

Matthew 25:40 *And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members to my family, you did it to me.'*

Anytime one is sick and hospitalized away from their home community, family, friends, pastor and faith community, there is a sense of being “least” – and “lost”; of not being known. Feelings of concern, anxiousness, uncertainty and isolation are common. Learning that you or your loved one has a life-altering disease or condition can shake one’s spirit and faith. It is into such situations that hospital chaplains are called to the bedside of patients, to provide them and their families with support, assurance of God’s presence and love, the means of grace through Communion and Baptism and are an extension of their faith community – truly “God’s Hands” present to them.

At University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, such has been the ministry of Lutheran Outreach Chaplain Cindy Breed for over 23 years. Into each UIHC room Chaplain Cindy enters, she bears the light of Christ’s love, the promises of the Gospel, the means of Grace, and a consoling and comforting presence for those often feeling as if they are “one of the least” and vulnerable. She is an extension of the local Lutheran parish, and provides a welcoming presence in the midst of uncertain times. Chaplain Breed through Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach is **your** arms of Christ wrapped around sick and vulnerable Lutheran brothers and sisters hospitalized at UIHC.

Over the years Chaplain Cindy has developed close and trusted relationships with pastors and with members of their flocks when being treated at UIHC. She is literally a phone call or email away and can be beside the patient quickly when their pastor is unable to be present. She has afforded pastors the opportunity to tend to the flock at home with their emergencies and needs with some peace, knowing that those hospitalized are receiving excellent spiritual and emotional support until they can visit.

Many of your congregations have supported LCO over the years, for which we all are deeply thankful – especially those who have received Chaplain Cindy’s support and pastoral care. LCO continues to request your financial and prayer support whether you are an individual, a congregation, a WELCA group, or any other Lutheran entity. A yearly financial remembrance of LCO in your parish’s budgeting process provides sustainable stability for LCO’s ministry. Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach does **NOT** receive any synodical funding, yet serves the members of all Iowa ELCA synods as well as individuals from other synods. Personal donations may be made online through our website (www.LCOIOWA.org).

Thank you for choosing to provide the palpable and real experience of Christ’s loving and comforting presence to Lutheran patients and families at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics through support of this ministry. By such you truly are doing “for the least of these” and members of Christ’s own Body in this world.

Pat Jacobs, President,

Board of Directors

Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach

123 E. Market Street

Iowa City, Iowa 52245

(reach the LCO chaplain) office phone 319-356-3817

e-mail: cindy-breed@uiowa.edu

(emergency pastoral care): 319-356-1616, ask for the on-call interfaith chaplain to be contacted

