

Lutheran
Teacher's
Association

Newsletter

Endings and Beginnings

New beginnings can be exciting and joy-filled while at the same time daunting and a source of stress. Being a Kindergarten teacher, I have the privilege of welcoming excited and sometimes apprehensive children and their parents to "big SCHOOL". The greatest joy in teaching Kindergarten is to plant seeds of faith and watch them take root and grow in children who don't know Jesus. It is wonderful to hear stories of parents buying their children Bibles and reading them with their child as they also want to know about this Jesus that their little child has chattered to them about on the drive home from school. To see 5 and 6 year olds waving pine branches as they hike through the woods acting out Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem as they sing praises, "Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" is nothing short of breathtaking! Beginnings-wow!

The emotions associated with endings can mirror those of beginnings. My youngest child is graduating from High School where the familiarity of classmates, teachers and the school routine is coming to an end. Hope High School is graduating its first class this year and some of those students have been part of Hope since Kindergarten. It has been a joy to see the students mature and grow in their faith. It is with confidence as equipped young adults that they step out into new beginnings while at the same time experiencing similar trepidation that they felt when entering Kindergarten.

Perhaps it is not solely the state of beginnings and endings that is often difficult for us but really it is change. Some people thrive on change and need it to be energized while others cling to the security of the known. When Jesus was preparing His disciples for His imminent crucifixion He told them, "But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you." (John 16:7) What an awesome promise Jesus gives! Although change is about to happen, it is good change; the Holy Spirit will be sent. As teachers, it can be hard to send on your class to the next teacher and you can lament over the loss while other years you may be eager and excited to welcome a new bunch of students. This is the time of the year where teachers anticipate another ending and can reflect on all the growth that they have experienced with their class during the school year while at the same time anticipating a new beginning.

Our LTA will experience change as we move forward to develop and grow our schools and our association. Our members will take on new roles while others move on to serve in different ways. It is an exciting time of endings and beginnings!

Whatever changes that you, your family, your school, or your staff are going through at this time, you can cling to the promise that even through you experience beginnings and endings in life, you know the one who is unchanging. Hebrews 13:8 tells us that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." And if those changes are difficult and are causing you to feel "Kindergarten uneasiness" we can cling to the words of Jesus: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

In this issue:

Article	Page
Recognizing Excellence in Lutheran Education Award	pg. 2
Why Does LTA Exist?	pg. 3
LTA Conference 2014	pg. 3
GLEnet Team Championship	pg. 4-5
Memorization of Scripture	pg. 6-7
Birdies Fly High at Hope	pg. 8
Canadian Lutheran World Relief	pg. 9



Submitted by Susan Eisner, LTA President

It's not too late!

The Excellence in Lutheran Education award deadline is fast approaching on **May 15th**.

Recognizing Excellence in Lutheran Education

Do you know a Lutheran educator who always goes the extra mile? Now is your chance to celebrate his/her service to Lutheran schools. The Lutheran Teacher's Association executive is calling for nominations for the Excellence in Lutheran Education Award. This award will highlight the service of a Lutheran educator based on the following criteria:

- Strong commitment to serving the Lord
- Active in local community as well as Lutheran community
- Commitment to excellence and meeting the social, emotional, spiritual, and cognitive needs of children and families
- Equipped and willing to profess and teach Christian faith from a Lutheran perspective; desirable: Synodically trained, colloquized, or active participant in colloquy program
- Four (4) or more years experience in a Lutheran school
- Demonstrates effective educational skills
- Administrator or teacher in a Canadian Lutheran school or preschool
- Member of the LTA, and member of other professional associations



Letters describing how the nominee meets the criteria for the Excellence in Lutheran Education Award should be sent to LTA President, Susan Eisner either by email: seisner@hopelcs.ca or by regular mail: c/o Hope Lutheran Christian School 3151 York St., Port Coquitlam, BC, V3B4A7

Nominations must be received by May 15, 2014

Please Note: Although it is desirable that the applicant be synodically trained, colloquized or working towards his/her colloquy, it should not stop people from nominating teachers or administrators who don't meet that criteria.

LTA Executive Elections

The position of PRESIDENT is open for nominations this year!

At the AGM, during the LTA Conference, an election will be held for this 3 year term position on the executive. A detailed job description is available.

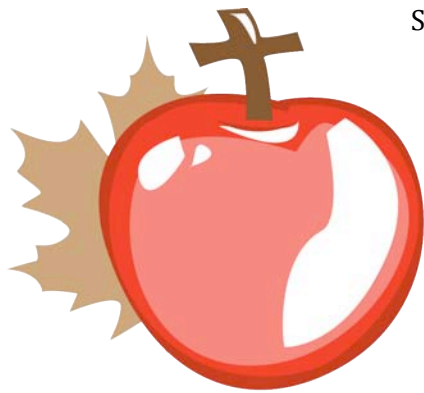
Please prayerfully consider letting your name stand or asking a colleague to let his or her name stand. For more information or to forward nominations with contact information please email the LTA president, Susan Eisner, at seisner@hopelcs.ca.



Why does the Lutheran Teachers' Association exist?

Why does the LTA exist? This is just one of the questions considered by a group tasked by the LTA at the AGM in August 2013. During regular meetings since that time we have focused in on four big questions, why, how, what and where, to help better define and give direction to your Lutheran Teachers Association. The LTA was created by Lutheran Educators, for Lutheran Educators, a real grassroots organization. Now, where do we want to go together as a group? These questions were also asked and time was spent considering during the administrator's conference in March. The plan is now to include more teachers in this developing discussion during the upcoming August LTA conference in Kelowna. We are looking forward to mapping out where we will go and how we will grow over the upcoming years.

Submitted by Lorilee Schelp on behalf of the LTA Strategic Planning Committee



Lutheran
Teacher's
Association

LTA 2014 Conference

in beautiful Kelowna, BC
August 18-21, 2014

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. James R. Gimbel

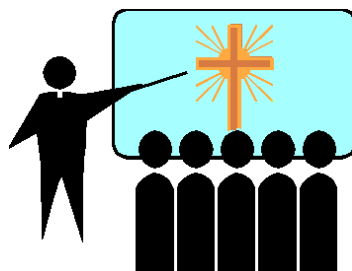
Conference information and registration will be available in early May.

Please check the LTA website for updated links and registration information.

www.lutheranteachers.com

**Kelowna is a beautiful and busy vacation place in the summer.
It is highly recommended to book your hotel rooms early in June.**

For any questions please contact the Conference Committee at: ltaconference@gmail.com



Dear Fellow Lutheran Educator,

I am writing to you as a Lutheran education colleague somewhere in the world! It has been exciting to discover the many places God has placed Lutheran education institutions and those individuals He has called to serve in so many capacities, including teachers, administrators, missionaries, pastors, and professors.

Over the years, I have witnessed how that ministry through Lutheran education has affected the lives of countless children, youth, and adults worldwide. When I think of the many thousands of individuals engaged in this work, I have often been struck by how we need to connect with each other as ONE body. We have already accomplished this to some degree through conferences, meetings, and organizations that are local and regional in scope. Several intentional international events have also been held. How God has blessed these efforts!

Today, we are announcing access to GLEnet, the Global Lutheran Educators Network, hosted by Lutheran Education Association. Our goal is to connect educators together worldwide who have in common one mission of ministry through Lutheran education. Lutheran educators serve in a variety of ways in many countries on six continents. Though we differ in many ways, we have even more in common. GLEnet is an attempt to encourage interaction, sharing of ideas and resources, and development of a "global perspective" of Lutheran education.

A few facts about GLEnet:

1. It is FREE (a gift from LEA)
2. ALL are welcome to register, regardless of location, church affiliation, or type of school
3. Certain resources will be shared each week by LEA, but it is anticipated that many more will be shared by GLEnet members
4. The GLEnet listserv provides an opportunity for online interaction among all participants
5. Membership in Lutheran Education Association is NOT required for GLEnet participation. Those who are interested in this paid membership with extended benefits may join as an option at any time.

How do I join GLEnet?

- It's easy: Go to <http://www2.lea.org/GLEnetListservRegistration.htm> to access a very short form and hit Submit. You will receive a confirmation email. You can then begin to enjoy the benefits of GLEnet membership. Again, there is NO COST to you for GLEnet participation.

...continued page 5

GLEnet continued

A favor to ask of you:

Please share this information with your colleagues and friends. Feel free to share the link to the registration form and also the two information links with anyone who may have an interest in joining this global network:

- o GLEnet registration form <http://www2.lea.org/GLEnetListservRegistration.htm>
- o GLEnet web site <http://www.lea.org/Networks/GLEnet.aspx> - more information about GLEnet and its benefits
- o LEA web site <http://www.lea.org/> - general information about the professional organization

Finally, please reach out to me if you have any further questions. I look forward to extending our already wide network of Lutheran educators worldwide. As we join together in celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord this Sunday, let's also thank Him for amazing things He has done through his called servants in the area of Lutheran education.

He is Risen ... He is Risen Indeed!
Jonathan C. Laabs, EdD, LEA Executive Director



Team Championship Celebrated

St Matthew Lutheran School Junior Boys Basketball team and their championship banner. Pictured with the team are the two coaches and also teachers: Nicole Otterman and Michael Glubish.

Submitted by Pastor Mark Dressler, St. Matthew Lutheran School, Stony Plain, AB



Memorization of Scripture – Hiding God’s Word in Our Hearts

PURPOSE OF MEMORIZATION: Why is memorization of Scripture and the truth of God’s Word as expressed in songs/hymns and statements of faith important? We hide God’s Word in our hearts (Psalm 119:11) for many reasons:

1. Relationship with God: Memorizing God’s Word allows us to know God better as He speaks to us in His own words, and gives us tools as we build deeper understanding and relationship with Him through meditation, devotion, study and prayer. For those students who do not believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit can work through the Word to impart faith. (Romans 1:16-17)
2. Foundations: It creates a foundation of faith in the promises and truth of God so that when we face life’s complexities and struggles, God’s Spirit can bring back what we’ve learned to encourage and strengthen us (Matthew 7:24-29).
3. Transformation: Through the memorization of God’s Word, we become more like Him as He transforms our hearts and minds through meditation on His Word, (Romans 12:2, Philippians 4:8)
4. Equipping: Knowing Scripture by heart gives us God’s tools to encourage others and confidently witness to our faith (2 Timothy 4:2),
5. Protecting: Following Christ’s example, we are able to rely on God’s Word as a spiritual weapon resist the temptations of the devil. (Matthew 4:1-11, Psalm 119:11, Ephesians 6:17)

“One of the reasons Martin Luther came to his great discovery in the Bible of justification by faith alone was that in his early years in the Augustinian monastery he was influenced to love Scripture by Johann Staupitz. Luther devoured the Bible in a day when people earned doctorates in theology without even reading the Bible. Luther said that his fellow professor, Andreas Karlstadt, did not even own a Bible when he earned his doctor of theology degree, nor did he until many years later (Richard Bucher, “Martin Luther’s Love for the Bible”). Luther knew so much of the Bible from memory that when the Lord opened his eyes to see the truth of justification in Romans 1:17, he said, “Thereupon I ran through the Scriptures from memory,” in order to confirm what he had found.” (By John Piper. ©2013 Desiring God Foundation. Website: desiringGod.org)

NOT JUST REGURGITATION – WE WANT INTERNALIZATION: In order for the above goals to be accomplished, the process of memorization must go way beyond mere rote recitation of words. Teachers must take the time to coach students in learning the memorized material so that they understand its meaning and significance to their lives. Teachers work to assist students in personalizing the Word, so it is meaningful in their context and can transfer into their daily reflections, devotional life, and life choices.

...continued page 7

Memorization of Scripture continued

DEVOTE CLASS TIME: It is good to assign memory work as homework, as this is one way to share God's Word with parents as well, as the parents help students with the memorization process. We must, however, realize that because of the diverse nature of the families we serve, not all homes will support their children in the memorization of Scripture. Therefore, we must not simply delegate the memorization process to the home. Instead, to ensure students are supported in the process, and that the process is meaningful, classroom time must be spent in teaching, explaining, reinforcing, applying, and personalizing the content being memorized.

IDEAS FOR SUPPORTING TEACHERS IN THE MEMORIZATION PROCESS

It is important to support memory work both at home and at school (not either or).

AT HOME: Provide the memory verses well in advance to parents. Suggest parents post the verse somewhere visible (like on the fridge). You can provide the verse in a format that is easy to put up. Suggest that the family review the verse daily. They can use echo techniques (parents say a part and the children repeat it back, starting with short segments and lengthening them as the verse becomes more familiar). They can also come up with actions to act it out. They can illustrate the verse that is posted with pictures that help remember the verse.

In the Classroom:

- Have the passage written for all to see, and each day of the week remove some of the words.
- Create a student "Journal of Prayer and God's Word" where students reflect on and illustrate the passages and why they are meaningful to them, and add reflections of prayer, both general and based on the passages being learned.
- As you are teaching letter formation and alphabet sounds, use the memory work as practice, where students have to fill in certain letters.
- With the students, choose actions that represent the main words of the passage.
- Find a song or put it to music.
- Have students draw the verse in pictures.
- Organize a longer verse using a graphic organizer.
- Explore the context and meaning of the verse. You can read what comes before and after from the Bible.
- A verse is written out on individual index cards, one given to each child, and they have to put the words in order.
- The students use technology to record and share/present the verse, and the product can be shared with parents or other groups.
- Teach the class to say the verse with specific dramatic expression and actions/movements attached, so it becomes a choral recitation.

Birdies Fly High at Hope

A very successful badminton season was had by grade 6 and 7 badminton players at Hope Lutheran Christian School, Port Coquitlam. We enjoyed a full afternoon of badminton at Shuttle Sport followed by placing 2nd, 4th and 6th in our respective tournaments.

Submitted by Maria Hankey, Hope Lutheran Christian School, Port Coquitlam, BC



Canadian Lutheran World Relief

This year, I was invited by Pastor Cam Schnarr to visit Beautiful Savior Lutheran School (BSLS) on a number of occasions during the school year. During their Wednesday morning, weekly chapel services, the school community is reflecting on ways in which we might help others to hear the words of Jesus. So, Pastor Schnarr and I spoke about how CLWR helps others in other parts of the world to experience the love of God through Jesus in the work the Lutheran community in Canada engages in through CLWR. Students and teachers at Beautiful Savior have been filling 'We Care' kits with school supplies for children - particularly children in Nicaragua.

Several of the classes have taken the opportunity to visit and volunteer at our warehouse, as well. This has given them an insider's perspective of our shipping operation - how we sort the kits once we receive them, and bale them, and prepare them to be loaded in a 20-foot or 40-foot container.

What a pleasure it has been to get to know the BSLS school community! My colleague, Patrick, and I will be visiting a few more times before the year is done. It's so neat to receive the completed kits from the children, and they're delighted to know that they are helping other children in far away places.

Submitted by Rev. Tyler Gingrich, Youth Engagement Coordinator, CLWR



In this picture, from February, one of the BSLS classes presents completed "Living and Learning" kits to Tyler and Patrick (l-r) during chapel-time; Pastor Cam Schnarr is wearing the green stole.



NEW Check out the
LTA Website at
www.lutheranteachers.com

Check out the LTA Group on Facebook

Network with teachers
throughout Canada,
share lesson ideas,
ask questions, get advice



"Listening Ear"

Need a confidential listening ear or sounding board?

Contact our pastoral advisor, Pastor Mark Lobitz.
He is a certified specialist in pastoral counseling with
professional organizations in Canada and the U.S., and has
considerable experience in pastoral counseling.

Pastor Lobitz is also a former Lutheran school teacher.
Phone: 403-637-2650 E-Mail: mjlobitz@gmail.com

Send your newsletter submissions to Leanne Zimmer at
lzimmer07@gmail.com

The LTA Newsletter is published three times each year:
November, February and May.

Submissions are due the second last Friday of the month
prior to publication.

LTA EXECUTIVE



SUSAN EISNER
President
Hope in Port Coquitlam, BC.



GARY SKOYE
Vice President
St Matthew in Stony Plain, AB



NICOLE OTTERMAN
Secretary
St Matthew in Stony Plain, AB



JENNIFER WATSON
Treasurer
Hope in Port Coquitlam, BC



MARK LOBITZ
Pastoral Advisor
Shepherd of the Valley in
Canmore, AB



DARYL BECKER
District Advisor
ABC District in Edmonton, AB



DARRYL & LEANNE
ZIMMER
Communications Directors
Prince of Peace in Calgary, AB



BETTY ANN CHANDLER
Preschool Representative
Foothills in Calgary, AB