



the LuMinHoS Caregiver

March 2025

40.1



Celebration 10 Years as LuMinHoS
within the Lutheran Care Society

Lutheran Ministry in Hospitals of Saskatoon

luminhos.org

PO Box 23019 RPO Market Mall • Saskatoon, SK • S7J 5H3

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"The Comfort of Christ's Cross: Beyond all Expectations"

Rev. Richard Engel

1 Corinthians 1:18, 21-25

"For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." 1 Cor. 1:18

I recently visited a former patient whose health was in rapid decline. I had not seen them for a couple months and was looking forward to seeing this person again. Upon entering the room, there on the table was the little wooden cross I had given for her to hold in a previous time of need. We gladly received each other and she was eager to point out that little cross to ensure I had seen it. And that I would be reminded once more how important that gift has been to her ever since.



The patient's condition is terminal. In those early days of hospitalization, this incredibly strong person, in faith and spirit, now felt anxious, scared and overwhelmed. The bustling pace on the wards stretches the care team and those in their care may feel (at times) ignored. Into this the LuMinHoS Chaplain and Visitors remind of Christ's comfort. And it is often in these types of circumstances I offer that little wooden cross which fits so comfortably in the palms of our hands.

On subsequent visits with this patient, I was told repeatedly of the peace, the comfort and reassurance that cross brought time and again. Sometimes it would disappear. But it would resurface and be welcomed once more, like an old friend who just knows you so well that no words need to be uttered. The power of presence can be more than enough. This is the comfort and peace Christ abundantly offers to all.

This is not an isolated story. The details of what I write are relayed to me over and over by almost every single person who has received this little cross. At the hospital and once discharged, some patients safely store it until Christ's reassurance is needed once more. Some display the cross so they can see it throughout the day. Some fit a chain or string on it so that they can wear it close to their heart. However it is cherished, that little cross powerfully tells us we are loved.

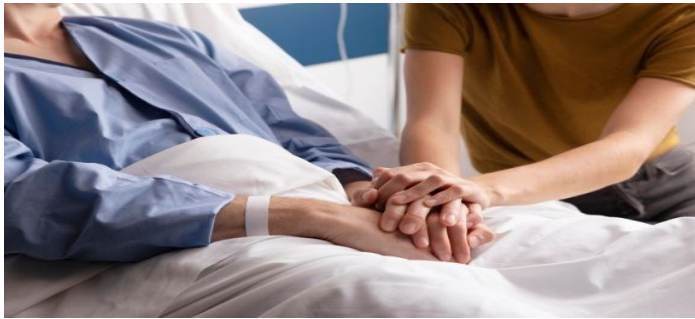
As God's Son, Christ cannot help but empty himself of God's healing power of grace and forgiveness and love so easily. For example, the hemorrhaging woman who but touched the hem of Christ's robe and was healed (Matthew 9, Mark 5, Luke 8). The power of the cross was affirmed by the centurion who kept watch that Good Friday. For, as our Saviour emptied himself for the sake of the world and breathed his last, the centurion declared, "Truly, this man was God's Son" (Matthew 27:54; Mark 15:39; see Luke 23:47).

Since Jesus had died, the centurion uttered those words likely believing his confession came late. Like so many in hospital and in time of need, we may cry out wondering if we're too late. Yet, the Spirit beckons us to seek refuge under Christ's cross, where suffering and sin and death are hushed. And abundant life is forevermore proclaimed. Paul Harvey might remind us not to forget 'the rest of the story.' That is, in the secular world's bid to promulgate hopelessness and defeat, Christ's resurrecting power breaks forth and proclaims comfort and joy to all who cling to God's unconditional love and saving grace.

Rev. Richard Engel

LuMinHoS Vision Statement:

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



Picture yourself laying in a hospital bed feeling lousy with pain and loneliness. To make it worse, the curtains are pulled around you for privacy and you begin to feel claustrophobic! Your family lives far away and the staff are lovely but do not have time to chat or go the extra mile to understand how your pain and loneliness affects your body. You feel like no one is even listening!

Then a LuMinHoS lay volunteer stops in. She/he has time to listen to your issues and fears. The volunteer is willing to pray with you, if you wish, and reminds you that God is always with us to help us through whatever happens. The volunteer may give you a devotion booklet and a small cross that feels wonderful in your hand while you pray and reminds you of what Jesus did for you on the cross. And your day brightens somewhat.

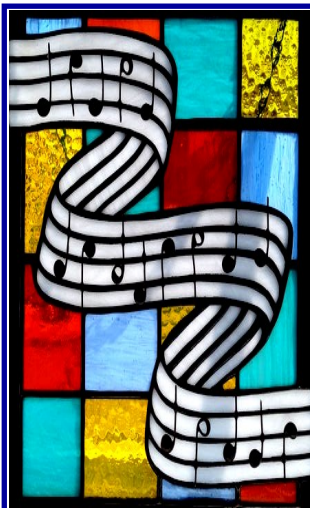
The volunteer visitor works with the Hospital Chaplain who can connect with your own pastor or arrange to give you communion if you wish to have it while in hospital. You are no longer alone.

1. Requirements to become a Lay Volunteer Visitor with LuMinHoS
 - A willing heart to visit people who are sick in Hospital
 - A willing heart to take a two-day course to prepare yourself
 - A willingness to complete documentation required by the Health Region to become a volunteer visitor
2. What do you, as a volunteer, get out of visiting? Lay Volunteers start out by wanting to care for others. In all honesty, patients often give back as much or more in appreciation and caring. It is very rewarding.
3. How can you get started in this worthwhile Volunteer Lay Visitor work?

Contact the Lutheran Hospital Chaplain, Pastor Richard Engel Call/Text 306 229 1663

***“Then the righteous ones will reply,
‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you?
Or thirsty and give you something to drink?
Or a stranger and give you hospitality?
Or naked and give you clothing?
When did we ever see you sick or in prison
and visit you?’
And the King will say, ‘When you did it to one of the
least of these my brothers and sisters,
you were doing it to me!’ ”***

Matthew 25: 37-40



MUSIC MOSAIC

May 4, 7:00 p.m.

at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Saskatoon

*Join in this celebration of shared music
from many Lutheran churches.*

If your congregation has a choir, instrumental or vocal ensemble available to participate, please contact Mary Ann Nostbakken at 306 978 2377 or email nostma@gmail.com. This is the second week of Easter so Easter or spring theme selections are especially suitable.

SAVE THESE DATES:

Saturday, Sept. 20 at 10:00am

Annual Walkathon

starting at Zion Lutheran Church

November 2nd

Gala Celebration

of 45th Anniversary of LuMinHoS

at Western Development Museum Saskatoon at 5:30 p.m. Banquet, entertainment and more honouring, founding members and all who have made this ministry a success.





This year, LuMinHoS is celebrating 45 years of history. As we celebrate, we pause to pay tribute to **Pastor Lowell Guebert**. Lowell died on November 23, 2024. We are saddened by our loss. We miss his kind and caring spirit and his positive outlook on life. At the

same time, we are pleased to remember the many contributions that he made to the life and vitality of LuMinHoS. It is with deep love and gratitude that we remember him.

The history of LuMinHoS goes back to the late 1970s when planning began for a vital hospital chaplaincy in Saskatoon. At that time Pastor Lowell worked with Pastor Gene Grant to determine the shape and form of a new organization to support hospital chaplaincy.

It was in 1980 that the Lutheran Care Society (LCS) was born. Besides supporting a part-time chaplain, LCS provided training and support for lay

visitors. In 1981 Oscar Johnson became the first part-time chaplain. Then, in September, 1985 Lowell Guebert became the second part-time chaplain, and served in that position until 1988. After that, Lowell served as a Board Member for several terms.

In 2014, the Lutheran Care Society changed its name to LuMinHoS, and changed its structure to include a volunteer management team. Thus, new people came on board to participate in and support this vital ministry.

As LuMinHoS celebrates 45 years of history, we acknowledge that we would never be where we are now were it not for the wisdom, leadership, time and energy that Pastor Lowell gave to the organization. Lowell's vision was that every Lutheran patient in Saskatoon's hospitals would receive a visit from a Lutheran chaplain. With the legacy that Lowell has left, LuMinHoS lives on and continues to provide quality spiritual care for the Lutheran patients in Saskatoon's hospitals.



DID YOU KNOW?

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** to PO Box 23019, RPO Market Mall, Saskatoon, SK S7J 5H3
- **through Canada Helps** at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/luminhos>
- **Legacy gifting via one's will** is another option some have put in place

*thank you
for your
support*





How can you join Chaplain Richard and the ministry of LuMinHoS?

- **Pray for our ministry:** our Chaplain, Volunteer Lay Visitors, Committee and Board of Governors. Pray for patients, their families and hospital staff.
- **Encourage patients or patient's families** that you know of to indicate their religious preference as Lutheran when in hospital. Or, ask to see the Lutheran Chaplain. LuMinHoS's ministry is for all Lutheran patients and families of all ages and from all of Saskatchewan while in Saskatoon hospitals.
- **Sign up for our quarterly newsletter, *The Caregiver***, by emailing info@luminhos.org to stay informed about Hospital Ministry in Saskatoon Hospitals.
- With the significant increase in postage and printing in 2025, **our hope is to be good stewards of LuMinHoS finances and of the environment!** If you are a newsletter receiver and have an active email address, we encourage you to help us by emailing info@luminhos.org with "**Caregiver by email**" in the subject line to receive your copies by email **OR** if you are receiving The Caregiver, either by email or Canada Post and wish **not** to receive it, please let us know by emailing info@luminhos.org



✝ *God blesses us through the generosity of prayers, time, talents and gifts from people like you. Thank you!* ✝

GIFTS TO LUMINHOS

NOVEMBER 2024-FEBRUARY 2025

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF:

- Cara Rudolph**
Sharon Markwart
- Fritz Anderson**
Hazel Anderson
- Pastor Lowell Guebert**
Alfred and Nancy Guebert
Rev. Allan Grundahl
- Bill Cowan**
Lorraine Cowan
- Frieda Boehm**
Reginald and Leslie Cross
- Aaron Froese**
Harvey and Valerie Wagner
- Stella Allenback**
Donald Allenback
- Gerald Jack Lundgren**
Evangeline Lundgren
- Thomas Cheriyan**
Arvid and Carol Andvaag

- Lyla Dalen**
Rev. Allan Grundahl
- Borgny Lokken**
James Lokken
- Alma Kolberg**
Anonymous
- Lorraine Kendel**
Moira Remmen
- Lloyd Johnson**
Darryl G. Johnson
Green Valley Lutheran Church Women
- Thomas Werle**
Maxine Werle
- Evelyn Schumacher**
Wayne Carlson
Rev. Dr. Ken & Margareth Peterson

- Margaret Kleiv, Thor Kleiv, Connie Abrook, Joe Abrook, Mabel Kinzel**
Stella Jess
- Ted & Winnie Hubick, Cliff & Doris Hanson, Sam Small and Don & Reta Galger**
Brian & Barbara Galger

GIFTS IN HONOUR OF:

- Rev. Richard Engel**
Gordon & Illa Knudsen
- The birth of twins to Anna & Stefan Scott**
Rev. Harley & Ami Johnson

IN THANKS FOR:

- The wonderful HYMN SING**
Jennifer Solem
- Another wonderful Newsletter**
Rev. Allan Grundahl

