



# the LuMinHoS Caregiver

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



March  
2026  
41.1

## AN INVITATION FROM YOUR NEW LUMINHOS CHAIRPERSON



Lent is a time of contemplation, serious consideration of where we are in the world today, and what it means to walk in faith through times of uncertainty. This theme has made its way to the forefront for many of us. During this season, we may be drawn to

think on what we value most. Personally, I am humbled and thankful for the many people who have come before, and those now serving to ensure a future for our LuMinHos ministry.

Having lived throughout this great province, from Estevan, and later Regina, Tisdale and Saskatoon, I know and love this place, and I understand that this is a rural population at its core. Our city hospitals, however, do much of the heavy lifting when we are at our most vulnerable. That makes this ministry an extraordinary gift and inheritance for us, and we are grateful for it.

Reflecting further on over twenty years spent in Manitoba, where we raised our son, and where I branched out to work extensively with local and regional groups to build resilient communities, it is easy to say healthy community supports are at the core of what I believe in. While in Pinawa, every board

and intersectoral partnership I worked with had that same overarching goal; to better community outcomes and improve our health, wellness and education. This included years working with communities in health early years regional support, chairing the local school board, and at church, serving on congregational council and MNO Synod Council. Working with LuMinHos will be a privilege for me, and a familiar feeling. Ministry is an important spiritual community support that can meet us when we are most vulnerable.

As your new chairperson, I will bring my experiences with me as we explore what this board can do for you. We are working on ways we can grow and better serve you as Lutherans and all those who reach out to our chaplain.



There are many committee opportunities as well that could benefit from *your* call to service, whether your gifts are in event planning, fundraising, governance, or something we have not yet considered. Please reach out to me, Chaplain Richard or another board member with your interest and ideas. As a

board we will come together with our experience and will **make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace (Eph 4:3)** in this work.

- Rhea Galeschuk

### LuMinHoS Vision Statement:

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

## THOUGHTS FROM THE LUMINHOS CHAPLAIN



### AN ACCEPTABLE FAST

***Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring***

***the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly.*** Isaiah 58:6-8

Isaiah 58:1-9 has been swirling about in my head for almost two weeks now. It was the appointed first reading in most churches February 8<sup>th</sup>. It was the reading around which I led the February 11 mid-week chapel service at both City and Royal University hospitals. For me, this reading is engaging and intimidating all at the same time. It strengthens me as I minister in the hospitals and as I prepare for Lent.

As God's mouthpiece, Isaiah clearly spells out what Christ asks us to do in his great love command. I'm often found providing pastoral care to such individuals as Isaiah mentions. The prophet's words render God's intent for us to see clearly the fast of justice and love and compassion He is calling us to. God summons all the faithful to examine once more our questions of "who am I" and "what is God calling me to do in this life." Loving deeply and intentionally, as Isaiah describes, fills me with hope for the hopeless. And, it intimidates me at the same time, for it calls me to be that servant who gives God's hope to the hopeless.

As I write this, there are some I visit in hospital that are literally in dire straits (go ahead, look up the meaning). I see them falling through the cracks of a system meant to support but struggling to do so with limited family and financial resources. Unable to access or qualify for support, these patients often resign themselves, falling back into unhealthy patterns and becoming victims of their own devices. I often see these patients return to hospital shortly after discharge in a further declined state despite social workers, charge nurses, and others (including my efforts) helping to ensure that this time, the patient has the needed supports. Where is the hope? Where is God, His Son, and His Spirit in all this?

Yet, success is not the measure. This remains the fast God calls us to. Sometimes, we may feel so under-equipped. Failure and obstacles often seem the only constant. This is when we must turn to God in fervent prayer and fully trust God to carry us, too, as we carry others. We are called to seek respite in Christ, that we might be carried and fed by God's unconditional love and grace. Thanks be to God for equipping us for such important and necessary work!

*We are called to seek respite in Christ, that we might be carried and fed by God's unconditional love and grace.*

Thank you for the many prayers and gifts of financial support which carry this ministry and allows myself, our visiting volunteers and cover chaplains to bring the peace and comfort of Christ to

so many. You are answering God's call. And, in turn, LuMinHoS remains committed to visiting all Lutherans in hospital, as well as visiting patients that nurses and social workers refer to us. May God richly bless us and call us anew this Lenten season.

– Rev. Richard Glen Engel

## MID-WEEK CHAPEL SERVICES - *Providing Christian Nourishment and Pastoral Care*



On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, mid-week chapel services began at both Saskatoon City Hospital and Royal University Hospital. They have been held every Wednesday since then. Chaplain Richard coordinates, plans and leads worship, with the exception of the second Wednesday of the month. United Church Chaplain Rev. Emily Carr prepares and leads those services.

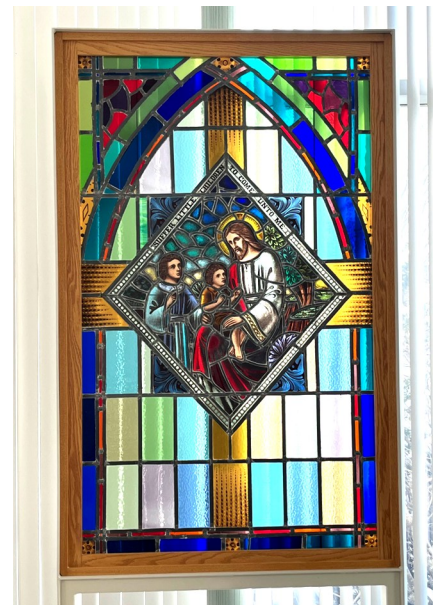
While chapel worship is non-denominational, the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal is used when Chaplain Richard

leads. We are grateful to Central Lutheran Church, Moose Jaw, who donated the hymnals for use when their congregation closed. The paraments (altar cloths) at City Hospital are also a recent gift from Trinity Lutheran, Rosthern, who inherited them from Zion Lutheran in Hague.

Reflecting on these first six months of regular Wednesday services, Chaplain Richard recalls the times he and Rev. Carr have provided pastoral care for patients and families in need.

Chaplain Richard comments, *"Sometimes, people show up and need the grounding of a service and the encouraging words of their chaplains. It is a blessing and privilege to be able to do so."*

There are some unique opportunities for volunteering available to assist chaplains with these services. For example, Chaplain Richard is looking for volunteers to personally invite Lutheran patients to worship by informing them, at their bedside, of the upcoming service. Church members and hospital visitors are invited to join in our worship services to lend their voices in word and song. There is also opportunity to provide musical accompaniment on the chapel pianos for the hymns. Chaplain Richard currently uses recorded accompaniment, but live accompaniment is always so much better! If you can help in any of these volunteer capacities, please contact Chaplain Richard. [chaplain@luminhos.org](mailto:chaplain@luminhos.org) or 306-229-1663



**Current LuMinHoS Board Members:** Rhea Galeschuk (Chair), Gord Martens (Vice Chair), Rik Cherland (Secretary), Karen Harilstad (Treasurer), Sonje Finnestad, Harley Johnson, Larry Mikulcik, Mary Ann Nostbakken, Gregory Palmer, Janice Solem

**Board members are involved in the Resource Development, Governance, Events and Communications Committees and the Volunteer Management Team**

## COMING EVENTS

### 2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



**Sunday, June 14, 2026**

**5:30 Supper** (free will offering)

**7:00 Annual Meeting**

**Redeemer Lutheran Church,  
812 Preston Ave. Saskatoon**

**The 2025 Annual Report will be available on the LuMinHoS website by June 1st.**

Join in this time of reflecting on LuMinHoS's ministry in 2025 and in looking forward to how we will focus on our mission in the coming years.

**2026 WALKATHON is coming September 19<sup>th</sup>**

**It's never too early to think about how you and your congregation might participate!**



## "IN MEMORY" GIFTS TO LUMINHOS

### GIFTS IN MEMORY OF:

**Hilda Marks**

Willie Marks

**Minnie Lamers**

Bernice Philipaw

**Ken Finnestad**

Bethlehem Lutheran (Hawarden)

**Fritz Anderson**

Hazel Anderson

**Larry Guenter**

Jillian & Cole Guenter

**Lowell Guebert**

Anonymous

**Edith Erhardt**

Dianne Gilbert

**Carolyn & Victor Zapf**

Bob and Sylvia Aebig

**Audrey Hedlin**

Rev. Ed Hedlin

**Thomas Michael Cheriyan**

Arvid and Carol Andvaag

**Diana Fast**

Danielle Carlson

**Stanley Sather**

Vera Sather



### Scan Here!



**To make a donation**  
(go to Donate in menu)  
**or to learn more about**  
**LuMinHoS**

**LuMinHoS is a ministry wholly dependant on donations from our loyal family of supporters. Donations may be made by:**

- Scanning our new QR code
- e-transfer to [info@luminhos.org](mailto:info@luminhos.org)
- by cheque by mail or
- through [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org).

**Some supporters have left legacy gifts through their wills. Please see [www.luminhos.org](http://www.luminhos.org) for more information. Donations made in honour or memory of someone will be acknowledged in the next newsletter. We are so very thankful for our generous donors. May God richly bless you.**

**WE ACHIEVE A LOT WITH YOUR SUPPORT**



**WE APPRECIATE YOUR DONATION**

**LuMinHoS PO Box 23019, Saskatoon, SK S7J 5H3**

**[info@luminhos.org](mailto:info@luminhos.org)**

**Visit our website: [www.luminhos.org](http://www.luminhos.org)**

**Like us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Luminhos](http://www.facebook.com/Luminhos)**

**Chaplain : cell 306.229.1663**

**[chaplain@luminhos.org](mailto:chaplain@luminhos.org)**