

## Former Lutheran Care Society Chaplains respond to the call to share memories.

We tried to contact former chaplains to be a part of LuMinHoS 40th Anniversary Celebration. Some have gone to be with their Lord, some are residing in Canada, some have moved further afar. Although we have not heard from all of them we would like to share what a few had to tell us.

### **Pastor Kenneth John Kuziej Jan 1989 – Mar 31, 1991**



Thank you for the opportunity to share in the LuMinHoS celebrations. I remember fondly my time with the Lutheran Care Society. It was an honour to be called to serve as hospital chaplain

and a privilege to serve our Lord in this capacity. It was also intense as I tried (and often failed) to visit and minister to every Lutheran in Saskatoon's three hospitals. I still have my logbooks with their lists of every patient seen each day of my chaplaincy. I sometimes review them and wonder now how God gave me the strength to keep on day after day.

There was the young couple whose baby had died and yet who would not give up the little body to the nurses. There was the night I was summoned to minister to the man who was dying from an aorta aneurysm.

There was another night when I was called to baptize a fetus which had been aborted because it had no brain. But there were thousands of hours of good and blessed ministry praising and thanking our Lord for the safe delivery of a brand new baby; for the successful heart bypass; for the healing after a cancer operation.

And in between there were all the frightened patients who faced all kinds of illnesses who needed our prayers as well as the Sacrament. One of them was a man seriously sick with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. When I met him he was with his wife and young children. I visited him over some months, but he died. But a year later his widow, Carolyne, became my wife. Together we raised his five children, Amanda, Paul, Jessica, Erica and Sara. They are my lasting legacy from the Lutheran Care Society.

Today I pray that all the blessings our Lord Jesus shed upon us while I was chaplain may continue through the ministry in the hospitals of Saskatoon. May God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit inspire and encourage those who visit the sick in those hospitals!

### **Pastor Roland Ziprick September 1, 1993 to August 31, 1994**



I have fond memories of serving as Chaplain for LuMinHos when it was known as the Lutheran Care Society.

It was a real joy to visit Lutherans in the 3 hospitals at the time (Royal University, City and St. Paul's).

I was blessed to meet and get to know Lutherans from all over the province. As in many instances I often left those visits probably feeling more uplifted and blessed than those I was visiting.

It is a real privilege and very humbling to be allowed to stand on the holy ground of those who were in the hospitals.

Outside of the hospital visiting, I felt the great pride our organization had in providing this ministry in collaboration with our brothers and sisters in Christ who were affiliated with Lutheran Church Canada. This organization was one of a very few that had the ability to come together and bridge any denominational differences we may have experienced in other situations. That too was a real blessing.

### **The Reverend Major (ret'd) G A Barr C.D Aug 29, 1994 – Jan 9, 1998**



Greetings to all as you celebrate forty years of providing Lutheran pastoral care in Saskatoon hospitals. It has been many years since I served as chaplain for the Lutheran Care Society as the organization was known at that time. I was honoured to serve in such an important ministry. During

my time of service, there was a very supportive board as well as many dedicated volunteer visitors. During my years of service, I visited many patients and family members in need. I performed emergency baptisms

and sat with families with great spiritual needs often in tragic circumstances. It was an extremely valuable ministry that at times extended beyond the Lutheran community. I remember other patients of other denominations asking me to visit with them as I made my rounds of Lutheran patients. This outreach did not end here. Contacts that I made during my ministry in the Saskatoon hospitals proved valuable as I served

as a chaplain in the Canadian Forces. Numerous times I was able to assist a military member from Saskatchewan to return home when a family member was seriously ill in one of the Saskatoon hospitals. It is encouraging to know that this vital ministry is continuing. I wish you all the best in the future. Today, I continue in ministry serving as rector of the Anglican Parish of Port Dufferin in Nova Scotia.

**We thank these faithful gentlemen for taking the time to respond!**

**We would also like to share photos of other former chaplains, as they were available. Unfortunately, the quality of some of those photos is poor since they are taken from various publications.**



**Rev. Oscar Johnson**  
Serving from  
Nov 1, 1981 – Mar 15, 1985



**Rev. Lowell Guebert**  
Serving from  
Sept 1, 1985 –  
Oct 15, 1988;  
Jan 10, 1998 – May  
18, 1998



**Rev. Howard Ulmer**  
Serving from  
May 19, 1998 – 2007



**Rev. Ron Bestvater**  
Serving from  
October 2007 – Jan  
2020

**Memories of two very instrumental ladies and the Co-founder of the Lutheran Care Society may be found on the November 2020 Fundraising Video**



**Ev Schumacher**



**A young Gene Grant**



**Lovina Walper**