



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Rev. Richard Engel

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear"

Psalm 46:1-2

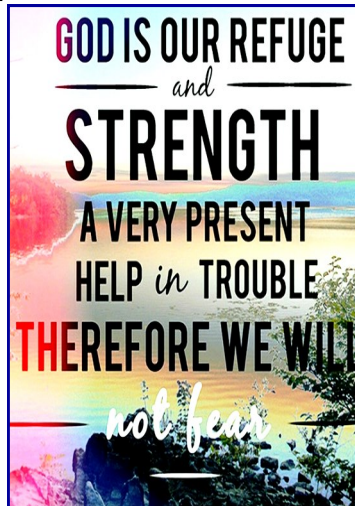
The warm summer and autumn found influenza and respiratory illnesses commonplace in our hospitals. There are more patients than I can count who've been admitted because of these types of infections. Regrettably, COVID-19 is also prevalent in all Saskatoon Hospitals. In the recent past, both St. Paul's and Royal University hospitals were operating well over-capacity (and still are). Thanks be to God for the dedication, compassion, and commitment of our health care workers. They need our prayers and support more than ever.

There have also been a larger than normal number of patients whom I have seen that have had setback after setback in their recovery. Sometimes, a patient's health simply gets worse. And, sometimes, their need for consistent care and follow-up gets lost, likely in the busy schedules care staff keep in order to attend to more and more patients. Certainly, I can pray with and for patients. And, I can encourage patients to pray, too, so that we remember God is here; that God is listening, despite the setbacks and the potential to get lost in the midst of so much going on in the hospitals. But, I often worry how much more these particular patients can bear. They are so discouraged. There's nothing to really celebrate when a patient is admitted repeatedly or has been in hospital for a long time.

Each year on Reformation Sunday, Lutheran churches around the world commemorate October 31, 1517 as Reformation Day. This was the day Martin Luther put his 95 theses on the Wittenberg church doors. He did so to point out how the church was ill because it was straying from the gospel. Instead of proclaiming we are saved by grace through faith, the church advertised a way tortured souls could buy

their salvation. His posting on the church doors was common in that time to initiate debate. Rather than do so, the church vowed to quash Luther's voice (and the voices of other reformers). The reformers earned a derogatory name, 'Protestant.' It is still in use today to identify non-Catholic believers.

Unfortunately, it is too often the case that patients get lost in the healthcare system. Patients and their families may 'protest' to their nurses or doctors in order to be heard once more. But, patients in hospital beds often experience a loss of control over everything they had control over before becoming ill. It is important for patients to minimize that feeling by talking to their care team regularly. Nurses, being on the front lines, know how to help. They can be instrumental in assisting patients and family to find their voice once more. The pastoral care chaplains provide includes helping patients to be heard.



In Psalm 46, we can see much of our trials and the realities of the world plainly written out. But, what we should cling to is not that misery loves company. Rather, in faith, we can confidently proclaim, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear," full stop. Saved by grace through faith in our Lord and Saviour, this is the gospel truth every one of us needs to hear each day. Especially,

when we are ill and suffering. We need to know there's nothing we can do to buy God's unconditional love. In Jesus, God has already paid for us. May we receive that gift. May it encourage us to give voice to our needs when we are ill. And, when we are well, to proclaim God's precious gift of his Son to the world.

Rev. Richard Engel, Chaplain
Lutheran Ministry in Hospitals of Saskatoon

LuMinHoS Vision Statement:

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

As I sit here enjoying a morning coffee and reflecting on the beautiful sound of voices united in praise and worship at our hymn sing last night (Oct. 27) **I am reminded of the glory of God, the gift of Christian faith, and the important work that LuMinHoS undertakes supporting those who are facing health issues which may challenge their faith.**

As we praised our God, we were reminded that those who face health challenges and who are hospitalized need to hear God's message of love, salvation, and comfort. LuMinHoS lovingly shares that message by supporting a full-time chaplain who visits patients in the Saskatoon health facilities who have indicated their denomination. Chaplain, Pastor Richard Engel, visits not only with Lutheran patients who wish to have a visit, but also ministers to family members who may be visiting their loved ones and in some cases it is family members who may request a visit for their loved ones receiving health care.

During hymn sing we had the tremendous pleasure of hearing one family's testimony of their journey with their loved one and LuMinHoS. This young rural family of six took part in the hymn sing and shared their experiences while a family member was being treated for cancer. Pastor Engel shared time with that family member right through the hospital treatment, to palliative care, and finally to ministering to the family after the passing of their loved one. They also joyfully told us that they have continued to maintain their pastoral relationship with Pastor Engel who has baptized their youngest two children. This lovingly shared testimony reinforces the tremendous importance of the LuMinHoS ministry in our city and to our Lutheran brothers and sisters from outside of Saskatoon.

This fall's hymn sing and walkathon were the two LuMinHoS fundraisers that were held. Fundraising is an important part of maintaining Christian spiritual

support for our Lutheran brothers and sisters when they are at one of the most challenging times of their lives.

LuMinHoS continues to be supported entirely through donations from faithful individuals, congregations and organizations who understand the importance of our ministry. In order to continue to provide Saskatoon and area with a full time Lutheran chaplain who ministers to those who are hospitalized it is important to seek financial support from members of our congregations and from those who understand the importance of spiritual support.

Over the past year we have seen a decrease of donations in support of the LuMinHoS ministry. It is for this reason that we are appealing for your donations to support LuMinHoS as we offer spiritual care for Lutheran patients in our health care system.

For those receiving this newsletter by mail, we have included a donation card and envelope to simplify the donation mailing process. For both mail and email newsletter recipients, donations are welcome by e-transfer to info@luminhos.org, credit card, Pay-pal. More details can be found on our website at www.luminhos.org where you will also find information on how to leave a legacy gift in support of LuMinHoS in your last will and testament.

We praise God for all the generous gifts that have been and will be received by LuMinHoS and we are so very thankful for the generous support of our donors.

May God richly bless you as you partner with LuMinHoS.



AN IMPORTANT NOTE FROM REV. RICHARD ENGEL, LUMINHOS CHAPLAIN:

The Privacy and Access department with the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) has advised denominational chaplains that, due to an update in confidentiality protocols, a patient's religious preference may soon be deleted each time a patient is discharged. This means patients will have to state their religious preference every time they are admitted.

Currently, that patient information is retained, and, shows up on a patient's file once more each time they are admitted. Until this new protocol is either paused or comes into effect, the best practice for all patients wanting a chaplain or volunteer to visit from LuMinHoS is to tell your nurse (when you're admitted) your religious preference is Lutheran.



WALK-A-THON 2024

September 21, 2024



Folks gathered at Zion Lutheran Church on a beautiful Saturday, September 21st to turn in their pledge sheets and money. Pastor Engel blessed them with a send-off prayer (he and his wife also participated). Sixteen eager walkers, one from a community 90 km away, set out to walk the Meewasin trail through River Landing.

Each walker wore a '**WALKING FOR LuMinHoS**' badge to identify they

walking for a cause and easing connection with other walkers. The trail was well marked with LuMinHoS signs so all made it back to Zion to check in where little treats awaited them. The funds raised totalled \$8, 665.



REFORMATION SUNDAY HYMN SING

October 27, 2024



Approximately 60 people gathered on the evening of Oct. 27, 2024 in the beautiful, welcoming sanctuary of Faith Lutheran Church to sing praises and to raise awareness and funds for LuMinHoS. They

were led by Stephanie Tillman at the piano with Leah Zepick joining her on trumpet for the more triumphant hymns and facilitated by M.C. Pastor Harley Johnson who injected treasured information about many of the hymns.

Pastor Richard Engel, Chaplain for LuMinHoS gave a brief report on what he does in this vital ministry and Cole & Jillian Guenter spoke of what the ministry had meant to their family as Pastor Richard journeyed with them through the illness and death of Cole's father.



Alice Olson, a patient who received the ministry of a LuMinHoS pastor through a long journey with cancer & several hospital stays was scheduled to give her testimonial but was unable to attend due to illness but Bishop



Allan Grundahl spontaneously shared how her ministry to him had blessed him. Alice, who believes God blesses us to be a blessing to others has been a

long-standing volunteer lay visitor for LuMinHoS and Pastor Grundahl's testimonial expressed so powerfully how effective lay visitors are.

During the pandemic the hospitals were closed to lay visitors but the ministry is trying to rebuild that lay visitor pool so if you feel called to share Christ's comfort by becoming a hospital lay visitor, get in touch with Pastor Grundahl or Pastor Engel.

What a wonderful celebration of Reformation Day, to join in lusty congregational singing of so many old, favorite hymns. Martin Luther, who is credited for bringing back congregational singing into the church worship, was sure to have been delighted!



Following the program a time of fellowship and refreshments was enjoyed. **Thank you to Pastor Rudy Pastucha and members of Faith Lutheran for your gracious hospitality and to all who attended to make it a resounding evening of joy and praise!**



2024 LUMINHOS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The LuMinHoS annual meeting 2024 was held at Rock of Ages Lutheran Church on Sunday, September 8th. Chairperson Gord Martens presided and opened with a devotional message and vocal/guitar selections. Reports were received from Chaplain Pastor Richard Engel and the various committees. In light of the past few years of decreasing revenue and higher costs, a deficit budget was adopted for the coming year.

Grateful thanks to the outgoing board members: **Rev. Hugh Farmer, Rev. Darin Felstrom, Coralie Geving, Ami Johnson, Murray Wagner.**

Current Board members: (pictured Front L to R) **Rev. Harley Johnson, Gord Martens, Larry Mikulcik, Mary Ann Nostbakken, Earl Nostbakken,** (Back L to R) **Dan Hagen, Chaplain Rev. Richard Engel,** (not in photo) **Rev. Rik Cherland, Dr. Dennis Kendel, Rev. Gregory Palmer, Janice Solem.** Thank you for your service on the board.

In addition, heartfelt thanks to the many committee members who help with the ongoing service in this ministry of caring.

The meeting closed with prayer by Chaplain Engel, followed by fellowship over desserts.



GIFTS TO LUMINHOS JULY –OCTOBER 2024

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF:

Al Anderson

Allan Grundahl

Thomas Michael Cheriyan

Arvid & Carol Andvaag

Elizabeth & Albert Mantie

Jeanette Mantie

Ivar Moen

Allan Grundahl

Borgny Lokken

James Lokken

Walter Klinger

Albert Shumaker & Eva Elke

Lorraine Kendel

Frieda Wagner

Allan Grundahl

Darlene & Lyle Poley

Dorothy Reid

Alice Olson

Edwin Loessin

Miriam Loessin

Thor Kleiv

Mildred Kerber

Karen Larson

Allan Grundahl

JoAnn & Barrie Bergsma

Margery Ketilson

Jim & Karen Hopkins

GIFTS IN HONOR OF:

Renate Bishopp

Moira Remmen

Jake & Beverly Satre Wedding

Harley & Ami Johnson

Rev. Jason Johnson 60th Birthday

Harley & Ami Johnson

**Garth & Cynthia Zerbin's 50th
Wedding Anniversary**

Zion Ladies (Jansen)

Thank you
MAY GOD BLESS YOU

*As we again approach Advent and Christmas, let us pray; "Christ, Be Our Light,
Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!"*

LuMinHoS PO Box 23019, Saskatoon, SK S7J 5H3

info@luminhos.org

Visit our website: www.luminhos.org

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/Luminhos

Chaplain: cell 306.229.1663

chaplain@luminhos.org