



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Rev. Richard Engel

But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."
Matthew 14:26-27

It's always a surprise when you're waiting for answers in hospital. "When will I have the surgery?" "Are the test results ready yet" or "will the doctor see me today?" Sometimes, the surprise is unpleasant. For example, test results reveal to the care team that you need surgery immediately. But, you're only being informed of it as you're wheeled down to the operating room! Sometimes, it's more palatable: "You're being transferred to City Hospital this afternoon to begin physio and rehabilitation, so we can get you home." Whatever the answer is at the bedside, it always seems to surprise us; either pleasantly or unpleasantly.

It was no surprise that Jesus had the disciples get into their boat, and, that he'd meet them on the other side. It probably wasn't a surprise that the wind picked up that evening on the water and made the waves crash against the boat. These were experienced fishermen on the sea. They would have surveyed the wind, the weather and the waves, determining it was safe to set out. The surprise was a strong and intense storm, which came out of nowhere; its sheer power frightened these experienced sailors something awful!

So frightened and fearful were they, our Lord appeared unrecognizable as He walked towards them in the middle of the storm. Long forgotten were the miracles the Son of God performed in front of them. It

should have been second nature for them to recognize the Messiah walking on the water. "No big deal" we could imagine them saying, "for our Teacher." But, fear and fright have a way of informing us that all will not be well.

We often do not recognize Christ walking with us and towards us when we are in crisis. The suffering and pain is consuming. The fear about what the future now holds becomes impossible to shake. Like the disciples, it's easier to believe a ghost, apparition or some other disturbing force is seeking us out, to finish us off. We forget that in such perilous moments, Jesus *is* seeking us out, calming the storm which may still be quite consuming, but, becoming more manageable as we hear Him say to us as He said to the disciples, "take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."



Oftentimes, a hospital visit from LuMinHoS reminds patients that Jesus is here! In this passage, not only does Jesus tell the disciples to take heart, Peter calls out to Jesus, "Lord, save me" and "Jesus immediately reached out his hand [...]" (verse 31). Jesus continues to reach out his hand to us, in any type and in any time of trouble. We may

not always recognize when Jesus walks towards us, but time and again He reminds us to have faith. That, in the midst of our very personal and very difficult storms, despite its turbulence, God not only saves us in Christ, but brings us peace in the midst of our lived chaos. Jesus triumphed over the cross and grave. In faith, we shall triumph once more, too. Nothing can nor will ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:39); in the unity of the healing Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LuMinHoS Vision Statement:

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

PRAYING FOR LuMinHoS

Gathered by God, called by His Spirit, reconciled in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the sick, those who care for them, for our churches, hospital ministry, and all those in need.



Sustaining God, we give you thanks for the hospitals in Saskatoon. And, for the primary care centers in our communities. Bless doctors and surgeons, specialists, lab technicians, cleaning and sanitation staff, nurses and aids, student interns and so many more that make up the staff in our care facilities. Grant them strength as they work, as well as a fiery passion to care for the patients they serve. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Loving God, may patients seek and find you this day. May hope and peace be theirs once more. Ease their suffering, in mind and body and spirit. Soothe pain with the comfort we have come to know in your Son, Jesus Christ. May your Holy Spirit intervene for them with sighs that reach deeper than our words. In spite of brokenness, may they be made whole once more through the faith they have received. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Gathering God, in Christ you make us one in the priesthood of all believers. Empower your church here on earth to care for one another. We pray for our churches and ministers in Saskatoon and Warman areas: Rock of Ages, Reflection Ministries, St. John's, Warman, St. Paul's, Grace, Faith, St. Paul's, Bergheim, for former congregants of Holy Cross, Good Shepherd, King of Glory, Trinity, Resurrection, Zion, Augustana and Redeemer. Grant your Spirit and wisdom to all those who gather in your holy name. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Healing God, we pray for the hospital chaplains in Saskatoon: United, Roman Catholic, Anglican and Lutheran. We lift up hospital elders and spiritual care practitioners within First Nations Metis Health (FNMH) and St. Paul's Hospital. Grant them strength and compassion as they enter into their patients' lives to find meaning and wholeness once more in you. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Life-giving God, you have called LuMinHoS to serve the diseased, the ill, the afflicted. Lift up each of the board members and committee members as they seek your guidance working in this ministry. Bless our chaplain and lay visitors, that, serving you, they may bring the peace and hope of Christ to everyone they visit. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Love. Serve. Give.

LuMinHoS VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

We are in need of a LuMinHoS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.

This position entails attending the 4 board meetings yearly, certain committee meetings, 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. If you are interested, would like to know more about this role or know of someone who might be interested, please, contact our Board President Gord Martens



LuMinHoS EVENTS COMMITTEE is in need of new members, including **Chairperson.**

If you like to plan, enjoy working with a dedicated committee and have a heart for fundraising for LuMinHoS, we would like to hear from you! Please, contact our Board Chair Gord Martens 306.934.5914; 306.222.0539; gmartens@sentinelgroup.ca or Mary Ann Nostbakken nostma@gmail.com.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LUMINHOS VISITATIONS



Patients who have been visited by LuMinHoS know the importance of such visits. While current definitions of a holistic approach to healthcare address only the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of a patient, a more complete picture of care includes tending to a patient's spiritual health as well. If a patient's physical, mental, and or emotional health is in distress in times of illness and trauma, it follows that the patient's spiritual health is likely in crisis, too. Or, at the very least, shaken.

Every week, I receive meaningful feedback from those I serve in hospital. Sharing some of those comments with you now is incredibly humbling for me. Yet, I am compelled to share them with you to show the Spirit-led care LuMinHoS provides in visiting. Unbeknownst at times to us who visit the sick, God uses us to tend to the suffering's mind, body, and spirit!

I hear often how I have a gentle and caring demeanour that can almost instantly put patients and family members at ease. "You have a way about you that is comforting and understanding [...] you have a gift for doing this kind of work. Not everyone can do it." It's so humbling to hear this. I am grateful. I am also grateful that God gives us *all* many and various gifts to do the work He calls us to do. None of us should ever discount the way we have been called.

I met a wheelchair bound patient who experiences a lot of muscle pain. And, due to their con-

dition, speaking is also a challenge. It can take the patient some time to say a complete sentence, which, I may have to ask the patient to repeat. In their speaking to me a few days ago, during a very deep conversation, the patient needed to utter something they felt was important. And, that was, "I trust you." More deep conversation followed.

Another patient, whom I journeyed with for months, will call from time to time to remind me how much they appreciated the visits, remembering the day I served them communion, something they had not been able to receive for some time due to their mobility and the pandemic. "You have literally changed my life."

I give thanks to God for the gift of caring for patients. I also give thanks for what I receive from patients, learning from them. I am certain former LuMinHoS visitors could affirm my words with their own experiences. In the coming weeks, I look forward to welcoming new and existing lay visitors who will accompany me in bringing the peace of Christ to the bedside. To you, the reader, thanks for your continued prayers and financial support.

In Christ,

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."
- 1 Peter 4:10



LAY VISITORS—Are you 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!

Chaplain Richard is looking forward to welcoming LuMinHoS volunteers lay visitors to visit patients in Saskatoon hospitals and residents in Parkridge Center in the coming weeks. 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

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CAN YOU HELP?

Printing and postage costs for our Care-giver newsletter continue to increase.

Do you have an active email address to which we could send your newsletter (three times per year)? This will help us

to be good stewards of all LuMinHoS donations. We do want to make sure that the newsletter is received by all who desire to receive it and we will be happy to continue to send paper copies as needed. If you are okay to receive future newsletters via email, please email info@luminhos.org with '**Caregiver by email**' in the Subject line. For every 20 new recipients who switch from paper mailings to email, 240+ pages of paper, 60+ envelopes and \$150+ for printing and postage will be saved each year.

If your email or mailing address has changed, please let us know so you receive LuMinHoS mailings regularly. If you wish to be removed from the mailing list, you may advise us at any time.



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 **online by e-transfer** to info@luminhos.org, through **credit card or Paypal**, **by mail** (cheques, money orders, or credit card information) sent to **PO Box 23019, RPO Market Mall, Saskatoon, SK S7J 5H3** or through **Canada Helps** at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/>



Mission Statement

LuMinHoS is a ministry of spiritual care sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with Lutheran patients and their families in Saskatoon hospitals.

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