



Lutheran  
Teacher's  
Association

# Newsletter

## LTA Executive Greetings

Yikes! Report card time is here! We, at St. Matthew School in Stony Plain, are at the end of the first term of the current school year. It's amazing how times flies! It seems only days ago that our cross-country runners at St. Matthew were busy running at weekly practices and various meets throughout the county.

Cross-country running begins the 2<sup>nd</sup> week into school and finishes mid-October with races held sometimes twice a week. While there is a beautiful simplicity to running cross-country, there are some necessities for running a strong race. If you have ever lived in Alberta, you're aware of the variable weather we have. Having the appropriate clothing for a race can mean the difference between an enjoyable, rewarding race and a painful, mediocre race. Clothing can be anywhere between shorts and a muscle shirt to sweats and a jacket - toque and mitts included! Then there is the mental aspect of running a race. Don't go out too fast but don't go out too slow. Here's where I can gain some time, here's where I'll maintain my pace— all kinds of thinking goes into running a race. During the race, obstacles arise...tree roots, holes, slippery sections. All variables hopefully can be anticipated and acted upon. Ah, preparation.

As cross-country runners prepare for a race, we as teachers look back on our preparation for the first term and ask ourselves, "Was our preparation effective for meeting those anticipated obstacles? How can we make things better for the next term (race) ahead? No doubt we will need to continue to prepare for the second term as we best see fit but we want to make sure we have the right tools and strategy. Stay in the Word, worship, pray continually. All these help us to prepare for the race we're all running. Alongside all our instructional preparations for the upcoming second term is the season of Advent. Here too we prepare for the season of Christmas. This can take many forms from the lighting of the candles on the Advent wreath to, well....Christmas baking anyone? In addition to the celebration of our Savior coming down to earth, we're mindful of Christ's second coming during the season of Advent.

We prepare for Christ's coming by staying awake. Stay awake by walking with the Lord daily. Lean on the Holy Spirit at all times, seek his guidance. As we reflect on the cross-country season gone by and look ahead to the second term, let's do as Paul exhorts us, "...run with perseverance the race marked out for us." Remember, preparation is everything!

Submitted by Gary Skoye, LTA Vice President &  
Grade 6 teacher at St. Matthew Lutheran School, Stony Plain, Alberta

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## One day at a time can make a difference

**Hope Lutheran Christian High School Port Coquitlam, BC** – Serving others is a foundational skill that the students at Hope Lutheran High School are learning for their future. At the beginning of November this year the whole school went out into the mission field to serve others. Students and teachers served in various locations such as Surrey Urban Mission, Campbell Valley House, Union Gospel Mission, Hyde Creek Centre, Riverside Community Church and Hope Lutheran Church. Through numerous activities, including working in a greenhouse, raking leaves, prepping and serving lunch, leading a Chapel service, preparing for a community carnival and cleaning up the local community, the students were reminded of their mandate to serve others. Vice-Principal of Hope High School Mr. Adam shared, “God called us to minister to all nations and at times we forget this command. Our service days are great reminders to serve others and provide opportunities to teach and prepare our students for future ministry.”

Submitted by Luke Adam

Hope Lutheran Christian High School, Port Coquitlam, BC





## Canadian Lutheran World Relief

### News from Canadian Lutheran World Relief

I recently visited Zambia and Mozambique to meet people that Lutherans support in those countries. It was a great experience. One of the highlights was seeing children with CLWR We Care bags in three Zambian villages. These kids now have pencils, paper and other supplies to complete their schoolwork, and a bag to carry them in! While we can't know exactly who donated those kits, and which congregation and town or city they came from, we can know that our actions at home can affect people far away from us for the better. –Jennifer Clark, Program Assistant-Community Relations at CLWR

You can see photos from the trip here: [bit.ly/WeCareZambia](http://bit.ly/WeCareZambia)

Learn more about We Care here: [www.clwr.org/What-We-Do/we-care.cfm](http://www.clwr.org/What-We-Do/we-care.cfm)



### Visit our Advent calendar online!

We've launched our online Advent Calendar for 2012 (no peeking ahead!). Starting December 1, visit our homepage at [www.clwr.org](http://www.clwr.org) and click on the link to the calendar. On each day leading up to Christmas Day, click a door on the calendar to learn more about the work being carried out by CLWR here in Canada and around the globe!



### Gifts from the Heart

Gifts from the Heart is in full swing now that Christmas is just over a month away! Consider buying a gift in honour of a loved one this Christmas. Gifts include goats, mosquito nets, medical care, training for teachers, and many more. Gifts that go toward Lutheran Church–Canada missions are also available, including Meals for a Month for Nicaraguan school children (pictured). These gifts make a real difference to people all around the world. Visit the catalogue online: [clwr.donorshops.com/products/giftsfromtheheart.php](http://clwr.donorshops.com/products/giftsfromtheheart.php)

### Young Adult Global Encounter

CLWR will take 12 young Lutherans to Peru in May 2013! The group will connect with a worshipping community and visit Peruvian people who have benefited from CLWR-sponsored training and development. We're accepting applications for this great opportunity now. You must be age 18-35 to apply. Follow the link to learn more: [www.clwr.org/Get-Involved/YouthGEPPeru.htm](http://www.clwr.org/Get-Involved/YouthGEPPeru.htm)

## The History of the Advent Calendar

The Advent Calendar begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and counts down the days until the arrival of Christmas. The term Advent comes from the Latin "adventur", meaning arrival. Many advent calendars have a place for a candy or other treat on each day, helping to heighten the sweet anticipation of Christmas.

The tradition of marking the Advent dates back to the early 19th century, when religious Protestant families made a chalk line on their front door for every day in December until Christmas Eve. According to Sellmer-Verlag, the Dutch on-line museum of Advent Calendar history, the first Advent Calendar was handmade in 1851. Early Advent styles also included the Advent Candle, in which a ring or wreath of 24 candles would be used to illuminate each day until Christmas.

Sellmer-Verlag cites the German-born Gerhard Lang as the inventor of the first mass-produced Advent Calendar. Lang was inspired by the calendars he remembered his mother making for him as a child. She would attach a candy to a hand-drawn cardboard calendar. Instead of candies, Lang's printed version featured tiny pictures that could be affixed to each day of the Advent. Lang later produced several different versions of the calendar, including ones with little doors to open, revealing a picture for each day.

The German printing company Sankt Johannis capitalized on Lang's idea, producing calendars with Bible verses instead of pictures behind each window. The Advent Calendar became increasingly popular in Germany and throughout Central Europe until World War II, when manufacturers were forced to shut down production due to the war rationing on cardboard.

By the 1940s, the tradition of the Advent Calendar had jumped the Atlantic Ocean and taken root in American culture. Here, the first chocolate-filled calendars were sold in the late 1950s.

Today, families fill their Advent Calendars with everything from pictures of Jesus and Bible verses to matchbox cars, chocolates or stickers. Some families cleverly save their loot of Halloween candy and repurpose it for their Advent calendars.

Advent Calendars can be printed on cardboard, built from thin-wood boxes, constructed from felt or other fabric, or even erected from Lego's®. You can purchase a variety of styles of Advent Calendars from online and brick-and-mortar vendors -- or you can start a new tradition and make your own Advent Calendar this year.

Printed with Permission from:

<http://www.holidays.net/christmas/advent-calendar.htm>





## 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)

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## LTA EXECUTIVE



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