



the LuMinHoS Caregiver

LUTHERAN MINISTRY IN HOSPITALS OF SASKATOON
luminhos.org POBox 23019 RPO Market Mall Saskatoon, SK S7J 5H3

November
2025
40.3



THOUGHTS FROM CHAPLAIN RICHARD

"Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Shortly after our July Newsletter was published, new protocols were put in place by the Saskatchewan Health Authority to further protect patient confidentiality. The healing and protection of hospital patients should be tantamount, for the hospitalized are typically in a vulnerable state and deserve optimal care. But, the SHA's re-interpretation of Saskatchewan's health and privacy act led to their decision to remove a patient's denominational preference upon discharge.

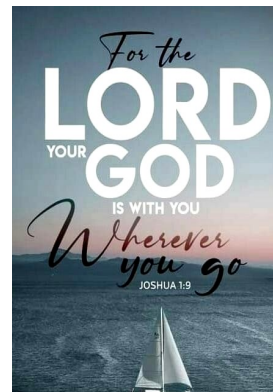
Further, Saskatchewan residents have yet to be informed of this change. They have yet to be informed to tell their admissions nurse what their denomination is, should no one ask them when they are admitted. Being Lutheran was always something that remained on your healthcare file. Not anymore. The ability to respond to acute care/unconscious Lutherans in a timely manner is now compromised. As chaplain, July was indeed a frightening month. LuMinHoS has done their utmost to inform clergy and congregations of the changes. Our ministry in the hospitals, from a logistical and information gathering perspective, has forever been changed. But, we are learning!

More recently, the weekend before Thanksgiving, there was an incident in the Royal University chapel that resulted in an upset in chapel furnishings, yet negligible damage. A swift and unilateral decision was made to reduce the chapel's operating hours from round the clock accessibility to just 10 hours a day.

This article indeed sounds like a devastating blow to our ministry work and hospital chaplaincy overall.

I need to remember to stand firm in the faith. Yes, this is discouraging, but God opens windows where doors seem to have permanently closed shut. Nothing is impossible for God! (Matthew 19:26)

For example, LuMinHoS has been able to fully resume chapel services at both City and Royal University hospitals. I've been given a gift to lead Wednesday services and a small yet thankful number of patients and staff attend each week. The United Church chaplaincy has been able to lead services on those occasions when I am needed elsewhere. And, the opportunity for LuMinHoS to grow its worship assistant volunteer pool is once again a possibility.



So, in closing, while our faith seems to get shaken from time to time, God's faithfulness is unwavering. I need to remember that ... we all do. God in Christ, in the wondrous presence of the Holy Spirit goes before us and goes with us, encouraging us especially in those moments when the only option

seems to be to dispare. Thank you to all of you, for your prayers, big or small, your donations, big or small ... they are so appreciated! To those who were able to take part in the walk-a-thon in September and our 45th Anniversary Fundraiser at the Western Development Museum, thank you! Indeed, there is little reason to dispare. Rather, in Christ, we are called to be strong and courageous in faith, freely giving and always discerning the Spirit's call to remain faithful while loving and serving others as we do in this ministry. May you know the comfort of Christ is with you always!

LuMinHoS Vision Statement:

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

Past Remembrance Future Hope



On November 2, 2025 about 250 guests gathered at the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon under the theme “Past Remembrance – Future Hope” to celebrate 45 years of organized Lutheran ministry to patients in the hospitals of Saskatoon. Beautiful piano and flute music provided by Penny Rosten and Rev. Dr. Ann Salmon greeted arriving guests. LuMinHoS chaplain Rev. Richard Engel served as program emcee. Current board chair Rhea Galeschuk welcomed guests. Former board chair and now vice-chair Gord Martens led a table grace and later acknowledged estate gifts and made a fundraising appeal.

Heartfelt gratitude was expressed to attending family of founding members Rev. Gene Grant, Rev. Lowell Guebert, and first chaplain Rev. Oscar Johnson for their visionary work.

Greetings were brought from Bishop Ali Tote, Sask. Synod ELCIC; Sherry Hilestad-Smith, Director of Volunteer Services, Sask. Health Authority; and Blake Sittler, Director of Mission and Spiritual Care, St. Paul’s Hospital.



Letters of thankfulness for the ministry were received from former patient Elaine Giere and Pastors Wayne Olson, Emmanuel Aristide and Trent Felstrom.

WDM caterers provided a tasty buffet meal, delighting the palate. *The Flock* (Ruth Eliason, Elke Mau, Anna Scott and Stephan Scott) delighted the ears through their gifts of music.

The Walkathon trophy, introduced this year, was presented to Redeemer Lutheran, Saskatoon--the congregation which raised the most funds.

The new LuMinHoS logo was revealed by emcee Chaplain Richard Engel. The design was spear-headed and developed by the Communications Committee (in consultation with the Chaplain and Board) with a vision of a logo that would clearly portray LuMinHoS’s mission and purpose in our present time and place. We look forward to seeing the new design in many places!

Rev. Harold Hesje gave a short devotional message reflecting the theme of the logo, emphasizing that LuMinHoS brings the light and love of Christ to patients and their families in dark and fearful times.



A silent auction featured items donated by gifted local artisans. The lovely centerpieces created by Johanna Tataryn were gifted to a person at each table.

The final gift of music was the anthem *My God is an Awesome God* by a mass choir of about 40 voices with participants from several local congregations, directed by Deborah Buck and accompanied by Penny Rosten. The entire assembly was then led in the singing of the hymn *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*.

With final thanks for all who attended, donated and helped in any way to provide this festive gathering, Rev. Richard Engel concluded with a blessing on our way.



A NEW LOGO for LuMinHoS *How and why did a new logo come to be?*



LuMinHoS

**LUTHERAN MINISTRY
IN HOSPITALS
OF SASKATOON**



www.luminhos.org

**LuMinHoS will present
the comfort of Christ
to patients in
Saskatoon Hospitals.**

In an ever-increasing, secularized world, there were expressions of awareness of having a logo that clearly communicates the ministry of LuMinHoS to all who would see it.

The vision for and relevance of a new logo for LuMinHoS was pioneered and developed through the LuMinHoS Communications Committee in consultation with the Chaplain and Board. Our new logo was revealed at the 45th Anniversary Gala on Nov. 2 with many positive responses to its clear presentation of the LuMinHoS ministry.

Jesus said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' Matthew 9:12-13

Our eyes are drawn to the image of the patient and caregiver. The caregiver is Christ, the Great Physician. The caregiver could also be one of us, the 'little Christs' (as Martin Luther said) who carry out Christ's great love command. The lay visitor and chaplain are prime examples of this. The outstretched arm and hand encircling the care is none other than the hand of God, who freely gives love to all the world, clearly made known through the cross of Christ (hence, the heart and cross, reminding us of John 3:16-17: *for God so loved the world ...*).

The circular shape of the logo depicts God's unending love, reminding us we are God's forever. The brilliant image of the sun/Son highlight the patient and caregiver, affirming the presence of the Holy Spirit, illuminating our hearts and minds to share the gifts given to us to care for one another.

2025 LUMINHOS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The LuMinHoS 2025 AGM took place on Sunday, September 14th at Grace Lutheran Church. Chaplain Richard Engel read a portion of James 2:15ff, pointing out that God's people are the main voice, hands, feet, and presence of God in the world. He noted significant changes in provincial systems have created challenges for visiting clergy in gaining patient lists. It is left to family or others to request chaplaincy and spiritual care support. Board Chair Gord Martens led the meeting as committee reports were presented and reviewed. Upcoming events were highlighted. The financial review for the year ending March 31, 2025 was tabled for consideration at a future special meeting. The proposed 2025-26 budget was adopted as presented. Thanks was expressed for God's faithfulness in this ministry and for the volunteers whose

work makes a difference.

Thank you to the elected **2025-26 Board members** and a thank you of appreciation for the service of outgoing board members: *Coralie Geving, Dr. Dennis Kendel, and Earl Nostbakken.*

2025-26 LuMinHoS Board (L to R) Janice Solem, Rhea Galeschuk (Chair), Rik Cherland (Secretary), Mary Ann Nostbakken, Larry Mikulcik, Harley Johnson, Gord Martens (Vice Chair). Missing: Karen Harilstad (Treasurer), Sonje Finnestad, Greg Palmer.





THANK YOU to this group of **WALKERS** and **MANY who contributed** to this fundraising event through your walking, sponsorships, donations and prayers. It was a gorgeous Fall morning for a walk and fellowship along the Saskatoon riverbank! Through your generosity, the current total raised is \$9,251!! Thanks be to God for his goodness!

Be on the watch for new ideas how you and your

congregation or community might participate **in** Saskatoon **or** in your home town or area in 2026.

"IN MEMORY" AND "IN HONOUR" GIFTS TO LUMINHOS

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF:

Kristopher Andrew Phillip

Anonymous Donor

Isabelle Wieler

Jeanette Mantie

Elizabeth & Albert Mantie

Jeanette Mantie

Alfred Tessman

Karen Tessman

Dianne Gilbert

Edith Erhardt

Edwin Loessin

Miriam Loessin

Eileen Hamilton

Angie & Hugh Farmer

Ken Finnestad

Allan Grundahl

Jim & Karen Hopkins

Alice Olson

Elsa Lee

Dennis & Elaine Serfas

Harold Giere

Allan Hjelte

Danielle Hoggan

Allan Hjelte

Howard Wagner

Frieda Wagner

Joan Meyer

Jake Satre & Beverly Pavelich

Ken Neufeld

Shelley Neufeld

Michele Gilchrist

Darlene & Lyle Poley

Oscar Johnson

Jason Johnson

Tom Airey

Diann Airey

GIFTS IN HONOUR OF:

Ron Bestvater's 40th Anniversary

Zion Lutheran Church (Saskatoon)

Bill & Eileen Block 60th Wedding

Anniversary

Zion Ladies (Jansen)

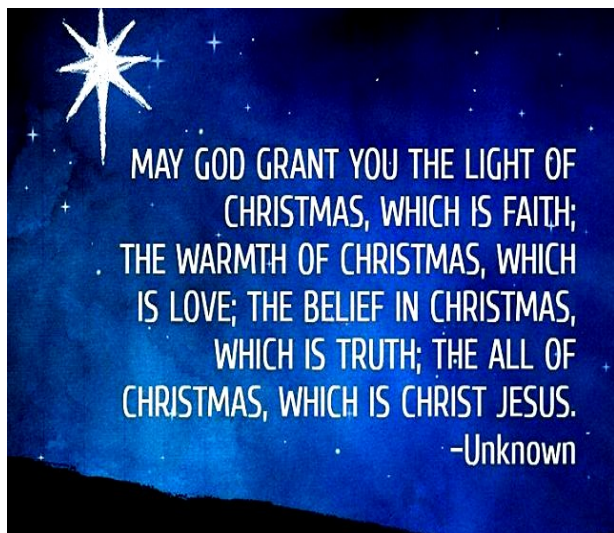
Vi Cara

Richard & Violet Stalwick

Jalna Zwarich's Birthday

Dean Pengelly

Mildred Kerber



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