

# LUTHERAN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER



Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

1 Corinthians 13:4-5

## LTA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A few years ago, our grade 5 teacher here at Hope Lutheran started a New Year's tradition in her class. Students are asked to choose their "word" for the coming year; it was most likely a motivational or inspirational word. Over the last few weeks, God has made it clear to me that my word for 2015 is FREEDOM. It is only the end of January and school has only been back in session for three week but already, the word "freedom" has come up several times in different situations, and in conversations with a variety of people. I think God is trying to tell me something.

What has been most surprising is that the word "freedom" has been so central to my Bible study group's exploration of Leviticus. I had never before equated the rules, laws, steps, etc. etc. of Leviticus with any kind of freedom! But then last week we focused our attention on the Sabbath years and year of Jubilee

in Leviticus 25-27, "Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you..." (Leviticus 25:10) God reminds His people that they are His; they could not be sold as slaves. The Sabbath year and Jubilee also reminded the people of God's provision, grace, forgiveness and love. No matter how badly they had disobeyed Him, God provided a way for them to be forgiven and return to a right relationship with Him.

Then last Friday I took my grade 7 class to Missionsfest Vancouver, and here too, reminders of the freedoms we enjoy not only as Canadian citizens but also as God's children were everywhere! The students listened to a missionary speak about helping young women escape what is essentially slavery in

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## LTA President's Message - continued

brothels across Asia; another spoke about the lack of religious freedom in North Korea, and yet another woman told the students about the work she is doing as a missionary in India among the ostracized Dalits (or “untouchables”). As we gathered together to end our day in worship, I couldn't help but feel FREE! As Christian teachers, we have the greatest FREEDOMS to proclaim! We no longer have to follow the ceremonious laws of the Old Testament or make sacrifices to be certain of God's forgiveness. Through Christ's death and resurrection we are FREE!

*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us.*

Romans 8:1-4

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### **Update LTA Membership and Church Extension Fund**

On another note...as you are all aware, the ABC District CEF (Church Extension Fund) held informational meetings recently during which investors were provided with additional information and asked to vote for one of two options with regards to where we go next. Many of you had a chance to discuss with your principal/staff which of the two options would be in the best interest of the LTA as we have funds invested. Jennifer Watson (LTA Treasurer) and myself were able to attend the meeting in Abbotsford and I was able to vote on behalf of the LTA membership (we are one

investor so we had one vote). Of those schools that were able to let me know which option their staff favored, the majority chose option two (restructuring); therefore, this is how I voted on behalf of the membership. If you have any other questions regarding the LTA as an investor in CEF please speak to your principal, or feel free to email me. Thank you all for taking the time to provide your input as members.

Submitted by Elena Nast,  
LTA President



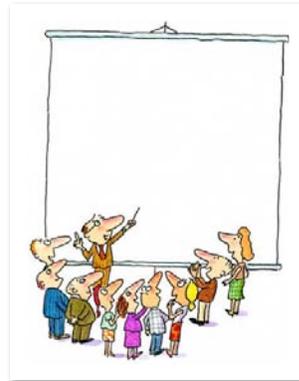
# 2015 LTA Conference Update

Yes, it's hard to believe, but the 2015 LTA Conference is just around the corner. Okay, not really, but for those on the 2015 LTA planning committee, that is the way we feel! Port Coquitlam is hosting this year and the theme for the conference is based on **2 Thessalonians 1: 11-12**, "To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his **calling** and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."

Our **keynote speaker** for the 2015 LTA Conference is Dr. Ken Pudlas presenting on our calling (vocation) as teachers teaching a variety of special needs children in our Lutheran Schools. As a planning committee, we're excited about exploring this topic to assist and equip us in our challenges at school.



Online registration for the LTA conference will be made available in February 2015, just around the corner!



That being said, on behalf of the LTA planning committee, we're encouraging you, our members, to share your time and talents as presenters for the conference. Do not feel that your presentation must involve a special needs topic (though these are welcome!), as the plan is for 25% of the workshop sessions to be special needs related, leaving lots of room for other educational topics! If you are interested, you can contact **Angela Westcott** at Osoyoos Christian School... her email is [gscsadmin@gmail.com](mailto:gscsadmin@gmail.com).

May God continue to bless you all as you continue to work with those students and families that God has given us as we carry out our special calling. Special needs, special calling!

Submitted by Gary Skoye,  
SML Christian Academy, Stony Plain

# PD Week in the Holy Land



In Capernaum's synagogue, the lighter stone is likely the place where Jesus taught as recorded in Mark 1:21-22 "And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes."



Church of the Holy Sepulchre viewed from the bell tower of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem.



Pilgrims light candles in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Imagine a week-long professional development experience that includes gaining a new understanding of current events, exploring archeological sites, discovering the culture and land of Jesus, and interacting with Palestinian Lutheran teachers and students. That's what's planned for Sunday, March 13 to Monday, March 21, 2016. In cooperation with the Lutheran Teachers Association and Indus Travels, Adnams Group is offering a tour of The Holy Land that will impact you, your students, and your faith.

"This tour is custom-designed for teachers and includes cultural, biblical and historical sites" noted tour organizer, Dr. Ian Adnams, former director of communications for Lutheran Church-Canada. "In addition, the teachers will have the opportunity to visit Lutheran schools affiliated with Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) and gain an understanding of the peace-making role schools play in a difficult political and religious climate."

The dates for the tour may not match the Spring Break of every province, however if there is sufficient interest, organizers can arrange a second tour immediately following Easter 2016—Monday, March 28-Tuesday, April 5, 2016—with a similar itinerary, or plan for a post-Easter tour in 2017. "The

ideal group size is 15-20 people, and we'd be happy to welcome spouses and extended family to the tour" Adnams explained.

Among the Biblical places on the itinerary are Nazareth, the Galilee, Capernaum, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the Jordan River, the Mount of Olives and Gethsemane. "Holy" sites include the Basilica of the Annunciation, Church of the Nativity (the oldest Christian church still in use), Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Church of All Nations, and the Western (Wailing) Wall. And tour members will be amazed standing in the ruins Megiddo that was inhabited from approximately 7000 BC to 586 BC and where archeologists have uncovered 27 layers of civilization!

Speaking from personal experience, Dr. Adnams notes that visiting The Holy Land "changes how you read your Bible and broadens your understanding of the geo-political situation—all things that can impact students as teachers share their first-hand knowledge."

Information about the tour is at [www.VisitTheHolyLand.ca](http://www.VisitTheHolyLand.ca) . Click on the *Information Request* tab to receive e-mail updates.

Submitted by Dr. Ian Adnams

# Taking His Word For It - Navigating the Website

Over the past several years, dozens of our Lutheran School colleagues and other friends have volunteered their time to develop a home-grown Christian Studies curriculum for our Lutheran Schools.

Most recently, 17 of us gathered together in Calgary for four days (January 28-31) to develop sample year plans and unit plan. This group included teachers from Alberta, BC and Oregon (yeah for our LCMS friends!). Thanks to all who have helped get us this far!

As there has been lots developed over the last few years, we'd like to share with you how the website that houses the curriculum is organized and what content you can find on it.

## Getting To The Site

All content that has been developed is housed at [www.lutheranschoolsonline.com](http://www.lutheranschoolsonline.com). The site is password protected. The password is Wittenberg1517. Once in the site you will notice that the main navigation menus run across the top of the page, with search engines along the right side column and log in access and lists of recent posts on the left.

## Foundations of the Curriculum

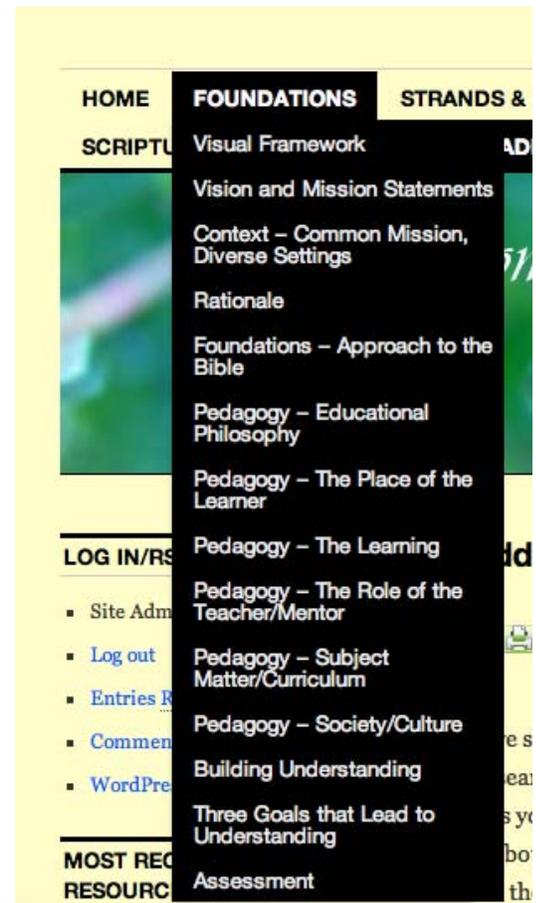
The front matter of the curriculum, those philosophical foundations and principles the curriculum is based on, are listed under the FOUNDATIONS menu. To the right, you will see the contents of this section.

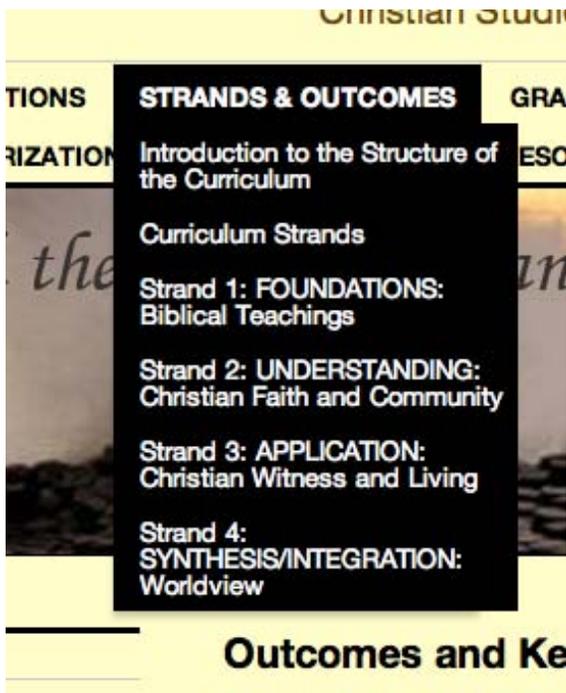
As an individual tackling this curriculum, it is important to review this section. As a staff, there would be value in reviewing this as well.

## Strands and Outcomes

The curriculum is broken into four strands, and within these strands there are a total of eight outcomes covered. The strands are:

BIBLICAL TEACHINGS, which includes the outcomes of Biblical Literacy and Core Teachings of the Bible. This outcome is foundational to the entire curriculum.



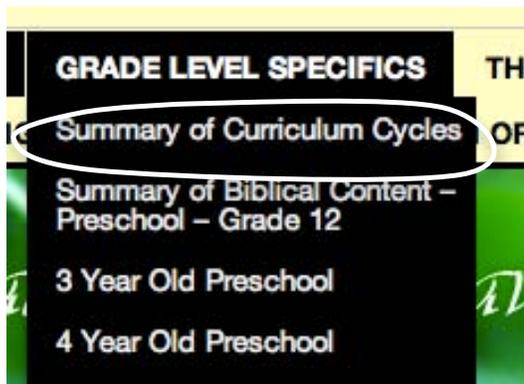


CHRISTIAN FAITH AND COMMUNITY, which includes the outcomes of Salvation Plan, Christian Faith and Growth, and Connection to Christian Community. This strand leads to a personal understanding and connection to the foundational biblical message covered under Strand 1.

CHRISTIAN WITNESS AND LIVING, which includes the outcomes of Christian Living and Witness Through Words and Actions. This strand talks about how we practically apply the biblical faith to our lives.

WORLDVIEW, which is an outcome of its own. This strand leads students to clarify competing worldviews, articulate a biblical worldview, and articulate their own worldview.

The STRANDS & OUTCOMES menu leads to details about each strand/outcome. Familiarity with these strands is essential in understanding the structure of the curriculum.

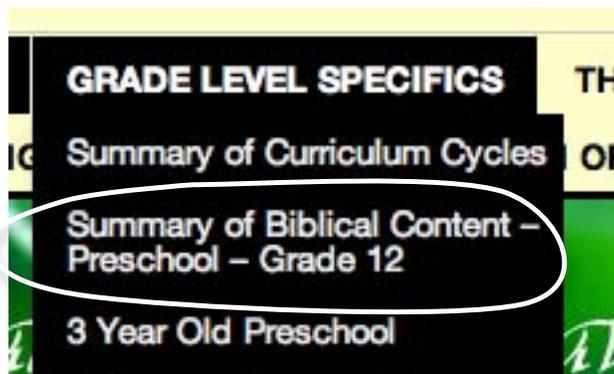


### Grade Level Specifics

The next menu gets to the detail of the curriculum. For each grade level (from two levels of preschool up to grade 12) there are main concepts (big ideas) identified for each strand of the curriculum. The topics cycle through the curriculum on either 6 year or 3 year cycles. The Summary of Curriculum Cycles explains how these cycles are set up.

Under this same menu, you will also find a detailed chart to see where biblical content fits in the curriculum by grade.

	Bible Accounts	Pre 3	Pro 4	K	Gr 1	Gr 2	Gr 3	Gr 4	Gr 5	Gr 6	Gr 7	Gr 8
E = Essential	Creation Story (Genesis 1)	E	E	E	E	E	S			S	E	S
	The Fall & the Promise (Genesis 3)	E	E	E	E		E		E	S	E	S
S = Supplementary	Cain and Abel (Genesis 4)				E						E	
	The Flood (Genesis 5-10)		E	E	E	E					E	
	Tower of Babel (Genesis 11)		S		E						E	
	The Call of Abraham (Genesis 12)	E	S		E	E				S	E	
	Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 12-23)				E	S					E	S
	Ishmael, Hagar (Genesis 16, 21)				S	S					E	
	Sodom & Gomorrah (Genesis 19)				S	S					E	
	Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 21-22)					E			S	E	E	
	Isaac blesses Jacob (Genesis 25-27)					E					E	
	Jacob's Ladder (Genesis 27-28)		S	S							E	
	Jacob Leah & Rachel (Genesis 29-30)					E					E	
	Jacob wrestles with God (Genesis 32)					E					E	
	Jacob meets Esau (Genesis 33)					S					E	
	Joseph and His Brothers (Genesis 37-45)	E		E							E	
	Joseph in Egypt (arrival to prison) (Genesis 39/40)	E				E					E	
	Joseph as Leader (Genesis 41 ff.)				E				S		E	
	The birth of Moses (Exodus 1-2)	E			E	E					E	

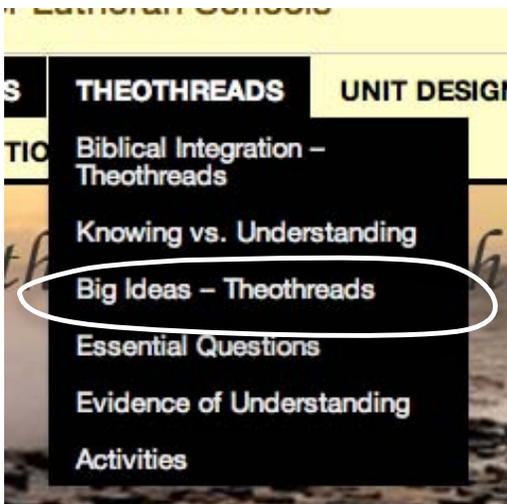


## Grade Level Specifics (continued)

For each grade level, the core concepts (Big Ideas) are identified, organized by strand. On these pages, there are also areas of What Students Should Know and What Students Should Be Able To Do. The Big Ideas are complete, but the other areas are still under construction.

These Big Ideas form the basis for year plans and unit plans (which will be talked about later).

Grade 5				
<a href="#">Print PDF</a>				
	Strand 1: BIBLICAL TEACHINGS	Strand 2: CHRISTIAN FAITH AND COMMUNITY	Strand 3: CHRISTIAN WITNESS AND LIVING	Strand 4: WORLDVIEW
Big Ideas:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>5.1.A God showed His faithfulness as He built the people of Israel into a kingdom, using imperfect kings to give us both positive and negative examples of godly leadership (Birth of Samuel: 1 Samuel 1-2, God Calls Samuel: 1 Samuel 3, Israel wants a King: 1 Samuel 8, 12, Saul: 1 Samuel 9-11, 13-15, David Chosen to be King: 1 Samuel 16,</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>5.2.A Because of sin, all people are guilty before God and deserve death. God made Jesus guilty in our place, leaving us reconciled, forgiven, and free – metaphor of courtroom. (Fall and Promise: Genesis 3)</li><li>5.2.B When people come</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>5.3.A Stewardship is living the gospel message by using our God given gifts to take care of others and the world, all as witness to His goodness in our lives. (Spiritual Gifts: Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4, Parable of the Talents: Matthew</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>5.4.A The people we trust influence our beliefs.</li><li>5.4.B God calls us to test our beliefs using His Word as we allow Him to form our worldview. (Renewing Minds Romans 12:1-8)</li></ul>



## Theothreads

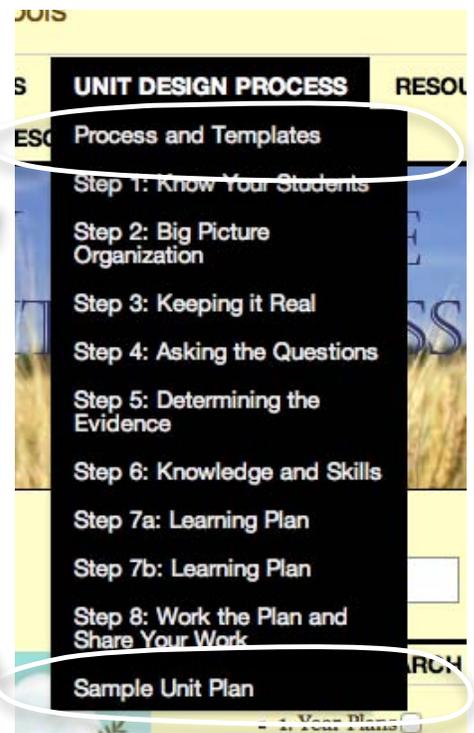
The next menu is called Theothreads, those God/Biblical concepts that weave through all aspects of our school curricula (social studies, math, science, language arts, etc). This is an area to help with faith integration in the entire program. Teachers are challenged to integrate at least one of the twelve identified big ideas of the faith into every subject in authentic ways. The list of theothreads (the big ideas) is found under Big Ideas –Theothreads.

## Unit Plan Process

The Unit Design Process menu provides an step-by-step tutorial for teachers in how to design both year plans and unit plans. Although this is intended to support the Christian Studies Curriculum, the process is easily applied to any curricular area.

Year Plan and Unit Plan templates are found in the top selection.

A sample unit from our brothers and sisters in the Australian Lutheran School system is included in the bottom section. Note: the video takes a LONG time to download (sorry).



## Resources

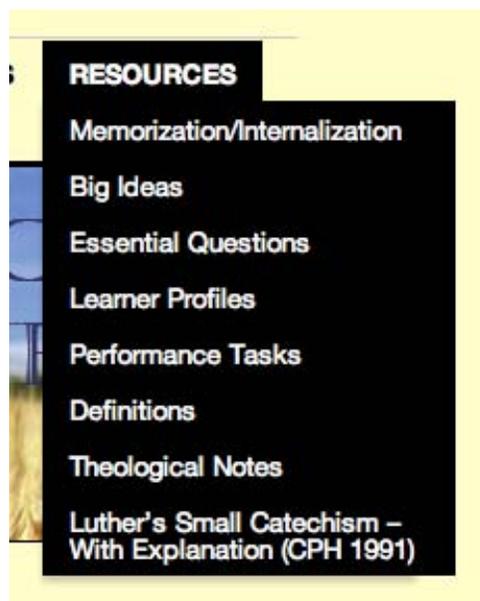
The Resources tab includes several supports to teachers that give more background to areas of the curriculum. This area will be further developed, especially in the area of theological background notes.

### Scripture Memorization Plan

This section gives some of the rationale for memorization of scripture and gives some options for how a school can manage a memorization program. Currently there are three approaches, two of which are still under development. Approach 2 is complete. It is a three year cycle of Bible passages that can be used for the entire school. For each of the three years

there is two lists: the first giving the entire verse, and the second a shorter, simplified version for younger students or students with special needs.

There is also a list of 400 key passages of scripture that are worthy of memorization, listed in area of importance, determined by a survey of Lutheran teachers.



### Adding and Viewing Resources (Year Plans and Unit Plans)

The goal is to provide multiple samples of resources to support the curriculum framework, which are all housed under Collection of Resources. For teachers developing resources, we encourage, beseech and beg you to submit them so they can be added to the site. To submit resources, email them to [thennig@princeofpeace.ca](mailto:thennig@princeofpeace.ca). To search for resources, including sample year plans and unit plans, use the search function to the right side of the page. In the top search window, you can search for key words that will bring up all resources or pages on the site that include that word. To find specific resources organized by type, strand or grade, use the Resource Search by Tags section, where you can check off one or more categories to narrow your search. Presently, there is at least one sample year plan for each grade level and one sample plan for almost all grade levels. We hope the number of resources will grow with time.





Check out the  
LTA Website at  
[www.lutheranteachers.com](http://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](mailto:mjlobitz@gmail.com)

Send your newsletter submissions to Leanne Zimmer at  
[lzimmer07@gmail.com](mailto:lzimmer07@gmail.com)

The LTA Newsletter is published three times each year:  
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Submissions are due the second last Friday of the month  
prior to publication.

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