Esther Krause

Don Randall

Edith Randall

Charles Rathgeber

Edna Rathgeber

Howard & Frieda Wagner

Gordon Read

Betty Read

Bruno Riemer

Christine Riemer

Gerald Schaan

Mary Lou Schaan

Fred Schindel

Lillian Schindel

Gustave Schindel

Lillian Schindel

Arthur Schmeling

Larry Miculcik

Jim Serne

Doris Serne

Sylvan Skarsgard

Doreen Skarsgard

Arnold Solsten

Judith Solsten

Dora Sommerfeld

Ernie & Jocelyn Sommerfeld

Diana & Ron Fast

Arthur & Elsie Sonnenberg

Ruth & Earl Jewitt

Denis Sparrow

Norma Sparrow

Dennis Stames

Walter & Muriel Tastad

Joe & Wanda Stock

Daughter

John Tomchuk

Shirley Tomchuk

Esther Wagner

Harvey & Valerie Wagner

Lewis & Emma Walper

Lovina Walper

Edward Wutzke

Elma Wutzke

Victor Zapf

Carol-Lynne Zapf